

Sophs to Dominate Harriers

Collegiate Chatter

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

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In tennis and track star producing, as well as in fruit growing, one must agree with the California Chamber of Commerce that California's semi-tropic climate turns 'em out bigger and better every year. As a matter of fact, California's monopoly in track championships has gotten to the same point of monotony as the New York Yankees copping successive American League pennants.

But imagine the jolt to loyal California braggadocios when the USA Olympic tryouts were completed in Long Beach last June and showed the following result:

If a collegiate representative team champion had been scored on a 10-8-6-4-2-1 basis for first to sixth places, Penn State would have tripped mighty Southern California, 44-42. To add insult to injury, only three former Nittany runners scored all of State's winning points while nine Trojan grads and undergrad trackmen finishing in the top six of the 18 events failed to match the Lion total.

Nittany distance running power produced during the last five years provided the winning wallop as Curt Stone romped to a double win in the 5000 and 10,000 meters and Horace Ashenfelter ran off with the 3000 meter steeplechase. These wins gave State the honor of being the lone school to win three events—all three in the scintillating rhythm of new American track records.

State's steamrolling of the Olympic tryouts must have been a pleasure to Lion assistant Olympic Coach Chick Werner. First Stoney romped off with his dazzling double recordbreakers, probably not seen since Rev. Gil Dodds was spreadeagling distance fields—or seen again until the phenomenal Czech Emil Zatopek went Curt considerably better by winning Olympic World's championships in the 5000, 10,000 and the marathon.

Then Horace ('49) and Bill ('52) completed the Penn State "victory" by both smashing the American standard in the 3000 meter steeplechase with a rousing Blue & White 1-2 finish. Thus they became the first USA Olympic combination since 1920.

But Horace's winning negotiation of the almost two mile hedge and water barrier obstacle course hardly was warning of what was to come. Ash's 9:06.4 US record looked sickly in comparison to Russian Kazantsev's reported 8:48.

Come July, Helsinki, the Olympics and the world's finest athletes. Stoney could hardly match the furious pace of the Europeans, who start to sprint when Americans tire in the late stages of distance races, and finished out of the money in both of his events. Bill Ash too, wilted under foreign distance power.

So it was then that a somewhat spindly 5-10, 145 pounder lived up to the name he had earned for his intrepid deeds on Nittany cinder and golf course—"Fearless Fosdick."

Wrecking the Olympic record in his heat, Fearless became the target of world spotlights when in one of the most extraordinary and drama packed events of a stirring Olympics he whipped the Russian Superman by 30 yards and caused Pravada to change an intended screamer headline to a mere buried note. With a brilliant race and a wallowing finishing kick, Fosdick again bettered the Olympic record to continue the Olympic pattern which saw records broken as fast as Ten Commandments.

He also did all of the following:
1. established himself as one of State's all-time great trackmen in a class with mercurial Barney Ewell.
2. became the first American to win an Olympic championship at a distance beyond 800 meters since 1908 when Mel Sheppard nabbed the coveted 1500 meters and Jonny Johnny Hayes the marathon for Uncle Sam. (A distance victory had been rarer than a USA javelin victory prior to this Olympics.)
3. ran the fastest 3000 meter steeplechase in recorded history with a clocking of 8:45.4.

4. is State's first individual champion in Olympic competition.

ASH'S SECRET—the old story: tremendous amounts of hard work and a willingness to learn. Even up to the final race Horace was taking tips from Finn and Czech runners on the proper way to come out of the water.

To complete an overwhelmingly triumphant Nittany track summer, Bill Ash redeemed his Olympic loss by running with the post-Olympic USA team which wiped out the world mark for the two-mile relay. Running in a London meet with Mal Whitfield, John Barnes and Reggie Pearman, Ash helped knock the record down to 7:29.2.

What does it all prove? Penn State might be called, as this department has long thought, the American home of distance runners.

Frosh Ineligibility Eliminates Chance of Another 'Smith'

Of all the Nittany Lion athletes competing on varsity teams last season, it is doubtful whether any had harder courses to follow than the present '52 corp of sophomore cross country runners.

Only freshmen last year, the nine returning sophomores accomplished the difficult feat of making the varsity hill-and-dale squad last fall. This season they're looking forward to even greater fortunes. Already confident that they are physically capable of running the five mile course, the nine second-year joggers could be among the first ten when it comes time for the final tallying of points this fall.

Because of the ineligibility of frosh this year, it is most likely that another yearling of the calibre of Lamont Smith, John Chilrud, or Jim Hamill won't be unveiled until next season.

