

### Between The Lions



By Tom Morgan  
SPORTS EDITOR

#### About the Hig

Bob Higgins, who has given up the toga as head Penn State football coach, knows from experience that it's always darkest before the dawn.

Applied to his Lion coaching tenure, the darkness spanned 1930 through '37. The dawn of better Higgins teams took place about '37.

Even during the lean years, however, the Hig gained a reputation among opposing coaches as a "fellow who could knock you off when you least expected it." Proof of this can be gleaned from scanning Penn State football records, which show the Higgins-tutored teams have won games they had no business winning. But by the same token, these teams sometimes dropped "set-up" decisions.

When Higgins first took command at Penn State, a "purity wave" was striking Eastern colleges, and the combination of a purity code plus a financial depression was too much for him.

#### Rise of the Hig

Nittany football fortunes began spiraling upward in '37 as Higgins elevens became consistently good. His '39 edition, one of his first better teams, copped five, lost one (to Cornell) and tied two. It was this machine that blanked Pitt, 10-0, marking the first win over the Panthers in 20 years.

Pinnacle of Penn State gridiron stock under Higgins was, of course, reached in 1947 when he displayed his ideal team—a big, mobile line and backs that combined unusual speed and power. This eleven, which played in the Cotton Bowl, represented the cream of the Penn State football crop over the years 1941 through '45 as a deluge of returning servicemen augmented Lion ranks.

That team also whitewashed Pitt—this time 29-0—and the sight of the Penn State coach hoisted to the crowd's shoulders was symbolic of Nittany Lion ascendancy in the realm of football.

#### Case of the Dime

But there were also spumier days at Pitt. In 1946, after Pitt had upset the Lions, the Hig entered the Schenley Hotel in Pittsburgh to make a phone call to a friend.

Out of change, he asked a man for a nickel to complete the call.

"Here's a dime," the fellow answered. "Call all your friends."

This is the kind of biting report that prompts the retired Nittany mentor to muse:

"You can't win 'em all without luck on your side. A team not only must be good but must be lucky if it hopes to go undefeated."

This is no cliché invented to meet a new situation. Over the years, Higgins has always maintained that Lady Luck courts the winner.

#### Mellowed Hig

That the Hig became a grandfather in '47 gave birth to widely-used phrases like the "grandfatherly Higgins." This may have mellowed him, for he immediately acquired the reputation of "the kindly" or "the fatherly" Penn State football coach.

But time was when Higgins was looked upon as a tough, hard-bitten football skipper. He was a strict disciplinarian. The Hig has his own explanation for this phenomenon of apparent softening:

"When you get kicked as often as I did in those terrible '30's, you get over that tough-man stuff."

#### Baseball First

Baseball was the first sport at the College. It dates back to a game with Millsburg in 1875, which Millsburg won, 28-20.

## 15 IM Wrestlers Gain Falls In First Round Eliminations

By Bob Kotzbauer

Intramural wrestling strongmen settled down to the task of weeding out their weaker opposition and working themselves into the second round of the fraternity tournament on the Rec Hall mats this week.

They proved their superiority with a rapid succession of quick falls and lop-sided decisions. Monday night the grapplers registered eight falls; Tuesday, they racked up seven pins. Twenty matches were scheduled each night.

George Kurtz, Lambda Chi Alpha's 135-pound fraternity wrestling runner-up last season, was back at his old stand again Monday night with the same gusto to that swept him to the finals before.

Serving notice that he's the man to beat in his division again, Kurtz rocketed to a fast 56-second fall over Ralph Johnson, Theta Kappa Phi.

Fastest fall recorded in the neophyte tournament to date came in the 128-pound class Tuesday. Harry Papacharalambous, Delta Upsilon's featherweight strong-boy, clamped a pinning hold on Dave Evans, Theta Chi, and threw him to the canvas in 30 seconds of the first round of their bout.

#### MORE FALLS

Other falls were chalked up Monday as Joe Billera, Sigma Nu, downed Ned Foster, Pi Kappa Alpha, in 1:16, and Ted Williams, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, worked the holds on Art Scarazzo, Alpha Phi Delta in 5:15. Both bouts were in the 145-pound division.

Jim Case, 155-pounder from Alpha Zeta, put Pete Giesey, Delta Sigma Phi, to the mat in 3:58; Don Desandro, fighting in the 165-pound class for Alpha Sigma Phi, pinned Dave Schmuckler, Phi Sigma Delta in 2:22; Bill Reynolds, Delta Upsilon, flattened Tom Frazier, Kappa Delta Rho, in 35 seconds of the second round; Dan Pearson, Delta Upsilon, forced down Andrew Adelman, Pi Lambda Phi, in 3:40; and Fred Seitz, heavyweight from

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## 6 Lion Cagers Win Letters

Six members of the 1948-'49 varsity basketball team were named lettermen yesterday. George Schautz, vice-president of the Athletic Association, announced that Marty Costa, Lou Lamie, Carl Nordblom, Terry Ruhlman, Milt Simon and Joe Tocci earned monograms.

#### AWARDS

Senior awards—gold basketballs given to any seniors who have won varsity cage letters while at Penn State—go to Simon, Ruhlman, Nordblom, John Kulp '47-'48, Will Parkhill ('47-'48), Al Russell ('46-'47) and Syl Bozinski ('44-'45).

