

# The Nittany Lion

## The Nobile Affair

It may be that Leo Nobile's absence in the guard slot on Penn State's 1947 line might not be as large a hole as some people expect. Leo, it develops, has a little of that temperament exclusive until this time to Johnny Joe Tepsic, another Lion hero, who threw over the Joe College days for a crack at the mean old world of professional sports.

Not that Bob Higgins won't miss Leo. He is a fine guard... otherwise the Redskins wouldn't have signed him and three other pro teams wouldn't have offered him contracts.

It's an open secret that Nobile, like Tepsic, didn't have the old collich try. Leo, like Joe, is interested in the dough primarily. If he can have a little fun, that's okay too.

And Nobile, like Tepsic, is suspicious. Leo suspected Higgins of trying to keep him from making money in the pro ranks, by asking Jock Sutherland of the Steelers not to sign the Penn State guard until after he had finished his work at the College. The story is that both Sutherland and Higgins thought it better for Leo, Penn State and the Steelers, to let Nobile finish his eligibility in school.

Tepsic, of course, suspected everyone as trying to keep him from making money, refused to step down when the Brooklyn baseball Dodgers asked him too, and as a result wound up in Ft. Worth, Texas, in the Texas League.

Leo has been tagged a potential All-American. He still had a year of eligibility left at Penn State. Higgins told us last spring that Nobile was the most-improved player on the squad.

To this, Mr. Nobile replied: "Now maybe I'll get some of the publicity that Bob Rutkowski's been getting."

Nice team spirit.

Leo has said that he "was unhappy at Penn State," and wanted to reap the financial benefits of a professional football contract.

And Higgins says, "Any college player could maintain he was unhappy and seek to drive a bargain with a pro club. The player, in many cases would be just interested in learning how much he could earn in the professional game."

Which brings up another point. Mr. Higgins is slightly peeved, not only by the loss of a ineman on whom he counted heavily, but also by the principle of the thing.

The National Football League adopted a rule that member clubs would be restrained from signing players who still had an opportunity to play college ball. The following day the Redskins announced the signing of Nobile.

"The new rule," Higgins says, "requires that a club should contact the college coach in such cases, and inquire fully into the facts. No coach wants an unhappy player, and certainly don't want to keep Nobile gains; his wishes.

Higgins agreed that Leo had signed his contract before the rule went into effect. But that doesn't alter the principle of the deal. Bob feels, and rightly so, that he should have been told at the time of the signing. In fact, the Redskins should have notified him.

After all, if Leo signed his contract last February when he said he did, it wasn't exactly right for him to work out with the Lion grid-ders this spring. He also ate at the College training table.

Nobile is not to be condemned for turning pro. If he felt that he he had to make some money, and he knew that it's contrary to College policy to pay players at Penn State, it is all right for him to try to make a living.

But the way he went about it is questionable. We know that Leo feels that Penn State wasn't giving him a square deal. Any football player or coach will tell you that Nobile was better off than any other player. But Leo hasn't given anyone a square deal at Penn State. Whether he has taken care of himself will be seen next Fall.

After all, a guy has got to eat, hasn't he?



LEO NOBILE

# Three '47 Veterans Leo Nobile, Lion Guard, Vie At Tailback

## On Grid Roster

Petchel, Williams, Joe Compete With Chuckran

Tailback, the key spot in the single wing attack, will be well-manned by Lions this Fall, according to Coach Bob Higgins, who hopes his 1947 eleven will prove one of the East's better football teams.

Back from last year's team, which won six and lost two against rugged competition, will be three capable ball-carriers, namely scatback Elwood Petchel, of Easton, signal-calling Bobby Williams, of Pittsburgh, and speedy Larry Joe, of Derry Township.

### PETCHEL TRIPLE-THREAT

Petchel, who kicks and passes remarkably well for a little fellow, is the only triple threat in this trio, although Williams is an exceptionally good passer, and Joe is strong defensively and also the fastest back on the squad.

Of the returnees, Johnny Chuckran, of Lansford, was withheld from Spring drills because of shin splints, but Bill Luther, of Osceola Mills, looked good as a runner, kicker, and passer. Chuckran was a stand-out in 1944, and is expected to regain his old form. Luther has yet to play a college game, since he entered the armed services before the 1945 season opened.

Joe Colone fullback and punting ace for last year's Lions will also answer Coach Higgins' call for pre-season practice in mid-August. Colone starred in the backfield on the 1942 team as a freshman before entering the Army.

### SELL OUT AT HERSHEY

According to advance reports, the Lions' opener with the Washington State Cougars will be a sell out contest. The Hershey Stadium, site of the game, has a capacity of approximately 15,000. The game has been scheduled as an arc-light show on Saturday, September 20.

Student applications for tickets to the game may be picked up at the Student Union desk in Old Main.

### On Way Up

Horace Ashenfelter is expected to succeed Curt Stone as Penn State's premier two-miler in 1948.

Leo Nobile, Penn State guard, has signed a contract to play for the Washington Redskins of the National Football League for the 1947 season.

Nobile, who still had a year of eligibility left at the College, will join Johnny Jankurs, former All-American at Penn State, on the Washington line.

The announcement last Monday that Nobile had been signed perplexed Nittany Lion Coach Bob Higgins. The National Football League had recently announced that it would not sign any college players who still were eligible to play this fall.

### NOT VIOLATION

Bedt Bell, commissioner of the National Football League, stated that the Nobile deal was not a violation of the league's recent hands-off ruling.

"Nobile actually signed some time ago, before our new rule was adopted," Bell said. "The rule is not retroactive. It is designed to prevent the signing of players who have enrolled for the Fall semester in any university or college."

In Pittsburgh, it was reported that Nobile had signed a Redskins contract last February, after receiving an offer to join

the Pittsburgh Steelers, also a NFL team.

"Coach Higgins and Dr. Jock Sutherland, coach of the Steelers, are close friends, which makes me believe that Bob asked him to steer clear of me until I finished at Penn State," Nobile was quoted as saying.

### GETS OTHER OFFERS

Nobile also said that he had received offers from the New York Giants of the National League, and the Buffalo Bisons of the new All-America Football Conference.

The Ambridge, Pa., footballer returned from the service in the spring of 1946, with two years of eligibility still left at Penn State.

Nobile was outstanding at his guard post for the Nittany Lions last fall, and at the end of practice session this spring, Coach Higgins stated that Nobile was the most improved player on the squad.

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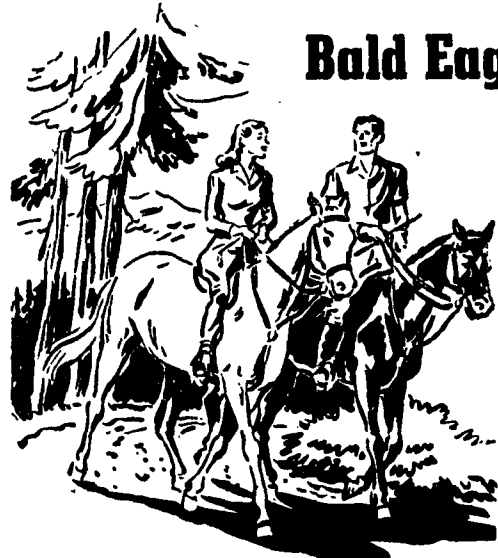
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