

# Track Prospects Dim as Werner Searches Squad for Point-Makers

Between 40 and 50 untested candidates are out every day pounding the track in anticipation of the opening of the Penn State track schedule, but Coach Chick Werner has his work cut out for him trying to get a team to put in competition with other schools.

Of all the candidates out for track this spring none have shown enough promise to be counted on as "sure" point winners in dual-meet and tournament competition.

Elected co-captains for the season, Chuck Willing and Floyd Lang were expected to be the best men in field events, but Lang will not be around because of scholastic difficulties and Willing has not come up to expectations in his specialty, the pole vault.

Werner's squad has been handicapped by their inability to practice out-of-doors, but in the next three weeks, the coaches hope to be able to pick a team which should give some account of themselves when the campaign opens with the Penn Relays late in April.

Aiding Werner with this year's team will be Bob Grieve, assistant coach, and Norm Gordon, graduate assistant.

Several of the freshman members of 1941 and 1942 cross-country and track teams are back in the fold this season, but the coaches have not had a chance to see what they can do. They all won numerals in their first year, but have not been in competition for several years and may be hard to get into shape.

Rufe and Mitchell Williams, brothers who ran as Nittany Lions in 1942, are back for distance events, as well as Johnny McCall and Don Harris. Warren Steubing, another ex-GI who ran on the 1941 freshman cross-country team,

is in spikes again this season, and Chick is counting heavily on these men developing into good distance runners.

Paul Smith, captain of the boxing team, is expected to make a good showing for himself this season as one of the team's best point-getters.

Bill Shuman is probably the outstanding prospect for the 440 event. He is the most experienced man on the team. Others who may shape up to be good men are Jack Stevenson and Harold Dixon.

Mike Garbinski is back as a weight man and Jim Sykes will probably be the top man in the high jump competition this spring.

In addition to the above contenders for the squad, the following are also working out in Rec Hall and at New Beaver Field: Francis Deutschle, Robert Kritzer, Fred Kretzer, Walter Fallows, Robert Steed, George Cleveland, Bill Turner, and Charles Krug.

Tentative teams and performers for the various events have not yet been chosen. Men interested in track can still join in early workouts by reporting to Coaches Chick Werner or Bob Grieve at Rec Hall.

# Thiel Expects Team To Win

Even with the largest turnout in the past four years, lacrosse Coach Nick Thiel still has his troubles.

Latest crimp in Thiel's plans came this week when a prospective centerfielder first stringer, Mike Ciramella was forced to withdraw from college because of illness at home. Ciramella was a veteran of the 1945 team as a Naval ROTC student and had re-enrolled this season as a civilian.

Fifteen of the 65 men out for the squad are Naval ROTC men while another 25 are ex-service-men.

Coach Thiel and his assistant, Paul Ameel are looking forward to a top-notch season since pre-war days when the Lion lacrosse team was always one of the best teams in the East. Although the squad is loaded with veterans, the same is true with most of their opponents.

Thiel has announced that practice will be held at 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

All students interested in trying out for baseball manager should sign up at the A. A. office in Old Main and then report to the baseball field any afternoon after 3 o'clock.

## Spring Schedules

of sports are available at Student Union, Old Main.

# Hatkevich Honored On AP Court Squad

Wally Hatkevich, the Nittany Lions' high-scoring freshman court star, was named to a first-team berth on the 1946 Associated Press All-Pennsylvania collegiate basketball team.

The team selections were made by a poll of the state's coaches and sports writers.

Hatkevich didn't become a regular starter until the season was a few games old; but when Coach John Lawther hit on him as one of his guards Hatkevich showed his true worth by remaining in as regular guard the remainder of the season.

Although the Lions were beaten in 9 out of 16 starts, Hatkevich continued looping them through the basket, averaging 13.5 points per game for his 16-game season.

Of the four other first team members Harry Donovan, Muhlberg's brilliant freshman, and Jimmie Joyce, Temple's ace-in-the-hole, appeared against the Lions on the Rec Hall court the past season. Donovan, honorary captain of the club, was almost a unanimous choice.

No other Lions made either of the second or third teams, but giant center Herb Currie received honorable mention.

Pos.	Player	College
fd.	Podbielsky	Geneva
fd.	Joyce	Temple
c.	Semko	Lafayette
gd.	Donovan	Muhlenberg
gd.	Hatkevich	Penn State

## All-State Guard



WALLY HATKEVICH

## Know Your Coaches

# Former Champ Heads Boxers 24 Years

By LEO KORNFELD

Just plain Fred to those who work with him, but Penn State's boxing coach Leo Houck to others.

For the simple, male monicker is about the best description by which the modest, retiring, and former champion boxer can best be described. Just plain Fred.

