

## Between The Lions

WITH DICK PETERS

Picking up where 1940 ended and the new year began we find:

Leon Gajecki, Penn State's newest All-American several times over, back from the coast, more thrilled by his first airplane flight back than playing in the East-West tussle. Now that New Year's Day pulled the sheet up over the reclining corpse of the deceased 1940 football season, wonder how long it'll be till Gates' picture goes up in Rec Hall as Penn State's sixth All-American. There may be protest from some groups to erecting the honorable portrait, but in this corner's opinion anyone who can make the NEA and Liberty All-teams, plus at least honorable mention on every other selection in the country is deserving the tribute. All we need is a little action Dr. Schott.

With his starting lineup still a bit uncertain, Charlie Speidel's varsity wrestlers will open the 1941 athletic slate here Saturday night. While John Lawther's lengthy basketball set sail for a whirlwind weekend tour, which sees them tackling NYU's vaunted cagers Friday eve in New York, and dashing back to Pittsburgh to trade basket blitzkrieg with Pitt's Panthers. Which is about as much as a basketball team could take on in two nights, whether in succession or spaced at a week's interval.

Billy Soose, ex-Lion ring warrior, on the threshold of a crack at Ken Overlin's middleweight title. By virtue of his easy decision over Tami Mauriello Friday night, Soose is to be matched with the playboy-bridegroom Overlin sometime in February. In taking the hitherto unbeaten Mauriello, Billy the Kid was disappointing to many of the New York sports writers, but then they usually are easily hurt when a clean-cut boxer, especially a college lad, beats out a leather tattoo over one of their local pride and joys. You can take it right now that if and when Soose meets Mr. Overlin for the crown, the metropolitan boys are going to be very, very sad. Billy means business.

We weren't surprised to see that Walt Hosterman and Woody King, retiring captain and captain-elect of the Lion soccer team, made first honors on the All-East booting

## Knee Injury May Put Gross on Bench

By JOHN BAER

Hopes for a good showing in the six January games which shape up among the toughest on the Lion basketball schedule were dimmed over the holidays when Elmer Gross, regular guard, suffered a recurrence of an old knee injury which may keep him temporarily on the bench.

The team reported back for practice on Monday, December 30, and gained an extra week of workouts. Gross hurt his ankle on Thursday.

The cagers tackle two of the best teams in the East on two consecutive days when they play the underdog against NYU in New York City Friday night and battle Pitt at Pittsburgh the following evening.

In the event that Gross is unable to take part in the weekend encounters sophomore Bob Ramin will probably start in his place, Coach John Lawthers said last night.

Both opposing quintets will put veteran teams on the floor. The Violets will be led by Captain Ben Auerbach and sharpshooting Ralph Kaplowitz and Pitt's main threat will be a man Nittany fans will remember from last year—Eddie Straloski.

The local cagers have a series record against NYU of two wins and only one defeat—a mark which few teams in the country can match but the Lions and the Violets have met only once in recent years. That was last year when NYU triumphed 35-29 on the Rec Hall hardwood.

Four of the six opponents who play the Lions this month downed the Lawther-coached passers last season. The only victory for the Nittany basketballers was at the expense of Navy, 40-17. American University is new to the schedule.

After the two-game weekend the State cagers come home to act as host to Syracuse on January 15 and then travel to Annapolis to battle the Middies the next Saturday. The basketball month winds up with a pair of contests at Washington, D. C. — against Georgetown on the 29th and American on the 31st.

squad. It probably was only a matter of politeness to other colleges that several other Nittany kickers weren't placed on the first team.

## Gajecki's 3,000 Mile Air Hop Tops Football Thrills

By PAT NAGELBERG

Still unable to decide whether thrill-packed 53 minutes of action in the East-West game or his initial venture in the air on his transcontinental flight from Los Angeles gave him his biggest kick, Penn State's All-American center and captain, Leon Gajecki, returned to the campus yesterday to face his toughest opponent of the year, the MI final exams.

With the pleasant effects (is he lucky!) of the 3,000 mile flight fresh in his mind, the popular Lion griddier found it hard to discuss the Shrine classic in San Francisco on New Year's Day when his Eastern teammates went down to a 20-14 defeat. "Gates" acted as co-captain of his team along with O'Boyle of Tulane.

Lack of proper out-door practice because of the inclement weather on the coast and the evident eagerness on the part of the West team to stop such highly publicized backs as Tom Harmon of Michigan and Frank Reagan for the unexpected upset of the favored East stars. The Wolverine great was rated by the State captain as a brilliant player and a fine fellow but the short time allotted for practice failed to produce the proper

blocking and offensive play to shake him loose.

