

'On The Ball'

Brother Bill Steps Out

By Ray Koehler
SPORTS EDITOR



NEWS ITEM—Fred Wilt, his lungs gasping for air, crossed the finish line of the Boardwalk Mile in Atlantic City, N.J., in 4:05.5, the fastest an American has ever run the distance outdoors.

That was the lead of a story which excited track fans throughout the nation scanned some two weeks ago, but for Penn State followers the real meat of the article lay buried some four paragraphs below... and in fourth place, Bill Ashenfelter, Penn State.

Behind that small item lay a pretty good story, for when Bill finished, some 5½ seconds behind Wilt and his brother Horace, he had run the fastest mile ever recorded by a Nittany runner in collegiate competition.

His 4:11 sliced 6 seconds from the previous low set by Gerry Karver, several years ago. The sad part is that Bill cannot claim a record because of the ruling which states that a runner must win the race in which he is competing in order to set a new standard.

His togs still damp from his previous day's efforts in the Penn Relays at Philadelphia, Ash entered the Atlantic City event in the place of Curt Stone, who was also supposed to be running in Utah the same day.

As soon as it was found that Stone was unavailable, Bill, who had made the Sunday trip with his brother and parents, was persuaded to enter the feature race. Milling around the starting line anxious for the run to get underway, Bill found himself in the company of such outstanding milers as Wilt, Horace Ashenfelter, John Twomey, Browning Ross and Irish Johnny Barry.

"It was a fast race right from the start. We ran the first quarter in .57 and I kept up with the first three until the half. After that Horace and Wilt faded out in front. But I really felt good after the race was over."

Several years ago as a freshman at Kutztown State Teachers College in the eastern part of the state, the writer happened to make the acquaintance of the lean, lanky farm lad. At that time his only claims to prominence were a pair of tremendous, ham-like mitts and rather large size 11 brogans.

The middle man in our initial encounter introduced the grinning, loquacious individual as Bill Ashenfelter.

Ashenfelter? Are you the brother of Horace, that runner at Penn State? we asked him. "Delighted," he smiled proudly.

Because of his running ambitions and his famous brother, Bill took plenty of kidding in those days (he still does) but he always gives back as much as he takes. As on the track—he's a hard man to get past.

Finding that he had intentions of following in the footsteps (we can't say shoes because of the physical impossibility involved) of his big brother, we laughingly asked him to give us special rights to his life story when he became famous.

Up to this point the junior in hotel administration has had the last laugh.

The Nittany Lions' celebrated basketball Mutt and Jeff duo of Joe Tocci and Marty Costa both have received feelers from the pro basketball people.

The 5-foot 6-inch Guiseppi, a native New Yorker and a cinch to go down in Lion court history as one of its greatest ball-handlers and play setters, has received an invitation to try out with the Minneapolis Lakers.

The Lakers during the past professional season scattered all opposition as they won the B.A.A. playoffs and as an added selling feature the letter forwarded to Tocci told of the thrill of playing with such greats as George Mikan, Jim Pollard, etc.

Costa, Coach Gross' affable, easy-going workhouse who set two all-time Penn State scoring records during the past winter when he tallied 32 points in one game and then went on to collect a season's total of 299, has been tapped for a look-over by both the New York Knickerbockers and Washington Caps.

While Marty isn't one to turn up his nose at the money to be made in the professional cage circuits, he still realizes the rigors of a full 60-game-plus B.A.A. schedule.

"If I can get a job in some nice-sized city, I believe I can have just as much fun and, incidentally, pick up a couple of bucks on the side by playing in a league a little closer to my level," Costa figures.

DU Victorious In IM Soccer

Delta Upsilon continued to ride over its opposition Thursday night in the IM soccer tournament, sinking Phi Kappa Tau, 2-0. Lieb and Khamash scored for the winners.

Delta Upsilon will meet Phi Epsilon Pi in its next game to determine who will play in the semifinals. Phi Epsilon Pi defeated Phi Gamma Delta Thursday, 2-1, with the Cohen brothers, Lou and Irv, doing the scoring.

Phi Delta Theta won a close one, 1-0, to earn the right to next meet Sigma Phi Sigma, a 2-0 winner on Thursday.

The winners of these next two

TKE Wins 2nd In IM Softball

Tau Kappa Epsilon chalked up its second straight lopsided victory in downing Beta Sigma Rho, 14-1, in a second flight intramural fraternity softball tilt Wednesday.

The first flight of fraternity play was concluded as Delta Theta Sigma downed Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 5-1, and Delta Upsilon eked out a 6-5 win over Phi Kappa Tau.

Simmons Hall walloped Donn's Bums, 20-3, in the second flight of the independent tournament.

