

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
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There is a school of philosophic thought which contends that the spending of one minute of the present to think of the past is a waste of time. Nevertheless, the swaddling-clothed 1953 shouldn't begrudge a final retrospective glance at the highlights of 1952 which found Penn State sports "bigger and better than ever."

JANUARY: The wrestlers opened the year with a bang—that of the refs' hand slapping the canvas. In a spectacular display of pinning, five Lions scored falls defeating Virginia, 34-0, in one hour and 15 minutes, probably the fastest match seen in Rec Hall . . . Frank Follmer, prize right half on the soccer team, was named to the second team All-America . . . The surprising cagers twice in one week set Penn State highscoring records on the road with 85 points against Gettysburg and then 89 against Dickinson.

FEBRUARY: Rapid Robert Roessler, track captain elect, set an Army field house mark with a swift 2:14.9 victory at 1000 yards . . . The wrestlers stopped Syracuse, 17-11, for their 17th straight and a new Nittany record . . . The courtmen cavorted over Georgetown for their 13th straight which smashed the previous Nittany record set by the 41-42 team of then-captain and now-coach Elmer Gross. Frosh sensation Jess Arnelle, hit the cords for 40 points and a new Nittany high. Arnelle shattered Lou Lamie's season record of 319 set in '51.

MARCH: George Ceiga delivered an organ concert in Rec Hall while Pitt stalled and froze their way to a 24-9 defeat by State's basketball team, believe it or not. The triumph made it the winningest in Lion cage history. Stellar entertainment was also provided by Pitt's knitting star Mickey Zernich and hootchy-kootchy dancing Coach Doc Carlson . . . Rec Hall fans were as thrilled as the boxing team which shoulder-carried Bob Potter to the dressing room after State's 5½-2½ win over Virginia and its first heavyweight win all season.

Johnny Albarano, 147, and Sam Marino, 125, pounded out EIBA championships and Tony Flore, 139, missed a title on a split decision . . . State's Flying Finn Jan Cronstedt won the horizontal bar crown and the all-around championship in the Eastern gym meet. Side-horse specialist Bob Lawrence had his five meet win streak snapped in taking runnerup honors although two judges called him the winner . . . State's record-wrecking cagers got an NCAA district playoff berth but ran into too much class in perennial power, Kentucky . . . State's only lossless team in 1952, the wrestlers came up with three Eastern champs in Bob Homan, 123, Dick Lemyre, 130, and Joe Lemyre, 167. Runnerup Jerry Maurey, 137, suffered his first defeat in six years of scholastic and collegiate wrestling to triple-champ from Lehigh, George Feuerbach. Joe Lemyre went on to achieve the Nittany rarity, an NCAA 167 title. (Only one other has done so).

APRIL: Slugging Sammy Marino gained the NCAA finals but fell before his nemesis, Frank Echavarría (Idaho) who took the 119 title . . . Cronstedt copped the NAAU calisthenics title during the dramatic, sparkling Olympic-AAU trials in Rec Hall.

MAY: Jim Herb, State's standout gravity defier, for the last two seasons, set a new Michigan State-Penn State meet record with a highjump of 6-5¼ . . . Rod Eaken, went to the semi-finals of EIGA championship before losing to eventual champ Par Paul Harney, Holy Cross, 4 and 3 . . . Largely on the strength of a 10 game winning streak—it was a wonderful streaky and recordy one for Nittany sports—the baseball team gained the District II baseball playoffs and won out over Eastern powers St. Johns, Fordham, and Villanova.

JUNE: Joe Bedenk's giant killing baseballers gained a lofty third in the NCAA championships after knocking off pre-tourney favorite and twice champion Texas, 5-3, and the collegiate headliner, Duke, Dick Groat, and Co., 12-7.

OCTOBER: State surprised Big Ten co-champ Purdue with a 20-20 thriller. Tony "Radar" Rados' passes out-Samuels Samuels (Dale) to show the trend of his recording of new career, season, and single game completion records . . . The harriers snapped Army's 15-meet consecutive string with Lamont Smith and Red Hollen showing the way.

NOVEMBER: Bill Leonard's toe nipped Rutgers 7-6, and gave State its winningest grid season since 1948 . . . End Arnelle, State's candidate for two-sport All-America honors in the future, set a single season pass catching record . . . The soccer team nipped 1951 national champion Temple, 1-0, and followed with a win over Penn to earn a soccer bowl bid which mysteriously never was extended, nor the game even held. Jack Pinezich's hat trick against the Quakers gave him 23 goals and wiped out a 16-year-old Nittany record of 21. (My gosh, how the records rolled in this year!) . . . It's always a glorious season when the Lions beat Pitt—they did 17-0—and the Ripper had scored with his third straight winner, in three starts.

DECEMBER: Ignored by the Lambert Trophy selectors, the gridders got their due from the pollsters with numerous "all" selections. Jim Dooley made AP second team All-America. Pete Schoderbek and Dooley made All-East and Pete, Dooley, Rados, Arnelle, Rosey Grier, and Don Malinak made All-Pennsey.