Gajecki refused to confirm this, but rumor has it that he completely outplayed Rudy Mucha, Washington center, who was placed on several prominent All-American selections. In fact, the Husky pivot man saw action for only 15 minutes and was displaced by Nelson of Baylor for the duration of the game.

## Hosterman, King Named On All-East Soccer Team

Penn State dominated the lineup of the all-star soccer team chosen by coaches in their annual selection of the All-Eastern squad for the Associated Press.

Both Walt Hosterman and Woody King were named to the first team and Don Durain and Don Megrail were chosen on the second squad, Hosterman receiving top rating in the coaches' voting.

Penn State was one of two institutions that placed more than one player on the first team, Princeton also winning two positions on the all-star squad. The Lions, however, were the only undefeated, untied team.

## Rifle Team Defeats New Mexico State

In the initial postal match of the season, the Nittany Lion rifle team blasted its way to a 1860 to 1652 triumph over the New Mexico State College riflemen, Capt. Arno P. Mowitz announced yesterday.

Scheduled in ROTC competition, the first match saw Bob McCoy, Bill LeWorthy, and Rambo, three veteran varsity members, on the sidelines because they are not ROTC students.

From the ten men who shot for record, five of the best scores were allowed in the match. Ben Stahl and Gil Gault, co-captains, shot the highest scores with a 377 and 374, respectively, in the four shooting positions. Bill Funk followed with a 372, Frank Shuman garner-

## 32 Matmen Begin Interclass Bouts

By ROSS LEHMAN

With the season's opener against Maryland slated for Saturday and the team not selected, 32 grapplers will tangle in the semi-final interclass wrestling bouts in Rec Hall at 4:30 p. m. today to receive their first taste of this season's mat competition.

As the four teams of eight competitors hit the mats, Coach Charlie Speidel will find the answer to this year's mat prospects. These bouts may spring some "dark horses" for the starting lineup against the invading Terrapins.

The Speidelmens will be wrestling under the new Intercollegiate point system for the first time today. This new rating replaces the referee's decision, and the referee now calls points on reversing positions, takedowns, near falls, and other offensive features.

Sam Harry, freshman, and Leo McShane, sophomore, will battle on the junior and senior team because of scarcity of light wrestlers in the upperclasses.

The bouts:

121-pound: Tom Brenner '44 vs. Claire Hess '42; Bill Stanley '43 vs. Leo McShane '44.

128-pound: Joe Steele '44 vs. Charles Ridenour '43; Sam Harry '44 vs. Irv Polak '43.

136-pound: Jack Metzler '43 vs. Bill Vanderlin '42; Charles Zierdt '44 vs. Captain Frank Gelson '41.

145-pound: Allen Crabtree '42 vs. Larry Tate '41; Ed Roberts '44 vs. John Henry '42.

155-pound: Mike Graznak '44 vs. Glenn Alexander '42; Jay Kelly '43 vs. Joe Scalzo '41.

165-pound: Jim Bachman '42 vs. Chuck Rohrer '41; Will Poorman '44 vs. Ralph Sayre '42.

175-pound: Bob Morgan '44 vs. Dirk Carleton '42; Paul Richard '43 vs. Joe Valla '41.

Unlimited: Jack McHugh '42 vs. Bill Bachman '41; Charles Horvath '44 vs. Jack Kerns '43.

Eugene Stack is believed to be the first major league baseball player to be drafted.

## Soose Earns Shot At Middleweight Crown With Victory In N.Y. Debut

Several partisan New York sports writers and Jack Miley to the contrary, Penn State's Billy Soose clearly earned a shot at Ken Overlin's middleweight title by administering a trouncing and boxing lesson to the pride of the Bronx Tami Mauriello, in his Madison Square Garden debut Friday night.

About the only objection that some of the boxing experts held against the former Lion intercol-

legiate champion was that he failed to exhibit the killer instinct when he had his previously unbeaten foe groggy and on the verge of a knockout with three smashing rights to the jaw in the third round. Instead, Soose decided to give the Bronx fighter a few pointers in the fine art of boxing, wisely saving his doctored right hand for future need when the world's crown is laid on the line.

With the sole exception of the first two rounds when Mauriello showed to advantage against the slow starting Soose, the fight was all over when Billy landed those hard rights in the third round. "Terrible Tami" tried to make a battle of it from there on but his power was gone and his bull-like rushing tactics were just what the doctor ordered for the Farrel lad and his educated left.

Now all that remains between the "uncrowned Champ" and a crack at the title is to have Mike Jacobs sign the contract for an Overlin fight in the near future.

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