

# Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON  
Collegian Sports Editor



With all but a few outlying "All-Everything" gridiron precincts still to be heard from, King Football is abdicating to Prince Basketball which returns to power in the Nittany Valley this weekend. Friday in Rec Hall the Lion cagers will officially swear in a season which presents quite a problem to Coach Elmer Gross. According to a Latin proverb, not to go forward is to go backward. But how can you improve on last year's excellent record of 20 wins and only four losses in regular season play? How can you better an NCAA playoff berth?

Of course there is a possibility to better last year's mark. But to win 20 games in two consecutive seasons is an awful lot to hope for. The best teams in the nation are glad to make off with 20 victories in one campaign, let alone twice in a row.

The situation was well summed up by the taciturn Lion mentor when he was asked if he thought the frosh star Jess Arnelle would improve: "I only hope he does as well as his nearly 20 points per-game average last year." The same can be said for the whole team centering on veteran returnees Herm Sledzik, Ron Weidenhammer, Ned Haag, Jack Sherry, and Joe Piorkowski—doing as well as last year will be pretty "deadly."

Mentioning improvement, the present team has already shown plenty. Prior to Saturday night's 69-63 practice win over St. Francis, the Frankies had trimmed State by 24 points. Of course the return of footballers Sherry, Arnelle, and Bob Rohland may have had plenty to do with the reversal. (The grid trio tallied 27 points among them.)

Another cause for the form reversal was that the Nittany zone defense was much tighter than in the first practice tilt. As a matter of fact, Gross attributed much of the Nittany rout to the fact that one of the defensive guards was two steps out of position—no wonder Elmer is a coaching perfectionist.



ELMER GROSS  
(Happy to do as well)

Somewhat of an oddity in today's increasingly jazzed up fast-break, man-for-man style of play, the zone—even outlawed by the pro loops—requires such perfection. One man out of position can lose ball games.

Gross' 3-2 sliding zone—sliding because the defense shifts at all times in the direction the ball is passed—lines up with the two biggest men under the boards. (Captain Sledzik, 6-4, and Arnelle, 6-5). Up front as "wavers" and "chasers" are the shorter and faster men. (Haag, Sherry, Weidenhammer, and Piorkowski).

Often questioned about changing his defensive setup, Gross replies with the perfect squelch, "It has been successful at Penn State." Gross sticks to the zone because he wants to "teach what he knows best." (Elmer learned the zone under the old master, Gentleman John Lawther, present assistant Phys Ed dean whom Gross succeeded as head coach).

One of Gross' loudest moans about the zone is the length of time it takes to teach it. As he said during the clinic Saturday, "It can't be taught in three days."

Gross was heard to murmur after St. Francis ace Maurice Stokes left town Saturday that he "hoped he didn't have to meet his likes again." (Stokes was a fabulous rebounder, tapper, shooter, and team passer en route to getting 30 points. One of the few rival stars to live up to clippings in Rec Hall).

The test opener with St. Francis showed the Lions plenty ragged at times—against a team which was hitting less than 20 per cent of its shots from the floor—but with the distinct marks of another winning season.

# 6 Lion Gridders Picked On AP All-State Squad

Penn State's Nittany Lions have placed six men on the 1952 Associated Press All-Pennsylvania football squad.

The Lions dominated the two-platoon squad by placing on the offensive team back Tony Rados, end Jesse Arnelle, and center Jim Dooley; and on the defensive unit, end Don Malinak, tackle Roosevelt Grier, and linebacker Pete Schoderbek. Only Pittsburgh

## Jeffrey Gets Mail From Fan Who Wants to Referee

Bill Jeffrey's soccer fan mail now embraces women enthusiasts in his adopted country.

His latest correspondent, Mrs. Elfriede M. Crampton, writes from Lawton, Okla., for information on how she may gain acceptance as a referee in American soccer competition.

Mrs. Crampton, wife of a GI stationed at Fort Sill, points out that she was referred to the Penn State coach while working in the Special Services Branch of the U.S. Army in her home country of Germany.

Still another young woman, in New Jersey, learned of Jeffrey's success in intercollegiate soccer through a magazine article and wrote to inform that she came from his home town in Scotland.

Since acknowledgment of the letter, the veteran Lion coach has received 50 Easter bulbs and a half dozen rose plants from the young lady with instruction on how to plant them.

"Soccer," muses Jeffrey, "attracts only nice people."

with five selectees, tackle Eldred Kraemer grabbing two places, offensive and defensive, seriously threatened State's supremacy.

Quarterback Tony Rados, who broke just about every Penn State passing record in the book, led the Nittany Lions to their best season in four years. Rados has another year left to plague next year's State opponents.

End Jesse Arnelle, State's record-busting pass receiver, led the voting by capturing 30 out of 40 first-place ballots for the offensive end slot. Arnelle caught 33 passes this year while only a sophomore.

### Malinak a Defensive Pick

Senior center Jim Dooley was the unsung hero of the Blue and White offensive platoon. Dooley's bone-crushing blocking gave him a large majority of the sportscasters' votes for the snapperback position.

End Don Malinak was the fifth man in the opponent's backfield for the Nittany gridgers all season. Although Malinak, a junior, was picked on the defensive team, he saw a lot of action for Rip Engle as an offensive terminal.

### Schoderbek Key Man

Tackle Rosey Grier was a real double-duty man this past season at State. The gigantic sophomore tackle was a standout on defense, according to the sportwriters.

Middle linebacker Pete Schoderbek seemed to be on the bottom of the tackle on almost every ground play this year. Senior Schoderbek was the key man in the Penn State stubborn ground defense.

Penn's Ed Bell was the only other player, outside of Kraemer, to be picked on both platoons. Eight positions were filled by Penn State opponents. Gettysburg's mighty mite at 167 pounds, Bill Ewing, was the smallest member of the squad at the offensive guard post.

## Marciano Receives E. J. Neil Plaque

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (AP)—Heavyweight Champion Rocky Marciano today was named winner of the Edward J. Neil Memorial Plaque, awarded annually by the Boxing Writers Association to the fighter of the year.

The first heavyweight ever to attain the title without even a draw to blemish his record, the 23-year-old Brockton, Mass., blaster was chosen by acclamation. Not one other boxer was mentioned seriously as the writers paid tribute to the sport's most dynamic figure.

## WRA Results

**Basketball**  
Theta Phi Alpha, 25, Beta Sigma Omicron, 14  
Mac Hall II, 20, Atherton West, 14  
Zeta Tau Alpha, 50, Alpha Epsilon Phi, 21  
Gamma Phi Beta, 29, Kappa Delta, 17

**Ping Pong**  
Alpha Xi Delta forfeit winner  
Phi Mu over Beta Sigma Omicron  
Kappa Kappa Gamma over Alpha Delta Delta  
Delta Gamma over Theta Phi Alpha

## Baugh to Retire After Eagles Game

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (AP)—Sammy Baugh, rated among the greater passers in football history, announced today he would retire as a Washington Redskins player after one more game.

Baugh will play against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday and then quit after 25 years as a player. This is his 16th year in the National League. That's longer than any other player ever lasted.

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