

## 'On The Ball'



### Nittany Harriers Hit The Spotlight

BY RAY KOEHLER  
Sports Editor

Oh, Mister Werner, Oh! Mister Werner  
See thou "Lion" in thy victory book?  
Those Spartan harriers are on their way  
For a Nittany Vale donnybrook.

Although, as usual, the focal point of Penn State's Homecoming festivities will be centered on the Beaver Field gridiron, local sports fans can expect to see two heretofore quiet members of the Nittany athletic family raising a cry for national recognition this weekend.

Strictly speaking, this goes for only one of the duo—as Bill Jeffrey's soccer outfit, by virtue of its 19-game winning streak and Soccer Bowl activities, already has attracted a nationwide following. On the other hand, while a battle-scarred grid band appears headed for no great distinction this season, Penn State's mighty cross country team needs but a win over the 1950 NCAA championship Michigan State harriers to definitely establish itself as a power to be reckoned with.

Oh, Mister Werner, Oh, Mister Werner

The chips are piling high  
Ahead the bright and shining road  
Behind a weary load.



Chick Werner

And how does Werner, one of America's great track and field coaches, figure the outcome between the two collegiate hill 'n dale powers? . . . "A real tough match between two highly competitive squads with the outcome capable of going anyway," says the Chick. "Besides," he warns, "whichever team wins tomorrow has more than an even chance of getting beaten later in the championship meets."

The '50 State harriers present a purely homespun aggregation that has been guided to the threshold of greatness by Werner's magical touch—a touch which has produced such other outstanding cross countrymen as Horace Ashenfelter, Curt Stone, Gerry Karver, Blondie Romig, Bill Cox, and Larry Shields.

If Bill doesn't do it—Donald must.

Ashes to Ashes, dust to dust

**BILL ASHENFELTER**—At 6-feet 3½-inches, lanky Bill is labeled by Werner as "the tallest, good cross country runner I have ever seen." Because of his altitude Bill has had a hard time acquiring a smooth, easy stride—but he has a world of guts and is a great team man . . . like brother Don, Bill experiences periods of unpredictability but both enjoy helping beginners . . . has been appointed captain for this important meet and in the spring will assume permanent captaincy of the State track team . . . last year "Big Ash" turned in several almost unbelievable feats. Against Ohio State and Michigan State he rambled to a 4:14 mile.

**DON ASHENFELTER**—The reputation of the Ashenfelter family—started by the great Horace—is well carried by Don, a stylist whose form has been envied by a legion of runners. Don could become one of the country's outstanding runners depending upon the mood he's in . . . Like his two brothers he is not a high school product but his progress has been so rapid since he started his running career as a junior that it is hard for the coaching staff to criticize him.

A bit of a cheer for Jack St. Clair

A guy who has had a lot to bear.

**JACK ST. CLAIR**—A Philadelphia runner with a fine high school background . . . the story on St. Clair has been one of a continued fight against the injury jinx . . . because of sickness and leg injuries Jack has never approached the form expected of him, but should he conquer the injury bug for any length of time he is capable of doing anything . . . he is a senior and an ex-GI who lives with his wife and baby in the trailer camp area.

In high school just a so-so mark

Now Porto's high on Werner's card

**AL PORTO**—An Ambridge ex-GI, Porto has come a long way since his high school days when he was barely able to cling to a varsity position as a scrub runner . . . lacks the physique and style of some of his teammates but once a race gets underway he stays up front by an overabundance of determination and desire . . . He is a guy who doesn't know what the word quit means—a guy who has made himself as good as he is by hard work. A 135-pound, 5-feet 9-inch IM boxing champ last winter, Porto also was one of a team that captured the IM horseshoes doubles championship two years ago.

A runner of great high school esteem

Parsons now sets Chick's eyes agleam

**BOB PARSONS**—His leadership qualities were established last year when, as a junior, he was chosen captain of the Nittany cross country team . . . a fine runner in high school, but, strangely, so many things were found wrong with his style when he came to State that it has taken him longer to correct his defects than any of his teammates. He is now a capable and dependable harrier who is always high up among the leaders . . . a shrapnel wound in his knee while in combat service in Europe still bothers him.

A youth who makes the coaches gloat

Freebairn's ticketed for future note

**BOB FREEBAIRN**—"I graduated from high school when I was just a kid," says the 20-year-old senior in secondary education . . . another Philadelphia high school phenom . . . when Bob came to campus he was still not as physically mature as the rest of his teammates, but despite a rather slender build he makes this up with a perfect running style and staying in remarkable condition. He is another of Werner's proteges who has the possibilities of developing into greatness. Says Werner, "When Bob decides to make up his mind to be terrific—he'll be just that."

Despite a start most uninspiring

Gordon now has them all perspiring

**BILL GORDON**—A marathoner who obtained his early experience from a group of club runners from his home town of Jeanette . . . did not set any cinder or turf paths afire before coming to State and so it was not amiss when none no bothered to hang out the welcome mat for him on his arrival here. Last year he blossomed out of a clear sky and is now one of the team's mainstays.

A faster Foster would be quite a boost

To shake those Spartans off their roost

**DUDLEY FOSTER**—The only junior member of the first stringers . . . another Philadelphia product of considerable high school experience, Dud found that he still had a great deal to learn as a collegiate runner. The first startling evidence of his ability which brought him to the attention of Werner and Co. was his sophomore time of 9:32 for the 2-mile distance on the balcony track during a practice session.