3 Miles in High School

Maybe it's all to the good so far as the silver-thatched chieftain is concerned, for no matter how natural a frosh might be, the fact that he is confronted with a five mile jaunt for the first time in his life makes varsity running a difficult proposition.

In high school the required distance in cross-country is only two to three miles as compared to five in collegiate competition.

The phrase "only two miles more" might not seem like a great deal of ground to cover, but it's a fact that each succeeding mile after three gets tougher and tougher.

Jogging three or four seven mile over-distance drills during the week is one of the rugged undertakings that a harrier must contend with if he wishes to be in any kind of running form.

In Good Form

Daily distance-jogging is a gradual process and takes quite some time before the muscles begin to loosen up and acclimate themselves to the distance.

Fortunately for Werner, this season's corp of sophomores came along nicely last fall and was just coming into its own when the campaign ended.

Smith, Chilrud, Hamill, Don Austin, Al Terrall, Tom Demboski, Skip Slocum, Dave Leatham, and Harry Biemiller are among those sophomores who will be vying for starting berths.

In the 20 year Werner-reign as head Penn State track coach, only one other man—Bill Smith, '37—demonstrated such extraor-

dinary talent as a freshman.

Small, but stocky in stature, Lamont Smith was one of the highlights in an otherwise dismal spring track showing with his consistent winning prowess.

For a small man Smitty is rather unusual in his field, as it's customary for harriers to be long and lanky, enabling them to have long strides.

With Smitty, however, it's immaterial, for he has proven time and time again that a short, stocky man is just as good as a big, lanky one.

Returned Hunter Kills Moose in Backyard

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Sept. 16 (AP)—Reece Kellar spent a week on a moose hunt in a remote wilderness area near the Canadian border.

Without even sighting a moose track, he returned the 300 miles to his home south of here. The next day he looked out his front room window and saw a moose entering his yard. He grabbed his rifle and now has his moose meat—1000 pounds of it.

Temple Slated Here

Only stalemate on Rip Engle's two-year record as Penn State football coach is the 7-7 tie with Temple in 1950. The Templars will face the Nittany Lions here in a renewal of the series Saturday, Sept. 20.

'Man of the Year'

Ken Leoffler, LaSalle's eminently successful basketball coach, was the choice of the Penn State Club of Philadelphia for "Man of the Year" honors in 1952.

Grid Inaugural

A Purdue University football team will play on Penn State's Beaver Field for the first time this fall. The game, first of the year for the Boilermakers, will be played Sept. 27. The Lions open a week earlier.

Syracuse University triple-threat Avatus Stone will attempt to keep his punting title intact this fall. Last season he led the East in kicking, averaging better than 40 yards from the line of scrimmage in 52 boots.

Michigan State's 1952 grid team has two brother combinations in end Bill and fullback Vic Postula and center Dick and guard Harry Tamburo. Penn State boasted a third Tamburo brother, Sammy, who became an All-American in 1947 under the now retired grid coach, Bob Higgins.

Rutgers University, which meets Penn State at Beaver Field Nov. 15, has announced the election of permanent co-captains for the 1952 season. This action marks a change from the 20-year policy of selecting captains for each game of the campaign.

The new co-captains, Howard Anderson and Russ Sandblom, are both seniors who head a powerful Rutgers line. Anderson, a 240-pound tackle, is the heaviest man on the Scarlet eleven while Sandblom is a 190-pound end who specializes in making circus catches.

A handy system for numbering on football uniforms comes out of Syracuse University where, following a recommendation from the Football Writers' Association, the Orange will wear numbers according to positions on the team. Ends will wear numbers in the 80's; tackles, 70's; guards, 60's; centers, 50's; left halfbacks, 40's; fullbacks, 30's; quarterbacks, 20's; and right halfbacks' numbers in the teens.

And from the second largest city in Pennsylvania comes word that the Pitt football squad will field an experienced array of gladiators, with the possible exception of a halfback, when it opens its season against Iowa.

However, Pitt Coach Red Dawson expresses a lack of defensive secondary talent and indicates that he may be forced to use many of his veterans on both offense and defense. About the brightest spot in the 1952 Panther attack is a junior from Swissvale, Bobby Epps, who is making a runaway for the starting fulback job so far during pre-season drills.

Biggie Munn has accomplished an enviable feat in his tenure at Michigan State—having been blanked only one time in 46 grid-iron tilts.



Bill Ashenfelter



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