

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



Think you got troubles? If you talk to Nittany football Coach Rip Engle or take a look-and-listen at one of his practice sessions on Beaver Field all your cares will vanish—except those for Rip.

It's only spring. The mountain-out-of-molehill magnifying eyes of the Ripper's see an interminable Amazon jungle to be hacked through, with a single machete, before State's gridders meet Wisconsin Sept. 26. Here is all the despairing eyes of the Ripper can see:

(1) Absenteeism. "Too many boys who figure to play for us next fall, are absent, to make our drills effective." Giant tackle Rosey Grier is throwing hardware for track Coach Chick Werner. Quarterback Tony Rados is sidelined under doctor's orders to convalesce his knee. Baseball is preoccupying wingback Keith Vesling, guard Don Shank, and end Jess Arnelle.

(2) Ifs. Will Rados' "achilles knee" be all right in the fall? How many key men will State lose to Uncle Sam this summer?

(3) Ordinary troubles. "Nobody knows their plays." Yet, "you can't teach 'em if you don't have 'em." There are late classes and the team has to stop at 5:45 to make dinner. (Things were so tough yesterday that only one center was available for most of the drill.) Of course there are injuries. Hustling scrapper Dick Jones broke his hand. Then too, the newfangled one-way football has to be taught. Punters and placekickers will have to be developed from regulars. And so it goes, ad infinitum.

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Spring is no time to talk to a football coach. The best thing to do is to ostrich your head and wait patiently until Sept. 26. Then Rip will tell you things look bad—but don't believe him. He, Frank Patrick, Al Michaels, Earl Bruce, Sever Toretii, Jim O'Hara, and Joe Paterno will have fashioned an excellent grid machine. Quite possibly as good or better than the 7-2-1 1952 team.

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GRIDBITS: Rip is so spirited, so conscientious, and so wrapped up in his practice work that during dummy scrimmage and signal drills he exhorts, "let's go, this is it." . . . Scatbacks Dick Jones and Matt Yanosich on each other's shoulder could hardly reach the goal-post crossbar, but they certainly have a ferocity and competitive spirit which is wonderful to behold. This corner practically wrote both off the roster with the abolition of two-platoons. How ridiculous. It's the heart size, not suit size that counts . . .

Don't shower too much praise on halfback Lenny Moore yet. As Coach Patrick says, "he has a lot to learn." Nevertheless, don't take your eyes off of him. He runs, blocks, and tackles with authoritative authority . . . The guard slot figures to be the weakest link in the Engle chain. However, a guard like Pete Schoderbek won't harm one side of the line . . . Tackle will be thin behind two standouts, Danny DeFalco and Gene Danser . . . End appears most solid with Jack Sherry, Don Malinak, Jim Garrity, Bob Rohland, Arnelle, and newcomer Otto Kneidinger, who Rip is high on.

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HIT AND RUN: Despite the fact that Pitt basketball Coach Doc Carlson probably drew more boos from Rec Hall habitués than any other individual or team, his courtside presence always enlivened Pitt proceedings. The Clown Prince, or the Count Dracula—depending on your viewpoint, will be missed . . . Five of Joe Bedenk's baseball starters against American U, yesterday were sophomores . . .

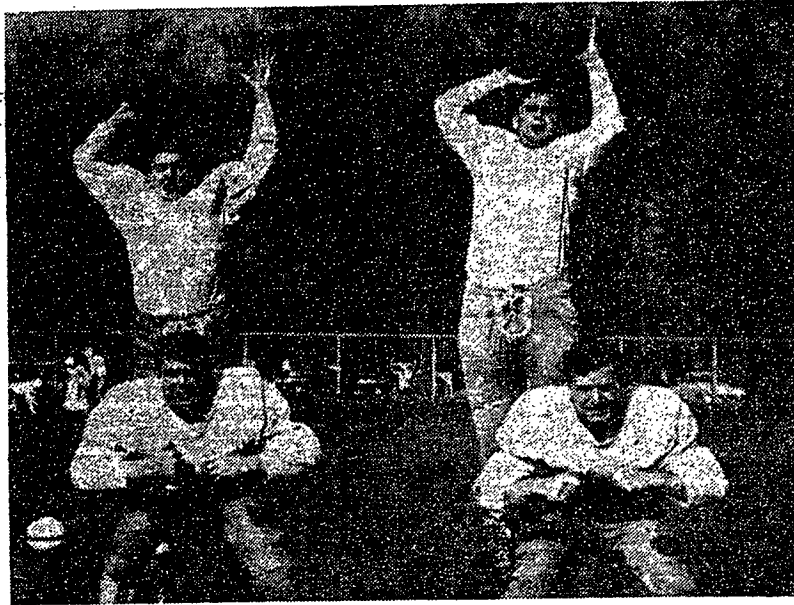
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Height of superstition? Last season during the District II baseball playoffs Coach Bedenk had his haircut on opening day. State won. So the next day Bedenk went back to the same barbershop, sat in the same chair, at the exact same time, and had his hair touched up, State won again. Samson should have been so lucky!

