

Baseball, Track Teams Off To Slow Start As Season Nears

Sweeney Trades Gloves For Bat; Wardrop Returns

Marine Private Mike Sweeney is keeping the boxing team-baseball team combination intact this season, according to Lion mentor Joe Bedenk. Undefeated Sweeney, Nittany ringman at 175 pounds this winter, is a good bet for the receiving end of the baseball bat-ferry this spring.

Last season, Oogie Martella came up to the baseball team from the 175-pound fistic post to garner a starting nod as Lion catcher. Martella is now a boxing champ at Camp Lee, where he is stationed with the Army.

Other spots on the Nittany diamond varsity are undecided since the Bedenkmen have completed but three days' outdoors this month. Many Marine and Navy trainees have been dotting the sessions, however, and several varsity men have returned from the 1943 squad.

Wardrop Back

Big Mike Wardrop, Bedenk's only standby on the mound last summer, is back with his battery companion, Ed Holler, in the catcher's notch. Joe Golembeski, freshman hurler several years ago, has also reported to early season workouts.

In the outfield another letter-winner, Dale Bower, is finding competition from V-12 trainees Hall, Bruhn, Urion, and Barnes for fly-chasing chores on the opening day at Annapolis next month. Johnny Sylvester is the remain-

All-American Lombana Heads Home After Nine Years Of Study, Soccer

Jose Lombana, Penn State all-America soccer player, is home-bound after nine years of study and travel. He's a native of South America.

Lombana, who won all-America recognition two years in a row, attended school in France and Belgium before he entered Penn State four years ago. A mining engineer, he has been offered a position with an oil refining company in his home country.

Lombana was voted Penn State's most valuable soccer player in 1943, entitling him to possession of the Captain Edward S. Mandel Trophy offered last year for the first time.

ing holdover from Bedenk's summer team, and expects to pair off with Marine Trainee Al Richards for duty at first base. Richards was a halfback on the football squad in the fall.

Pvt. Whitey Kurowski, brother of the famed Whitey Kurowski of the St. Louis Cardinals, is a likely choice for the second base nod, said Bedenk.

Other possibilities listed last night by Bedenk as battery starters include Seaman John Cwik and Pvt. Pat Pantano as catchers, and Marine Wee Willie Proctor on the throwing end of the combination.

Harvey Gets Largest Turnout In Two Years

Nittany Track Coach George Harvey has been gazing gloomily through Rec Hall's windows for the past week in search of the spring sun.

Indoor practice has begun for his 42 track team candidates, but Harvey would like to see his boys dig into the cinders as soon as possible. It will give him an idea of what sort of material has answered his call. They're out in number—the greatest in the last two years—awaiting the initial trials April 8.

Veteran Robert Jones was pointed out by Harvey as a mainstay this year by dint of performances last year. Another familiar form will be John Dibeler, who placed second in the 600 when he participated in the IC4A last year.

Dash and Distance Men

Also returning to the Nittany line-up will be Richard McCown, dash man in the 100, 220 and 440. Two-miler Cecil Deuschle and Phil Jones will don their Penn State outfits as veterans. Jones was a member of last year's cross-country team and will compete in the one- and two-mile events.

Marines Edward Buch and Daniel Orlich, both formerly of Northwestern, will handle the shot-put and discus, according to pre-season guesses.

James Wood will probably hurdle for the Harvey-men. Wood came in second at the state championships in high school. Paul Smith, another civilian, will try to place as a relay man. Three years ago Smith was a freshman at State and was recently released from the Army. Smith will also make a bid for the relays.

First meet slated for the Nittany trackmen will probably be the Penn Relays April 19. Pitt, Cornell, Colgate and the IC4A comprise the rest of the schedule. One more meet might be named, but nothing definite has been announced regarding it.

Two Former Gridiron Stars Win Recognition In Theatres Of War

Two former grid stars are numbered among the scores of Penn State students and alumni who have earned wartime citations since the outbreak of the present war. Penn State's total present representation in the armed services is estimated at 8,500 men and women.

Of the two ex-gridders only recently cited, Lieut. David K. Sloan is listed as missing. Sloan finished his education at the United States Naval Academy, where he also played football, received the Silver Star Medal for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as assistant approach officer of a United States submarine in action against the Jap forces in five Pacific patrols."

Sloan, who cruised more than 100,000 miles on Pacific patrols in the first 15 months of combat, served as gunnery and torpedo officer with a crew which sank 19 enemy vessels, and was on the submarine which rescued from Corregidor the parties of President Manuel Quezon, of the Philippines, and Francis B. Sayre, high United States commissioner in the islands.

The Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to Col. Harry "Light-horse Harry" Wilson, former Penn State and West Point grid hero, was for "extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights on combat operational missions between September 11 and October 1, 1943." Wilson is commander of the 13th Army Air Forces medium bomber group operating in the South Pacific. He himself has flown 34 combat missions.

Big Turnout Helps Thiel Rebuild Club

Stickman Face Tough Card With 3 Lettermen

With a bumper crop of 65 aspirants out for the 1944 lacrosse squad, Coach Nick Thiel faces once again the problem of building a winning club from untried athletes.

