

Between The Lions

By BEN FRENCH

Penn State's intercollegiate athletic program has two strikes against it and the immediate future doesn't look too rosy.

First of all, the fact that we have no freshmen on campus and probably won't have any for two years at the minimum, gives each of our opponents an advantage. Each of the three teams that Joe Bedenk's baseballers have met this season have had at least three first-year men in the starting lineup. The same thing holds true with the other Penn State opponents.

The return of ex-GI pre-war stars has given the Lion teams a boost, it is true, but the other teams have their pre-war luminaries and freshmen too. The effect of our banning of frosh athletes will begin to show next Fall when the pre-war stars begin graduating and leave us with pre-war stars and freshmen.

SCHOOLBOYS DISLIKE THE FARM

Outstanding high school athletes in the state wanted to come to Penn State before the war. They still want to, but they don't want to be farmed out to a small college. Even sons of Penn State athletes in the past are registering at Pitt, Temple, Penn, Lehigh, and other colleges in the state that are accepting and soliciting freshmen athletes.

Bob Higgins has been lucky compared to the other coaches. A plan was set up under which promising football stars in the freshman class were all sent to California State Teachers. Then a Penn State coach, Earle Bruce, was sent down to coach the team. The Penn State-at-California lads were undefeated last season and will do a fine job filling in the holes on the Higgins eleven next Fall.

COACHES IN QUANDARY

The other coaches haven't fared so well. Next Winter when Leo Houck issues a call for his boxing team, he won't have the slightest idea what to expect. All the candidates will be at least sophomores and will probably never have boxed before in their lives. It will be the same story for soccer, track, basketball, baseball, and the other varsity sports. The coaches will be forced to play men who have had no experience. That can mean only one thing—Penn State athletic teams will not be winning teams!

Strike number two is the lack of facilities for the extensive athletic program that is carried on here. One day last February we walked up to Rec Hall and counted the different varsity teams practicing in the one building. There in one small corner were the boxing and wrestling teams. Out on the floor proper were the gymn, baseball, lacrosse, track, and basketball teams. The baseball team couldn't go outside because the ice hockey team had its rink on the diamond.

BEDENK FORCED TO CUT

Joe Bedenk had to cut nearly 40 candidates from his baseball team this Spring because of the lack of facilities. With only one diamond and nearly 100 men out for the sport it was impossible for one man to judge each individual fairly. Some of those who were cut from the squad protested that Bedenk had not given them a fair chance to display their talents.

The coach admitted this in a letter of explanation he wrote to Dean Schott, when he made the cut. Only 18 men can practice at once on the one diamond, according to Bedenk, and he had to pick a winning combination before the opening game two weeks later. With these two strikes against them, Penn State's athletic coaches face serious difficulties that it may take years to iron out.

Track Fans Can Take A Look At Team In Preview Tomorrow

Track fans will have one of their few opportunities to view Penn State's promising cinder squad in action tomorrow, when Coach Chick Werner holds his last time-trials before the Penn Relays.

Following the Relays the Lion trackmen will engage in three dual meets and also take part in the IC4-A and NCAA championships. Michigan State is the only

home competition on the schedule.

FIELD EVENTS AT 2:30

Saturday's time trials are scheduled to get under way at 2:30 with the field events. Trials will be held in the following events. Discus, shot-put, high-jump, javelin, broad-jump and the pole vault. High lights in the field events promise to be the performances of Dave Pincus in the discus, Lang in the javelin, and Willing in the pole vault.

At 3:10 the track trials are slated to begin, with the clock being held on the 100, 220, 440, and 880 yard dashes, the 120 low and high hurdles, and the mile and two mile runs.

With Coach Werner predicting a mile time that will easily break 4:20, plenty of fast action is expected from the runners. Karver, Stone, Ashenfelter, and Longnecker are slated to go in the mile, while Bates, Auman, and Feiler are set for the two mile haul.

Penn State, Syracuse Tie

Penn State and Syracuse University are now deadlocked for top honors in the Intercollegiate Boxing Association. Each has won seven team championships in 24 years of post-season tournament competition.

Wielding Big Sticks . . .

Lacrossemen Face Loyola In Home Opener Contest

Stick Mentor



COACH NICK THIEL

Coach Nick Thiel's Nittany lacrosse team will open its home season tomorrow afternoon when they face-off against an experienced Loyola College ten on New Beaver Field at 2 o'clock.

This will be the first game of the season for the Greyhounds, who boast players from the Baltimore area. The Nittany stick-wielders defeated Loyola last season 17-3.

SHIFTS TEAM

Thiel has shifted his starting team around to stop the Greyhounds, who promise strength in all departments. Coach Bish Baker's stickmen will have a strong defense when they take the field tomorrow.

In an attempt to break into the winning column, Coach Thiel will use Art Tenhula, John Pirman and Irv Smith at the three defense positions and have veteran "Wild Bill" Hollanbach in the goal.

LOCOTOS STARTS

The starting centerfield combination is still undecided as the Lions hold drills today. Captain George Locotos will hold down his regular face-off post and Ernie Baer will start on one of the wings.

The other midfield position will be filled by either John McCleary or Rog Nestor. McCleary has been showing ability to score during practice sessions, said Thiel, and may get the nod over Nestor.

Veteran Ken Kerwin will be at the attack post that he has held for the past two seasons. Baer's left home position will be taken over by Art Lorenz, and Harry Fisher or Buddy Thomas will complete the offensive trio.

LOYOLA STARTERS

Goals Skip Barry and the defense trio of Ray Wittelberger, John Mohler and Jim Connolly will start for the Greyhounds.

Ken Wittelberger will be seen on the close attack for Coach Baker's team with Gene Conner and either John Rodgers or Bill Walker getting the nod for the other attack post.

The midfield trio for the Loyola stick-wielders will consist of Bob Miller, Jim Hughes and Vince McGuinness, all three Baltimore area prep school veterans.

Thiel expects to use two midfield combinations throughout the game to try and stop the Greyhounds. Also he will probably use more than the starting trio on the attack.

Golfers Meet Hoyas Twice

Coach Bob Rutherford has sent his top eight Nittany golfers to Washington to compete against Georgetown this weekend.

The eight men, chosen from a 14-man squad, are Joe Boyle, Alan Hock, Don Hart, Jack Harper, Bob Klein, Jim Noble, Ramon Peterson, and Gerry Smith.

Coach Rutherford hopes all eight of his men will see competition and gain experience against the Hoyas, so that next week's chore of picking six men to face the Pitt golfers in State College will be simplified.

This weekend's match against Georgetown opens "Pop" Rutherford's 26th season as Lion golf coach, and is the first of five matches scheduled for the squad this year.

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KEELER'S

Back on Books
Johnny Jaffurs and Lou Palazzi, both professional football players, are attending Penn State this semester.

AVC ANNOUNCES A POLICY OF SUNDAY Jam Sessions TOP FLIGHT TALENT AT SKYTOP 5 P. M. — ? BUSES LEAVE CORNER 5 P. M. and 6:15 P. M.

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