

# The Nittany Realm

By ED WATSON

This is the story of a remarkable athlete, one whose life was snuffed out before he had his full chance to make his name known on the fields of life. His name would probably have become synonymous with Penn State football.

HERE WAS a man who was the greatest possible credit to his race. For, you see, this young warrior, who was destined to become a leader, was a Negro. Possibly you have heard of him; quite possibly you have not, but that makes no difference.

His name was Dave Alston, and he has been tabbed by many as the greatest football player ever to don the mole-skin for Penn State. But, tragically, his young life was snatched from the realm of fame only a little less than a year after he had entered college.

He had been a triple threat star in the backfield of Penn State's undefeated freshman team of 1941. Not only did he run, pass and punt for the Lion Cubs, but he also was a demon at drop kicking extra points. He and his brother Harry, also on that team, formed a potent passing combination.

IN THE SUMMER of 1942, Grantland Rice had picked Dave as "one of the most promising sophomores in the nation," and named him as a possible football All-American for that same year.

It was ironical the way Dave died. He passed away as the result of complications from a routine tonsilectomy performed in the Centre County Hospital in August of 1942. Dave was in the premedial curriculum. That was his life's objective—to become a doctor, second to none.

The afternoon before his operation Dave galloped through the varsity in pre-season drills for downs. Bob Higgins, then coach downs. Bob Higgins, then coach of the Lions, said later, "Paul Robeson (this was in 1942) is a great credit to the colored race, but Dave Alston's future might easily have compared with the life of the great Negro singer."

DAVE HAILED from Midland, Pa., where his father is a Baptist minister. In addition to his athletic achievements in high school, where he was a dazzling all-around performer, this lad had other attributes. He possessed a brilliant intellect and a wonderful personality. His high school class had voted him the "most popular boy."

When the strapping, powerfully-built athlete passed away, Penn State lost a great man. But that is only secondary, for his race lost a dear, dear friend and a potential leader. A friend of everyone's was Dave Alston—a real American. Penn State should never forget him.

## IM Cage Squads Gain Third Wins

Four independent quintets continue their unbeaten ways in the intramural basketball tournament Tuesday night as they racked up their third wins of the season.

League B went into a five way tie for first place as Dorm 42 surprised Dorm 6 with 11-8 upset, knocking it from the ranks of the undefeated. Dorm 38 moved to the top with a 18-14, victory over Dorm 7 and Dorm 12 also crowded the leaders, racking its second victory, 20-18, over Dorm 2.

Three teams grabbed their third wins in League C, forcing a three-way tie. Dick Hench took scoring honors for the evening with nine points as he led Dorm 5 to a 23-11 win over Dorm 35. Dorm 39 downed Dorm 32, 18-4, while Dorm 14 continued its winning ways with a 31-4 swamping of Dorm 33.

The Bombers jumped into the lead in League D by virtue of its 32-9 whipping of the Warriors. Art Benning led the winners with 8 points. The Q-Quintet won its first contest of the season as it edged Atherton Hall, 24-16, while the Miners forfeited to the Jets in the other League D game.

# Courtmen Eye Weekend Victories Over Carnegie Tech, W-J on Road

Penn State's court quintet will be given an excellent opportunity to improve its record over the weekend when it travels to Pittsburgh tomorrow to engage Carnegie Tech, and then moves over to Washington, Pa., for a Saturday evening clash with Washington and Jefferson.

Neither school is expected to give the Lions too much trouble in their search for road wins No. 4 and 5. To date, Penn State has won four and lost three—to Georgetown, North Carolina State (in the Dixie Classic) and Colgate.

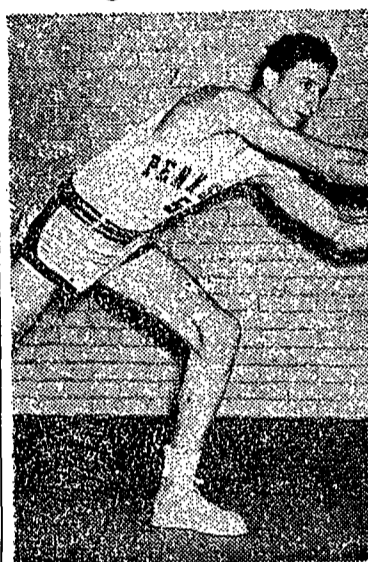
### ACE MARKSMEN

Coach Elmer Gross will have his ace marksmen Marty Costa and Jay McMahan ready to occupy the guard spots. Lee Schisler will be at center and Joe Tocci and Lou Lamie at the guard spots. Costa has already scored 77 points to lead the Lions per-game average with 10.