# State Eleven Looks For Second Win As Owls Buck Beaver Field Jinx

By MARV KRASNANSKY

If hustle and determination to win guaranteed success on the gridiron, neither Penn State nor Temple would be denied victory when they clash on Beaver Field tomorrow.

Reports from Philadelphia indicate that the Templars, unable to beat the Lions since 1941, are taking tomorrow's battle as a "must." The 1950 season begins and ends with the Penn State game the Temple coaching staff has been saying all week, and the way the Owls have been working indicates that they've taken Coach Al Kawal and his assistants at their word.

The Owls have never won on Beaver Field in five attempts and to make things worse they have not even scored.

### Lions Determined

Nittany football guide Rip Engle is not displeased with the reaction of the Lions. On the bottom of a three-game losing streak—the longest winless period in Blue and White football annals since 1932—the gridders, led by Capt. Owen Dougherty, are determined to put on a top-notch show for returning members of the alumni.

This Penn State team is better than its record of three losses and a single victory indicates, and the Lions are determined to prove it. They've been running hard, and hitting viciously in drills, all of which has pleased Engle and Co.

Hoping to aid the Nittanians regain their winning ways, Engle has come up with several changes in his starting platoons. Guard Bill Mathers will be the only new face in the offensive unit, replacing Jim Barr at right guard, but four shifts are planned on the defense.

### Millhouse Back At Guard

Don Millhouse, a starter at guard early in the season, has regained his job while Con Brown will probably replace Dick Cripps at the right tackle position. Paul Anders, a sophomore, is scheduled to fill in for John Podrasky, who is still hobbled by a bad ankle, backing up the line.

The only other change Engle anticipates is Dougherty, who will go at safety.

Vince O'Bara, who underwent a minor operation this week, will continue to call the signals from the quarterback slot, but Len Shephard, used on defense exclusively until now, will probably see some action. Jim Pollard will go at fullback, Tony Orsini at halfback, and Dougherty at wingback.

John Smidansky and Art Bettis ends; Ed Hoover and Chuck Godlasky, tackles; center Ken Bunn and guard Len Bartek will team with Mathers on the forward wall.

Defensively State will line up with Pat McPoland and Chuck Wilson, ends; Steve Schetz and Brown, tackles, and Millhouse on the line. Backing up will be Shephard and Anders with Bob Pollard, Bill Leonard, Jacob and Dougherty in the backfield.

Penn State will adopt 1:30 kickoff time as a courtesy to out-of-town autoists for its two home football games in November.

### Gets Starting Role . . .



Don Millhouse

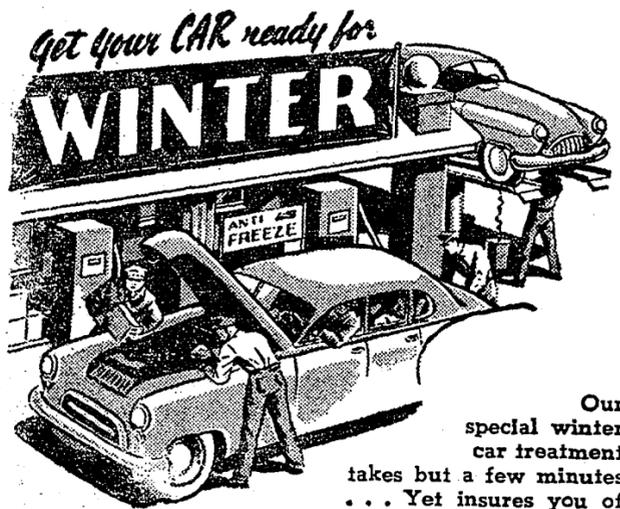
## Lion Grid Rank Drops 4 Notches

Penn State has dropped to 17th place among Eastern collegiate grid powers in latest ratings compiled by the Lambert Trophy committee.

Given a total of 972 points, the Lions dropped from a 13th place tie with Syracuse, to 17th position, 28 points behind unbeaten Army, in first place with 1000 points.

Army thus goes far ahead in its chances to gain its sixth Lambert Trophy in seven years.

The Cadets closest competitor is Cornell with 985 points. Penn is a close third with 984 points, followed by Villanova, Princeton, Navy, Yale, Pitt, Columbia, and Syracuse in that order.



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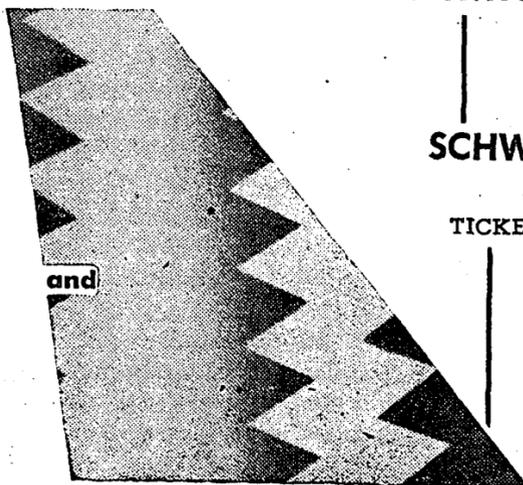
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