

Harriers Meet Michigan State In Vital Meet

Spartans Rated Best In Nation

By JOE BREU

The best cross-country team in the nation! That's all that stands between the Penn State cross-country team and victory when the Lion Harriers face Michigan State at East Lansing on Saturday.

There is little doubt that the Spartan team is the nation's best. Coaches, opponents and experts all agree to that. The East Lansing crew is loaded from stem to stern with topflight talent.

EIGHT RUNNERS

Coach Werner has chosen eight juniors from his seniorless squad to make the trip to East Lansing to attempt the Herculean feat of upsetting the Midwestern runners. The eight men making the trip are the same eight that showed their heels to the NYU and Cornell hill-and-dale teams. They are Captain Bob Parsons, Don Ashenfelter, Bill Ashenfelter, Bob Freebairn, Jack St. Clair, Al Porto, John McCall and Bill Gordon. The group will leave for Michigan State Thursday night by train.

The Michigan State team has had only one meet to date but the results were such as to turn gray the hair of the coaches of future opponents.

RECORDBREAKERS

The Green and White harriers trounced Purdue, 19 to 44, capturing eight of the first nine places. Bob Rodibaugh of Purdue took second. That feat in itself is not overly impressive but the real story of the meet lies in the times. The first six men to finish bettered the course record of 22 minutes and 23 seconds. The winner, Warren Druetzler, covered the distance in 21:51.

Druetzler is the top runner on the Michigan State team and is highly thought of by his coach, Karl Schlademan, who predicts future greatness for the 20 year old junior.

VETERANS

In addition to Druetzler the Green and White boasts of such runners as Bill Mack, Jack Dianetti, Bob Sewell, Don Makielski, Walt Atcheson, Frances Carey and Maurice Maloney, nearly all veterans of last year's great team.

Another indication of the Spartans' strength is their feat of winning all three events in Cross-Country's triple crown — the IC4A, the NCAA and the NAU — which they did last year. It is the only time in the history of the events that one team has won all three.

All this, of course, leaves one with the feeling that Penn State might just as well stay home. However, such is not the case. For the Nittany harriers have not been standing idly by. Coach Chick Werner's forces have soundly trounced NYU and Cornell, the latter by a perfect 15 to 50 score, and in so doing turned in very impressive times. The Lions are not to be underrated.

One factor to be taken into consideration in the case of Penn State is the fact that no one knows how the team will react under pressure. In their first two meets the Blue and White runners had things entirely their own way. Such will not be the case on Saturday.

An interesting sidelight of the meet will be Don Ashenfelter's attempt to remain undefeated in intercollegiate competition. Don never ran in college before this season and in both the Cornell and NYU meets he finished in front.

The Michigan State course is four miles long and is completely flat, unlike Penn State's five mile up-and-down course.

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THE GRILLE ROOM

Gridmen Stress Rushing For Orange Air Circus

By BOB KOTZBAUER

Penn State's line, faced with relearning its "rush the passer" lessons after slipping up at Michigan State, is practicing charging tactics in spot scrimmages this week as "Bernie Custis Day" draws closer.

The only trouble is that many of the players who were to be called on to stop Custis, Saturday, have to watch, instead of work, for injuries have hit the Lion eleven hard.

CUSTIS

Custis (and this is probably beginning to sound repetitious to Lion coaches), one of the top passers in the country, threatens to fill the air with plenty of leather. If Bedenk and his assistants can field a charging front wall like the line that throttled Boston College and Nebraska pitchers, the Lions may stop Syracuse. If the passer has as much time as Al Dorow of Michigan State, however, Penn State is faced with a rough afternoon.

Bedenk, not satisfied with any phase of his team's play, continues to work the squad on everything. Offense, he figures, must be drilled until the team is able to take advantage of any breaks. The defense against ground attack will have to be solid because Custis can run as well as pass, and the Orange has other ace runners in George Davis and Bob Young.

Fiacco Back

Early word from Syracuse reports that Jim Fiacco, ace center for the Orange who has been out with injuries since the opening game, will be back in the starting lineup for Saturday. The Syracuse squad is thin and lacks speed, but new Head Coach Floyd (Ben) Schwartzwalder can field an almost all-veteran eleven that boasts 25 returning lettermen.

Saturday's meeting will be the sixth of the season for both elevens, and both have been beaten three times. It's the first time since 1945 that the Lions have tasted three defeats.

CLOSE SERIES

Penn State and Syracuse will lock horns for the 27th time, a series in which the Nittanians have come up with eleven wins against Syracuse's ten. Not since 1937 has the Orange downed the Lion, but the indications this season are for a more wide-open battle than the two elevens have produced in some time. Penn State will be favored.

Saturday's game, the last on the Beaver Field schedule, will be the final home appearance for nine seniors on the Lion eleven. Three games, at West Virginia, Temple, and Pittsburgh, remain before Joe Bedenk rounds out his first year at the helm.

