

## IM Bouts Move Into Finals, 50 Men Remain

### Sigma Nu Leads Chase For Team Championship

When the bell's slicing clang clamors for action in the varsity ring, Recreation hall, Monday at 5 p.m., 26 out of half-a-hundred remaining IM fighters will climb into the squared circle, laying their hopes for a division championship on their battering fists and rock jaws.

The fistc game's final week of warfare moves into its semi-final and final stages, and competition is growing keener.

Sigma Nu, last season's championship team, leads other teams this year in the number of boxers remaining this far in competition. The defending champs have fighters still standing in six out of the eight weight divisions, losing out only in the 128-pound class, and the 175-pounders.

#### MONDAY

Five of those gladiators will have a chance to go farther along the road to fame Monday night when they meet rivals. Tom Halligan will meet Edward Datz, Phi Gamma Delta, in the 135-pound class; Jack Weidenman will trade punches with John Tuttle, Pi Kappa Phi; Lou Trioni is set to face John Lowery, Kappa Delta Rho for 155 distinction; John Stiemer will vie with Sid Manes, Phi Sigma Delta, and heavyweight John Smidansky is scheduled to clash with Newton Comly, Alpha Gamma Rho.

In other bouts John Reese, Phi Delta Theta, will meet Geoffrey Naylor, Kappa Delta Rho; Al McDonald, Phi Delta Theta, will enter the ring with Clyde Skinner, Delta Tau Delta; Bob Winslow, Kappa Delta Rho, will face George Kelly, Alpha Chi Sigma; Hugh Hackett, Chi Phi, will punch and duck with Glenn Bullock, Alpha Gamma Rho.

#### HUBER

James Huber, Phi Gamma Delta, and Bill Curtin, Phi Delta Theta, will glare over clenched fists in the 155-pound class; George Mitchell, Lambda Chi Alpha, will face Herold, Pi Kappa Phi; Burton Raymond, Pi Kappa Phi, is slated to battle with Ron Coder, Phi Kappa Sigma; and Vince Chominski, Theta Kappa Phi, will match his prowess with Dan Pearson, Delta Upsilon.

## Truman Bowl Seeks Seniors

Participation of Lion Guard Joe Drazenovich and Fullback Francis Rogel in the Truman Bowl, proposed New Year's Day charity football game, was ruled out yesterday on the grounds that they are juniors.

In a telegram to Coach Bob Higgins, M. A. Lockhart, managing director of the Bowl, indicated that only seniors would appear in the game, still in an embryonic planning stage.

Senior End Sam Tamburo already accepted an invitation to play in the contest which will be sponsored by Washington, D.C., businessmen.

## Houckmen—

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light-heavyweight division. Paul Smith, last year's battler in that weight class weighed around 165 pounds and it is expected that the lanky Smith may move down to his most effective weight, 165 pounds.

Battlin' Johnny Benglian, his shoulder on the mend, should end his colorful Penn State ring career this season with a top-heavy win record. The southpaw went undefeated in dual meets last season and his contest against Syracuse's Gerry Auclair, in which he was held to a draw, was one of the bitterest contested battles witnessed by Rec Hall fans during the '48 boxing season.

#### BOB KELLER

Bob Keller, hard slugging 165-pounder, looms to be the most aggressive boxer on the team and, should he improve as he has during the past few practice sessions, he'll be number one man in the 165-pound weight class.

# The Nittany Realm

By Ray Koehler

Standing quietly amid the confusion and crossfire of all-American football selections going on about him is the bruising, senior Penn State left guard, jarring John Simon, one man to whom all-star rating is nothing new.

As the cliché points out 'you can't hide class,' and that just about portrays the football picture of the 22-year-old army vet, whose invitation to the annual East-West Shrine Game, in San Francisco, was received with surprise in some quarters but not to the Lions' opponents or to the followers of the Blue and White during the past four years.

#### TAKEN FOR GRANTED

The recently completed football season has forged some outstanding grid heroes in the ranks of the once-defeated Nittany aggregation, but probably the least publicized has been Simon, whose outstanding play in the frontlines has been by-passed and taken largely for granted by the average bleacherite.



Nevertheless, the professional scouts, who are paid to produce in the play-for-pay conference, see in Simon a bond worth investing in. But the rugged guard has turned a deaf ear to their entreaties, and reaching into a wastebasket, produced a stack of lucrative offers from the big-league magnates. The phys ed major plans to enter the coaching field after graduation this spring.

Standing 5 feet 9½ inches, the somewhat-balding upper classman scales 200 pounds, all of which, Lion fans will attest, must be bone and muscle. His hard-faced, iron-jawed features seem to belie his softspoken accents. In street clothes, he prefers a conservative type of suit, which makes him appear smaller than he is. One has only to look at the width of his shoulders, though, to realize the bull-like strength hidden there.

When Penn State last opposed the University of Pittsburgh in the Panther Stadium, the scene wasn't exactly a new one to 'big Jawn' who is another of the State football stars born within dirt range of the Smoky City only to later land at the State campus.

#### BROWNSVILLE PRODUCT

John was reared in Brownsville, the same hamlet that fostered two other 1948 football standouts, Joe and Chuck Drazenovich. Needless to say, the town is proud of its favorite sons and together the three have written their names into the archives which list such Penn State favorites as 'Fats' Clarke, 'Shorty' Miller, Charlie 'Gang' Way and other former grid greats.

He professes a liking for the training table steaks at the Nittany Dining Hall. John is a banana split enthusiast and avows he could eat them days, nights and even in church.

