

ROTC Shatters Hopes For Top Sports Season

Bedenk, Thiel; Conger, Rutherford Will Lose Nucleus of Varsity Teams When Men Are Called

By REM ROBINSON

Hopes for an outstanding Spring sports season were shattered last night, when Colonel Edward Arderly, commandant of the Penn State military headquarters, released a final statement forbidding all advanced men in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps from participating in any intercollegiate athletic competition after they are called to active duty within the next few weeks.

This announcement came as a severe blow to coaches and players alike, for ever since rumors first leaked out on campus several days ago, there was hope that the order would either prove a falsehood, or be rescinded by the War Department.

Arderly explained that the campus ROTC department is acting under instructions received from the Third Corps Area, and will enforce the regulation unless ordered to do otherwise by higher officials in the War Department.

Reasons for this dramatic change in the College athletic plans were based on the fact that Army headquarters believe the men will be too busy with their new activities to compete on any varsity squad, yet examination of tentative plans for the call of the advanced men to duty fails to indicate any subjects or courses added to their present programs.

Even plans for a physical development curriculum have been eliminated from all orders the local ROTC officers have received, and the men will be without any conditioning program for six weeks, if they are called to active service by April 1.

Nick Thiel said his lacrosse squad faces ultimate disaster when this ruling goes into action, for the entire team has been built around five varsity men. Thiel said that "no detriment will come to the boys if they were allowed to compete in varsity athletics, and it would be to the war effort's benefit that they remain in top physical shape."

George Pittenger and Dick Ross, two key men on the Thiel defense, will be hit by the military code, as will center fielders Bill Briner and Howard Hausner. Stu Sussman, a sure bet for the varsity as first goalie, is also on the list of advanced men.

Five of Joe Bedenk's sure starting lineup were included in the advanced corps status. Dale Bauer, varsity man from the summer baseball season, will be compelled to leave the squad with Sparky Brown, senior hurler; Jack Burford, hard-slugging outfielder; Johnny Bennett, another outfielder; and Jim Griffith, newcomer for the receiving end of the battery.

Track prospects were also dimmed, when it was learned that Cliff St. Clair, sensational sprinter, will be forced to withdraw as number one contender for the half-mile race. Mac Smith, varsity harrier, was slated for the two-mile relay team when the announcement came through, and Johnny Adsit, another harrier who is working with the track squad, will be affected.

Golf practices have just started, but "Dud" Rutherford said he will lose his star linksman, Al Swan, when the men are forced to leave Penn State sports for the duration. Although tennis practices will not start for several weeks, varsity lineups will also be hampered.

Bowling, Outing Clubs Sponsor Overnight Hike

WRA bowling and outing clubs are sponsoring an overnight hike to leave White Hall at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Those interested must sign up in the White Hall locker room by 5 p.m. tomorrow. A fee of 40 cents will be charged, and coeds should bring their own blankets with them.

Sixteen Teams to Clash In Final IM Basketball Playoffs Tonight

Sixteen fraternity and independent teams will clash tonight in Rec Hall to decide the final standings and champions of the intramural basketball playoffs in both leagues.

Starting at 7 o'clock, undefeated Sigma Pi No. 1 will meet Sigma Nu, boasting five wins and only one loss. If Sigma Nu can't halt Sigma Pi's winning streak, the two teams will be tied for first place in the fraternity league, and a championship playoff will have to be held at a later date. If Sigma Pi can repeat they will automatically become undisputed champ.

The independent championship rests entirely upon the result of one game—the Vagabonds against Podunk Prep. Both teams show five victories and one defeat and will come together tied for first place. Judging from the past performances of both teams this should be one of the closest and hardest fought games of the series.

Other fraternity tilts will see Beta Theta Pi No. 1, present holder of second place, tangle with their fraternity brothers, Beta Theta Pi No. 2, a member of the quartette now tied for third place. Phi Kappa Sigma, also in fourth place, will match men against Phi Kappa Psi, in last place because of a string of forfeits. Sigma Chi and Kappa Sigma, both in fourth place, will wind up the fraternity affair.

The independent's second place team, Ingelside Club, hot after their 57-9 victory over Fletcher House, will meet Allen Co-op, in last place boasting no wins, in the independent battles. It has been rumored that this may be a one-sided game.

Credit for the conduction of the IM games must be given to Leon W. Reinheimer, and to the referees that assisted him: "Ducky" Swan, Nyles Smith, Sid Cohen, Dick Risteen, Clay Zundel, Len Catanoso, Henry Baierl, "Sparky" Brown, Israel Krauss, "Red" Lebitch, Reid McKloskey, and Frank Stevenson.