Fast Runners

Syracuse University's cross-country team has not been beaten in dual meet competition since 1946.

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Syracuse Joins MD's Grid Team

Penn State's football squad is not the only team hit by injuries. The scheduled game between the Syracuse and Penn State jayvees for this weekend has been cancelled because of an "unexpected" shortage of manpower in Syracuse ranks. Some of the jayvee men have been moved up to the varsity to strengthen the positions weakened by last week's injuries.

Navy Drillers Will Perform At Grid Game

A pre-game demonstration by the Naval Pre-Flight drill team of Pensacola, Fla., will be an added attraction at Saturday's football game between Penn State and Syracuse.

The 57-man team, composed of naval aviation cadets and midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Pre-Flight School, will arrive at Black Moshannon Airport by plane Saturday morning and march on the football field at 1:40 p.m. for a 10-minute demonstration.

Saturday's appearance will be their fifth of the year at a college football game. The team already has won wide acclaim for its intricate drill routine, and will appear at three more stadiums before concluding its 1949 schedule.

Most of the young men on the team have been enrolled at Pensacola under the naval aviation cadet program, which requires two years of college or its equivalent. Most of them have been in the Navy less than four months, and in a little more than a year will have earned their wings and will be flying Navy fighters and bombers.

For this and other appearances, the party is being flown in one of the Navy's giant four-engine transports piloted by two veterans of the Berlin Airlift. Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Slusser, former Penn State athlete and senior physical director at Pensacola, will accompany the party to State College for Saturday's demonstration.

backfield whizz, Triplett is the latest Penn State griddier to make the pro grade. Other alumni luminaries who are engaged in the great American blood-letting are: Bob Davis, an end, All-American guard, Steve Suhey, and Bill Moore, all teammates on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Sam Tamburo, last year's All-American end, and Johnny Nolan are both with the New York Bulldogs and Larry Joe, speedy halfback, has joined the Buffalo Bills.

Engaged on the coaching lines with Pitt is the old Nittany Lion center, Chuck Cherundolo.

Rumor Untrue Concerning Recall of Wally Triplett

By RAY KOCHLER

The rumor that had been floating about for the past several weeks, that Joe Bedenk is recalling Weavin' Wally Triplett from Detroit for reasons of pass defense has been squelched.

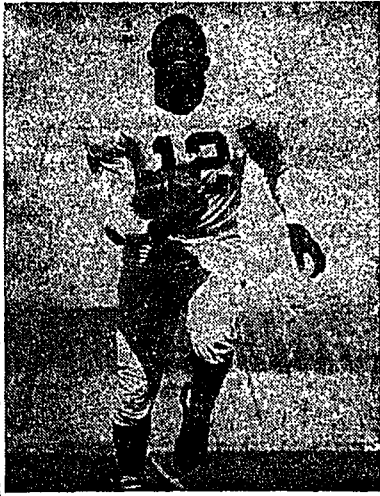
The squelcher? None other than "Big-time" Bo McMillin, head grid coach of the professional National League Detroit Lions and an outstanding purveyor of football talent.

To those uninitiated in the lore of Nittany football, the name Triplett was one which threw a various mixture of fear and confusion into the heart and hands of the most adept collegiate pass specialist.

DEFENDER

Weavin' Wally was, during his college tenure, and continues to be in his first season of pro fire, one of the greatest pass defenders in football today. He has an uncanny knack of sensing a pass in the making and then getting their fustest with the mostest.

To say that Bedenk could use him, especially after losses to Villanova, Army, and Michigan



State revolving mainly through an awkward backfield coverage, is not necessary.

According to a recent letter from Dick Peters, former Collegian sports editor and now football writer for the Detroit Free Press, Triplett is doing very well in the play-for-pay league.

NO DOUBT

"He's somewhat small for this pro league, but Coach McMillin likes his speed and believes he will develop into a fine player in a few years. Pro teams are limited to 32 players and it's pretty hard to make the grade if you aren't a good, all-around lad, but there has been no doubt about Triplett from the start."

The sight of Wally in pass-defense action is a sight to bring sighs from even the Baughs and Thompson's. Now you can see why the Motor-city prexie can smile while his opponents are in possession of the ball.

"McMillin has been using him strictly on defense, although he carried the ball against the Philadelphia Eagles once for three yards."

ALSO RUNS

But Trip can carry the leather if the going gets hot. Against the Los Angeles Rams in the opening game, he returned a punt for 52 yards which set up a Detroit touchdown. He also played a great game in Scranton against a minor league club during a pre-season exhibition.

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NITTANY

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Cary Grant - Rosalind Russell

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"MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON"
James Stewart - Jean Arthur

SATURDAY
"TEXAS"
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