

Between The Lions

By REM ROBINSON
Sports Writer

It seems that about this time every year, when robins are coming north only to purchase return tickets to Fort Worth and Miami, every sports writer feels that it is his duty to write about baseball, and the coming of Spring.

Well, Spring came to Mount Nittany this week, baseball uniforms were issued, lacrosse players were outside, and it snowed. Still, here is a Spring column, the tradition has not been broken, and maybe next year, some new baseball scribe will find some weather on a Florida road map, manufacture a bona-fide report of Joe Bedenk and Co.

Joe was standing up in the coaches room Tuesday, his scheduled game with Navy on April 28 on his mind, the first day of Spring in the air, and his pre-war rubber galoshes on his feet.

We asked him a bit cautiously about his opener at Annapolis, but he sighed, shivered, and put his scarf around his neck as he headed for the campus. His favorite fungo bat had been dusted, his baseball uniform dug out from under the pile of football equipment in his locker, piled in a neat heap on top of Dr. Mills Almanac.

Half way down to Old Main, Joe was remembering last season. How games were cancelled with Pitt, Muhlenberg, Temple, and Navy in April because of rain, snow, sleet, and the other viceties eliminated from Chamber of Commerce releases.

He told a story about Coach Art Davis' first year at Penn State. The good Doctor Davis hadn't seen Penn State's athletic machine in action, so was worrying a great deal several mornings before Bedenk's ball club was slated to open their season with an April tilt against a big rival. Snow had fallen to almost six inches, and clouds held the promise of more within hours.

Coming into Bedenk's office, Davis asked nervously, "What are you going to do about your opener, Joe?"

Said Joe: "Don't worry Art. Bob Rutherford has designed a new roller with steam tubes incased in the steel rollers. Tomorrow he will drive the roller out on the field, roll the snow down into a neat layer, and at the same time, melt it all."

"Gosh," added Davis, "I have never seen that. I will have to come over tomorrow."

"Next afternoon, Davis tramped through the snow to the baseball diamond, and waited for some time before he realized that he was at last a member of the Penn State coaching staff," laughed Joe.

At this point, we left Joe and his stories, and his schedule for this Spring, pulled our gloves on and began wondering what Bob Higgins will have out for football next Fall.—RCR

Jack Grey Commissioned, Was Former Boxing Ace

Jackie Grey, former All-College president, Eastern Intercollegiate boxing champ, and winner of the 1943 Goodman trophy for being the outstanding Penn State boxer of the year, was commissioned a second lieutenant in ceremonies held at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on March 18.

Grey was a member of the 59th graduating class of the Armored Officer Candidate School.

Call for Track Managers

Candidates for assistant managerial positions on the Nittany Lion track squad should report to Stu Block, present varsity manager, at the indoor track in Rec Hall any night after 4 o'clock, it was announced today.

PIAA Gym Stars Here For Meet

Another schoolboy gym season draws to a close in Rec Hall Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when over 60 high school boys from eight Pennsylvania schools meet for individual crowns and for the mythical team title awarded by the Colleege.

Pottsville, defending champ from last year, is favored to again cop the interscholastic title, but expects tough competition from entries on the Warren and Lower Merion teams. The Warren gymnasts have taken the mythical title three times, while Pottsville claims four diadems.

In addition to the favored teams, entries have been placed by DuBois, Meadville, Ambridge, Ellwood City, and Sewickley. Pottsville's Steidle, named outstanding performer last year, will not be among the contestants for the title Saturday.

First trial rope climbs, and the Indian club and parallel bar events will start the 1944 tourney. At 2:30, second trials for the rope climb title will be made, followed by events with flying rings, side horse, horizontal bar, and the tumbling demonstration.

Favored to take the Indian Club swing is Stan Lourimore of Sewickley, winner of the Western Regional title. The rope climb event is wide open, with no 1943 gymnasts back to fill that spot. Veterans are found in all other contests.

Clearfield Still Rules Schoolboy Mat World With 13 Champions

Clearfield High School, although limited to one title this year, still rules the schoolboy mat realm with 13 individual champions since the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association held its first wrestling tournament at Penn State in 1938.

Canonsburg, on the other hand, went without a title for the first time since the tourney was founded, and as a result was deadlocked by Waynesburg for the runner-up position with nine champions each, last week after the PIAA mat tourney in Rec Hall. Matt Gusic, 127-pound champion last year, repeated for Waynesburg this year in the 138-pound class.

Forty Fort added a title to its collection this year and moved into fourth place with six champions. DuBois, denied a title when Jim Riss, 154-pound winner last year, lost in the 165-pound final this year, was alone in fifth place with five champions. Kingston's two 1944 champions boosted its all-time total to four.

Other schools with more than one champion are: Grove City 3; Shamokin, Greensburg, Cheltenham, Mt. Carmel, Bethlehem, Muncy, and Farrell, 2 each. Lower Merion, Pottsville, State College, Lock Haven, Erie Academy, West View, Boswell, Dormont, Tyrone, and Chartiers have each produced one champion.

New Penn State Swim Ace Is South American Champ

By ART MILLER A/S USNR

Not discouraged by the failure of such top-notch competitors as Alan Ford, Bob Cowell and the Ryan brothers to spend their varsity careers at Penn State, Swimming Coach Bob Galbraith has unearthed another tank sensation in Abel Gilbert, speedy Equatorian distance star.

Gilbert, who enrolled at State this semester for the three-year accelerated course in Animal Husbandry, will accompany backstroker Leigh Woehling to the NCAA tank meet at Yale this weekend.

He will compete in the 220-yard, 440-yard and 1500 meter events while Woehling will see action in his specialty the 150-yard backstroke.

