

Lions Meet Lehigh Tomorrow

Diamond Opener Is First Of 21 Scheduled Tilts

By DICK McDOWELL

Coach Joe Bedenk will send his baseball team into action tomorrow afternoon as the 1953 Penn State diamond season officially gets underway. The Lions will meet Lehigh at Beaver Field in the first of its 21-game card. The game is slated for 3:30 p.m.

Saturday afternoon Nittany fans will get a second look at the squad—marked with many new faces this year—when top-notch Villanova moves into town.

Although the Lion skipper hasn't named his starting lineup yet, he did indicate his starting pitchers. Fire-balling Keith Vesling is slated to open for the Lions against the Engineers, with Larry Baver getting the assignment against Villanova. Vesling, a right hander, turned in a 5-2 record last year, and boasted a respectable 2.17 earned run average.

Hampered by Rain

Baver is a new member on the Lion mound corps, and has been pitching well this spring. He'll be facing the team that the Lions dumped, 9-6, last spring to clinch a spot in the NCAA championship playoffs in Omaha, Neb. The Wildcats, however, had whipped the Bedenkmen earlier in the season, 12-1.

The Lions, although hampered by rain and wet grounds, managed to get some practice after vacation had started, and returned to the campus three days early with plans for some heavy workouts. The rains came again, however, and practices were limited. Yesterday, Bedenk put the squad through its paces, and plans another workout this afternoon.

When the Lions take the field tomorrow several regulars from last year's club will be missing. Hard-hitting Bill Hopper, the regular right fielder last season, has been graduated, along with infielders Bill Mihalich and Carmen Troisi, outfielder Chris Tonery, and hurler Bill Everson.

Leonard Returns

The presence of five regulars on the field, however, should brighten prospects quite a bit. Beside Vesling, Bedenk has right handed Jack Krumrine, a tricky curveball artist who won three and lost one last season and boasted a 2.90 ERA. Bedenk has indicated that he will use him mostly in relief this season and in some spot starting assignments.

The Lion mentor also has powerful Bill Leonard back in the catching position, and Captain Sil Cerchie will be back in the outer gardens. Cerchie, an ever-dangerous man with a bat, and a strong-armed centerfielder, should add a lot of punch to the Lion batting order.

Hard-hitting Hubie Kline will be back at third base. Last year he belted the ball at a .347 clip to lead the team in hitting.

Russo, Nerino at Second

In the outfield, several men have been showing a lot in spring workouts. Bob Schoellkopf, Matt Yanosich, Pete Cherish, Tom Werner, and Rex Bradley, may all see a lot of action.

At second base, Chuck Russo and Al Nerino are both gunning for starting berths, while Don Shank and Pat Kennedy are fighting it out for the first base job. Ron Weidenhammer appears to have the shortstop position nailed down.

Following the Lehigh and Villanova contests the Lions will meet Western Maryland at Beaver Field on April 14, and then will travel to Lafayette and Rutgers before returning home to meet American University April 22.

Staley Goes Route

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 8 (AP)—Veteran Gerry Staley became the first St. Louis Cardinal hurler to go nine innings today in a 10-0 triumph over the Little Rock Travelers.

Rookie Ray Jablonski led the 13-hit St. Louis attack, slamming his fifth spring home run and a single to drive in three runs. Stan ... Steve Bilko knocked in the runs apiece with a pair of hits each.

Matmen Won't Enter NAAU's

According to a report to the Daily Collegian yesterday, Penn State's unbeaten EIWA and NCAA wrestling champs will not have one entry in the National Amateur Athletic Union mat tournament to be held in Toledo, O.

Penn State's lone entry last year was Jerry Maurey who was runner-up in the 136.5 Olympic weight division.

This will make the first time in three years that Penn State did not enter at least one grappler. Two years ago, Coach Charlie Speidel's 130-pound matman, Dick Lemyre, was sent to the NAAU's.

Bellefonte's Larry Fornicola, Coach Charlie Speidel's 130-pounder, notched the 147-pound championship in the AAU wrestling tournament held at Warren, Pa., Saturday.

The tournament was under the direction of Homer Barr, former Penn State heavyweight wrestling great and now wrestling coach at Warren High School.

Fornicola, who wrestled at 130 and 137 pounds for the Lions this season, took two matches in order to claim his title.

Penn State's only other entry, Hal Byers, was runner-up in the 125-pound class. Byers' bid for the 125-pound crown was halted in the finals by Clearfield's Dean Triponey when the latter scored a near fall in the final period for a 6-5 triumph.

There is no team champion in the NAAU's, only individual champs.

