

Overweight Poses Steeper Task To Batnick Than Enemy Guards

By Sy Barash

From experience gained through playing basketball, Irv Batnick will be able to open a weight-reducing salon if the business field proves too perplexing.

Irv, who led the scoring parade against American University with 15 points, is a commerce and finance major; but he devotes almost as much time in taking off excess pounds as he does learning how to avoid another financial depression.

Before leaving for the Army in January, 1946, Irv was high scorer for the College team. He returned to Penn State too late in 1947 to get into condition for the team.

THE PROBLEM

Slimming down to form is indeed a major problem for the 210-pound basketball center, who is attempting to retain his starting position on the 1948 squad. Irv had been ordered by the doctor to lose 25 pounds before the varsity season commenced.

"It was easy for the doctor to say," commented the New Yorker, "but for me hacking off pounds is really a job. Once practice starts, Coach Lawther keeps the team hustling up and down the court for more than one hour."

"You might think I'd lose weight," Irv sighed. "Yet I don't for some reason."

HIS DIET

To watch fraternity brothers helping themselves to extra servings of potatoes or another slice of bread is agonizing, Irv explained. All the brothers are conscientious and diligently see that Irv loses the pounds, for they are anxious as Irv is that he remain on the team.

In the Army Irv played on the Fort McOlellan team which cap-

tured the Alabama state championship. He also was on a crack Okinawa basketball squad.

"That team at McClellan was hot," Irv exclaimed, "but the best team I ever played for was the Okinawa military government team in 1946."

"Major George Jordan of Tucson, Arizona, was on that team. The major showed me how to improve my style of play."

Although Irv is equally talented with his right or left hand, he favors shooting the ball from the port side. His best shot on the court, according to Penn State rooters, is a left-handed pivot shot.

Cagers Travel for Two Weekend Tilts . . .

Face Colgate, Syracuse

Two high flying New York State basketball teams will provide the opposition for Penn State this weekend when Coach Lawther's courtmen travel to Hamilton tonight to vie with undefeated Colgate U., and then go on to Syracuse Saturday to tackle the once defeated Orangemen.

By scoring 257 points to the opposition's 149, the Red Raiders have chalked up four straight wins, the closest a 47-45 decision over Cornell. The big gun in the Colgate ranks is Ernest Vandeweghe, 19-year-old center who set a new all-time scoring record last season with 329 points.

In contrast to the relatively unknown Hamilton squad, the Syracuse team is loaded with well-known dribblers. Heading the New Yorkers' list is "Bullet" Bill Gabor, two time member of the Helms Foundation All-American squad. Gabor, a 5-11 forward, holds the Syracuse record for most points in one game, most in one season, and in the Brigham Young battle, scored his 1,000th point in collegiate competition.

A man who will provide a good reason for Coach Lawther's "bankboard blues" is Royce Newell, high scoring Orange center, who stands 6 feet 8 inches and weighs 198 pounds.

The third veteran on Coach Lawther's squad, Ed Stickel, hit the basket for 320 points last winter, and coupled with Gabor and Newell, will try to open up the

A Great Pivot



Royce Newell, Syracuse's 6'8" center, is having his best year. A junior, he has totaled over 500 points with the Orangemen the last two winters.

sliding-zone of the Blue and White in Saturday's contest.

With a record marred only by a 37-59 loss to Loyola of Chicago, Syracuse is aiming at the National Invitational contests in the Garden this Spring and will pull out all the stops in an effort to beat the visiting Lions.

The forward wall of the Lions' attack, Biery, Batnick, and Simon, will start in tonight's contest, while the guard pos's will probably hold Kulp and Rublman with Schisler, Nordblom, Bozinski, and Costa standing by.



STICKEL

Students Invited To Gym Exhibition

Students are invited to the gymnastics demonstration to be put on in connection with the Mid-Winter Conference of the Pennsylvania State YMCA Physical Directors Society at the College this weekend, according to Charles W. Stoddart, Jr., director of Physical Education Extension Services.

The gymnastics demonstration will be under the supervision of Eugene Wettstone, College gymnastics coach, and will begin at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

Boxers Prep for Rec Hall Inaugural Against Bisons

Sharpened by more than two weeks' training, Coach Leo Houck's ring aspirants have started their quests for varsity berths with daily three-round sparring sessions.

Only one more week of training remains before the opening meet here January 17 against Bucknell's Bisons. The mittmen will speed up their training pace and as the rounds are lengthened, the candidates will eventually eliminate themselves until a suitable starting lineup remains.

INJURES NOSE

Captain Jackie Tighe, last year's champ in the 165-pound class, injured his nose in a sparring session with Alex Alexander and, according to Dr. Herbert Glenn, College Health Director, it is "doubtful" whether Tighe will be able to enter the ring next Saturday.

All is not glum in the Houck lair, however, for southpaw John

Benglian, 1946 Eastern Intercollegiate champ in the 128-pound division, is back this year. Benglian, who sat last season out due to a face injury, tips the scales at the 130 mark and is the strongest contender for a starting berth in that weight class.

Weakness in the heavier weight classes has been the cause of the ringmen's losing many close meets the last few seasons. Leo Houck's hopes were greatly bolstered this week when a new heavyweight, Chuck Drazenovich, turned out at the ring. Drazenovich, star blocking back on Coach Higgins' football eleven, is a 210-pound "block of granite" and looms as a sure starter in the unlimited weight class.

