

Gridders Begin Spring Practices With Temporary Coach at Controls

By MARV KHASNANSKY

Stealing a page from the College administration, which for two years ran without the leadership of a president, Penn State's football team yesterday began Spring practice without a full-time head coach.

In charge of the first session was Earl Bruce, named to the post when Joe Bedenk resigned March 5. For the past four seasons Bruce

has been head coach at the California State Teachers College, where Nittany freshman football talent has been "farmed out." Assisting Bruce in his temporary job are Al Michaels, Jim O'Hara, Sever Toretti, and Frank Patrick, all members of Bedenk's staff.

OLD TIMES

Old acquaintances were renewed yesterday when Bruce stepped out into the practice area behind Beaver Field to inaugurate the six-week drill period. Among the 80 candidates for varsity berths were numbered no less than 24 of his former players at California.

Included among the 24 were 9 of the 10 lettermen Bruce will have to work with. Owen Dougherty, captain of the 1950 squad, is the only one of the ten lettermen who did not spend his freshman year at California under Bruce. The other monogram winners, backs Vince O'Bara, Tony Orsini, Chan Johnson, Len Shepard, and Johnny Podrasky, and linemen John Smidansky, Chuck Godlasky, Jim Barr, and Ken Bunn, all served their apprenticeship under Bruce.

BIG JOB

Facing Bruce and his assistants this spring is a task of rebuilding that has been brewing as a result of the necessity of having freshmen located at off-campus centers.

Up until now, Bruce explains, State has not felt the pinch of football material because of the influx of experienced war veterans. The vets have kept the school well-supplied with football material during the post-war years, he says, making up for the limited number of freshmen being prepped at the centers. Most of the veterans are gone now, and for the first time since the war, State will feel the manpower shortage.

This unhappy situation will be alleviated, it is hoped, by the acceptance of freshmen on the campus in the fall. Until the freshman program starts working, however, Bruce and the man named to succeed Bedenk have their work cut out for them.

3 IN 22

Among the lettermen, only Dougherty, the team's leading ground-gainer, O'Bara and Smidansky were listed among the first 22, although Bunn received several starting assignments late in the season at the center post. The others saw less frequent action. Dougherty, incidentally, is a member of the baseball team and will not participate in the drills.

Before the workouts come to a halt on April 22, Bruce will also check an additional 20 or so members of the 1949 varsity who saw only limited action. Among them are back Earl Mundell, and linemen Ed Hoover, Ralph DeLucia, and Joe Shumock.

GOOD J-V's

In addition there are a flock of junior-varsity boys who looked good enough last year to merit attention. Among them are backs Emory McCourt, Pete Klocek, and

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IM Wrestling

All men competing in the intramural wrestling tournament must report for weighing in between 6:30 and 7:15 on the night they are scheduled to compete. Gene Bischoff, IM director, announced yesterday.

Nittany Wrestlers Almost Repeat Championship Performance of '42

By ED WATSON

Penn State's wrestlers came about as close as possible to winning the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association's team trophy at the 46th annual tourney at Princeton, N.J., last weekend. The Lions came nearer to being the East's number one team for the first time since 1942, when the Nittanies, with Assistant Coach Charlie Ride-nour copping a title, won the championship.

That 1942 tournament was held in Recreation Hall, and since the 1951 run-off is also slated for the Lions' indoor arena, fans are looking forward to next year.

Syracuse won its second straight title with 32 points, while Lehigh followed with 29. The Nittanies placed third with 28.

Dutch Brong, and linemen Bill Waters, Bill Barber, George Harvan, Bill Slabonik, Pete Twaddle, and Andy Silock.

Approaching his task with the knowledge that he faces gaping weaknesses "everywhere," Bruce looks for some help from his frosh. Among the better-looking prospects at the farm were backs Bob Pollard and Ted Shattuck, and lineman Don Barney and Jim Dooley.

There is even, however, a weak link in the present California set-up. Because of limited space facilities at the college, no spring drills will be held there.

With the exception of Michigan State and Villanova, both of whom have been dropped from the schedule, State will face the same slate this coming season as it did in 1949. Georgetown and Rutgers are the newcomers on the nine-game card, while Army, Syracuse, Nebraska, Temple, Boston College, West Virginia, and Pitt are the holdovers.

The only difference is that such stalwarts as Fran Rogel, the Drazenovich brothers, Bob Hicks, Neg Norton, Bill Luther, Don Murray, Chuck Beatty and Ray Hedderick will all be gone.

