

"Off The Cuff"**Two Views On
Gridiron Platoons**

By **ART BENNING**
Assistant Sports Editor

The two platoon system in football has been greeted with many arguments, both pro and con. But specialization in the gridiron sport seems to be more favorably received by teams and coaches every year, judging by the increased number of platoon teams in the country.

About the best story I've heard regarding the relatively new system, whether pro or con, was told by Chet Smith, sports editor of the Pittsburgh Press, Sunday night at Sigma Delta Chi's annual fall smoker for all male journalism students at the College.

First, you have to project yourself into the year 1970. You're sitting in front of the fireplace reading the sports section of your favorite newspaper, and you come upon a column by a well known sports columnist.

"How Football Died"

Most of us remember when football was one of the most thrilling spectator sports in the country. Millions of dollars were spent each year by fans who were eager to see their alma mater whip the tar out of the Tarheels or the pants off the Panthers. What happened to America's greatest collegiate game? It's been six years now since we've seen a long booming punt or a quarterback sneak. Six years of unemployed coaches and a decrease in college enrollment. What happened to football?

It all started back in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1945. And oddly enough, it ended there, too, 19 years later. Michigan was playing Indiana that day in one of those typically thrilling mid-western games. Everything was going along fine until the confusion started. Eleven men jumped up from the Michigan bench and ran onto the field. The starting team ran off at the same time. Radio announcers went crazy, the fans were startled, and the Indiana team was completely demoralized.

Well, that started the two platoon system. Fans got used to it during the next few years as more and more teams took to the innovation. Here was specialization in football. But it didn't stop there. Things got so specialized that finally Notre Dame came up with a platoon that could execute just one play. That necessitated a defensive platoon to stop that one play.

From there, things got steadily worse. Michigan, which was always on the lookout for something better, decided that it was too bad that their offensive platoons had to sit around while the defensive squads were playing. So to get maximum use of the entire team, the Wolverines built another stadium alongside their present one, with tunnels connecting the two.

Here was the answer to rising costs of footballs, and players. Michigan would schedule two games at the same time, with its platoons shuttling back and forth between the two stadiums through the tunnels.

So on a certain afternoon in November, 1964, Michigan was playing Syracuse in Stadium "A" and Dartmouth in stadium "B". In the confusion, what with defensive and offensive platoons running helter-skelter through the maze of tunnels between the two stadiums, the Michigan offensive squad defeated the Michigan defensive team, 97-6, while Syracuse and Dartmouth played to a scoreless tie in an unscheduled game. The capacity crowds of 50,000 in each stadium stormed out of the stands, and the resulting uproar brought about the direct death of football.

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But speaking seriously of the two platoon system, it apparently has brought its share of good to Penn State. Despite the fact that more Statesmen saw action against opponents this fall than ever before, there was a definite lack of serious injuries on Rip Engle's squad.

Whether it is the result of the two platoon system, or just one of those lucky years, nobody knows for sure. Dr. Alfred Griess, team physician, points out, for example, the lack of serious knee injuries this fall.

It seems that every season usually brings several fractured cartilages that require surgery before full use of the knee can be regained. The year 1949 proved an especially dangerous one for the sturdy knees in the Lions' front line. Four of last year's linemen underwent knee operations, while three others recovered without surgery.

Centers Ray Hedderick and Kenn Bunn, and guards Ed Hoover and Don Murray made the trip to the operating table. Paul Kelly, Fred Felbaum and Joe Sarabok have apparently recovered without operations. Sarabok underwent a knee operation in 1947.

The most serious knee injury in Penn State's pigskin valley this year was freshman Hugh Brown's badly sprained knee. A few ligamental sprains hampered the varsity, particularly those suffered by quarterback Vince O'Bara's understudy, Dick Koerber and sophomore guard Don Barney.

Despite the lucky dearth of knee injuries, the Lions came up with several shoulder injuries that required quite a bit of time before full recovery. Fullbacks Jim Pollard, Paul Anders, and George Jacob saw only limited service for a time. Jacob's injury was least severe.

It could be that the players aren't as physically tired as they were when 60 minutes of football was the rule. At any rate, let's hope it's a permanent thing.

