

# Future Brighter For Nittany Nine

Prospects became brighter this week for a better than average baseball season as slugging Orient "Ozzie" Martella returned to the practice sessions at the New Beaver Field diamond.

Martella, first string catcher for the Bedenkmen in the pre-war days and also 175-pound boxer and lineman for the varsity football team, played two seasons as catcher for the army nine at Camp Lee, Va. Assured of being one of Coach Bedenk's starters behind the plate, he will give the team additional power at bat.

A pre-season game has been scheduled with the Olmstead Field Flyers from the Middletown Air Technical Service Command to be played on the Middletown diamond April 6. The Flyers have been top team in the Harrisburg Baseball league, a semi-pro loop of teams around the capital city and sport at least three former pro players in Rudy Campbell and Herman King, pitchers, and Andy Gienmak, catcher.

### Pitching Worries Bedenk

Bedenk's chief worries still concern the pitching staff. With not a veteran left from the '45 squad, a completely new group of starting and relief hurlers must be trained in the few short weeks remaining.

Don Miller, Ken Yount, Hal Wausat, John Boykin, Adrian Swain, Jack Weber and Bob Schaeff are being whipped into college-ball calibre under the guidance of Coach Bedenk. All are freshmen or Naval ROTC men except Weber and Yount, veterans from previous editions of the team who have turned pitcher this year.

### Five Veterans Return

Returning sluggers from last year's nine are "Stet" Stetler in center field; Joe Tepsic in left field, shortstop Dan Hopkins; Andy DeLorenzo, last year's second baseman and lead-off hitter, and Joe Leith, first base. Leith has been switched to right field this year to make way for Chuck

# Harry Places Third In NCAA

Sam Harry, 1946 Eastern Intercollegiate 128-pound wrestling champion, captured third place in his weight at the National Collegiate Wrestling Tournament at Stillwater, Oklahoma Saturday.

In doing this he repeated his earlier triumph of 1942 when he took the same place in the same class. This time he defeated Iggy Konrad of Michigan State 2-1 for third place.

Lou Kachiroubas of Illinois, Big Ten champion, defeated Harry 11-3 in the semi-finals and went on to take the title.

On Friday the State wrestler was the only man to draw two opponents to get past the first round. He beat Ted Brothers, Davidson College, 9-5 in the first clash of the evening and again went on the mats in the final bout to defeat Harry Manus, Wymong College, 10-3.

After his defeat by Kachiroubas, he wrestled T. A. Hearn, North Carolina, and Konrad, defeating both and gaining third place among the nation's collegiate wrestlers.

Coach Paul Campbell, who accompanied Harry to the tournament, said that competition was tough in the lighter weights, while heavyweight entrants were lacking.

MacFarland, first sacker on the '43 squad.

Along with Mantella behind the plate will be Will Tease, Don Herb, Glenn Hanna and "Red" Jacobs. Vying for the "hot spot" at third will be Burletic and Sutherland, both returnees from pre-war teams.

Ray "Whitey" Kurowski, marine trainee who returned this year as a civilian student, will resume his former station at second base. Other infield candidates include Herman Jorgenson, Bill Malther, Joe Pasda, Lenny Kleinman, and Gene Bixler.

Members of the pasture-tending group besides Leith, Tepsic and Stetler include Fred Bell, Paul Masterson and Larry Bitting.

Bedenk stressed that none of the positions are certain and that the starting line-up will include only "hustlers."

## The Last Round

Smitty has taken the final count. Paul Smith, Penn State's boxing veteran of three years, who was captain of his team, never woke up from his sleep Sunday morning.

A veteran of the Naval Air Corps, Smitty was in the June graduating class and would have received his B.A. in Physical Education.

Paul Smith was liked and respected by classmates and teammates. As the 1945 team's outstanding member, he was awarded the Frank J. Goodman Boxing Trophy.

And Smitty loved fighting and sports, and the feel of keen competition and fair play in and out of the ring, winning or losing.

Yes, Paul Smith was most of all a team player who gave his all up until the last round.

Now the last bell has rung, and Paul Smith has hung up the gloves for good. The last round is over.

## Naval ROTC

... bowling league will mark its beginning tonight at the State Bowling Centre. Lt. Taylor, recreation officer, expects to field at least four, and possibly eight, five man teams for this intra-platoon competition.

## IMA

... invites all men to a meeting in 401 Old Main at 6:30 tomorrow night to discuss a ping-pong tournament and an independent softball league.

