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Fur Flies Annually When 'Cats' Clash

An encyclopedia places the lion and the panther in the same feline family, but this afternoon when the Penn State Nittany Lion stalks the Pitt Panther the fur will fly regardless of kinship.

This year's Lion squad may be one of the best in Blue and White history, but that fact will not faze the University of Pittsburgh, State's traditional jinx team.



Who's He?

That 66-yard jaunt by the Joe Colone Express against Temple last week recalled a similar play in the Penn game in which momentum played a big part in bringing the ball-carrier earthward.

When Lion Center "Jiggs" Beatty, in an effort to bring down Penn halfback Bill Rhoads, just nipped the ball-carrier with his fingertips, Rhoads eventually went sprawling. This prompted one observer to say:

"Sure, Beatty nipped his foot out momentum brought him down."

Whereupon Jack Bleich, stock clerk in the chem department—who knows Lion players from Beatty to Urion—quipped:

"Don't tell me that. We don't have any player named Momentum!"

Trouper

Last week against Army, Ray Dooney, ace Penn fullback, was playing in the old trouper's tradition. Dooney's father had died three days before, and the Penn plunger registered the greatest game of his career amid such tragic circumstances. He figured in all three Quaker touchdowns and chalked up 119 yards on 26 tries carrying the ball.

After the game Dooney returned home for his father's funeral Monday. For flowers sent by a sympathetic Nittany Lion football team, Dooney wrote back:

"Thanks, and take the Bowl name this year."

Minds Elsewhere

We never before saw a Penn State football crowd watching a Lion game and not caring a plug nickel's worth whether the Nittany men made another score to bring the count to 47. Till the Temple game, that is.

Perhaps that's putting it too strongly, but interest in Penn State touchdowns was certainly secondary to Penn's fight to beat Army. Penn State people found themselves neck-straining toward the nearest portable radio as the report of Penn's progress against the Cadets was broadcast, and Lion cheerleaders were even moved to call for "Short Yell Penn."

Panther-Conscious

All week Nittany Coach Bob Higgins and his aides have been trying to make their 40-odd protégés Panther-conscious in the line of endless "bowl talk."

Commenting on today's skirmish with the Pittmen, the Hig cautioned: "This Pittsburgh outfit is up-and-coming and may be a hard one to crack. Look for a very good game."

Feelers

About Penn State's prospects for a post-season bowl invitation. (Continued on page three)

The Pitt-Penn State series actually began in 1893. Pittsburgh was then called the Western Pennsylvania University, and playing on Forbes Field, the Lions took the first game of the 47-game series, 32-0. In fact, the Centre Countians took the first six contests that were played, allowing the Panthers only four points.

In 1903 Penn State rang up a 59-0 win to post the most one-sided score of the series.

6-0 WIN IN '06

One of the earliest chronicled grid accounts between Pittsburgh and Penn State appeared in the 1906 State Collegian, following a 6-0 Penn State victory. "Battered and bruised by the hardest and most trying gridiron campaign that any State eleven has ever experienced, our invincible Varsity achieved the glorious Thanksgiving Day triumph that put a finish to the most successful season in our history."

The epic went on to relate how, "brushing aside their load of fatigue and injuries, State's stalwart sons, with the love of Alma Mater in their hearts, swept over the goal."

Early contests between the two rivals was strictly a cake-walk for the Penn Staters. Including a 38-0 win in 1912, the Lions emerged the victor in 12 of the first 15 games played.

Thereafter, up until the last few years, the pigskin powerhouses of Doctor Jock Sutherland clamped down and Pitt rode roughshod over State.

In 1919 State won the Eastern Championship by defeating Pitt, 20-0, in the Lions' final game.

"Fight clean and fight hard." Those words seemed to characterize the entire contest. Pitt and Penn State men helped one another to their feet, gave them a friendly pat on the shoulder, and went at it again as hard as ever. Under the caption "State Satellites" appeared a picture of Captain "Bob" Higgins, playing his last game for his alma mater.

SCORELESS TIES

The years 1920 and '21 saw two of the most outstanding of the grid clashes between the rivals. Both of the games were played in a veritable "sea of mud" and both ended as 0-0 ties. The contest in 1921 was viewed by 35,000 people.

In 1922 Pitt won, 14-0, and with that win began their 14-year invincible streak during which Pitt scored 338 points against only 58 for the Lions.