COMPETITION KEEN

In the 125-pound class, the competition has been extremely keen between Fred Smith and John Turcaso. Both Smith and Turcaso fought for the Lions last season and it's a tossup who will get the starting berth next Saturday.

Jim Cassidy, surprise boxer of last year's intercollegiate fights, is working out daily and is a strong contender for the 135 class.

Loss of Glenn Hawthorne, National 145-pound champ, is making itself felt strongly. As yet Leo Houck does not know who to pick out of a trio of promising newcomers.

John Slusser who boxed in the 155-pound class last year is shaping into condition nicely as is Hal Howard, 159 pounds, an ex-marine who fought on Houck's '43 team.

FAHRINGER

Vying for starting berths in the 165 class are "Buzz" Fahringer, a starter from the '45 outfit, and Paul Smith, a sophomore and newcomer to the State boxing ring.

Pat Conlon, a letter winner from last year, has been sparring daily with Nick Restaine, another newcomer to State. Both Conlon and Restaine have shown exceptional hitting power in the early sparring sessions.

Around the Rim

While the Nittany courtmen left their lair for a one game stand during the vacation, Penn State opponents were shooting baskets all over the country.

The biggest news on the opponent scene was the near win of the Syracuse team in the First Annual National Collegiate Basketball Tourney in Los Angeles. After gaining the final round, the Orangemen were shaded by Marshall College 46-44.

Holding a five game winning streak, West Virginia continued on its high scoring path by swamping Washington and Lee 78-35.

Sports—Coast to Coast

by George Vadasz

Lt. Glenn Davis, one of the famed Touchdown Twins who led the famed Army football team through three undefeated seasons, was again denied permission to resign from the Army to enter professional football. There was no official announcement on what basis Davis had asked to resign but a "trick knee" was reported as the most probable reason.

When a West Point cadet is graduated and accepts a commission, it is customary for him to stay in the service eight years. But Davis clearly stated he does not intend to stay in that length of time, as he eventually plans to play pro-football. It is most likely a California pro-eleven on which Davis will ultimately play, since draft rights on him are owned by Los Angeles of the National League and San Francisco of the All-America Conference.

Williams Cops Batting Laurels

Making a clean sweep of batting laurels in the American League 1947 campaign, Ted Williams, long range clouter of the Boston Red Sox, topped his circuit in batting average, in slugging percentage and in runs-batted-in according to official figures announced last week.

The gangling Williams had a .314 batting average which was supported by a slugging average of .634; this left the rest of the field in the American League far behind. In the all-important RBI column, the curly-haired Boston outfielder was the only one in the loop to go over 100, his winning total being 114.

American League pitching honors for the '47 season were split between Cleveland's Bob Feller and Spud Chandler of New York. The twenty-nine-year-old Feller was the only American League hurler to win 20 games, but his 20 triumphs were the fewest he has registered over a full season since 1938; his 11 setbacks left him with a .645 percentage, only sixth best in the league.

Chandler, inactive through most of the season due to an arm ailment, was the official leader in earned run average with 2.46. He won only 9 and lost 5 while his rookie teammate Frank Shea owned the highest won-lost percentage. Shea posted an .806 mark amassed by winning 14 and losing 5.

Oarsman Wins Sullivan Trophy

John B. Kelly, Jr., an oarsman from the University of Pennsylvania, was named winner of the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy. This is awarded annually to the "amateur athlete who by performance, example and good influence, did the most to advance the cause of good sportsmanship during the year."

Kelly, who had won the singles sculls titles in the American and Canadian championships and England's Henley Royal Regatta in 1947, had a total of 663 points to place him ahead of Harrison Dillard, Baldwin-Wallace's national hurdling champion.

Michigan . . . No. 1 Team

After Michigan's howling pack of Wolverines had clawed themselves to an overwhelming 49-0 triumph over the Pacific Coast champion, Southern California, the Wolverines left little doubt in anyone's mind as to who won the mythical national football title.

When AP sports writers took their final poll following Notre Dame's victory over Southern California by a 38-7 margin, they picked Notre Dame as their number one grid eleven.

But after the Rose Bowl on New Year's day, the sports writers again cast their ballots and Michigan took over the top spot by a better than two-to-one margin.

\$70, \$80 Thousand Dollars

Joe DiMaggio, the famed Yankee Clipper, signed his 1948 contract with the New York baseball club of the American League for an estimated \$70,000 to make him the highest salaried player to play for the Yankees since Babe Ruth. The hard-hitting centerfielder received \$43,500 for his services during the '47 campaign. While DiMaggio signed his baseball contract, Harry Gilmer, Alabama's passing tsar, signed a five-year football contract to play pro ball with the Washington Redskins for approximately \$80,000. This amount is \$20,000 less than Gilmer first demanded.

THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH LIKE . . .



HENRY'S PARADISE CAFE

114 S. Spring Street BELLEFONTE, PA.

with the

Tru-Blu Quintet

'Wild Dave' Briner
'Pops' Greenly
The Old Professor
'Shoeless Lou' Levi
'Mouse' Miller

Every Friday and

Saturday

8:30 - 12:30

ON THE AIR

OVER WMAJ

11:30 - 12

EXCELLENT SERVICE
No Cover - No Minimum

NOW AT YOUR WARNER THEATREK

Cathlam
Dennis Morgan
Andrea King
'My Wild Irish Rose'
Plus
Penn State vs. S.M.U.

State
Deanna Durbin
John Dall
'Something in the Wind'
Saturday
'THE EXILE'

Nittany
'The Unsuspected'
Saturday - All Day
'West of Dodge City'