Nittany Grid Star, Tony Orsini, Fails To Catch Experts' Eyes

By **MARV KRASNANSKY**

Just about this time every year the readers of the sports pages of the daily press and popular magazines are barraged with a deluge of "all teams." There are, of course, the All-America teams—at least six of them—the all-sectional teams, all-state, all-area, all district.

Then there's the little All-American, the even smaller All-American, and the centsie-ventsie All-American.

By the time the experts have finished demonstrating their ability to disagree with one another, you're just not much of a football player if you have not been selected for at least one of these teams.

Orsini Missed
It's seldom, however, that an outstanding ball-player such as Penn State's Tony Orsini is so thoroughly ignored by the experts. Tony has been so completely overlooked that it almost appears as though there were a conspiracy to keep his name out of print. This is an exaggeration, but the way Tony has been thrust into oblivion makes you wonder just how expert the experts are.

It seems almost incredible that Orsini has been so overlooked. There was little question among observers of the Nittany Lions this fall that Orsini was Rip Engle's best runner. He's shifty—somebody once likened Orsini's swivel hips to those of a hula-hula dancer—runs hard, is aggressive. That's about all you can demand of a runner.

Statistically, there's little doubt that Orsini was the best runner in the Lion camp. He was the

workhorse as well as the leading scorer. He carried the ball 144 times—almost as much as the combined total of the next four leading runners on the team—gained 563 yards, averaging just a shade under 4 yards per attempt, and scored six touchdowns.

Clutch Runner

Tony was the clutch runner for the club. When they needed the yardage he was the one to pick it up. And more often than not, he got it. Against Pitt, for example, with the Lions held to a total of 85 yards on the ground, Orsini gained 57 yards. State marched 30 yards for its second touchdown. Paul Anders going over from the 5, but Orsini was

credited with 24 of those yards on four tries.

It was with great satisfaction that those close to Lion football noted the selection of quarterback Vince O'Bara for the annual Blue-Gray game in Montgomery, Ala. Vince deserves the recognition, as do the other Lions who have been acclaimed this season—John Smidansky, Owen Dougherty, Chuck Godlasky, Ken Bunn, George Jacob, and Jim Barr.

But, as one Lion grinner commented last week, "You can't help wondering how much of an honor it is to be chosen for one of these teams when a guy like Tony is overlooked."

No, you can't help wondering.



Tony Orsini

— Late Sports —

PHILADELPHIA—John (Ox) De Grossa, Pennsylvania Athletic Commissioner, is seeking to bar former heavyweight champion, Joe Louis, from Pennsylvania rings.

Da Grossa will also ask the National Boxing Commission to do the same.

He says the move is for "the best interests of boxing" and the Brown Bomber himself.

WASHINGTON—Tryouts for the 1952 Olympic games will be held in Los Angeles.

The choice of Los Angeles was announced by Avery Brundage, president of U. S. Olympics, Inc. The Olympic games will be held in Helsinki, Finland.

CHICAGO—The Big Ten has indicated that it favors a renewal of the Rose bowl pact with the Pacific Coast conference, if no drastic changes are made in the rules.

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All-College President

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BEAVER and ALLEN

Cameron Wins 4th Bout—

(Continued from page four) trozza whose stinging right uppercuts hurt his opponent, finishing furiously.

Hanley Takes Another

Bill Hanley, a good looking battler from Theta Chi, took the measure of Frank Randazzo, of Alpha Phi Delta, in their 145-pound bout, chalking up his third victory in a row. Hanley scored hard and often with right hooks to the body and left jabs to the head, and had his opponent in trouble from the outset.

The only independent match of the evening, a 135-pound tussle, uncovered a pretty clever boxer in Bud Marts. Marts gave evidence that he was at home in the

ring, as he gave a few pointers in boxing to Howard Killian. Killian showed plenty of fight, but the hard right hand blows of Marts were too effective.

Big Steve Meisel, of Alpha Epsilon Pi, remained on the victory trail, as he banged out a win over Bob Eichenlaub, of Alpha Sigma Phi, in the evening's finale. It was a 165-pound bout, in which Meisel's long left was the deciding factor.

Fraternity men who copped wins by way of forfeited bouts were Fred Fieni, Theta Chi, and John Ruffner, of Delta Upsilon, in the 121-pound division; and Joe Lane, of Delta Upsilon, in the 155-pound bracket.

Christmas Shopping In State College