

Spring Changeover



— Collegian Photo by McNeillie

CLARENCE BUSS, left, and Harry Little, are shown turning in their soccer equipment to Ralph Wert, equipment manager, before reporting for baseball practice last week. Buss and Little, both All-American soccer players, are also lettermen in baseball.

Booster To Baseball Switch A Cinch For Buss, Little

By DAVE COLTON

When the varsity baseball team reported for pre-season training last week, it was just a change of uniforms and a switch from a large round ball to a smaller pellet for two of the candidates.

All-American soccer players Clarence Buss and Harry Little have not been satisfied with winning letters in one sport and will both be trying for their sixth varsity letters this spring. "Bussy" has already earned two baseball letters besides his three soccer letters, while Little earned a baseball numerous last year, and is a four-letter soccer winner.

Seasoned Diamond Performers

They will be candidates for the team only in the sense that all men reporting to a baseball team are called candidates, for both Buss and Little are seasoned performers. Little held down the "hot corner" for the Nittanians last year, while Buss alternated the catching duties with Jack Kurty.

Two years ago "Bussy" was the number one backstop and led the team in batting with a lusty .357 average. Little, though small for a third baseman, earned the regular job because of his alert playing and strong arm. Buss, besides his heavy hitting, moves like greased lightning on the basepaths.

Birds Of A Feather

These two athletes are similar in many respects besides size. Their athletic careers at Penn State have followed a pattern. Both started to college in 1945 and played soccer under the wartime ruling which allowed freshmen to participate in varsity sports. After the freshman year, Buss joined the Marine Corps, and Little the Navy. They returned to Penn State in 1948 and resumed their athletic careers, much to the delight of soccer Coach Bill Jeffrey.

Sparked by the play of these two standouts, Jeffrey's team in 1950 and 1951 received invitations to the first two Soccer Bowl games in booting history. Both

players were named All-Pennsylvania soccermen this year and Little, captain of Penn State's team, made first string All-America for the second year in a row, while Buss earned second string honors. Both agree that last year's soccer-bowl opponent, San Francisco, was the toughest team they have played. State tied San Francisco 2-2 by virtue of Little's penalty shot with ten seconds remaining to play.

Mandel Trophy To Little

Besides his 'All' team honors, Little also received the Mandel trophy for the second straight year as the outstanding Penn State soccer player. He became the second player in Penn State history to accomplish this feat. Buss used his 'educated toe' to garner eight goals during the regular season and ranked as the second leading scorer on the team. He also scored one goal against Purdue S.C. in the bowl game.

Despite the loss of a few veteran performers, Buss and Little think the 1951 booters should uphold State's reputation as a soccer power.

When asked about their favorite sport both replied that soccer was No. 1 during soccer season, but that baseball ranks first when springtime rolls around. Buss, who lives in Watsonstown, and Little, of Dover, are physical education majors and members of Druids and Parmi Nous hat societies. Buss, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and Little, of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, will be graduated in June. Both hope to coach soccer or baseball.

Pace-setters of the current Penn State basketball team are Captain Lou Lamie, Arnold, Pa., and Ted Panoplos, Altoona, Pa.

Varsity Players, Coaches Share Intramural Sports World Oddities

By LOWELL KELLER

Lion Vignettes Increased Speed Helps Albarano

By JERRY SPOTTS

One of the reasons why Penn State's boxing team is getting stronger from one match to the next is Johnny Albarano, who represents the Nittany Lions in the 145-pound class.

Albarano, who is a junior, dropped a close decision in his first fight to Joe Mackey of Minnesota, then piled up three impressive victories, before losing to Syracuse's Eastern 145-lb. champ, Ben Dolphin, last week.

Increased Slug Power

Albarano believes his improvement has been due to the increase in his hitting power, and to the fact that he weighs less and thus has gained speed.

Johnny has nothing but praise for his coach, Eddie Sulkowski.

"Eddie is a great fellow and a wonderful coach. He was a good choice to succeed Leo Houck. With a little time and experience as a coach, he will be producing the best boxing teams in the country," Albarano says.

Musical Family

When Johnny is not putting on the gloves for a weekend match, he goes to his home, Lilly Pa., to play in the family orchestra. Five members of the Albarano family, including Johnny, make up their combine. Johnny's father conducts the band.

Boxing, however, cannot be tabbed as Albarano's only sport. In his senior year of high school, he captained his football team to an unscored upon and undefeated season. He also plays basketball.

Albarano is majoring in mining engineering, and wants to work for a mining company after finishing school. A member of Theta Kappa Phi fraternity, Albarano holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Engineering battalion of ROTC.

Bucs' Wagner Inks '51 Coaching Pact

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 20 (AP)—

The venerable Honus Wagner will be around again next baseball season as coach of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Wagner, who will be 77 Saturday, signed a 1951 contract today. It was his 40th in the National League and his 19th as Pirate coach. He won undying fame as an oldtime Buc shortstop.

Varsity sport figures at Penn State—plus their coaches—also are among those who make the headlines in the intramural realm. In a way it's natural, however, since these individuals are remembered for their actions throughout the year.

One story concerns a hulking varsity football player named Howard Caskey who roamed this campus several years ago. At that time the football team was quartered in a building known as the Football house, but to its members it was known as Grey-stone manor.

Caskey was the manager of the Manor's basketball team and they were good enough to win their league. Also it was known (and still is) that members of the championship team receive medals presented by the IM office.

Wanted A Trophy

Caskey, anticipating that his squad would win the coveted title, asked Gene Bischoff to give them a trophy instead of the usual medals. He was careful to ask that Greystone manor, not Football house, be engraved on the cup.

Later that week, "Huge" Howard led his team on to the floor in the quarter-finals. All deliberating went for naught, though, as Caskey's five received a terrific trouncing.

Dutch Sykes, assistant IM director, relates an anecdote about a more well-known football star, Bob Hicks, Co-captain of the Lion's 1950 eleven. Here was a fellow who had played before thousands of people. He was a stand-out performer in the 1948 Cotton Bowl classic with Southern Methodist.

A Volleyball Enthusiast

Hicks took an extreme liking to volleyball and played for the Delta Upsilon intramural team during the spring of last year. As each game was completed, DU edged closer and closer to the league title. But it seemed every contest dragged out to the maximum of three games.

It was after one of these pulse-tingling affairs that Bob button-holed Gene Bischoff and told him that he (Hicks) could not play another game because it was too much for his nerves. The strain had been overwhelming in the insignificant volleyball games.

The lately-deceased ex-Mittany boxing mentor, Leo Houck, is the subject of many a tale. Those who were around when Leo refereed the IM boxing matches beneath the balcony might remember that fans used to crowd in close to the ring and hollar remarks, some-

times very disparaging, both to Houck and to the contestants.

As soon as the noise got out of hand, the 'Old Pro' would stop the bout, walk over to the rowdies, and in an extremely calm voice begin his lectures by saying, "Listen, Fred," a phrase that has passed down through the years as a patented Houckism.

Charlie Speidel, who's serving his 25th year as mat mentor, is the third Penn State coach to achieve this distinction since 1946.

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