

The Jeffrey Story . . .

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



Not since the great gridiron days of Knute Rockne has any sport celebrity won as much acclaim as Penn State's soccer coach, Bill Jeffrey. Yet, few ever watched his winning teams in action. And if there are any who desire to get a glimpse of what his winning touch looks like, they are just one year too late.

The native Scotsman left the Nittany Vale coaching job in July to accept a teaching-coaching position at the University of Puerto Rico. During his 27 years at Penn State, the smiling Scot established the moniker of "Mr. Soccer."

Jeffrey, who was 61 in August, admits his decision was prompted by two factors—a college proviso which would make his retirement mandatory at 65 and his own desire to remain active as a teacher and coach beyond that age.

The Nittany Lion soccer teams win nearly every game they play—this has been going on for more than a quarter of a century—but if the school were to support the players on a soccer game attendance, they just wouldn't eat.

The attendance? Well, one could use his fingers and toes to count the spectators at times. Jeffrey, for one, never could understand Penn State's undergraduates and the public's preference for football. Often during the football season, both teams play at home on fields less than 100 yards apart. Football spectators who would reach the stadium minutes before the opening kickoff would watch the booters play for a few minutes. However, as soon as the whistle blew for the start of the football game, the only soccer observers were those ambidextrous spectators seated at the very top of the stands, overlooking the football and soccer fields.

We have the simple answer for the winning Scot: The conflicting football-soccer schedule. It is obvious, should two sports be scheduled in the same town at the same time, one is going to lose out in the customer department. Unfortunately for Penn State, it is soccer.

Today, his record stands as one of the most unbelievable records in intercollegiate sports. He guided his teams to 151 victories against 22 defeats and 28 ties. It could be taken for granted that his dictionary never possessed the word "lose." It was seldom done. In fact, during one stretch—over a period of nine years—his teams were unbeaten. The string, which went for 65 straight, started in 1932 and ended just a month before the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

There have been stories galore, concerning Rockne's famous half-time speeches which would make his trailing team almost invincible and win. Despite the fact that none have been reported about Jeffrey, we believe there was at least one. That was in 1940 when a fine Temple squad booted the Lions around for a full half and went to the dressing room with a 2-0 lead. This looked like IT—but the Lion soccermen surprised everyone with an unexpected 3-2 win. Jeffrey's winning streak was still intact, but the story of what had happened at half-time never reached sports desk.

The team that finally put a stop to Jeffrey's winning ways was Army at West Point when it defeated the Lions 1-0. Although Jeffrey knew the law of averages would hit him sooner or later, he felt he let the team and fans down.

When Jeffrey and his players came to State College following that defeat they were almost jolted out of their seats. When they rode into town, the rather silent crew found thousands of students and townspeople lining the streets from one end of the community to the other, while still other students used staunch rope to pull the bus to the center of the campus.

Bill Jeffrey and his players were stopped to address the students in an impromptu rally at the entrance to the main campus. The speech made by the amiable mentor was almost inconceivable when he called it "the finest tribute that could be paid to a Penn State soccer team" and "the nicest thing that has ever happened to me in my life."

Jeffrey had several famous sayings which have been quoted and requoted. But the one most remembered by everyone and his players goes:

"American players with a background of American football kick from the hip with a full swing of the leg. They reach for the ball, like they are punting. A soccer kick should be only from the knee—with half a leg, so to speak. Why waste a whole leg on a job that can be done with a half a one?"

There was just one thing that grieved Jeffrey's opponents about the latter sentence. They did just that.

Jeffrey, however, did have one weakness—weakness of winning.

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Yankees Take Win In Stride

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (AP)—In the New York Yankees' dressing room today the only way a stranger could have decided something special had happened was to look at the crowd.

The Yankees, themselves, were as calm as any other group of well-to-do businessmen at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Gaiety, hilarity, cheering—the usual accompaniment of a pennant clinching—were missing almost entirely.

For the Yankees pennants have become a habit—they expect them. Today they showed their gratitude, fondly kidded with Manager Casey Stengel, first manager ever to win five consecutive major league flags. He looked the happiest of the bunch. But he was the first to disclaim credit.

"If it hadn't been for the whole group together, we wouldn't be here today," Case said. "We'd be struggling down to the last day."

"You have to have good players to win games. I honestly think the club has good pitching, a fine infield and a tremendous outfield. I can't see why we shouldn't be considered as having a great opportunity to win another World Series."

With much urging the players managed to raise a few genuine cheers for the photographers. And at Yogi Berra's suggestion, they hoisted Stengel to their shoulders. "Don't you dare drop me," yelled Casey.

Asked to put his finger on the high point of the season, Stengel declared quickly:

"That 18 game winning streak back in the spring."

And just as resolutely he refused to single out one player as the best of the season.

"That was a good team, Cleveland, we beat out there today," Stengel said. "Probably the best in the league outside of the New York Yankees."

Baseball's Big Leagues

Two streaks ended yesterday as Robin Roberts pitched the Philadelphia Phillies to a 4-2 payoff against Chicago to snap the seventh place Cubs' 10 game string.

Roberts yielded eight hits and snapped a personal four game losing streak. It was Robin's 22nd triumph after 14 losses.

After the Cubs placed the tying runs aboard in the ninth on successive singles by Ralph Kiner and Hank Sauer, Roberts ended the game by fanning Randy Jackson and getting Joe Garagiola on a fly to Richie Ashburn.

Ralph Kiner slammed his 34th homer of the season and Hank Sauer his 17th in a fruitless effort to make it 11 straight wins for the Cubs.

Indian's Win, 1-0

Al Rosen's run-scoring single in the first inning gave Bob Lemon and the Cleveland Indians a 1-0 victory over the New York Yankees as the rival clubs closed out their season series with 11 victories each.

Lemon scattered seven hits for his 20th triumph to best rookie Steve Kraly in a pitcher's duel. The young Yankee southpaw yielded only four singles, but two of them came in the first inning for the lone run of the game.

Red Sox Shutout

Righthander Bob Keegan limited the Red Sox to three hits, including a pair of singles by Ted Williams, while hurling the Chicago White Sox to a 6-0 shutout in their 1953 Boston finale.

While Keegan was turning in his highly effective performance, the White Sox pounded lefty

Maury McDermott for 12 hits.

The White Sox settled matters in the second inning by scoring twice as Sherm Lollar and Keegan sandwiched Nelson Fox's double with singles. Then two more Chicago runners scored in the fifth on singles by Chico Carrasquel and Minnie Minoso, Sam Mele's double and an infield out.

Keegan set the stage for a third Chicago two-run rally by singling with one out in the ninth. He advanced on a passed ball and a Carrasquel single. After Ferris Fain fouled out, Minoso dropped a single into left to drive in Keegan and move Carrasquel to third base.

As a brief shower broke, Carrasquel scored on a double steal with Minoso. The latter was nailed when he tried to score after second baseman Billy Goodman made a wild throw to the plate.

Jim Piersall got the first Boston hit with one out in the first inning and Williams followed with a drive to centerfield through the over-shifted White Sox fly-chasers. Thereupon George Kell ruined the only Boston scoring chance of the game by grounding into a double play.

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