Games will meet to decide the finalist as the intramural soccer season draws to a close.

Engle High On Koerber; Drills End

Dick Koerber, a nonentity in the Penn State gridiron picture two weeks ago, looms as one of the top contenders for the vital quarterback role as two weeks of intensive training in the intricacies of Rip Engle's winged-T came to a close yesterday afternoon.

Engle is quick to make it clear that the ball-handling job is still "wide open," but he acknowledges that the lanky 185-pound Koerber has shown the most progress. Koerber, who suffered a sprained back Tuesday and has not played since, has done "remarkably well while he was in there," according to Engle.

Reports to Engle

Not out for the first six week session of Spring drills, Koerber, who played under center at Pittsburgh's Carrick High School, reported for practice when Engle called the team out again upon his arrival here. Koerber's ball-handling, passing, and faking, combined with his ability to adjust himself to the Engle system, is what has catapulted him into prominence.

Effective at deceiving the defense with his fakes, Koerber comes close to filling the specifications required of Engle for his ball-handler—"a boy who can call plays, pass, and take pride in fooling the other fellow with slight of hand." These were the qualities Engle has been looking for in a quarterback, and although Koerber still has some rough spots to smooth out, he has made more progress than any of the other quarterback hopefuls.

Stiff Competition

When the squad returns to campus in the Fall, however, Koerber will have to work hard to sew up the position. He will face stiff competition from Vince O'Bara and Len Shephard, two good passers, Bill Patterson, and Jack Strucher, all of whom have shown improvements.

The squad put the finishing touches on the prolonged eight-week session yesterday with a two-hour scrimmage on the Beaver Field practice area. With Shephard, O'Bara, Patterson and Strucher running the squad from under center, the squad clicked through its routine with more of the required precision than it had shown before.

Although the varsity folded up camp, Engle and the rest of the staff will go through an additional week of drills with about 40 freshmen from cooperating colleges and centers. The frosh will arrive on campus May 29 and engage in two drills daily.

Wettstone Given Coaching Award

A commemorative medallion describing him as "one of America's top coaches" and citing him for "his many contributions to the sport of gymnastics" is the newest honor conferred on Gene Wettstone, Penn State gym coach.

Wettstone, who coached the 1948 Olympic team, and Roy Moore, of New York City, chairman of the National AAU gymnastics committee, were both honored by the Helms Athletic Foundation, of Los Angeles. Both received medallions from W. R. Schroeder, managing director of the Foundation, at a dinner in Los Angeles.

In 11 years as Penn State coach, Wettstone's gymnasts won four team titles in the Eastern Intercollegiate, one in the National Collegiate, and three in National AAU competition. Three of his proteges won places on the 1948 Olympic team, and his individual titlists now number thirty-two.

Two shutouts featured Thursday's second flight fraternity games as Phi Kappa Alpha whitewashed Phi Gamma Delta, 3-0, and Alpha Tau Omega blanked Alpha Gamma Rho, 4-0. In the other fraternity fray Phi Kappa Sigma banged out a 14-2 decision over Sigma Phi Alpha.

Ath. Hall moved into the second flight of the independent division by blasting the Crusaders, 8-1.

State Lacrosse Men Meet Strong Cavaliers Today

By ERNIE MOORE

Coach Nick Thiel's Nittany lacrosse men entertain one of the better stick teams in the country when they take on the flashy Cavaliers from West Virginia University this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock on the golf course practice field.

The visitors have a veteran squad built around their two all-Americans, Bill Hooper and Bob Proutt. Twelve other lettermen grace the Virginia lineup.

Last year, State dropped a close, 8-7, decision on the Cavaliers home field. But the Lions have only four lettermen back from those who played in that contest.

"Virginia is one of the best teams to come here" in years," said Thiel. And he added "they're very skillful and have a colorful, scrappy crew."

All-American Coach

The Cavaliers are coached by former all-American at Navy, Charlie Guy. Also a football and wrestling star, Guy was voted "outstanding senior athlete" at the Academy in 1945.

This season Virginia holds victories over such lacrosse stalwarts as Syracuse, Washington and Lee, Loyola and V.M.I. Only Maryland

and Johns Hopkins hold wins over the powerful Cavaliers.

State will seek its second win of the season, holding a win over Western Maryland, while dropping games to Loyola, Navy, Rutgers, and Syracuse.

From the Crease:

Bill, Hooper, Virginia's all-American attackman, played first string for Mt. Washington, last year's National Open Lacrosse Champion, when he was only 17 years old. . . . He made third string all-American when he was a freshman at Virginia, first string in his sophomore year, first string in his junior year and this year—well, maybe you had better go to the game and see for yourself. . . .

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