

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



Several days ago Phys Ed Dean Ernest McCoy was deploring the tremendous emphasis the newspapers have put on All-American selections. "I can't see naming All-American teams even with 33 players. Sure, 'All' selections make good reading, but it is very dangerous to the kids involved."

McCoy, a gentleman heavily steeped in athletics, went on to support his complaint with case histories he had observed while serving as assistant athletic director to Fritz Crisler at Michigan University. McCoy pointed to Tommy Harmon, Michigan's bone-jarring All-American terror in 1939-40. The fabulous number "98" simply "couldn't get his feet on the ground" once out of college. Citing another proof, McCoy said the Wolverine's Whitey Wistert, brother of Eagle pro, Al, "could have been thrown away his junior year" after All-American rating as a soph.

Following the same clear logic of Mr. McCoy, how can the sports pages possibly list Penn State as a Cotton Bowl choice—as they did three days ago—when the Lions still must play three of the biggest powers in the East; to wit, Penn, Syracuse, and Pitt? Yes, the Lions certainly would be an excellent Cotton Bowl selection if they should win the next four. So dazzling a finish would give State an eye-opening 8-1-1 record against a booby-trapped schedule.

But taking first things first, look to Franklin Field tomorrow—instead of Dallas Jan. 1—where a Penn team is waiting to defend its Eastern supremacy after unseating the 1950 and 1951 ruler, Princeton. No one seems aware of the fact that Pennsylvania is an unbeaten football team. It has been twice tied, but no one—not even Notre Dame's Fighting Irish—has licked it. It has been shouted about that Penn lacks offensive power, that Penn has had close calls. True, but it is characteristic of the current Quaker team to be only as good as it has had to be.

As to lacking offense, Penn follows the formula of the ancient adage, "the best offense is a good defense." The Red and Blue has not allowed its goal to be crossed more than once by any team except Columbia. Lou Little's Lions had the audacity to score twice, but the Quakers rose to the occasion to score four touchdowns, their highest single point production in one game. See there—as good as they have to be.

What's the story behind Penn's defense? State's Assistant Coach Sever Toretti calls it "great pursuit," the West Point style of play. A brand of play which finds the defense constantly "hitting hard and holding position and then getting to the ball fast." In fact, Penn's big, strong forwards have so well-mastered the pursuit defense that an Army scout marveled to Toretti about the resemblance of Penn to past-master Army.

As to the lack of Penn offense, one shouldn't be too complacent in thinking Penn has none. Of Penn's nine touchdowns this year, six have come via the forward pass—and oh, what Temple, Purdue, and Michigan State passing did to the Lions.

From the Nittany side of the field, the Lions appear better than the 34-7 Michigan State rout which led the experts to install Penn as favorites. At worst, the game should be listed as a tossup on one factor alone—Penn has not defeated State in five attempts since 1936. At any rate, with the Lions sticking to the Keystone State instead of trying to wrest state championships from Michigan, they could very possibly grab a first leg on Pennsylvania and Eastern supremacy. The potential is within the 1952 Nittany squad to get a Cotton Bowl bid, even if it is too dangerously early to pick it for such post-season play.

From the accounts in the Philadelphia press this fall, it is hard to tell whether Penn State plays Penn or Ed Bell tomorrow afternoon. Seldom have the Philly scribes lionized any other Penn players to such an extent since the days of Frankie Reagan between 1938-40. One almost suspects the biggest buildup since fight manager Jack Hurley made Kid Matthew a "heavyweight champ."

With such doubts in mind, the question was put to Coach Toretti—who twice saw Bell perform—"Is Bell really that good?" Quoth El Tor, "Bell is great. He is catlike, has great speed, and is very big. Quickness is his greatest asset. But, all local areas like to build up an outstanding player to All-American stature."

Tor's half-and-half answer leaves you with only one choice, "know what we read in the newspapers." Bell's "newspaper" deeds in his last three seasons have been right from Hollywood scripts. Last year Penn was playing Wisconsin. On one play Bell raced from his defensive end position 30 yards downfield to bat down a pass. The next play he spilled a runner for a three yard loss. Or, in the Navy game just last week! The Middies pulled one of their favorite Statue of Liberty plays with the runner off for 50 yards and an apparent touchdown. Racing across field from the opposite end, Bell spilled the TD-bound ball carrier. To conclude the act, Bell blocked a field goal attempt.

It is guessed here that by four o'clock tomorrow afternoon thousands of Penn Staters will believe what they read in the papers—which may dramatize, but seldom fictionalize.

Browns Sign Brecheen

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 30 (AP)—Harry "The Cat" Brecheen, veteran left-handed pitcher, today signed a contract with the St. Louis Browns after being given his unconditional release by the Cardinals.

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Soccer Team to Play Cadets Tomorrow in Final Home Game

By BOB SCHOELLKOPF

In a match that could very well decide who will represent the East in the annual Soccer Bowl classic this year, Penn State's booter team will clash with the powerful Cadets of Army tomorrow on the baseball diamond. Starting time is 10 a.m.

