

Bedenk Is Fifth to Join '50-And-Over Club' Vets

A new name was added to the rolls today as Joe Bedenk, veteran baseball coach and football aide, tacitly admitted to the 50 years which are a prerequisite to membership in the Lions' select "50-And-Over Club."

With the addition of Bedenk, who observed his birthday July 14, the club roster now claims five members of the Lion coaching staff, including Football Coach Bob Higgins, and his golfing mentor, Bob Rutherford, Sr., who is dean of the staff both in years and in length of coaching service.

The 67-year-old Rutherford is closely pressed for top honors by Leo Houck, veteran boxing coach who completed his 25th year as ring coach last year. The 59-year-old Houck came to the campus a year after Rutherford, and already is making plans for his 26th season as Lion ring maestro.

The fifth member of the group is Bill Jeffrey, whose phenomenal record in soccer is widely known, and who next season will field his 22nd Lion soccer team. Jeffrey, who'll be 55 next month, has been on the Nittany campus since 1926.

COACHES 23 YEARS

Bedenk, as junior member of the group, looks back on a coaching career of 23 years which started at Rice Institute, Texas, where he was head baseball coach and football line coach under John Heisman, before shifting his allegiance to the University of Florida, where he also directed the baseball team and served on the football staff under Head Coach Charley Bachman.

Bedenk, who was an all-America football player at the College, returned to his alma mater in 1929 as an assistant in football and baseball, remained as line coach under Bob Higgins and replaced Yugo Bezdek as head baseball coach in 1931.

Over a 17-year span, Nittany Lion diamond teams under Bedenk have won two of every three games played.

Bedenk's coaching record currently shows 170 wins and 82 losses in 253 games. The only tie game was played in 1946.

LAST YEAR'S TEAM BEST

The 1946 team, incidentally, was one of Bedenk's best, winning 10, losing one, and tying one. This year, the Nittany Lions won 11



JOE BEDENK

of 18 against tough competition. His first team, in 1931, won 8 of 10 starts, the 1936 team won 13 of 17, and the 1940 nine took 14 of 16 decisions.

His team lost more games than it won only once, in 1935, when the Lions won 7 and lost 8.

Higgins, who'll be 54 in December, and Bedenk have been closely allied in their years on the College campus. Higgins returned to his alma mater a year before Bedenk, served two seasons as end coach, and in 1930 was named head football coach. Both men, two of five Walter Camp all-Americans in Penn State football history, soon will inaugurate their 18th season as head coach and line coach, respectively.

Two new athletic awards have been established at Penn State in memory of former Lion athletes.

Lions Match Wing Against T

It will be the single wing versus the T-formation when the Nittany Lions and Washington State inaugurate football relations at Hershey Stadium, Saturday, September 20.

Represented as the "hard luck" club of the Pacific Coast Conference last year, the Cougars have perfected the T under Coach Phil Sorboe and this Fall will present an experienced personnel for the season's opener against the Lions.

EXPERIMENTS WITH 'T'
While Coach Bob Higgins experimented with the T during Spring drills, he is expected to stick pretty largely to the single wing for the forthcoming campaign, with no more than three or four plays originating from the T-formation.

Al Hoptowit, newest addition to the Washington State coaching staff, played six years for the professional Chicago Bears, and his acquisition is expected to bring new strength to the Cougar version of the T-formation.

FIRST MEETING
This year's game, a night affair, will be the first ever played between these two far-flung elevens.

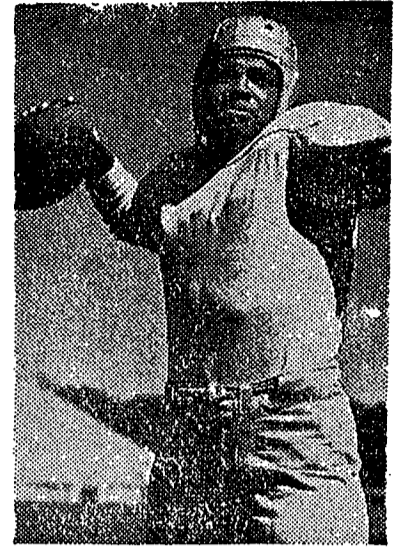
The contest will not be included on the athletic books. Special ticket applications are available at Student Union. The Stadium will seat approximately 15,000 persons.

Coach Higgins is expected to build his team around 16 holdovers from last year's twice-beaten team, plus ten lettermen from the 1944-45 wartime squads.

LOSE ONLY TWO
Last year's Lions were topped only by Michigan State and Pitt while taking victories from Bucknell, Temple, Fordham, Syracuse, Colgate, and Navy.

Only Michigan State will be missing from this year's schedule with the West Virginia Mountaineers filling the vacated spot.

Home contests are listed with Bucknell, Colgate, Syracuse, and West Virginia while the Higginsmen will meet Fordham at New York, Navy at Baltimore, Temple at Philadelphia, and Pitt at Pittsburgh in addition to the Washington State game at Hershey.



BOBBY WILLIAMS AND WALLY TRIPLETT are two of the 1946 backfield stars that Bob Higgins will have on hand for the Lions' 60th football season which gets underway with next month's pre-season practices on New Beaver Field. Williams was on the 1942 Lion squad while last year was Triplett's first year on the varsity.

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Lions Tales.....

Ashenfelter Good Too

Horace Ashenfelter is expected to be Curt Stone's successor as IC-4A two-mile champion in 1948. The "forgotten man" of the Lion distance corps flashed a brilliant 9:19 to finish second to Stone in the 1947 championships. He had previously posted a respectable 4:19 over the mile-route.

Lacrossemen Chosen

Two Penn State players, Art Tenhula of Bessemer and Ken Kerwin of Sunbury, have been named to the 1947 all-Pennsylvania collegiate lacrosse team. Bill Hollenbach of Allentown and George Locotos of Pittsburgh won second team berths. Tenhula and Hollenbach also are all-North choices.

Villanova First

Coach Joe Bedenk credits Villanova with the best baseball team his club opposed in 1947.

Alumni Honor Coach

Nick Thiel, Lion lacrosse coach, won the abiding devotion of his former players by writing newsletters to them throughout the war years. The other day, a big package came to his home. It was a combination radio and phonograph, addressed "To the Coach from His Former Lacrosse Alumni."

Wins His Degree

Delayed by the war, track star Barney Ewell finally won his college degree in 1947.

Football Co-Captains

Co-captains, the third set in history, will head the Penn State football team in 1947.

Vet Is Captain

A Purple Heart veteran, Bob Gehrett, will captain the 1948 Lion baseball team. Gehrett is a right-handed pitcher.

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