

Soccer Lineup Set

Hap Irvin, Paul Dierks At Fullback

If a pass scurries through halfbacks Frank Follmer, Kurt Klaus, or Jack Charlton, then there's always fullbacks Paul Dierks and Hap Irvin, Penn State's probable starting quintet when Bucknell comes here Oct. 4.

Dierks and Irvin, a pair of dark-haired, thick legged Phi Delt's, can boot the soccer spheroid a country mile (5280-feet).

They will combine efforts with goalie Red Harris or Jack Krumrine, a local lad who served as State's number one relief pitcher for the baseball team this year, to give State a boost defensively—a club that had but eight goals scored against it last year in the identical number of matches.

Just as a matter of interest, the Nittany Lion offense, sparked by Captain and inside left Ron Coleman, almost quadrupled that integer, tallying 30 goals, including 11 against a helpless Gettysburg outfit.

Lacked Scoring Punch

Irvin, a former line man at wing and inside, possesses a potent left foot and will be well situated at left fullback. Irvin was one of the fewfortunates who made the good will trip to Iran in the spring of 1951.

The West Chester junior has been a constant disappointment to Lion Coach Bill Jeffrey in the forward wall, where Jeffrey had him at outside left and inside left, but Irvin failed to produce. Irvin just didn't have the scoring ability of Coleman, or ex-All-American Harry Little, or of Bullet Joe Lane, the blonde-haired bomber.

Replace Simmons

At fullback, however, Irvin has the elbowroom plus the speed and this might prove to be an unbeatable combination. "Unbeatable" may not be the appropriate word, but he could cause much misery before the end of the season.

If he earns a first team berth, which is more than likely, Irvin will replace Jay Simmons, State's regular fullback who also traveled to Iran. Simmons had another year of eligibility remaining, but his curriculum was an optional three or four year course. And Simmons chose the three year course, much to Jeffrey's dismay.

Dierks, on the other hand, squeezed in under the freshmen rule which is in effect again this year, again much to Jeffrey's dismay. State's opposition, of course, is faced with the same perplexity of the freshmen rule. Baltimore University, however, escaped with Larry Surrock last year and he, along with Jack Dunn of Temple, were the only two collegians who were members of the 1952 United States Olympic team.

Unusual Card

For the first time in 21 years, Penn State's Beaver Field will be the site of five football games in 1952.

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Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



The world of sports has often turned up items for Ripley's "Believe it or Not" column and Penn State has undoubtedly figured in more than one. But one of the most amazing sports items concerning State that borders on the "or Not" side is this one told by lacrosse Coach Nick Thiel:

One John Nolan—a 220 pounder with the speed of a sprinter who was probably better known in his day as a tackle on the unbeaten and seldom-scored-on 1947 Lion team—played in the first lacrosse game he ever saw against one of the country's best stick wielders, the U.S. Naval Academy.

If that doesn't stretch the imagination, just figure out how many times a kid watches and plays baseball, football or basketball before he ever gets to college.

The point of Nick's Nolan story is that any frosh or sophomore who played the major sports in high school but just doesn't have quite the varsity collegiate caliber, has an excellent chance to win his "S" in lacrosse. So what if he has never played the game before, 90% of his teammates had never played before coming to State either. Few indeed are the virtual "pros" going out for lacrosse, unless they come from Maryland where parents give out lacrosse sticks rather than baseball bats for Christmas.



As to physical qualifications, any size will do even if the old Indian game is pretty rugged. Certainly the aforementioned Mr. Nolan's stature had something to do with his 2nd team All-American rating, but take State's captain last year, midfielder Bud Wolfram. Only weighing 120 pounds with his webbed stick in hand, Bud was so adroit a ballhandler that he made fools out of guys twice his size. Or take Thiel. When in his playing prime, some time ago because he has been head coach at State since 1934, he couldn't have been more than 5-6 unless he has shrunk with age. Thiel's diminutive stature didn't stop him from being first team All-American for Syracuse.

Another point which comes to mind out of the Nolan story is that Nick has done a tremendous job at State. Coaches who bemoan the lack of material should stop and consider the plight of Thiel. (Their foreheads would un wrinkle a little.) Nick gets no out-of-state scholarship stars or all-State scholastic crackerjacks. He simply gets plenty of nothings—90% newcomers to the game. That Nick turns these "nothings" into something takes far more coaching skill than the purchase of a Whirlaway thoroughbred. When fall lacrosse practice begins Monday, Nick's job won't be so simple as just coaching. He will have to teach stick handling, stick checking and clearing.

On this basis alone, Nick's 18 year coaching record of about 65 wins and 80 losses is amazing. Also amazing is the occasional winning season Thiel comes up with, as in 1950. That year his club won 6 and lost 3 and scored the lacrosse "Upset of the Year" by dropping lacrosse-hot-house, Maryland Lacrosse Club, 7-6.

A fellow with fair athletic ability, the will to work, and time for as little as three workouts a week during the fall, may be able to help himself, Thiel and Penn State.

Baseballer on Grid

Keith Vesling, Penn State's ace baseball pitcher, is bidding for a halfback spot on the Lion football team.

Watch Pony Backs

Penn State's pony backs, notably Matt Yanosich and Dick Jones, may see heavy duty during the 1952 football campaign.

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Coaches Out on Limb?

Sports Briefs

Sauer, Easter Favored

NEW YORK (AP)—The schedule, which appears to favor the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians in the closing stages of the pennant races, also gives the edge to Hank Sauer and Luke Easter in the competition for the major league home run crowns.

With only ten playing days remaining, here's the way the home run races shape up: National League—Sauer, Chicago, 37; Kiner, Pittsburgh, 36. American League—Doby, Cleveland, 30; Easter, Cleveland, 30; Berra, New York, 29; Droppo, Detroit, 28 and Zernial, Philadelphia, 27.

TV To Carry Fight

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Theater Network Television Inc., today announced that a total of 49 theaters in 31 cities would carry the Jersey Joe Walcott-Rocky Marciano heavyweight title bout in Philadelphia's Municipal Stadium next Tuesday night. This will be the first coast-to-coast theater TV showing of a fight.

Locke Eliminated

LONDON (AP)—Flory Van Donck, the tall, long-hitting Belgian golf pro, eliminated Bobby Locke, British Open champion, in the third round of the British Open champion.

The sports staff of the Daily Collegian will publish the first in a series of weekly football predictions tomorrow.

Three members of the staff, Sports Editor Jake Highton, Ted Soens, and Bob Schoeffkopf, will match their wits against each other as well as against their combined know-how of the Penn State football coaching staff, composed of Head Coach Rip Engle, "Tor" Torretti, Al Michaels, Jim O'Hara, Joe Paterno, and Earl Bruce.

A running percentage of each of the three sportswriters and the Lion coaches as a unit will be kept and published from week to week.

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