

Bedenk To Stress Other Sports for Lion Gridmen

Frederick J. (Joe) Bedenk assumed a triple role as head football and head baseball coach and professor of physical education yesterday following the resignation of Grid Coach Robert Higgins. Bedenk, who began coaching at the College in 1928 as end coach under Hugo Bezdek, decided to retain his two former jobs unless the strain of the gridiron job proves to be too much to handle.

"Even though I was appointed to the football coaching staff," said the former All-American guard, "I like baseball too much to give it up completely."

The new coach's policy will be to encourage the more experienced gridgers to try out for a sport rather than spend all of their time in Spring football practice.

"Spring practice is used to teach the fundamentals of the game to the boys," said Bedenk, "and if some of the more experienced letter winners go out for other sports, the boys who need the practice will have a better chance to learn the things the seniors already know."

He went on to say that he would like to see some of the gridgers try out for track to develop speed and endurance. "The seniors could run around the track and just spend, say, a half hour in Spring signal drills and that practice would do them just as much good as would the regular drills."

STYLE OF PLAY

Concerning the style of play he expects to use in the coming season, Head Coach Bedenk stated that there would be no radical changes in the single wing used last year.

"We're going to open up the offense a little," he said. "The plays will include more flankers and possibly a little 'T' formation for deception, something like Michigan's and Michigan State's offense."

"I coached the 'T' formation at the University of Florida," he commented, "but I still think that the single wing is the best offense for us."

Coach Bedenk plans to secure one or possibly two assistants in the near future to round out the coaching staff. Jim O'Hora, jayvee coach, will move into the position of line coach, Earle Edwards has been named first assistant coach, and Al Michaels will retain his backfield coaching job under Bedenk.

IN MIND

"If freshmen come up to Penn State in 1949," remarked the new Nittany mentor, "we'll need a coach or two. I have a few men in mind, but no one has been definitely picked for the jobs."

Bedenk has gained his fame on the gridiron by producing exceptionally powerful lines year after year. His 1947 line set a national collegiate defensive record. Another quality possessed by the new coach is an exceptional ability to scout an opponent.

The result of last season's Penn game is generally regarded as a tribute to the pre-game detection work done by Bedenk, as one Penn player after another was stopped at the line of scrimmage by the Nittany team.

Bedenk was a member of the 1922 Penn State team which went to the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1923, and lost to Southern California, 14-3. He injured his arm enroute to the coast, and was unable to play in the game, but was elected captain of the 1924 team.

AT RICE

He later served as head baseball coach and football line coach at Rice Institute, Texas, and then joined the University of Florida's

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Edwards Named Top Aide To Bedenk; Leads Drills

Alumnus Earle Edwards, end coach since 1936, today was named Joe Bedenk's first assistant, a berth which heretofore has not existed in Penn State football. Bedenk said Edwards would be in charge of spring drills, which opened yesterday.

Edwards played football at Penn State under Hugo Bezdek in 1928 and 1929 and completed his college career under Bezdek's successor, Bob Higgins, in 1930. He coached at Princeton Prep and Ebsenburg High School before returning to his alma mater in 1936.



EARLE EDWARDS

Assisting Edwards at Spring drills are Al Michaels, backfield coach, and Jim O'Hora, assistant line coach, all of whom have been retained under the Bedenk regime. Bedenk was named to the head coaching job Saturday, succeeding Higgins, who resigned after 19 years at the football helm.

Draz ---

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torious. Basil Miragliotta, although he weighed only 145 pounds, competed in the 155 class. Last year's 145 champ dropped his title in a "Pier 6" slug affair to Chuck Rigoglioso of Syracuse in the crowd pleaser of the evening.

Last year's 125 and 130 winners, Al Hollingsworth and Grover 'Bat' Masterson, respectively, returned titles for Virginia when both, after having moved up a weight, won the 130 and 135 titles respectively.

Tom Cronin, Catholic U.'s scrappy 125-pounder, annexed the only title for the Cardinal and Red when he garnered his seventh straight of the year and his first Eastern title.

Tim Curley, Chuck Rigoglioso and Jim Rollier gave Syracuse three titlists and a clean sweep from the 145-pound division to the 165 class. Rollier was the defending champ in the 165 class.

Runnerup to Ralph Shoaf last year, Army's hard-slugging Pete Monfore won a clear-cut decision and a title in the 175-pound finals when he outpointed lanky Ray Fine of Syracuse.

135 pounds—Cronin, Catholic University, decisioned Scott, Army.

130 pounds—Hollingsworth, Virginia, decisioned Benglian, Penn State.

135 pounds—Masterson, Virginia, decisioned Sauerwein, Syracuse.