In past years, Thiel has produced teams that have held their own against the best combinations in the East. Last season, the Blue and White placed Don Gotwals on the All-American list along with the experienced players turned out by Johns Hopkins, Maryland, Navy and Army—schools which comb high school ranks for lacrosse stars.

Mainstays on the Lion stick team this year are Dale Hamilton, Pete Johnson and Mike Millikin. All three are returning lettermen from last year, Johnson, hindered by a recurring asthma ailment, will probably see action in the nets where he will not be exerted. Hamilton and Millikin will probably start the season at two of the midfield posts.

Art Lorenz, Don Bretherick and Bill Batkin have shown up well in the preliminary scrimmages to date, according to the Lion mentor, and may earn varsity assignments.

Thiel hopes to be able to get in some regular outside workouts if Ole Sol will give him the chance before launching into one of the toughest schedules he has ever tackled.

Lion Athletes Overcome Lack Of Sight, Paralysis

It takes more than a physical handicap to keep Penn State men out of athletic competition these days.

Lack of sight was not enough to keep Chuck Hall out of wrestling and two boys who were partially crippled by infantile paralysis loom as coming stars in varsity athletics.

Steve Green, a freshman from Philadelphia, already has made a niche for himself by winning the side horse event in the Eastern intercollegiate gymnastics championships. His coach, Gene Wetstone, thinks he will be a contender for the parallel bars and rope climb titles a year hence.

Vic Danilov, Farrell, also overcome the handicap of a partially crippled leg well enough to make the varsity basketball squad as a freshman Danilov, who is active in many campus organizations, played on the Farrell High School team that finished second to Lower Merion in last year's State championships.

Chuck Hall, blind wrestler from East Springfield in Erie County, Pa., gave a good account of himself during the past season although defeated in all but one start. He was thrown only twice in five engagements.

Jacob Walker, a one-armed youth from Montgomery County, Pa., last fall persisted until Football Coach Bob Higgins permitted him to scrimmage with the varsity squad. The Nittany coach has since commended the boy highly for his spunk and courage.

EMPHASIS ON DEFENSE

Over a five-year period, Penn State basketball teams have limited the opposition to an average of 29-points-a-game.

HAS WINNING WAYS

Since John Lawther took command of Penn State basketball in 1936, the Lions have won two out of every three games played.

Dutch Hermann, former Penn State basketball coach, still remains on the campus as a professor of American history.

Matils Score Victory Over Penn State Club

Matils scored an eight-point victory over the Penn State Club in the IMA Bowling Tournament's final match of the season played Wednesday evening. Penn Haven placed third.

The winners chalked up 52 points and lost four during the eight-game tournament.

First-half honors went to Douglas Geier and Walter O'Toole Aptulsky, while Joseph Paperelli placed high in the second half. The following members of Matils were presented golden bowling balls: Capt. Bernard Stozeski, Joseph Paperelli, Walter O'Toole Aptulsky, Michael Rusinko, Eugene Davis, and Douglas Geier.

Cass Sisler, ex-Grid Star, Shifts Allegiance to Navy

Cass Sisler, a nephew of baseball's famed George Sisler and Penn State's most effective ball-carrier during the 1943 football season, has shifted his allegiance from the Marine Corps to the Navy.

His decision prompted his transfer from the V-12 program at Penn State to the Navy's pre-Midshipmen School at Asbury Park, N. J. Sisler, a native of Barberton, O., formerly attended Western Reserve.

DOUGHBOYS LIKE SPORT

Penn State's Leo Houck thinks servicemen's participation in ring-tourneys insures the post-war future of college boxing.

Abel Gilbert, Leigh Woehling Place in Nationals in Yale Pool

Abel Gilbert took fourth places in the 220 and 440 while placing sixth in the 1500-meter swim and Leigh Woehling gained a sixth position in the 150-yard backstroke at the NCAA swimming championships held over the weekend at Yale.

Gilbert represented Penn State in the distance swim as he won hard earned spots in the distance events. Woehling lost his first heat to Alan Ford who won the event as well as his specialties of 50 and 100 yards.

Gilbert, originally from Ecuador where his family still lives, came out for the Nittany tank team late in the season and was good enough for Coach Bob Galbraith to send to the National competition.

Woehling, a backstroker from Norristown, lost only to Midshipman Bob Cowell of the Naval Academy in dual competition this season. Cowell, by the way, did his swimming for the Lions last year before transferring to Navy.

PREDICTS PRO BOOM

Joe Bedenk, Penn State grid aide and former All-American, looks for an amazing growth in professional football after the war.

TEACHING THE PROFS

George Harvey, duration track coach and fishing expert, is conducting a special class in fly casting for Penn State professors.

Lower Merion Captures Gym PIAA

Lower Merion, a perennial contender in basketball but an entry in gymnastics title competition for only the second time, won the hard way in this year's PIAA gym championships held in Rec Hall. Restricted to one individual title, the Main Liners managed nevertheless to pile up enough points with seconds, thirds, fourths and fifths to become the first school other than Pottsville or Warren to win the mythical team championship in the nine

years of this state-wide competition.

The Ardmore squad, unbeaten in 12 consecutive dual meets and coached by Art Drumm, Temple's 1929 gym captain, deposed Pottsville in winning its first title. Five of the eight previous tournaments had been won by Pottsville, with the other three going to Warren.

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