

Between The Lions

By TOM MORGAN
Sports Editor

About Tissue Paper

From the outset, let's fire a broadside at the gossip rampant hereabouts that Penn State's pass defense against Syracuse resembled a piece of anemic tissue paper.

It was not so much the Lion defense as it was Custis and Company. When we hear that State's pass defense left a lot to be desired, we counter by pointing to Bernie Custis, sparkplug Syracuse flinger, as probably the topnotch passer Penn State will encounter this season, with the possible exception of West Virginia's Jimmy Walthall.

Up for State

Custis was insuperable while fading to pass, was accurate as all-get-out in spotting his man, and his receivers, led by "Slivers" Slovenski, played an inspired game against the invading Lions.

Syracuse was surely up, psychologically. This is evidenced by the Orange's poor showing previously against Holy Cross, when Custis' receivers gathered in only five of his 23 aeriels.

Against State, the count was 12 out of 31, or 17 per cent more. Chalk that 17 per cent up to the fact that everyone, including the Orange, is pointing for Penn State. It's tough to be a winner.

From the Morg(e)

We suggest Fred Felbaum, Lion guard, go out for Thespians, after a sterling show against Syracuse. . . . For further details on this, you'll have to ask Freddie. . . .

The November Sport magazine will feature a portrait and by-line text on Elwood Petchel, Lion fireball tailback. . . . When they rolled the wet tarpaulin off Archbold Stadium, field, Herb Carmeal, radio broadcaster for the game, remarked in the radio booth: "Temple didn't use a tarp against State in '47 and had a glorious six-to-nothing time in the mud. This'll give us a chance to compare results." . . . Not so glorious for Syracuse, 34-14. . . . Carmeal, incidentally, will handle the Colgate-State play-by-play October 30. . . .

Critics of the Higgins single wing notwithstanding, we think there's nothing more beautiful footballistically than a well-executed Penn State reverse play.

IM Swimming

Intramural swimming teams may engage in practice sessions at the Glennland pool from 4 to 6 o'clock tonight and tomorrow night only, Eugene C. Bischoff, director of intramural athletics, announced yesterday.

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Higginsmen Prep For Air Attack

Who says eastern football is based on the ground attack? Even before the airways cleared from the 31-pass barrage hurled by Syracuse flinger Bernie Custis, the Penn State gridders have to start worrying about another pigskin hurler, this time from West Virginia.

Jimmy Walthall, the Mountaineers' air ace, will try to duplicate Custis' feat of two touchdown passes and 12 completions out of 31 tries for a total of 187 yards against the Nittany defense.

DRILL

So that not even an evening's practice would be lost, Coach Higgins and his squad ran through a regular drill yesterday afternoon in the rain. With the emphasis on passing defense and line plunging on the offense, the Lion mentor hopes to have the squad in top condition for the West Virginia fray.

Last Friday's game took a heavy toll of the Penn State guards. Both Joe Drazenovich, 200-pound lineman from Brownsville, and 210-pound Erie guard Paul Kelly were sidelined during the contest.

Drazenovich sprained his ankle during the first quarter and Kelly left the game in the third quarter with an injured knee.

SERIOUS

"We won't be sure if they'll be ready for Saturday's game until the middle of the week," said team trainer Chuck Medlar. "Both injuries are more serious than the usual bangs and bruises of a game," he continued, "and anything can happen in practice before Saturday."

Although the guard picture is rather dark, the end position was brightened by the news that Bob Hicks, regular terminal from Lancaster, and John Smidansky, sophomore from Munhall, are improving and they will both be ready for the important Michigan State game with Smidansky ready to play this Saturday.

Statistics . . .

| | St. | Syr. |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Total first downs | 11 | 10 |
| Net yards gained rushing | 337 | 35 |
| Passes attempted | 6 | 31 |
| Passes completed | 3 | 12 |
| Yards gained passes | 14 | 187 |
| Passes intercepted by | 3 | 0 |
| Yds. gained, intercepted passes | 19 | 0 |
| Punts | 7 | 6 |
| Average yards punts | 36.1 | 43.7 |
| Yards gained punt returns | 69 | 65 |
| Fumbles | 0 | 1 |
| Lost ball, fumbles | 0 | 1 |
| Penalties | 5 | 3 |
| Yards lost, penalties | 55 | 35 |

IM Touch Football

Rain and wet grounds forced postponement of last night's night's intramural touch football card.

Tonight's schedule, starting at 7 o'clock, is: Alpha Tau Omega vs. Lambda Chi Alpha. Sigma Chi vs. Tau Phi Delta. Chi Phi vs. Beta Theta Pi, and Alpha Phi Alpha vs. Theta Chi.

Soccermen Nip Bucknell, 2-1

Paced by Clarence Buss and Ted Lieb, the Lions' alert and fast striking soccer aggregation racked up its second consecutive victory last Saturday by tacking a 2-1 defeat on Bucknell's Bisons.

But the victory might have been a costly one to the Blue and White. Early in the fourth period Frank Taucher, aggressive Lion fullback, received a nerve injury on the side of his face and had to be removed to the infirmary for treatment. Although his face is badly swollen now, he is expected to return for light workouts later in the week.