Most Valuable Player

Ted Marchibroda of the University of Detroit, who quarterbacked Rip Engle's squad in the Blue-Gray football classic, has been named the most valuable player on the North team.

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Horace Ashenfelter Named '52 Sullivan Trophy Winner

Horace Ashenfelter, America's first Olympic champion and record breaker in the 3000-meter steeplechase, has been named 1952 winner of the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy, as the "amateur athlete who, by performance, example and good influence, did most to advance the cause of good sportsmanship during the year."



Horace Ashenfelter
(A.A.U.'s Top Athlete)

Wilt, Stone Given Credit for Ash's Track Progress

Horace Ashenfelter's college coach, Charles (Chick) Werner, believes Fred Wilt and Curt Stone deserve credit for much of the Olympic champion's post-graduate track progress.

"Stone and Wilt were more experienced than Horace," Werner says, "and they took him under their wing when he finished college."

"The three pooled their knowledge as they went along and each man learned something from the other."

"I think Ash benefited most because Stone and Wilt both had considerably more competition under their belts."

Ashenfelter astounded the experts last summer by switching from the 10,000 meters to the steeplechase at Helsinki and running off with the Olympic crown in record time.

It was this achievement that last week brought him the coveted James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy which annually is awarded to America's foremost amateur athlete.

Werner, who was a member of the Olympic coaching staff, took Ashenfelter as an inexperienced freshman and converted him into one of the nation's top college distance runners. His progress since has been even more noteworthy.

Identical Twins

Frank and Al Wick, identical twins of Philadelphia, will spearhead Penn State's 1953 gymnastics team.

The annual award, made by the Amateur Athletic Union, went to Penn State's former outstanding two-miler and cross-country runner, now an F.B.I. agent, by a margin of more than 200 points.

Ashenfelter received 1112 points on 538 ballots on a 5-3-1 system of scoring. He had 154 first-place votes. Runnerup Major Sammy Lee, Olympic platform diving champion, had 882 points with 102 first-place votes.

World Record Setter

Ashenfelter's Olympic victory at Helsinki was one of the highlights of the track and field competition. No United States runner had won an Olympic distance title since 1908, and the F.B.I. agent of Collegeville was the underdog to Russia's Vladimir Kasantsev. But the G-man, who never began serious competition as a runner until he enrolled at Penn State, beat the Russian, and all others, in world record time of 8:45.4. Before the Olympics, he won the national title at three miles and afterward was runner-up in cross-country.

Ashenfelter, now assigned to Newark, N.J., will be 30 years old Jan. 23. He succeeds pole vaulter Bob Richards, last year's Sullivan Trophy winner. Ashenfelter is the second New York A.C. athlete to obtain the award in the last three years, since Richards was also a representative of the club.

One of Famous Brothers

The trophy will be given to the distance champion Feb. 15 at a luncheon at the New York A.C.

After serving during World War II as an Air Force lieutenant, Horace, who was one of the three brothers enrolled at the College, began his career in track under Coach Chick Werner. The tall, lanky runner owns the Lions' five mile cross-country record and is a former NCAA two-mile champ.

Werner aptly characterizes the "Pride of the Penn State Track Team."

"Horace has never failed to improve day after day," says Werner. "He has performed better every time he competes. He's a stubborn Dutch fellow. If he is beaten, Ashenfelter never gives up."

Mid-Season Loss

Six lettermen form the nucleus of the current Penn State basketball team. Joe Piorkowski, of Wyoming, Pa., will complete his eligibility mid-way through the season.

Sports Briefs

Colts Revived

BALTIMORE (AP)—Professional football will be returned to Baltimore next season after an absence of two years.

Baltimore fans have subscribed to the necessary 15,000 season tickets laid down as the minimum by National Football League commissioner Bert Bell. Actually, the fans themselves purchased only 13,000 season seats. But American Oil Company has promised to underwrite the remainder of the 15,000 not sold by the Jan. 22 deadline.

Yank-in Your Leg?

NEW YORK (AP)—Southpaw Eddie Lopat of the New York Yankees decided to visit some sick children in a hospital recently. To his surprise, one of the youngsters refused to believe that he was really Lopat of the Yankees. Eddie couldn't figure how to convince the youngster. But the youngster finally said:

"Okay—if you're Lopat, let's see your driver's license."
Lopat showed him the license and the youngster was finally impressed.

Dapper Dan Awards

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Dapper Dan Club for the first time named two men for their annual sports award. Lowell Red Dawson, University of Pittsburgh football coach, and Stan Musial, major league batting champion from Donora, Pennsylvania, won the club's 1952 award.

Fencing Club to Hold Organization Meeting

There will be a short organizational meeting of the Fencing Club at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Water Tower, according to Jerry Pallin.

Regular nights for fencing will be Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturday afternoon, beginning Feb. 3.

Each member has been scheduled for a certain night. Competition between all members is planned for next semester.

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