

The Nittany Realm

Meade — Human Loop-O-Plane

By Bob Kotzbauer

Ever ride a carnival loop-o-plane and try to watch the scenery go by?

Billy Meade, State's star gymnast, explained tumbling that way. "All you see is flashes—the stands, the mat, and people . . . not much chance to look at anything very long."

And that comes from a man who should know! Watching Bill execute double and triple full flips, with handsprings, cartwheels, and back somersaults mixed in for variety, gym fans at Rec Hall the last few years have got the idea that Bill has been tumbling all his life. They aren't far wrong.

Just 24 now, he was a dark-haired, not-too-big freshman back in 1938, bouncing around at Warren, Pennsylvania, high school. His coach there, Homer Fleming, was blessed with three other gymnasts destined to go places in the athletic world. Ray Sorensen, last year's Penn State captain, was one of the mainstays, together with Harold Zimmerman, at the College in 1942, and Bud Matthews, now of Syracuse, whom Bill figures is one of the best gymnasts in the business.

PIAA CHAMP

Meade picked up experience from that trio his first three years, added the parallel bars to his repertoire in 1941, and was ready to make his own mark. He made a big one. In 1942 he won the PIAA championship in both tumbling and on the P-bars. Penn State's Gene Wettstone, coach then and now of the gym squad, took a long look and awarded him the Wettstone Award for Outstanding Gymnast to add to his trophies.

That Warren team won the PIAA team championship two years in a row, in both 1941 and '42. In fact, since 1938 not one team on which Bill worked had lost a dual meet until the Lions bowed to Syracuse this season.

After high school graduation, Bill spent a semester here in 1942, then jumped to the Navy where he served a three-year hitch as radioman. He isn't enthusiastic about his gymnastic progress during that time.

"I set up parallel bars on Saipan one time," he confessed, "but I didn't get much time off to work on them. We were pretty busy."

Things began to look up in 1946. Discharged in the spring of the year, he hurried back to marry a hometown girl, then re-

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Nittany Boxers Select All-Opponent Squad

By George Vadasz

Looking back on the recently-concluded mitt campaign, Penn State's varsity sluggers picked three boxers from Michigan State on their all-opponent first team.

Syracuse landed two men on the first team; Wisconsin, Virginia and Army each placed one competitor. Wisconsin's Badgers dominated the second team by placing three boxers.

Virginia's Cavaliers and the Orange of Syracuse each placed two on the all-opponent second team while Army placed one. Western Maryland failed to win a berth.

Two EIBA champs, Grover Masterson, Virginia 135-pounder, and Chuck Rigoglioso, Syracuse 155-pounder, are first-team nominees, while three other Eastern champs could do no better than a second-team post.

SPARTANS DOMINATE

Johnny Flynn, Michigan State, edged Al Hollingsworth, Virginia, in the 130-pound class. Outstanding boxer of the recent Rec Hall EIBA tourney, Jim Rollier, Syracuse's dancing 165-pounder, placed behind former NCAA-champion John Lendenski of Wisconsin.

Sonny Grandelius, hardened Spartan light-heavyweight, barely squeezed by Eastern champ Pete Monfore of Army.

Chuck Davey, triple National champion, had little trouble in gaining a vote of confidence at 145 pounds, while Wisconsin's hard-punching Dwaine Dickinson received the runnerup vote.

LONE CADET

Medon Bitzer, Army's only nominee on the first team, received the nod over NCAA champ Steve Gremban of Wisconsin in the 125 division.

Marty Crandell, Syracuse's highly publicized heavyweight, who after successful inaugural meets dropped three contests, was still considered a shade better than tall Bob Ranck of Wisconsin.

Penn State's all-opponent boxing teams:

FIRST TEAM

- 125 pounds—Medon Bitzer, Army
- 130 pounds—John Flynn, Michigan State
- 135 pounds—Grover Masterson, Virginia
- 145 pounds—Chuck Davey, Michigan State

- 155 pounds—Chuck Rigoglioso, Syracuse
- 165 pounds—John Lendenski, Wisconsin
- 175 pounds—Sonny Grandelius, Michigan State
- Heavyweight—Marty Crandell, Syracuse
- SECOND TEAM
- 125 pounds—Steve Gremban, Wisconsin
- 130 pounds—Al Hollingsworth, Virginia
- 135 pounds—Al Sauerwine, Syracuse
- 145 pounds—Dwaine Dickinson, Wisconsin
- 155 pounds—Joe Miragliotta, Virginia
- 165 pounds—Jim Rollier, Syracuse
- 175 pounds—Pete Monfore, Army
- Heavyweight—Bob Ranck, Wisconsin

Between The Lions



By Tom Morgan
SPORTS EDITOR

Brother Act

Two Nittany Lion wrestling stars have brother counterparts in the high school mat ranks. Don Fasnacht of Hershey high, brother of Penn State's Al Fasnacht, won a District 3 PIAA championship last week at 138 pounds.

