

### Between The Lions



By Tom Morgan  
SPORTS EDITOR

#### Houck on the EIBA

"Just about everyone will get in the act when the Eastern titles are awarded Saturday night. You can bet on that."

Talking was Leo "Fred" Houck, boxing coach who is as much a Penn State tradition, in our book, as the Nittany Lion Shrine.

We asked "Fred" to go on. "Oh, you want me to elucidate my statement," countered "Fred" as we fell over from the impact of the 30-cent word.

"Well, it'll be a real fight Friday and Saturday," he continued. "Most of the six teams that'll be here are well balanced and include boys in almost every weight class who have a good chance to win titles."

"Even Western Maryland, which you might call the weakest of the lot, has some boys who could upset the dope by edging out victories over higher-ranked opponents."

"I think every team except Western Maryland — that is, Penn State, Virginia, Syracuse, Army and Catholic — is entering men in each of the eight weight classes. So the man in each weight who finally is crowned Eastern champion is going to know he's been through a struggle."

We said amen.

#### Versatile

While in the service, Elmer Gross, newly-appointed basketball coach, became a light heavyweight boxer at Fort Meade, Md. Among his army ring victims was at least one intercollegiate champ.

Resigning Coach John Lawther says of Gross, who returned to campus in 1945: "I was lucky enough to get him before Leo Houck did."

#### First Boxing Coach

Dick Harlow, former Harvard University football chief, coached Penn State's first boxing team in 1919.

## The Nittany Realm

Continued from page two

Island where he was wounded in the frontline September 29, 1944. From there he was shipped on a hospital ship to New Caledonia.

"I often wondered whether I'd ever see the States again," John says now. But exactly six months after he sailed out of the Golden Gate he returned to San Francisco and soon thereafter was discharged.

In the fall of 1945 he enrolled at the Nittany Valley institution. He tried out for Coach John Lawther's cage team but his leg injury prevented him from moving around quickly. Boxing was suggested to him to improve his war-injured leg.

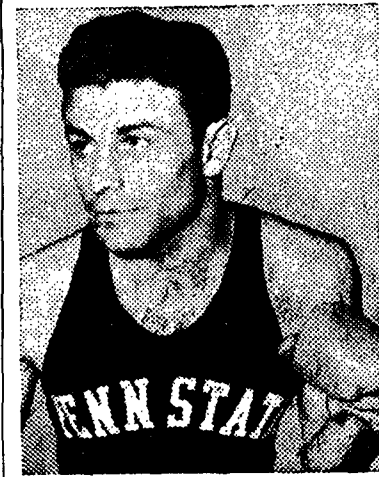
#### TITLE

John reported to Coach Houck and quickly became his top protegee. He went on to capture the 127-pound Eastern Intercollegiate Boxing title at West Point that season. John says: "That was the happiest moment in my life when I garnered that crown. I sure felt good."

As he was going home to Philadelphia between summer sessions that year, a car collided head-on with the one in which John was riding. The impact threw him out of the door, landing him on the side of the road. A back injury from that accident prevented Benglian from participating in the ring wars his sophomore year.

Last season the classy featherweight participated in the 130-pound weight class for the Lions. He sported an enviable ring record, being unbeaten in seven dual meets. One bout ended in a draw, that against Syracuse's Captain Gerry Auclair, a previous National champion at 125 pounds.

Benglian then entered the Eastern boxing tourney and was defeated by Virginia's Grover Masterson. John had earlier in the season defeated Masterson in Rec Hall. After the Easterns, the NCAA tourney was next on the time table and, after winning the opening bout, he lost a close and much-disputed decision to Wisconsin's Jim Sreeran in a semi-final match.



## IM Handball, Volleyball Open; Wrestling Begins Thursday

Handball singles and volleyball, intramural style, began in Rec hall last night.

Eight handball matches of three games each took the courts at 7 p.m. Regular handball rules will apply all season, with the player first scoring 21 points declared winner of each game.

First-night volleyball action featured 12 fraternity matches. The first match began at 7 p.m. with succeeding matches held every 40 minutes.

Intramural wrestling will open

its schedule with 20 bouts Thursday night. Wrestlers, however, should be in the Rec hall dressing room to weigh-in from 6:30 to 6:45.

#### Football Managers

Candidates for second assistant football managerships are requested to sign up anytime this week in 107 Old Main, then report to Dave Owen, head manager, in the water tower Monday, at 4 p.m. or after.

#### Ring Teams ---

Continued from page one

giate boxing ranks as did the Coast Guard Academy. Maryland is one of the topflight boxing powers in the country but the Terps now compete in the Southern Conference.

Newcomer to the EIBA this year is Catholic University, usually one of the best independent collegiate units in the East.

Penn State has entered teams in every tournament, and played host to the competition ten times during the first 25 years. The Lions, a power in the Eastern boxing realm, own the top spot for individual titlists. Houck has tutored 47 individual champions compared to 40 for runnerup Syracuse.

Five 1948 EIBA champions will defend their titles this weekend. Al Hollingsworth, last year's 125-pound winner, will move up a weight as will Grover Masterson, last year's 130-pound victor.

Featured also in the tourney will be 165-pound champ Jim Rollier, of Syracuse, and Penn State's heavyweight, Chuck Dracznovich. Winner of the outstanding award of last season's tourney, Army's slugging 175-pounder, Pete Monfore, will also compete. Still another former titlist will be Johnny Benglian, Penn State captain and 130-pounder who won the 127-pound diadem as a freshman in 1946.

## Trackmen Face Irish, Spartans

A triangular meet with Penn and Navy, and home meets with Michigan State and Notre Dame highlight the Penn State track schedule announced yesterday by Harold R. Gilbert, graduate manager of athletics.

The season will open with the triangular meet at Annapolis April 23, followed by the Penn Relays April 29-30, and a dual meet with Colgate at Hamilton, N. Y., May 7. The Lions also will be represented in the IC4-A championships at New York May 27-28.

A rematch of Jim Gehrdes and Horace Smith will mark the Penn State-Michigan State duel May 14. Gehrdes, Lion ace, was nosed out by Smith for the IC4-A indoor hurdles title.

The schedule: April 23, Navy and Pennsylvania (triangular meet), at Annapolis; 29-30, Penn Relays, at Philadelphia.

May 7, Colgate at Hamilton, N. Y.; 14, Michigan State; 21, Notre Dame; 27-28, IC4-A championships, at New York.

## TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT

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