The rest of the field was strung out, with Navy copping the fourth spot with 14 tallies.

Lehigh followers cheered loudly for Penn State's Mike Rubino in the 175-pound final. If Rubino had beaten Syracuse's George Gebhardt and Heavyweight Homer Barr had lost to Lehigh's Gus LaSasso in the unlimited class, the Engineers would have slipped past both Syracuse and the Lions for the title.

TIE POSSIBLE

The Speidelmen could have also tied for the title with the Orangemen if Rubino had won. But Mike fought his best bout of the season even though he lost a 3-2 decision. Gebhardt's points were awarded—one for locked hands by Rubino, and two for an automatic take-down because Referee John Engle said Rubino was stalling.

It was a tough loss for Rubino to take, especially since the Nittany light-heavy tossed Gebhardt at will in the first period, but both wrestlers were off the mat each time. The verdict was easily the most unpopular one of the two-day tourney.

Penn State hit 1000 per cent in the awarding of referee's decisions. In the quarter-finals, 155-pound Bill Santel was given the nod over Brown's Marc Rowe after the two fought to a 6-8 stalemate. Captain Jim Maurey kept the record intact by being picked as the 145-pound champion after he and Lehigh's John Mahoney were tied, 0-0, after three periods of wrestling.

Four Cage Teams Go To IM Finals

Sigma Pi, Theta Chi, Dorm 14 and the Eagles won playoff games in their respective IM basketball leagues Monday night and advanced into the championship fight of the tournament.

The fraternity League A toga went to Sigma Pi when it edged Alpha Chi Sigma, 19-18, in a thrilling ball game. William Lockhart paced the winners with six points.

After a close first half in which both teams showed some erratic play, Theta Chi pulled away from Alpha Gamma Rho and posted a 27-22 victory for the League D title. Herbert Kurtz had 11 points for the winners but his scoring efforts were eclipsed by AGR's James Clark who dumped in 15 big markers.

Dorm 14 grabbed the title in independent League C by disposing of a listless Dorm 39 crew, 22-7. The first half was fairly close with Dorm 14 leaving the floor with a slim three point lead but it proved enough as Dorm 39 was unable to score a point in the final canto. Strauss was high man for the winners with seven.

The Eagles noched a playoff position by dumping the Timberwolves, 15-8, for the League K championship. Morris and Tom Strike were almost the whole show for the victors as each tossed in six points. Strike also played a good game on the boards.

Switching Sports

Nick Thiel, Penn State Lacrosse coach, expects football player Joe Drazenovich to develop into a top-flight lacrosseman this Spring. The Brownsville grid star took up the game for the first time a year ago.

Five Veterans Boost Stock Of Net Team

Nittany tennis coach, Sherman Fogg, is looking forward to a promising season this year as four lettermen returned in the first practice sessions held last week. A fifth letter winner, George Lawther, is practice teaching and will join the squad in two weeks.

The other veterans are captain-elect Owen Landon, Jerry Gearhart, James Howells, and Spence Boyer, last year's JV captain. Also sharpening their form for the April 19th clash with Bucknell at the home courts are Dick Wield, Bill Walls, Harry Kauffman, and Mark Borland. The former two are transfer students from Murlenberg and Temple, respectively while the latter two are intra-mural champs.

The first three matches will be held here where the racquetmen will vie with Bucknell, Lehigh, April 22, and Washington and Jefferson, April 26. Other home matches will be played against Georgetown, May 6, Duquesne, May 17, and Colgate, May 27 to finish the season.

Hitters Return

Of Penn State's six .300 hitters last year, four will return to the baseball wars again this Spring. The returnees are Clarence Buss, of Milton; Jack Kurty, of Ludlow, Mass.; Captain Dick Wertz, of Newport; and Bill Bair, of Williamsport. Buss and Kurty are both catchers.

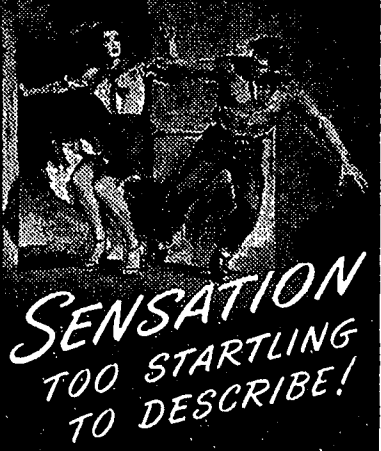
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