Undergraduate regulations require that any student wishing to participate in any athletic event not conducted under intercollegiate or collegiate auspices of recognized character must secure permission in advance from the Senate Committee on Athletics in order to maintain amateur standing and eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

The regulations also state that a student failing to receive permission in advance may be declared ineligible for membership on College athletic teams.

Pickeroonie Ace Glad to Be Back

PITTSBURGH, April 8 (AP)—Ralph Kiner, the last Pittsburgh Pirate to report at spring training camp in Havana, arrived in the Steel City tonight and said he was "glad to be back home."

Kiner left the team at Atlanta, Ga., flying here with his business agent, Bob Prince, to attend to some personal business. The remainder of the Buc squad is on a train scheduled to arrive here tomorrow a few hours before an exhibition game with the New York Yankees.

Restraining by Robinson

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CAPTAIN OF the 1953 Lion baseball squad and centerfielder for the Bedenkmen the past two campaigns is stocky Sil Cerchie. The strong-armed gardener clouted a lusty .294 and smacked two home runs for last year's club. Cerchie, a product of Elkland, is the only returning outfielder from the 1952 team, which finished third in the College World Series at Omaha, Neb., last June. Chris Tonery and homer-hitting Bill Hopper were lost to the diamondmen via graduation.

Spring Grid Drills Start; Co-captain Rados Absent

Approximately 90 football candidates trotted out on Beaver Field yesterday afternoon to open spring drills but Coach Rip Engle was minus his quarterback and co-captain elect, Tony Rados.

The Nittany Lions will open their football season against the Big Ten co-champs, Wisconsin. The Badgers received the nod to the Rose Bowl only to bow before a mighty Southern California eleven, 6-0.

Rados, a long-shot artist in the passing department, underwent a knee operation a few months ago, and has been advised to take it easy for at least a few more weeks.

Rados on Offense-Defense
Dr. A. H. Griess, team physician, claims the operation had been completely successful but that "Rados would be taking an undue risk if he rushed into heavy work immediately."

Engle's hope to begin Rados' conversion job—to operate both defensive and offensive quarterbacking—will be delayed.

The Lion mentor's main objective during these practice sessions, scheduled for the next three weeks, will be to get his men ready to play both offense and defense in order to comply with the new limited substitution rule. The ruling will go into effect this fall.

Engle's 4th Season

Other notable absentees in yesterday's practice session were guard Don Shank, end Jesse Arnette, halfback Matt Yanosich, back Pete Fuhrman, and halfback Keith Vesling. The latter stalwarts will be performing for Coach Joe Bedenk's baseball nine this season.

Starting his fourth season as Penn State grid coach, Engle expects to hold daily drills for the full 20 days permitted under NCAA rules.

The sessions will close out with a one-day clinic and the Blue-White intrasquad scrimmage on Saturday, May 2. The clinic will be open to schoolboy players, coaches, and officials.

The Nittany Lion gridders sported a 7-2-1 record during the 1952 campaign, losing to Michigan State and Syracuse.

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Sports Briefs

Hamner Wins, 2-1

RICHMOND, Va., April 8 (AP)—Shortstop Granny Hamner put on a show for his hometown folks here today as he led the Philadelphia Phillies to a 2-1 triumph over the Boston Red Sox in an inter-league exhibition ball game. Hamner belted two home runs.

It was the National Leaguers' fifth straight victory over the Bostonians.

Hamner belted one over the centerfield wall in the second inning and the other over the wall in right in the fifth.

In the ninth when the American Leaguers had the tying run on second base Hamner ended things by snaring a line drive by Gus Niarhos, Boston catcher.

Giants Win, 11-10

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 8 (AP)—The New York Giants walloped a four-run rally by the Cleveland Indians in the ninth inning to squeeze out an 11-10 victory over the American Leaguers today.

Rookie Daryl Spencer of the Giants was a casualty of a Mike Garcia pitch which struck him in the head in the first inning. Spencer will be out for two weeks as the result of a slight fracture of the left cheek bone and cuts on the upper and lower lip that required nine stitches. He had been slated to start the season at third base for New York.

Ward Blasts Pair

TOPEKA, Kans., April 8 (AP)—The battle of spring home runs between the touring St. Louis Browns and the Chicago Cubs was won by the Bruins in today's round for a 7-6 exhibition game triumph.

Preston Ward slugged a pair of the Cubs' big blows while Dee Fondy and Bob Addis contributed one apiece.

Mangrum Cards 63

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 8 (AP)—Lean Lloyd Mangrum, the dapper mustached Texan who uses Niles, Ill., as his golfing address, shot an almost unbelievable 63 in practice today to establish himself as favorite in the 17th Masters Tournament, starting tomorrow.



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