

Nittany Baseballers Meet Villanova; Lacrossemen Open Spring Season

Nick Thiel Returns To Direct Stickmen

Penn State's home Spring sports season opens this afternoon at 3 o'clock when the Nittany lacrosse team opposes Johns Hopkins University on New Beaver Field.

The Penn State squad is at full strength for the tiff including Coach Nick Thiel, who arrived on campus Thursday after a short course in Alabama to prepare the Lion mentor to train Air Corps men.

With nine lettermen back, the team this year will be an experienced squad. Sammy Fleener, Tom Mitchell and Mike Milliken will make up the forward line while Larry Faries, Jim Gotwals, and George Pittenger will hold down the starting midfield positions. Of these six, Milliken, a sophomore, is the only untried player. Captain Jim Gotwals and Tom Mitchell played on the All-North squad of last season.

On the back line, the starters named by Thiel at the end of yesterday's stiff practice session are Howie Hausner, Bill Briner, and Rocky Kern. The goalie, Bill Hollenbach, a Soph, has shown up well in practice and should display some fancy netminding in this afternoon's battle.

In the line of reserves, Thiel has Charlie Lockwood and Bill Piper, who will see action on the attack, and Wayne Bitner, Bert Sessler, Dale Hamilton, and Dick Ross to fill in midfield spots. Jim Walker will probably handle the stick against the Maryland team on the defense.

During Thiel's absence, Al Simpson, who played on the varsity Blue and White squad in 1936 and 1937, aided by Gotwals and Mitchell, have been putting the squad through its paces.

Johns Hopkins held the National Lacrosse Championship during the season of 1940 and 1941 but dropped it last year to Princeton. Last year's scores against Penn State were 10-0 and 10-7 in favor of the Maryland team.

Forming the nucleus of this year's Johns Hopkins edition are four All-Americans, Captain George Riepe and Buddy Kaestner, defense; and Tom Zink and Henley Guild, midfield. They were all selected for the 1942 All-American lacrosse team.

Other returning lettermen are George Thomas, defense; Midfielders Jim Kuller and Russ Klengenmeier; and Goalie Warren Alons.

Penn State's baseball team entrained last night for Villanova where they will pry open the lid of the away spring sports season this afternoon.

After the game at Villanova, the diamond team lays over in Philadelphia Sunday, then leaves on a short jaunt down to Annapolis to battle the Middies in a single contest Monday afternoon.

Both Squads Tough

According to Lion Coach, Joe Bedenk, both squads will be plenty tough for the untried Nittany baseballers. The Villanova team is nearly an identical edition as the squad they put on the field last year and will have a distinct edge in experience.

Another Season



Coach Joe Bedenk, Lion baseball mentor, will lead his diamond nine against a strong Villanova squad this afternoon on the Catholic school's home grounds. The Blue and White will then move to the Midshipmen Monday afternoon.

Letterman Dale Bowers fills Bob Perugini's right field shoes while Jack Burford and Jake Flowers cover the center and left field gardens.

Previously scheduled by the Nittanymen for season openers, Dickinson and Western Maryland were dropped from the schedule when it was impossible for them to make arrangements to travel to Penn State. The Colgate Red Raiders and the Cadets from West Point also had games on the card that had to be rubbed out for wartime reasons.

Coach Morrill also has four fine prospects who played high school varsity in the Baltimore school system. Tommy Price and Bob Tate played midfield for Friends and Forest Park High Schools while Dick Bernard and Norvell Miller were both goalies, playing ball for Boy's Latin and McDonogh High Schools.

The Navy sailors have won one tilt so far this season, walloping Penn's Red and Blue to the tune of 12-2. Early this week they lost a close one to the Washington Senators major league club 10-7.

The State batting order and line-up:

- Jackie Flowers.....left field
- Eddie Sebastianelli.....second base
- Dale Bowers.....right field
- Chuck McFarland.....first base
- Jack Burford.....center field
- Oggie Martella.....catcher
- Whitey Thomas.....shortstop
- Gene Sutherland.....third base
- Johnny Stover.....pitcher

Nineteen players will make the extended trip, including Mike Wardrop, Ken Yount, Joe Golembeski and Sparky Brown, pitchers; two catchers, Henry Lasch and Joe Paperelli; and utility infielders, Johnny Sylvester and Biting in addition to the starting nine.