High School Gymnasts To Compete for Honors In Rec Hall Saturday

Forty-six gymnasts from twelve high schools will compete in the Interscholastic Association gym tournament scheduled to take place at Rec Hall, 1:20 p.m. Saturday.

Latrobe, Pittsburgh's Westinghouse, Elwood City, DuBois, Tarentum, Ambridge, and Midland will comprise the teams from the western part of the state, while the East will be represented by Pottsville, Lower Merion, Lancaster, and Frackville.

Defending championship squad, Warren, will not compete due to the difficulty in obtaining transportation facilities. Billy Meade, Penn State tumbler, was the "big gun" for the Warren team when they took the title last season.

Meade, after taking the parallel bar and tumbling titles, was awarded the Gene Wettstone Trophy donated by the College for the outstanding performer of the meet.

Hal Zimmerman, former All-American tumbler and parallel bar champ from Penn State, was also a Warren high school product.

Pottsville will enter eight contestants in the tournament, while Elwood City, Westinghouse, and Lower Merion will try for honors with six members each. All other squads will carry from one to five members.

The gymnasts will battle it out on the horizontal bars, side horse, ropes, parallel bars, flying rings, tumbling mats, and in the Indian club event. Only three boys will enter the Indian club exercises. However, perennial champ in this event, Bloomsburg, will not enter the competition.

COLLEGIAN SPORTS

By ART MILLER

Theodore Roethke, assistant professor of English composition, has been granted a 10-month leave of absence to accept a position as professor at Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.

In back of this simple announcement lies a story. Roethke, in his undergraduate days at University of Michigan and later at Harvard, played a lot of tennis. He made the frosh squad but didn't go out for the varsity although he could beat most of the first stringers. Even the Michigan coach, Henry Hutchins, now coaching tennis at Yale, succumbed to Roethke's racket prowess.

During his spare time, he even knocked around a little in the amateur loops.

He recalls an interesting anecdote of his college days. During the summer for four years he worked in a Heinz pickle factory where he worked himself up from \$35 an hour to \$50 for the sixty-minute period. During these summers he had experience in many phases of the gallant art of pickle manufacture including barrel rolling, tank skimming, and even publicity.

Back to our story. After his post-graduate year of work at Harvard for a degree, he went to Lafayette College on the Delaware where he was offered the position of instructor in English. He stayed here, teaching English and coaching the none-too-successful tennis team for four years until in 1935 when he took a train to the Nittany hills to become professor of English composition at Penn State.

Here, his past caught up with him once more and he was selected to coach the Blue and White tennis team. For five seasons, Ted Roethke has coached Penn State tennis squads to 29 victories while dropping 21.

In 1939 the Roethkemen won seven tilts, dropped three. 1940 saw them on the heavy end of a 6-3 count while the 1941 squad won six and lost five. In the regular 1941 season, the racketeers broke even, 5-5, a tally they equalled during the summer semester.

Up against records of the basketball or soccer or football teams of recent years, these are not impressive totals. However, considering the handicaps under which the netmen must labor, they take on an added significance.

As Roethke himself puts it; "The boys work very hard. They practice indoors at night and on the hard macadam courts during the days when the courts aren't in condition. It takes a lot out of both the players and the equipment."

Usually boasting only one or two lettermen to start a season, the coach also finds himself faced with the task of building a squad that can overcome such experienced opponents as Navy, Cornell, Pitt, Penn, Syracuse, and Bucknell.

Nevertheless, under Roethke's tutelage and with the spirit to win he instills in his players, several of them have come to the fore with national rankings. Mac Weinstein, of the 1939 and 1940 team was ranked nineteenth in National Junior brackets, and Cy Hull, captain of this year's edition totes a standing of 26th in National Junior competition around with him.

But this isn't the whole story. In addition to getting tennis players in condition to compete in season competition, Coach Roethke is also very much interested in preparing undergraduate Penn State students to take their place on the firing line of intercollegiate poetry competition.

Roethke himself is one of the most widely known of the younger American poets and composes lyric poetry for such periodicals as "The Atlantic Monthly," "Scribners," "The Yale Review," "The New Republic," and "The New Yorker."

The poet-coach will leave Penn State's campus April 1, at least temporarily. At the cost of broken arches, shin splints, and pneumonia he has put five editions of Penn State tennis teams on the court.

When told that he was being interviewed for a column on his life, Roethke replied, "Heck, I haven't done anything. I'd rather have you play up the kids."

That's the kind of guy he is.

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