An article in the Pittsburgh Evening Ledger stated, "A scoreless tie of two-years' standing between the U. of P. and Penn State College was obliterated as Glen Warner's power-laden backfield crushed the Lion's line by a 14-0 count. Pitt ran away from State at the start. Hewitt, Flanagan and Anderson gaining at will around the ends."

1923: Pitt 20, Penn State 3. Playing in a Turkey-day clash, the Nittany team could not get started. Flanagan, whose brilliant play spelt defeat for Penn State the year before, was a decisive factor in the humbling of the Lion.

Rising to their greatest heights (Continued on page four)

Milligan Eleven Holds Topnotch Panther Record Since '39 Season

Something that is becoming a scarcity in the present day trend for T-formation football takes place today in the Oakland Bowl when Skipper Mike Milligan of the Panthers sends his charges against the Hig's men.

Milligan, now in his second year as head grid tutor at the Pittsburgh school, is an adept exponent of the single wing. His present Panther edition has rolled up the best record of any Blue and Gold team since 1939, having compiled five victories against three defeats. The "good Irishman," as Lion coach, Bob Higgins calls him, owns triumphs over West Virginia, Marquette, Indiana, Western Reserve and Purdue, while the loss column shows setbacks administered by Notre Dame, SMU and Ohio State.

Walter "Mike" Milligan was

born May 27, 1904 in Stowe Township, Pa. He first had his taste of the gridiron at Aliquippa High where he starred under the tutelage of Cleve Washbaugh, and his feats later became well-known around Kiski.

At Kiski he played under the late Jim Marks in 1925 and 1926 and after his two year stay there he enrolled at Skyscraper U. where he played freshman ball. Shortly interrupting his schooling, Milligan dropped out of school in '28 but the following year he returned to Pitt to earn a letter on the '29 outfit which was good enough to journey to the Rose Bowl.

ERA

Then came Pitt's Golden Era on the gridiron. The days Pitt alumni still talk about when the Panthers go down in defeat. He was a regular on the '30 and '31 eleven, the latter being rated as one of Pitt's all-time greats which lost only one encounter, that to the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, on the gridiron today. Said Higgins, "I've known him ever given a chance."

It was during that era that Bob Higgins first met his opponent on the gridiron. Today, said since he performed for Pitt. He's a fine fellow and coach. In fact he's one of the best if he's only give na chance."

He joined the Pittsburgh coaching staff in 1934, succeeding Dr. Skip Gougler as frosh mentor. He also worked with the varsity guards. In '38 he took a trip down South and became head line coach for the U of Florida.

SUCCESS

After remaining in Florida for two years he joined Henry Frnka at Tulsa and remained there five years. His greatest success came during that stay. During five years Tulsa teams were twice in the Sugar Bowl, once each in the Sun, Oil and Orange Bowls.

After last season's Pitt battle Milligan commented: "Penn State is a good, big club with a lot of drive. It's the best Penn State team I've ever seen."

Now he faces a similar eleven, and will be striving today to upset the Lions. A Jungle Cat victory today would conclude Pitt's most successful season in a decade.

Alumni

The Nittany Lion football coaching staff is composed wholly of former Penn State gridiron players.

A mighty Pitt Panther arose out of its expected mediocrity to smite Penn State, 20-7, in 1939, to smash all Lion hopes of its first undefeated season since 1921. And with the loss went a possible Lion bowl bid.



PITT COACH WALTER MILLIGAN

Offense-Minded Spartans Outshine Other Lion Foes

Although the record of Penn State's 1948 opponents is currently weighted toward the losing side, one team—Michigan State—has gained outstanding national recognition through its spirited offensive attack.

Out of the 72 games played by the nine Lion foes, 32 have been won, 37 lost and 3 tied, for a 46-per cent average. West Virginia, with six victories, and Michigan State and Penn, with five each, sport the best records to date.

The Michigan State outfit leads the scoring parade with 298 points and the Morgantown eleven trails with an even 200.

Although West Virginia has won one more game than the Spartans and Quakers, foes of the latter two have been tougher.

Just this week the East Lansing team bounded to fourth position in the nation in over-all yardage gained. The Spartans are second in the country in scoring, behind aerial-minded Nevada.

They are first in yards gained per rush with a 6.10 average. In the combined rushing and passing attack Michigan State is in second place, once again trailing Nevada.

In what seems to be a race to see who can boast the most unsuccessful record of the campaign, two teams—Bucknell and Syracuse—are tied, each with one victory and seven reverses. Both were soundly trounced by the Lions, although Syracuse tallied 14 points against the Higginsmen.

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