The contest was as close as the narrow one-point victory margin indicates. Center forward Buss tallied the Lions' first marker after three minutes had elapsed in the first period to give the Jeffrey men the lead.

Bucknell, greatly improved over last season, retaliated in the second period and the teams left the field deadlocked at the halfway mark.

Playing from his outside left post, Lieb pushed across the lone goal of the second half after six minutes of play in the third quarter. This marker provided the Blue and White with its victory margin as both teams engaged in a see-saw battle during the remainder of the contest.

Living up to expectations, the Jeffrey-tutored charges were strong defensively but lacked scoring punch.

PENN STATE CLASS RINGS

FOR MEN AND WOMEN

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Harriers Win First, Dump NYU

The Nittany Lion harriers inaugurated their cross country season auspiciously by swamping the harriers of NYU, 19-36, in New York Saturday afternoon.

Led by Captain Horace Ashenfelter, who finished first as was expected, the Lions placed five runners among the first six to cross the finish line.

Only Violet harrier to place among the first half dozen was Armand Osterberg, who crossed the finish line second, only eight seconds behind Ashenfelter. Last year against the Blue and White cross-countryman Osterberg finished third behind Jerry Karver and Ashenfelter.

Ash covered the five miles in the excellent time of 26:47, bettering last year's meet mark by 14.3 seconds.

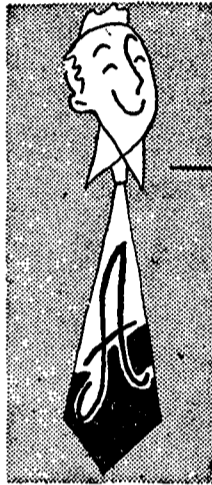
Don Longenecker, Al Porto,

John Bates and John St. Clair finished in that order behind Osterberg.

Other Nittany runners who made the trip were Bob Parsons, who finished eighth; Bob Freebairn, 12th; Bob Auman, 13th; Hal Borck, 15th; John McCall, 16th; William Gordon, 21st; Al Vigilante, 22nd, and Paul Koch, 25th.

Coach Chick Werner called the work of the seven sophomores who ran in the NYU meet "encouraging." Two of them, Porto and St. Clair, finished among the first five.

Neither team ran as good a race as could have been expected, in the opinion of the Lion mentor, because it was so early in the season and neither squad was in the best shape.

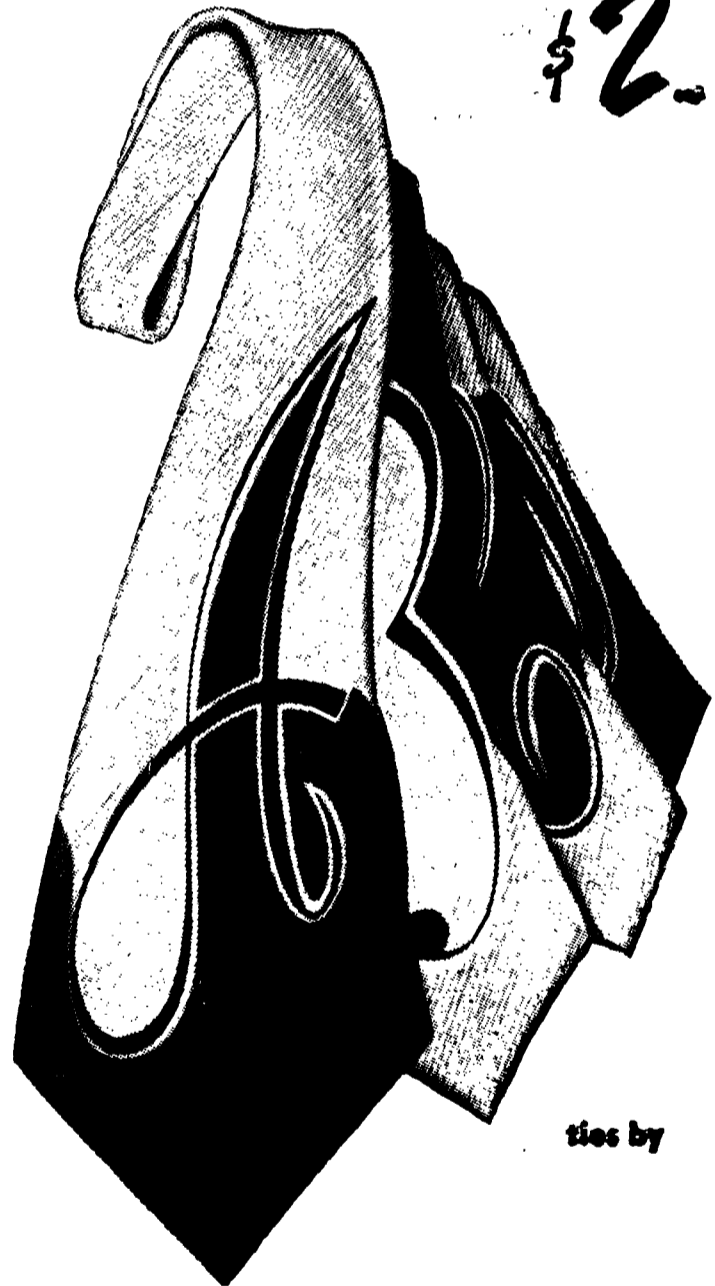


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