

Four Seasons of Drazenovich Will End With Game Today

By GEORGE VADASZ

Among the seventeen senior gridders who'll trot onto the De Sota Street greensward this afternoon will be one of the greatest brother combinations ever to represent the Blue and White in football circles, the two Drazenovich's, Chuck and Joe.

Both Chuck, the hulking quarterback, and Joe, the standout guard, have played four complete seasons for the Lions. Joe, whose jersey number 86 has spelled trouble for more than one opposing ball-carrier, participated in 34 contests since enrolling at State in 1944.

Blocking back Charlie, since coming to the Nittany institution in '45, has taken part in 32 outings, sitting out two games this year with a badly sprained ankle. But he well made up for those two missed games when he played full 60-minutes of football against Michigan State, Penn and Pitt last year.

And speaking of Pitt, both of the Drax boys are very confident of victory today, "nothing will stop us," chimes Joe while Chuck adds, "we have a very good chance of licking them."

But well do both of them remember last year's stunning 7-0 setback, "I still think we had them beaten all the way, in every department except scoring," Joe states, recalling last year's game.

"We outplayed them, but one freak play gave them a score. They really had no business beating us," Chuck adds.

When Chuck and Joe trot off the field after the final gun today, it will mark the end of an era, the Brownsville era.

For the past five years that little Pennsylvania community has well been represented in the Lion lineup, in fact two years ago, at one time, five Brownsville-reared boys — Chuck and Joe, Shag Woloski, John Potoskian and John Simon — appeared in the starting eleven.

In high school, Joe was a quarterback until his senior year when he was switched to guard while Chuck learned his first grid ABC's at center.

But when Chuck came to State in '45, Coach Bob Higgins, then short on blocking backs switched the 210-pounder to the signal-calling spot.

He performed so ably there his freshman year that he was selected to play in the East-West shrine game at San Francisco on New Year's Day.

While playing for the Nittany grid forces, the Drazenovich's helped the Lions rack up 27 wins, 7 losses and two ties. One of those ties being that memorable 13-13 Cotton Bowl duel at Dallas, Tex. last year.

After their freshman season both left for the Army. Joe quarterbacked the Lechfeld Army Air Base team, playing along-side of tailback Bill Luther, and Chuck put his pigskin ability to good use at Fort Warren, Wyo.

After discharge from the service the two brothers were reunited at State.

"They are an exceptional brother act," says Coach Joe Bedenk, "I never saw two brothers together so close. They really fight for each other and the school. Both of them have the College at heart, they are true Penn Staters."

Chuck won football honors last year, being selected to the All-America blocking back team while Joe garnered all-state and all-east honors at guard. This year Bill Stern, noted sportscaster, tabbed Joe as all-American material.

Altogether Chuck has earned six varsity "S" letters and he expects three more before this year is over. Joe played varsity lacrosse last year and should be in line for a starting position this coming spring.

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Pitt's Rebirth Spells Trouble For Nittanies

Future Pitt University alumni, looking back on the grid campaigns of 1948 and '49, can't help but associate their little guy with big-time football and Pitt's rebirth into the ranks of the nation's top elevens.

After a deflating ten-year drought of gridiron successes it took a mite, 160-pound Lou (Bimbo) Cecconi, to wipe away the "de" from in front of emphasis and raise the Blue and Gold to some hint of its former glory.

CECCONI

Cecconi, who makes Pittsburgh fans forget that Donora is also famous for Arnold Galiffa, Stan Musial and smog, hasn't accomplished all this alone, of course. An awakened Pitt athletic department that imported Tom Hamilton from the Navy, a remembering alumni and spirited student body have battled for a team now having material that reflects at least some of the talent of Pitt teams in the thirties.

There are Nick Bolkovac and Bob Plotz, 210-pound tackle veterans, and Bernie Barkouskie and Milke Boldin, guards—the solid heart of a line that hates to give an inch.

Penn State fans won't soon forget Bolkovac who kidnapped one of Elwood Petchel's passes last season and lumbered for the only score in Pitt's 7-0 win over State.

And Philadelphia wastes little love on Barkouskie who blocked the punt three weeks ago that gave the Panthers a 22-21 verdict over Penn.

ENDS

At the terminals Pitt Coach Mike Milligan has replaced two of the best ends in the business, last year's Bill McPeak and Leo Skladany, with two pretty fair pickets, Nick DeRosa and Earl Sumpter. They're Cecconi's pass receivers. DeRosa has nabbed ten aerials for 222 yards and Sumpter, twelve for 140.

Center Len Radnor rounds out a frontwall that Frank Patrick, who scouted Pitt for Lion Coach Joe Bedenk, calls "sturdy on offense and tough as all-get-out on defense."

ROBINSON

Jimmy Joe Robinson, Negro wingback flash and a fourth-year man, is a natural for the reverses and break-away running from Pitt's single wing; Bobby Lee and Bob Brennan are defense-leveling blocking-backs, and fullback Carl

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DePasqua is the workhorse on plunges.
Pitt's punter, and a good one, is Bill Hardisty.

But Cecconi, diminutive captain, has been the sore-spot for Pitt rivals this season, in fact for three seasons. The 5-foot, 7-inch Pre-Dental senior, who also doubles as basketball star for Skyscraper U., has personally rolled up 838 of Pitt's 2450 offensive yards, 373 yards rushing and 565 on 31 completed passes.

MOST VALUABLE

Last year, Cecconi was voted most valuable player in Pittsburgh by the Downtown Quarterbacks there, and he's well on his way to the title again this season. He starred in every contest the Panthers played against eight opponents. He runs, passes, and rounds out nearly 60 minutes every game by acting as one of the best safety men around.

Pitt will be counting on Cecconi to lick State today and if

past occurrences are any indication, the Lions will have to stop Cecconi if they would gain revenge for last year's 7-0 slap.

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