Last summer he remained close to the campus, working with the construction gang on Simmons Hall. Simon is one player that Coach Bob Higgins does not have to worry about staying in shape. During the winter months the Western Pennsylvania athlete can be found almost daily at Rec Hall playing handball or wrestling—at which, incidentally, he is an adept performer.

#### PARENTS BOOSTERS

John's parents, who live quite a distance from the College, have always encouraged his playing football and never miss a game over the radio. Two brothers and three sisters round out the family.

To the casual observer Simon appears to be a rough-and-ready customer, but when he sheds the moleskins his reservedness would do an Englishman proud. Casting aside all false modesty Simon says, "My greatest game?" then shrugging his shoulders, "I can't recall any one game, I didn't do much in any of them."

But this version of his success is given little credence by the 20,000 spectators who recall, on one occasion, seeing the alert guard snag a fourth-period lateral from Sam Tamburo to give the State forces an early-season 14-14 tie against a top-flight Michigan State team.

Simon recalled the terrific play of the Spartans' one-man blitzkrieg, halfback George Guerre, whom he tabbed the slickest back he has seen in four years of collegiate warfare. At the same time he picked Navy's Don Whitmire as his toughest frontline opponent. Chuck Bednarik, of Penn, was "pretty good too."

#### PEAK OF FORTUNES

Simon contends that State football fortunes hit their peak one sunny afternoon in November, when the Lions knocked a slightly-favored Pennsylvania eleven from the ranks of the unbeaten on Franklin Field in the Quaker City.

When asked his opinion on the theory that overconfidence had a lot to do with the Pittsburgh defeat, the Greystone Manor resident said, "Well, I'll give you a hint, it helped," but he quickly added, "I guess it just wasn't our day. Two hundred seventy-seven yards against something like 77 doesn't add up in my book." To which we added, Amen.

Simon believes that this year's team was not as good as the 1947 juggernaut and, encouraged by the acquiescent nods of several players seated around the room, went on to say, "You can't lose men like Suhey and Jeff (Durkota) and expect to come back just as strong the following year."

## Gutteron To Choose Varsity Swimming Team From New Men

Coach William Gutteron has settled down to the job of selecting the Penn State swimming team from men who are new to the collegiate tank wars.

Virtually all of the 36 candidates now out for the swimming team are new to the Lion mentor.

At practice, held every day at the Glennland pool, Coach Gut-

teron is busy indoctrinating the men in the proper stroking methods. Regular season conditioning practices will not begin until the correct strokes are learned by the new men, Gutteron said.

The team's chances for success in the stroke event were dimmed by the loss of two men who are new to the campus. The services of Paul Baker and Harry Nelson were lost to the squad because of eligibility rules. Both boys are transfer students and, under intercollegiate rules, will be unable to compete this season.

The performers in the backstroke have shown ability and brighten the possibilities for victories in this event which was weak last year.

There are practically no returning lettermen from previous seasons to ease the job of the coach. However, Gutteron is pleased with the spirit and willingness of the neophytes to work and learn his style of aquatic behavior.

#### First All-American

W. T. Dunn, '08, was the first Penn State player to win an All-American football berth. He was selected on Walter Camp's team in 1906.

From 1921-1929 the receipts from football averaged well over \$100,000 per year.

## IM Teams Take League Leads

Three one-sided cage skirmishes determined leaders in fraternity basketball leagues "B" and "C" at Recreation hall, Thursday night.

Phi Delta Theta and Pi Kappa Phi racked up their third straight victories in the "B" circuit, while in the other league, Phi Kappa Sigma took over sole command with three wins and no losses.

Action begins on the courts again Monday when 18 teams, mostly independent, line up to try for victories.

#### PHI DELTS

Phi Delta Theta easily romped over Sigma Alpha, 21-9, Thursday, boosting its total under the capable floor direction of Joe Porter who dunked a dozen markers through the hoops.

Pi Kappa Phi wouldn't be outdone however. Knocking Alpha Chi Rho, 17-10, for its third loss in a row, the Phi Kaps kept pace in the hot race for the "B" league diadem.

In the "C" league, Phi Kappa Sigma's "iron-curtain" defense limiting Acacia to three successful foul tosses, enabled the PKS's to claim the driver's seat, 19-3. Goose-eggs stared Acacia in the face at halftime, as Phi Kappa Sigma held a 12-0 lead, then clung to it to garner the win.

Spirited action in other games resulted when Delta Upsilon whipped Alpha Tau Omega, 20-9; Zeta Beta Tau, led by Jerrold Leanness, socked Tau Phi Delta, 16-14; Alpha Phi Alpha raced over Sigma Phi Sigma, 22-13; Delta Theta Sigma edged Alpha Gamma Rho, 13-11; Sigma Pi battered Alpha Sigma Phi, 25-9; and Phi Sigma Delta overcame Phi Kappa Psi, 19-13.

#### SCHEDULE

The schedule for Monday follows:

8:45 p.m. — Red Flashes vs. Smooth Schmoos, court one; Q. Quintet vs. Matilda Chi court two; Ward 2 vs. Speedsters, court three.

9:25 p.m.—Privateers vs Beaver House, court one; Lions vs. V'omers Roamers, court two; Section 10 vs. Cody Manor, court three.

10:05 p.m. — Ceramics vs. Murgas, court one; Architects vs. A.R.O., court two; Sigma Chi vs. Triangle, court three.

**NITTANY**

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