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Ex-Nittany cross-country runner Jack St. Clair is improving with age. Instead of the "mere" five-mile State golf course run, Jack has advanced to the marathon class. Last Monday he finished 21st out of 158 in the annual Boston Marathon. Jack covered the 26 miles and 385 yards from "Marathon to Athens" in two hours and 48 minutes. (In case you're beginning to feel old, take heart from the fact that Clarence Demar, seven-time winner of the event, still finished the race Monday even though he carried 65 years on his back.)

Catch It!



—Courtesy of Jim Peters, CDT
CENTER AND QUARTERBACK are two positions which are being carefully studied by Coach Rip Engle during Spring practice drills. Prospective passers (l. to r.) are Bobby Hoffman and Bobby Allen. Center aspirants are (l. to r.) Don Balthaser and Chuck Sowers. How well these gridders can perform will be witnessed at Beaver Field May 2, when the Nittany Lions will have their third annual Blue-White scrimmage.

Baseball--

(Continued from page six)
to first, he committed three more in a row, allowing three tallies to cross the plate. Ironically, he ended the inning as he accepted his fifth chance—this time successfully.

In the sixth frame, the Bedenkmen finally began to produce some base knocks after Cone was able to find the plate. Singles by Cerchie and Werner, along with Weidenhammer's free ride did the trick—the Lions had two more.

State put together four hits in the seventh, two doubles and two singles, to tally three more, and led by Kennedy's long triple, scored three more in the eighth on three safties and two errors.

Penn State		American	
AB	R H	AB	R H
Russo, 2b	4 2 2	Griffith, cf	5 0 0
Weid' h' m' r, ss	3 2 0	Faux, 2b	3 1 1
Werner, rf	5 4 2	Williams, ss	3 0 1
Cerchie, cf	5 3 3	Richards, lb	4 0 0
Leonard, c	2 2 0	Baer, 3b	4 0 1
Rhoda, c	2 1 0	Cone, lf, p	4 0 2
Kline, 3b	4 1 1	Parker, rf	1 0 0
Bradley, lf	4 2 1	Lewis, c	3 0 0
Kennedy, lb	5 1 2	Johnson, p, lf	4 0 0
Vesling, p	3 0 0	Eckbreth, xx	1 0 0
Krumrine, p	2 1 1		
Schoe'kopf, x	1 0 0		
Totals	40 19 12	Totals	32 1 5
x—Batted for Vesling in sixth			
xx—Batted for Faux in ninth			
American	100 000 000	— 1 5 7	
Penn State	105 232 33x	— 19 12 1	

Stickmen Face Penn Saturday

Penn State's lacrosse men, disappointed but not downhearted over their tough one-point loss to Hobart Saturday, have been hard at work these past few days as they prepare for the Penn invasion on Saturday on the golf course.

It's always tough to lose in any sport when a lot of points are scored—such as those 10-9 decisions in baseball when the pitcher can't hold the lead. That's just about the way Coach Nick Thiel and his men felt about the Statesman defeat. The offensive punch which had been lacking in the Swarthmore and Navy games, finally appeared, but at the same time, State's defense left much to be desired.

Thiel thinks the fault lies more with his defensive men than with goalie Bill McCollough. "McCollough has looked very good at times," Thiel said, "but we'll have to find more strength at defense to help him out."

A newcomer, Paul Asplundh, who recently came out, has impressed in recent workouts, and Thiel is considering inserting him into the lineup after he gets a few more workouts.

As for Penn, the Quakers have given indications that they are a much stronger team than that of last year, when the Lions won out, 10-6. They recently turned back Harvard, a team they lost to last year. The Red and Blue also dropped decisions to Swarthmore, by one point, and a strong Yale team.

Thiel is concerned with Penn's strength at midfield. "They always have rugged and hard-driving midfielders, and this year is no exception," he said. "We're going to have to do something to strengthen our own second midfield," he added. Hobart got two quick goals when I put them in Saturday."

But the genial mentor thinks some of the team's "errors of inexperience," as he calls them, may all be overcome Saturday against the Ivy Leaguers.

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