The pride of Lancaster possesses one of the most colorful and meteoric careers in the history of the manly art. Fighting during the 20 year period of 1902 through 1922, a decade which saw such greats as Harry Lewis, Harry Greb, Stanley Ketchel, Frank Klaus, Jack Britton, Mickey Walker and others. The "rosy-cheeked Lancaster Boy" as Houck was called, became the dandy of the fight mob.

MET 12 CHAMPS: In all, Houck met 12 world champions during his fighting career, from Welter Champ Harry Lewis, whom he met three times, to the heavyweight ruler "Gene" Tunney, whom he met twice. The third battle with Lewis was a ding-dong 20 round thriller in Paris, which Houck considers to be his best fight. Lewis, who was then the French champ, lost the title to Leo.

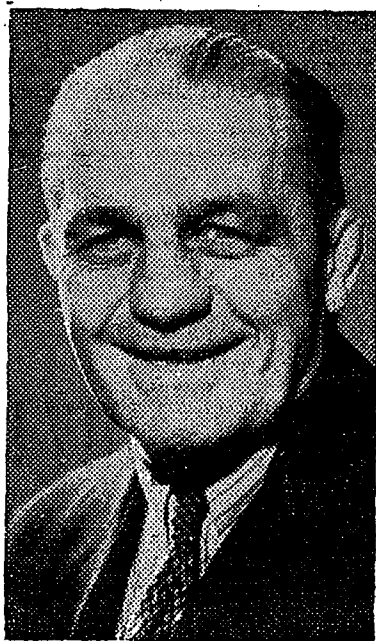
Throughout his career Leo Houck met champions and near champions and never failed to please. Toward the end of an already successful career Houck, in 1922, went to Cuba seeking a match with the Cuban light heavy king, Santiago Esparraguera.

The feared Houck was slyly evaded and matched with a lesser light. But rising to the occasion, the Lancaster battler fought this opponent to a draw, thereby forcing the Cuban champ into the ring. Houck knocked him out in the fourth round and was declared the Cuban champ.

"Leo Houck possessed one of the greatest left pistons to ever to

be put on the port side of a right-handed battler, the ability, speed, and accuracy to stick a straight left jab into the face of an opponent—six, seven, and eight successive times with such lightning effect that his opponent could not retaliate. That, coupled with a stiff punching right, made

## Just Plain Fred



LEO HOUCK

Leo Houck a graceful ring mechanic for any fan to watch and an opponent to respect," said Harry Pegg, editor of "The Veteran Boxer" in a Leo Houck tribute.

COACHED LIONS SINCE '22: The colorful fighting career of a great ringman came to an end after the Cuban fight and Leo Houck accepted the job as boxing

coach at the College in 1922. And part two of the Houck success story began.

For 24 years as Blue and White mentor the Lancaster wonder has led his charges into 157 dual meets, emerging with a fighting average of 82 wins, 59 losses, 16 ties.

The past season, Houck's 24th, was the first time during his coaching career that one of his teams failed to cop a dual meet. However, Johnny Benglian's winning of the featherweight crown kept the Houck record clear for having an intercollegiate champ while he was at the helm.

Houck-coached Nittany Lion teams walked off with seven of the 23 annual Eastern Intercollegiate tournaments, more than any other school. And Blue and White ringmen hold the lead with the most individual titles at the Intercollegiate—44.

Yes, just plain Fred. That's Leo Houck, a champion's champion.

## Spring Football Practice Begins Monday—Edwards

Spring football practice will begin Monday afternoon, Acting Coach Earle Edwards announced today.

All members of the football squad and others interested in playing on the team are asked to get their physicals at the dispensary today and report to the water tower locker rooms for equipment.

Acting Coach Edwards will conduct the early workouts in the absence of Head Coach Higgins, who is not expected to be back from Japan until next month.

## IMA Bowling

Ralph Palmer led the IMA bowling league Wednesday evening. He bowled the high-three with 511 and single-high with 191. The teams heading the league are Nittany Den, Hustlers, and Nittany Co-op.

IMA chairman John Gatz announces that plans are under way for an all-college ping-pong tournament.

## Westminster Foundation Bulletin Board

"VARIETY SHOW" and FUN NIGHT. Westminster Hall Friday, 7:30 p. m.

STUDENT DEPARTMENT SUNDAY, 9:30 a. m.

Worship Service followed by Seminar: "Religion in War and Peace" Leader: Dr. A. H. Heede

SUNDAY AFTERNOON MUSIC HOUR. Mrs. Jane Francis, Pianist. Fireside Room 3:30 p. m.

WESTMINSTER FELLOW SHIP. SUNDAY 6:20 p. m. Worship Service and Address

Speaker Dr. Herbert Koepf-Baker

MORNING CHURCH SERVICE 10:45 a. m.

89th THURSDAY MORNING MATINS—7 a. m.

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