Adolf Rupp's observation on the damage he saw in Germany: "our accuracy bombing was very good. Our boys missed every stadium, brewery and distillery."

## Lion Roars

The old saying is that when you have had your fill you should have your say. After last week's boxing banquet we're sure we have something to say.

Anyhow, it was a good banquet, from the food angle and the tributes paid Coach Houck by members of his team. Although such boxing devotees as Dean Carl P. Schott of the School of Physical Education and Dr. Carroll D. Champlin of the psychology department were absent, the sincere remarks by the boxers and short talks by Coach Houck and Sports Director Jim Coogan made the affair worthy of commendation.

### '47 Boxing Tourney Here

Coogan gave a summary of Lion boxing achievements under Coach Houck and also announced that Penn State would be the host school for the 24th annual boxing intercollegiate next year in honor of Coach Houck's 25th season with Lion boxers.

The Lion mentor, in speaking to the group, praised the boys for their season and told them that you can't let one defeat get you down.

"Dempsey was a great fighter," the coach said, "and he was knocked out before he became champ. You can't let any defeat stop you... one defeat doesn't make you a loser."

### Milk, Nose Drops

Like all other such affairs, the banquet had its "payoffs." Awards were presented to Jim Cassidy, lightweight, and Jack Seitchick, 155-pounder. "Gentleman" Jim, the team's ace milk drinker, received a quart of the body builder (which, incidentally, was emptied at the end of the feast), while Seitchick, the team's sniffer, was the recipient of a bottle of nose drops, while Coach Houck announced "hope that this will cure you for next season."

And quipster Goldberg, who Coogan aptly named the boxing team's Jack Benny, was in rare form all evening. As he was introducing featherweight champ Johnny Benglian, Coach Houck, sitting beside him, whispered, "don't forget he's champ." And ad-libbing Goldberg, "I read the papers, coach."

We remained to see the screening of the fights of the first Wisconsin-Penn State dual meet, after which the 1946 edition of the Nittany Lion boxing team bowed out and we felt sure that with such "profiteers by experience" as Cassidy, Seitchick, Christmas, Stusarczyk, champ Benglian and others still around the words of one of them might be a prophecy. "Wait 'till next year."

### Weekly Sports Laugh

In Carnegie Hall last Friday one returned veteran glanced up from the sports page he was reading to say to a friend, "I see where the Sing Sing football team wants to play West Point next fall."

"Now why the (censored) would Sing Sing want to play the Army?" asked the friend.

"The only reason I can see," smiled the veteran, "is that they want to prove the pen is mightier than the sword." —Leo

Cuban athletic officials, acting through the National AAU, have invited Gene Wettstone of Penn State to coach the Cuban gym team for the forthcoming South American Games.

## Know Your Coaches

# Sixteenth Year For Bedenk

By LEONARD MALINOWSKI

On April 6 Penn State will open its 1946 baseball season while Joe Bedenk, head coach, inaugurates his sixteenth. His best previous record was set by his 1940 outfit which claimed 14 victories in their 16 contests.

Bedenk is a graduate of the College, leaving here with the class of '24 after a notable four-year athletic career. He captained the 1923 gridiron combine that marched all the way to Pasadena, Calif. to play in the Rose Bowl. But tragedy struck for he never saw action in the game. His fractured rib, suffered during a practice session, precluded it. He achieved the zenith in athletic honors that year when Walter Camp chose him as a guard on his All-America eleven.

### Winning Streak

His name was included on the

football and head coach in baseball.

1929 saw his return to his Alma Mater, this time as the gridiron line coach. One year later he was selected to assist Hugo Bezdek with the baseball chores. Then, in 1931, he assumed the head coaching position when Bezdek left and retained his position as the line coach of the football team.

### Ace Coach

As a baseball mentor, Bedenk ranks with the best. His aggregations have always been rated in the upper brackets of the nation's schools. Aside from that reputation he is known for his efficiency and excellent judgment as a football scout. His handling of the forward wall is regarded highly and is recognized alongside of the game's best.



JOE BEDENK

football programs with such Penn State luminaries as Ted Arntlet and Harry Wilson. It was during the early twenties that the Lions were receiving nation-wide comments on their excellent gridiron elevens. At one time in that period, Penn State had defeated 32 successive opponents before Navy smashed the string with a 14-0 win in 1922.

Upon graduation, Bedenk left to coach the University of Florida and Rice Institute teams, serving in the capacity of line coach in

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