The Lions' fifth straight home tilt will end their season's activity at the Nittany booter ground.

If the Jeffrey men can defeat the Cadets it should place them on the top of the East's booter standings, for only last week the high-flying Cadets trimmed the top-rated Temple Owls, 4-2. The Jeffrey men, however, must still face the Owls when they travel to Philadelphia Nov. 15.

No Lineup Changes

As Lion soccer Coach Bill Jeffrey aptly put it, "The Army game is the big one." And this is the way the Nittany booters feel about the Cadet engagement, for if they drop this match, their Soccer Bowl hopes will virtually be gone.

Jeffrey announced that there will be no changes from the lineup that has won three matches and lost only one—with the exception of Hubie Kline, who started the game against Bucknell. Kline is still limping badly from a leg injury and will see little or no action against the Cadets.

At goalie, Jeffrey will stick with Red Harris, who has been doing a bang-up job of guarding the net. Jack Krumrine will be held in reserve behind Harris. Tall Paul Dierks and Hap Irvin provide the second line of defense for the Nittanians at right and left fullback. Although bothered by an infected blister on his heel, Irvin is expected at full-time duty tomorrow.

Forward Wall

At the halfbacks Jeffrey will keep his starting array intact with Frank Follmer, Captain Kurt Klaus, and Ralph Hofmann handling the duties. Jack Charlton, who has been seeing heavy duty lately, will be kept in reserve.

The Nittany booters' forward wall will have Bill Norcik and Lynn Thomann at the wings, and Ellis Kocher and Don Shirk at inside left and inside right. The Lions' ace scorer, Jack Pinezich, will continue to operate from his usual center forward slot where he pocketed the two goals that beat Colgate last week.

Joe Mijares, who passed in beautifully to Pinezich in the Red Raider game to set up a goal, will be held in reserve at the left or right wing position.

The Jeffrey men will also be seeking revenge from a 4-1 setback the Cadets applied last year. In this tilt, the Lion booters' initial 1951 loss, the 11 gentlemen from West Point held the Nittanians scoreless until the fading seconds of the last period when Captain Ron Coleman scored a goal.

2 Indies Gain in IM's

Beaver House and the Mustangs advanced into the Intramural football semifinals last night. Beaver House edged Dorm 35, 7-6, in overtime, while the Mustangs shut out Dorm 30, 6-0.

Fraternity action saw Alpha Phi Delta trip Phi Epsilon, 1-0, in what was probably the closest—by actual winning margin—game of the season.

On the second play of the overtime period, Alpha Phi's Chuck Russo hit Ange Borzillo with a short pass, putting the ball on Phi Epsilon's 45. Undaunted, the

losers attempted to pull it out of the fire on the last play. A quick toss over center was complete, but fell slightly short of midfield, giving Alpha Phi Delta the win by a scant six inches.

Both teams failed to capitalize on numerous scoring chances in the second half, setting the stage for the dramatic finish.

Because of the heavy social schedule this weekend, there will be no IM football tonight.

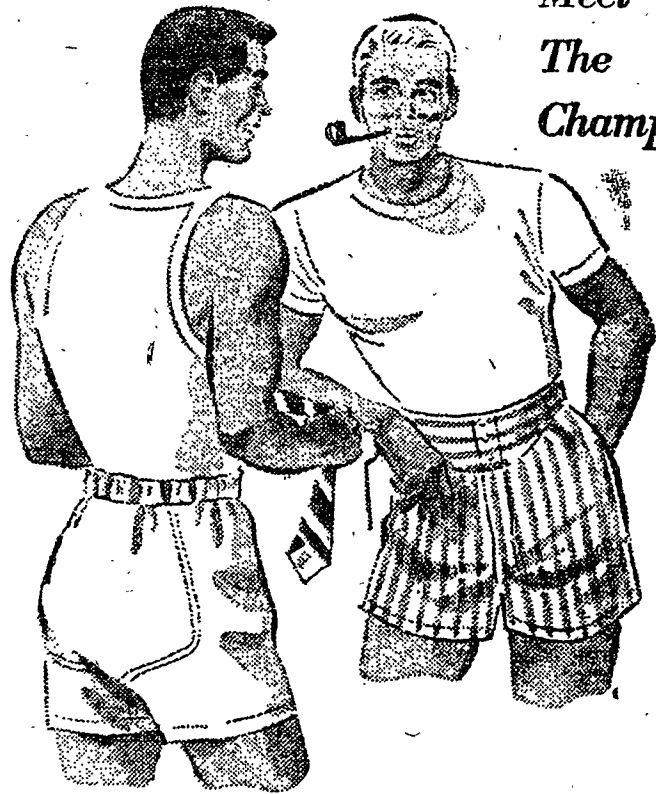
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