Jerry Maurey, Clearfield high's District 6-9 titlist at 127 pounds, is a brother of Nittany Lion Jim Maurey.

Both the younger Fasnacht and Maurey have another year of high school wrestling before graduating.

Note for Golfers

For wielders of the mashies and niblicks, Bob Rutherford, Jr., golf coach, informs us the College golf course will not open officially until the latter part of April, depending on the weather. He explains:

"Some years we haven't got on the greens at all because of late snow."

At any rate, for Nittany golfers it's a short concentrated season, caught in a vice of late winter weather and rapid close of school.

Diamond Problem

In Rec Hall yesterday we queried Joe Bedenk on problems encountered in molding this year's baseball team. His answer was:

"Well, the loss of two good hitters last year—Hogan and Stark—will hurt. Then there's pitching. I have Cy Miller, and I'm trying to groom Al Tkac as number-two hurler. If this doesn't work, I may use Tkac again in the outfield. Then another problem is . . ."

We said we'd see him later when everything's ironed out. Then we spied Gene Wettstone, gymnastic coach; he's noted for dropping readable quotes which eager sports reporters can pick up.

It's Arrived

Here's what Wettstone said about the final home gym meet with Temple, when the crowd's estimation of some performances differed from that of the judges:

"When the crowd reacts like they did (booing and cheering certain decisions), that means to me that the sport has arrived. A few years back, Penn Staters at a gym meet applauded politely and let it go at that. They didn't take an active interest because they feared they knew too little about the scoring."

"Now they know," he continued, "and it's wholesome for the sport. The crowd actually understands gymnastic values, which tends to put the judges on the ball."

Wettstone revealed that the crowd may know what it's talking about when it voices disapproval of the judges' decision. He said:

"The surprising thing about it is that when you have 4000 people reacting the same, they may be right, because spectators see an exercise as a total unit. In the final analysis, it's the complete picture of the man's exercise—not the technical details—that should be scored."

—That from one of the top gymnastic coaches in the business.

Spring Kick

Soccer Coach Bill Jeffrey cornered us and gave forth with this:

"In Spring a young man's thoughts turn to how to get a kick out of living. For a good kick, there's nothing better than Spring soccer."

(Explanation of the Scot's pun: soccer—boot the ball—kick—kick out of Spring! !)

In the Ref Business

Jackie Tighe, former Nittany boxing captain and EIBA champ who is now boxing coach and athletic trainer at the University of Illinois' Navy Pier in Chicago, entered the refereeing game this winter by officiating the Wisconsin-Syracuse dual meet at Madison.

Court Group Seeks To Curb Slow Offense

It's an old baseball cry, "You can't tell a player without a scorecard," but Nittany Lion basketball fans will probably think they're seeing double next season if the recently-proposed drastic measure to curb the 'control' games goes through.

The poll, being conducted by the National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada, bids to strike a mortal blow at the slow, deliberate offense typified by Penn State teams.

THAW FREEZE

Just what this drastic step to thaw the freeze play (featured by such coaches as Ozzy Cowles of Minnesota, Hank Iba of Oklahoma and ex-Lion Coach John Lawther) means to the future of the hoop game at State will be known late this month. At that

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Lions' Gehrdes To Meet Nation's Best in Chicago

By Elliot Krane

Competition will be at its zenith this weekend when Jim Gehrdes rounds out his indoor season by aiming for the Cleveland Knights of Columbus and the Chicago Daily News Relays titles.

The Altoona hurdler, after defeating the supposedly invincible Harrison Dillard two weeks ago, will have more than the former Baldwin-Wallace ace to contend with.

Tob hurdlers from all over the nation will compete in tonight's and Saturday's races, and with names like Tom Smith and Lloyd Duff of Ohio State, Ed Dugger of Dayton and Bill Mitchell of Georgetown on the roster, Gehrdes will have to be in top form to conquer his outstanding opponents.