145 pounds—Curley, Syracuse, decisioned Sheehy, Penn State.

155 pounds—Rigoglioso, Syracuse, decisioned Miragliotta, Virginia.

165 pounds—Rollier, Syracuse, decisioned Smith, Penn State.

195 pounds—Monfore, Army, decisioned Fine, Syracuse.

Drazenovich, Penn State, decisioned Crandell, Syracuse.

Drama Tryout Ends Quickly For Bob Higgins

During former football Coach Bob Higgins' brief fling in professional football, he was called upon not only to play end, but also to do impersonations.

While the ex-Lion mentor was playing for the Canton, Ohio, Bulldogs, Jim Thorpe, the "Carlisle Indian," was the Hig's teammate. But Thorpe failed to appear for a certain game.

Most of the crowd was attracted to the ballpark to see Thorpe play and the team's business manager didn't want to disappoint them.

So Higgins was rigged out in Thorpe's uniform, and virtually covered with adhesive tape. It was all a plan to make the fans think Thorpe was playing. But the first time Higgins dropped back to punt, someone in the stands yelled, "Who's that bum in Thorpe's uniform?"

Higgins' tryout in dramatic impersonations ended right there.

Higgins Resigns—

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tie in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas, Texas.

During that season, the Hig's unbeaten team set a new all-time national defensive record of limiting opponents to a rushing average of 17 yards a game, ground out an average of 35 points each game and ranked with the top offensive teams in the land.

Although the Nittany coach has garnered an excellent coaching record for his 19-year term with the Lions, many of his seasons were far from the bowl-bound variety of the past few years.

Following the 1947 Pittsburgh game, the fans lifted the coach to their shoulders and carried him off the field shouting praises to the grey-haired strategist, but in 1942 and 1948 when the Nittany

worst in his entire Penn State career.

For the next seven years the Nittany teams under Higgins' tutelage compiled a fair record and then, in 1939, the Lion came to life, winning five, losing one and playing two stalemates. The 10-0 win over Pittsburgh was the crowning achievement of that season and the words "Higgins," "Penn State," and "football power" became synonymous.

Early in that 1939 season, Cornell handed the Penn State team a 47-0 setback and the alumni and students of the College pounced on the Hig and demanded either a better team or a new coach. When he turned the trick by trouncing Penn State's bitter rival, Pitt, Mrs. Higgins provided the final touch by booting squarely in the pants the student editor of Collegian who had howled for the Hig's scalp.

SPOILED

But the Smokey City team had a good memory and in 1940 when the Lions returned to the city, Pittsburgh spoiled an undefeated record by turning back Penn State, 20-7. A tie with Syracuse was the only other smudge on the Nittany record that year.

In 1941 it was Colgate and Temple who spoiled the Nittany coach's quest for a perfect record and in '42 West Virginia was the only grid squad able to stop the upward moving team.

During the next four years the Nittany Vale squad recorded good marks, and in 1947 Higgins realized his ambition as he led the team to an undefeated season and the Cotton Bowl.

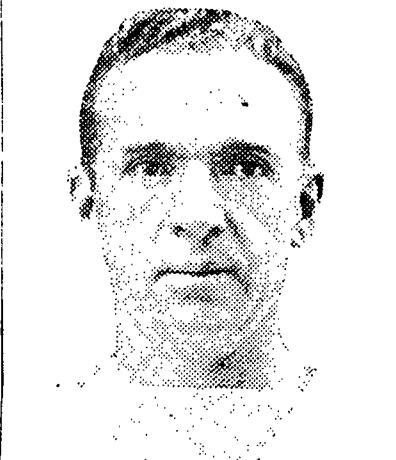
Coach Higgins was born December 24, 1893, at Corning, N. Y., just a short distance from three grid rivals, Syracuse, Cornell and Colgate. His introduction to football came in his prep days when he starred for the Peddie School.

FRESHMAN STAR

Since there was no rule barring freshman football players on the varsity, the young end made the Penn State eleven his freshman year and played on the 1914, 1915 and 1916 teams. When the war broke, Higgins forsook college studies to enlist in the army.

He went overseas with the 80th Division and rose to the rank of

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Coach Bob Higgins in 1930 when he took over the Lion football helm.

hopes for bowl glory crushed in that same Pittsburgh stadium, there were cries of disfavor and disillusionment as the Lion coach left the field.

EARLY RECORD

In his first year as head coach following two years as assistant under Hugo Bezdek, Coach Higgins almost broke even, winning three and losing four, but in his sophomore coaching year, he dropped games to Waynesburg, Dickinson and Lafayette to gain a two-won, eight-lost record, the

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