Corner On Swin Market

The dark-haired distance ace, who came to this country from his native land of Ecuador five years ago to attend Mercersburg prep, holds every South American distance crown from the 100-yard swim to the 1500-meter marathon.

The winning of these crowns was purely a family matter. His brother, Charles, raced to victory in the 1938 Little Olympics in the 220, 440, 880 and 1500-meters and then retired from active competition.

Abel took up the family tradition from there, repeating his brother's victories against the cream of the South American crop in the 1939 Olympics, held at Bogota, Columbia.

In the Pan-Americans the same year, he swam against the best of both continents including such luminaries as Alan Ford, Adolph Kiefer, and the Hawaiian aces Nakama, Hirose and Takama. He placed third in the 1500-meters and fourth in each of the other distances.

Better Than Ford

On the Mercersburg swimming crew, Gilbert used to beat Alan Ford regularly in the distance events but could not master the Yale star in the dashes. Ford, after leaving prep school and deciding to display his wares for Coach Bob Kipthuth at Yale, devoted his time to the dashes entirely and recently bettered his

own time for the 100 to set a new world's record of 49.7 seconds.

The South American, a real good neighbor to Coach Galbraith this season, is a citizen of Ecuador and is not affected by the draft although taking basic ROTC in college.

"When I finish here, I intend to return to Ecuador and probably enter the Army," Gilbert said when asked about his future.

He has one brother, now married, and two sisters, all living at the Gilbert home.

Twelve Teams Enter

The 1500-meter trials will be held in the Eli pool this morning with the finals taking place tomorrow night. This afternoon the trials will be run on the 220 and 440 with the pay-offs probably tomorrow night.

Woehling will swim in warm-up competition this afternoon and the finals tonight before returning.

Twelve teams with an aggregate 82 entries are reported awaiting the gun in the beautiful Payne-Whitney gym pool. Michigan, Yale, Columbia, Princeton and Cornell will be among the squads present that will give plenty of trouble to the Penn State hopefuls.

John Lawther, Penn State cage coach, rates Army's unbeaten quintet as the best his team opposed this year.



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EARLY MORNING LENTEN BREAKFAST — Fireside Room, 7-8 A.M. Thursday.

Do you believing in acquiring spiritual disciplines now?

'Shoe Wizard Haines,' Starts Another Nittany Tradition

Some funny things happen on crowded trains these days, especially when a cherubic little millionaire begins arguing with a dozen Penn State hockey and gymnaces on the subject of "chin-ups."

Recently the Penn State icemen and gymnasts were speeding toward West Point with their coaches Art Davis and Gene Wettstone, when up sauntered a silver-cane in front of Mahlin N. Haines, the widely publicized, widely-known "Shoe Wizard of York."

Together with a half dozen hockey players and gymnast Mike Gaitanis, the Shoe Wizard talked of college days, and of his days as short stop on the 1892 baseball team at the University of Maryland. Eventually the conversation got to chin-ups, and ever-sporting Mahlin Haines offered a five dollar bill to the man present who could chin himself the most times.

At one time, the Shoe Wizard could chin himself twenty times, using regulation rules, and even today, although approaching 70 years of age, he alights from bed with a jump, and paces through 20 minutes of rigorous, toughening exercises.

With the offer of \$5 made, gym coach Wettstone asked philanthropist Haines to make it a school-wide contest, and within a minute another award was offered for the best in all-college competition. Last week after armed forces' gymnasium records, and civilian tryouts were recorded, gymnast Marvin Mangus won the "Colonel Haines Trophy," and AST Private Narvin I. Emden took second honors.

The prize to the smaller group of athletes in which Haines became interested while riding on the New York-bound train went to varsity rope climber Gaitanis.

This was not the first time millionaire Haines has become interested in sporting competition. Once when a passenger on a luxury liner, a diving contest was arranged because two champion divers were aboard. Already other guests had heard of Haines and his antics, and immediately invited him to join competition by demonstrating a belly-whopper. Haines obliged, although he was then 67 years of age.

Haines toured the countryside today in a fire-engine-red sedan, the word: "THE SHOE WIZARD"

painted in eight inch gold letters, splashed loudly on the side. He is a lover of children, an enthusiastic backer of the Boy Scouts. To honor his 70th birthday this year, Haines will bring nearly 2000 scouts to a jamboree at his estate in East York.

Each of his 40 shoe stores, now under a manager, Haines does not work any more than necessary. He spends his time buying war bonds, and urging others to do their share. Estimates figure that he has purchased nearly a tenth of a million dollars in war bonds. The rest of his time is spent riding horseback at one of his vast farms, or in being named honorary chief of a Western Indian tribe.

On a recent bond tour, Haines was escorting screen star Gloria Stuart through an inspection of a rival shoe factory. Confusing him with Congressman Harry L. Haines of that district, the factory owner introduced him as such.

Haines didn't miss this chance, and immediately jumped up screaming: "No, no, I'm Haines the Shoe Wizard. The man who makes low prices possible." Then he bought a \$10,000 bond, and was kissed by Miss Stuart.

When starting in business many years ago, the Wizard of York hired a 65-piece band and rented York's old opera house for his own preview. As the band played loudly, he stepped to the stage, and yelled, "I'm Haines the Shoe Wizard." And on those words and on a borrowed stock of \$127, the greatest chain store owner in America started selling shoes.

Now, his picture appears on every box of shoes sold in his chain of stores. His name screams from every door mat, awning and window display he owns. In his "modest" \$32,000 mansion, he hires no servants, eats his wife's own cooking. His vast office records are kept in shoe boxes in his dingy headquarters at York.

As his conversation ended with the Penn State athletes, and the Colonel Haines Trophy was planned for the best chinner in the college, the Wizard glanced from the train window, saw that he was miles past his station. Leaping from the coach at the next station, he hired an airplane back to his destination.—RCR

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