WERNER COMMENTS

"Jim and Dillard may not even get into the finals," commented Coach Chick Werner. "There'll be hurdlers from Texas and U.C.L.A. in the meet tonight, and it's hard to predict the outcome in such a large field."

Gehrdes will compete in the 45-yard hurdle race at Cleveland and the 50-yard event at Chicago.

A two-mile relay team composed of Mitch Williams, John McCall, Paul Koch and Bob Auman or Bob Freebairn will make the Cleveland trip along with Horace Ashenfelter, listed for the two-mile run.

Ash will go on to Chicago with

Al Kawal Named Owl Grid Coach

Albert P. (Al) Kawal, head football coach at Drake University the past two seasons and one of Northwestern University's greats, is the new head gridiron mentor at Temple University, Lion foe.

Signing of Kawal to a three-year contract as the successor to Ray Morrison was announced yesterday by Dr. Earl Yeomans, Temple's director of athletics. Salary terms were not revealed.

Morrison resigned more than a month ago to accept the head coaching post at Austin (Texas) College after serving nine years as coach of Temple's gridmen.

Gehrdes and the relay team will return to State College after tonight's event.

Strange Cage Thrills Mark Uneventful '48-'49 Campaign

By Ray Koehler

The late, unmourned 1948-'49 basketball season at Penn State, in addition to supplying a few more strands of white to ex-coach John Lawther's greying thatch, produced some of the strangest concoctions of ups and downs yet seen by long-suffering Nittany Lion cage followers.

Although the recently-completed campaign brought a final accrual of seven wins against ten losses (two triumphs less than last year), the schedule wound up on a concordant note with the Lions copping their last four home games consecutively.

The opening chapter of Penn State's bizarre cage story began in Pittsburgh when the Lions battled the Pitt Panthers. Some three months later the schedule reached its close at Syracuse with State still searching for its first road win.

LOSSES

In the meantime the season had run out, leaving the State dribblers holding an empty bag of eight straight losses in foreign tilts. The record of defeats on the road was spanned to ten straight over the past two seasons.

Contrarily, the stimulating atmosphere of Rec Hall appeared to have wrought wonders with the then Lawther-coached five, the Lions ringing up a seven and two record on the home boards.

The two losses suffered in home filibustering came at the hands of Colgate and West Virginia. Beginning with their arch rivals, Pittsburgh, in a revenge win on the State College floor, the Lions went on to rack up successive wins over American U., Temple and Georgetown.

Dividing the seasons into two parts, Penn State won only two of its first eight games. But coming back strongly and gaining

more poise with each game, State fought back to pick up five wins in its succeeding nine games to wind up the season with a .411 average.

STARS

Although at various times throughout the season, the team lacked much-needed unit coordination there was no lack of individual starring performances.

Such names as Milt Simon, Lou Lamie, Marty Costa, Joe Tocci and Ken Weiss among others, gave the College rooters many exciting evenings.

The 5-foot 9-inch Simon blasted a new Penn State Rec Hall scoring niche, against Temple, breaking the former State high-water mark by the margin of a single point. The Erie performer was never in better fettle as he tallied 24 points to dethrone Jack Biery, erstwhile Lion cager.

However, the greatest all-around scoring exhibition centered around a quiet, 5-foot 7-inch forward, Ed Brett, from Colgate University who broke the Rec Hall individual record by tallying 25 markers.

"Little Joe" Tocci put on the finest foul-line show by convert-

ing 10 out of 11 free throws against Syracuse.

VANDEWEGHE

In the same game which saw Brett score his 25 points, Nittany Lion fans witnessed a member of this year's all-American team in action. He was Ernie Vandeweghe who wound up the collegiate season in third place among leading scorers in the nation. Although held to 15 counters in Rec Hall, the Canadian-born ace tallied 27 points at Colgate against the Lions.

Top sniper among opponents was 'Ish' Ishman of American U. who dunked 29 markers in the initial State-A. U. contest at Washington, D. C.

The lowest-scoring game on State's schedule was placed against Pitt in the season opener, resulting in a 40-33 win for the Panthers.

State's closest battles were waged against Wash-Jeff, West Virginia and Syracuse. The Lions took a 40-38 contest against the Presidents and dropped paradoxical scores of 49-47 to the Mountaineers and Orange.

Colgate ran up the highest

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