Stuart Dunlap was named head basketball manager for 1949-'50, while Werner Goldschmidt, Fred Phillips and Jacob Schwalb were chosen first assistant managers.

Associates to Dunlap will be John Jones and David Karp. Named alternate first assistants were Don Atwood, Bernie Bernstein and Ken Wagner.

#### COMMITTEE

Manager selections were made and lettermen named by the five-man executive committee on basketball. Members are Elmer Gross, basketball coach; Harold Gilbert, graduate manager of athletics; Milt Simon, basketball captain; Carl Goldenberg, retiring head manager, and Schautz.

Schautz subbed for Joe Colone, AA president, who is now student teaching.

## The Nittany Realm

### Skiing at Penn State

By Joe Coppa

Skiing has been on the agenda of Penn State's varsity sports since 1940, except for its wartime suspension from 1943 to 1946.

It was only through the industry of Max Dercum, coach of skiing from 1940 to 1942, that the sport was included on the varsity list. He was an important figure in making Penn State skiing-conscious.

During his term as coach, Dercum developed the ski area in Boalsburg, which consists of a jump hill, cross-country course and downhill trails. He was also instrumental in forming the Penn's Valley Ski Club.

#### PETERS, MASSEY

Dercum developed two exceptionally fine skiers during his short term as coach: Max Peters, cross-country, and Paul Massey, downhill and slalom.

At present, Dercum is one of the owners and operators of the Arapahoe Basin Ski Area and a professor at Colorado College.

When skiing was resumed in 1946, Sherman Fogg, present coach, was assigned the duties of assembling a squad from available material. Fogg had previous experience with the sport, having been skiing sponsor at the University of Vermont, and was happy to be given the position.

Realizing the great handicaps which faced him, Fogg set himself to the task of molding teams from the inexperienced material on hand.

Penn State is in a peculiar situation with regard to skiing. To begin with, the snow season is extremely short. Not only is skiing absent in Pennsylvania high schools, but Penn State has had a policy of not enrolling freshmen or many out-of-state residents.

#### NO EXPERIENCE

Most candidates interested in skiing have had no previous experience in competition. All these factors make a skier's development extremely difficult, and skiing is one sport which requires lots of experience, especially in the competitive field.

These handicaps indicate that Penn State probably never will be a power in the sport but should be able to hold its own in average competition.

Despite such adverse conditions, Penn State has had a number of good skiers, including George Quimby, a fine all-around performer; Cliff Carts, captain this year, and Bill Graf, in cross-country and jumping; Andre Tobler and Herb Wahl, in downhill and slalom. All had little or no experience when they first decided to try their hand at competitive skiing, but developed under Fogg's tutelage.

## Gilbert Names Co-Managers

John Lachmayer and Norman Cochrane have been appointed co-managers of baseball for the 1949 season, Harold Gilbert, graduate manager of athletics, announced yesterday.

He also announced that the JV lacrosse contest with Oberlin College, scheduled for May 7, at New Beaver Field, has been cancelled at the request of Oberlin authorities.

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## The Hig's 19-Year Log

Following is Coach Bob Higgins' 19-year football record at Penn State:

Year	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points For	Points Against
1930	3	4	2	142	111
1931	2	8	0	69	168
1932	2	5	0	82	115
1933	3	3	1	117	66
1934	4	4	0	115	58
1935	4	4	0	76	70
1936	3	5	0	109	86
1937	5	3	0	133	114
1938	3	4	1	138	87
1939	5	1	2	114	77
1940	6	1	1	135	46
1941	7	2	0	200	78
1942	6	1	0	91	70
1943	5	3	0	124	53
1944	6	3	0	207	141
1945	5	3	0	173	89
1946	6	2	0	187	34
1947	9	0	0	319	27
1948	7	1	1	219	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2750</b>	<b>1543</b>

\* Does not include 13-13 Cotton Bowl tie.

## Simon Tops Hoop Scorers With 179-Point Total

Milt Simon, Penn State's pint-sized 5-foot 9-inch packet of concentrated T.N.T., paced Nittany sharpshooters on the basketball court this year with 179 points.

The colorful Lion captain capped four years of outstanding play for the Lions by garnering 69 field goals and 41 foul conversions to reach his collegiate pinnacle.

Runner-up to the Erie performer was lanky Marty Costa who completed a successful season with 129 counters. The easy-going 6-foot 6-inch southpaw accounted for 45 doublets (second only to Simon) and 39 free throws.

#### TOCCI THIRD

Joe Tocci, junior sensation who gives promise of blossoming into one of the finest play-setters in State cage history, wound up in the third spot with 106 points.

Rounding out the top five individual scorers are Lou Lamie with 96 tallies and Carl Nordblom with 88 points. Most of Lamie's counters came in time to aid the Lawthermen in their amazing stretch drive which, after a rocky inception, earned the label "Handle with care."

#### FOUL ACE

Nordblom was ex-coach John Lawther's ace-in-the-hole on the foul line by converting 50 out of 72 charity heaves for a highly commendable .695 average. Simon was tops by a wide margin in the field goal department with 69.

Simon, who set a new Penn State Rec Hall scoring mark with 24 points against Temple, follows State's Jack Biery as Lion scoring king. Biery totaled 260 points on 95 field goals and 70 free throws last year.

#### National Fame

John M. "Monty" Ward, a promoter of the first Penn State baseball team, was the first Nittany man to become nationally known as an athlete.

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