Nine veterans formed new head-basketball Coach Mel Cratsley's team at the start of practice sessions this fall. After tomorrow's game Carnegie Tech will have played almost half the games listed on its energetic 21-game card. Last year the Techers won 8 while losing 13.

In its lone appearance against the Nittany Lions last year the Pittsburgh outfit was handed an

### Leading Scorer



Marty Costa

artistic 65 to 40 setback. Carnegie will floor an experienced starting team consisting of a total of 13 college years in the classy Mike Theodore, Jack Riehl, Tasso Katselas, Joe Matsey and Bob McCullugh. All five are potent scorers.

In Theodore, Penn State will once again meet the player who

is boomed by many as the finest collegiate player in Western Pennsylvania. And scoring statistics bear his well-wishers out. Over a period of three years he has nabbed close to a thousand points.

Theodore has led Pittsburgh area scorers in points-per-game for the past two years. Last year he totaled 324 points with a 15.4 game average.

### STARTERS

Cratsley's starting lineup will probably include 6-foot, 3-inch Matsey and McClullugh at forward, Theodore at the jump spot, and Tom Beck and Tasso Katselas at the guards.

Katselas returned to the court this fall after missing the 1947-'48 and '48-'49 seasons. In 1946 he led the Tartans in scoring. He is a tricky ball handler and dead set-shot.

Matsey was always a great shot in practice but he waited until last year to find himself among big-time collegiate competition. He has height and is labeled an accurate one-hand shot.

The Penn State-Carnegie Tech series began in 1913 and since that time the Blue and White has recorded 43 wins while the Plaid has taken only nine games. The last game Carnegie Tech won in the series was in 1939-'40 to the tune of 56-46.

## Lion Fencers Open Campaign Against Untested Lehigh

An untried but experienced Nittany Lion fencing team will open its 1950 season by matching foils, epees, and sabers with the swordsmen of Lehigh University at Bethlehem Saturday.

### LEHIGH UNTRIED

Lehigh is also a virtually untested and untried quantity. Eight lettermen have returned from a squad which won three out of four meets last year.

The Penn State fencing squad is bolstered by a large group of returning veterans from last season, and has been hard at work practicing since the beginning of the semester in preparation for its six-match schedule.

Two outstanding fencers will wield the swords for Penn State for the first time. Both Wayne Culver and Ed Merék were on the fencing squad last year, but were

ineligible to participate in any matches.

In addition to these men, the fencers have back Rolf Wald, captain of the 1950 aggregation, who placed third in the epee class in the Intercollegiate matches last year.

Coach Meyer released his probable starting lineup. In the foil class are Harry McCarty, Ralph Meier, and Eugene Goldbloom, a recent addition to the squad.

The epee division will see Cap-

tain Rolf Wald, Bill Fairchok, and Wayne Culver starting. Paul Younkun, Ed Merék, and either John Richards or Bob Searles will wield the saber for the Nittany Lions.

### Students

All psychological tests are finished and appointments for the results can be made in the Psych Clinic office in 3 Burrows.

## Delta Upsilon Tops IM Loop

With touch football, swimming and boxing entered in the record books, Delta Upsilon holds a slim 15-point margin over Sigma Nu in the all-year scoring of intramural sports.

In the three sports already completed, the DU's have totaled 265 points, while Sigma Nu, the defending all-around champion, has 250. Last year at this time, Sigma Nu was in first place and Delta Upsilon in seventh.

Delta Upsilon scored heavily in winning the boxing title. The DU footballers went as far as the semi-finals. Sigma Nu won the football championship and Delta Tau Delta, fifth in the team standings with 175, took the swimming laurels.

Other teams in the top ten are Alpha Gamma Rho, 185; Theta Chi, 180; Sigma Chi, 160; Phi Kappa Sigma, 155; Phi Delta Theta, 150; Phi Kappa, 110, and Phi Sigma Delta, 105.

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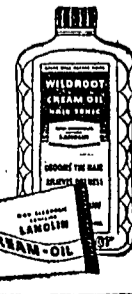
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