Mike Wardrop is Bedenk's choice to start the second game but may see relief work in the initial encounter.

In the Lion infield Martella and Captain Whitey Thomas are the only men who have seen previous action. Martella played varsity ball last spring while Thomas plugged the shortstop hole during the summer season. Second

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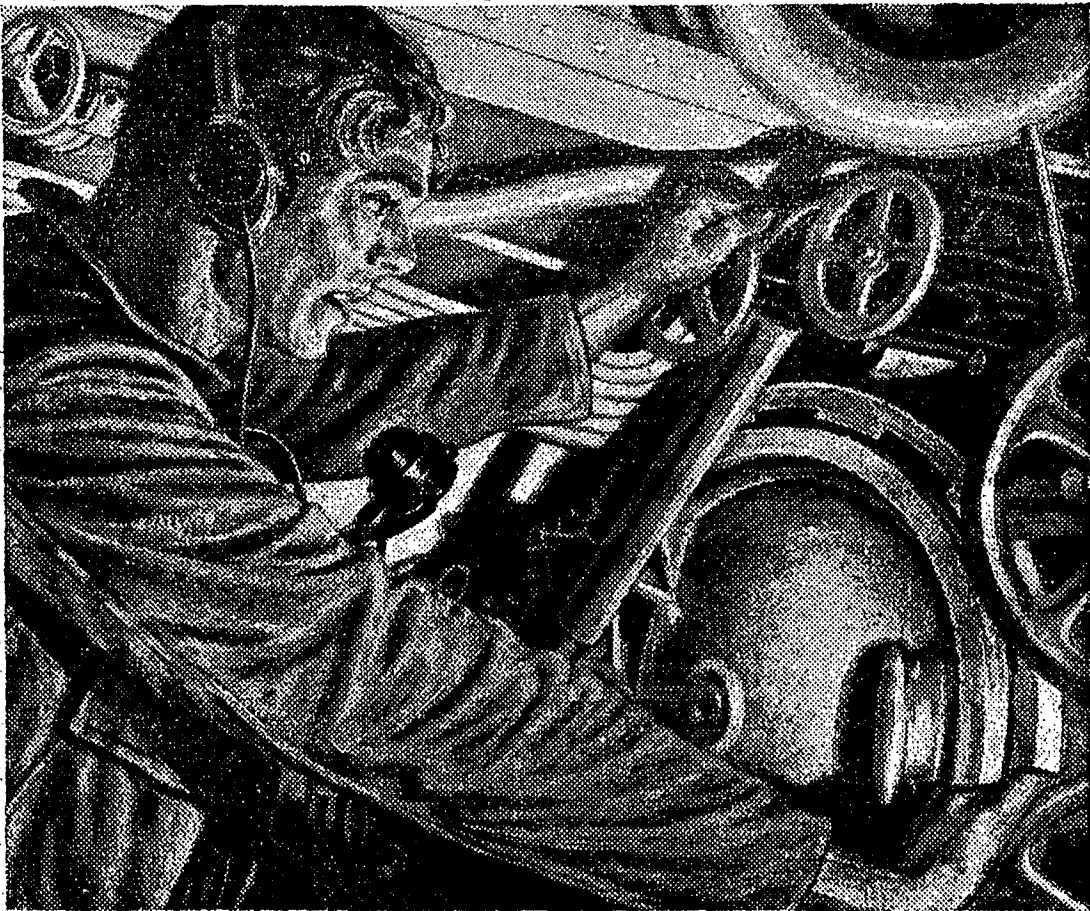
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Featuring

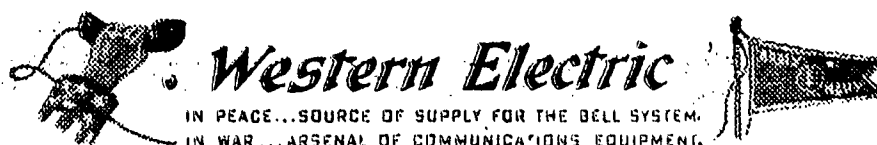
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