

TV or not TV

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



Several years ago the football enthusiasts conducted many polls to show what caused the big drop in attendance throughout the country. Some claim it could be economic or it could be a general drop-off of interest in college football. Some are blaming television. Whatever it is, it's serious and worthy of study on a nationwide scale, these persons are inclined to believe.

We could agree with these experts that it is serious, simply because a poor financial standing in football creates a problem for a college to maintain its intramural program and other varsity sports. But why study the problem on a national basis? We believe it lies only in the backyard of that particular school.

Certainly, a winning team will always increase its gate receipts. A winning team with an outstanding schedule would undoubtedly jam the stadium with fans. Even an average team with a potential schedule would bring the crowds—not as much as a winning combination, however.

Speaking of attendance, Penn State's home figures show that the Nittany Lions have averaged more this year than last season. Penn State had a more impressive football record at this time last year, however.

Average attendance at Penn State's four home games this year surpassed the record figure set last year despite the snow avalanche which hit State College last weekend.

Figures released yesterday show an average of 22,875 fans saw each Nittany Lion four home contests. In 1952, the single game average was 20,611.

The record-breaking 1952 total of 103,751 could have been broken had it not snowed. One interesting sidelight is the fact that Penn State compiled the latter figure in five games, while it almost rewrote the books in four home tilts. Syracuse, Texas Christian, West Virginia, and Fordham attracted 91,500 fans this year.

Single game high for 1953 was the capacity Homecoming crowd of 30,000 for the TCU game. Nebraska turned out 28,511 spectators at last year's Homecoming.

The question now is why did the Nittany Lions attract 91,500 fans—almost breaking a record

set in five home games in 1952? Is it the one-platoon system?

What it adds up to simply, is that Coach Rip Engle's squad is playing better football, providing the fans with thrills and close battles. These are prerequisites for any college to put its attendance on the upgrade.

—30—

Arnelle Holds Records

Jesse Arnelle scored more points—900—in his first two seasons than any player in previous Penn State basketball history.

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Intramural Dope Sheet

Strong competition proved to be the factor that decided the low scoring and close final results in Wednesday night's independent IM cage tilts at Rec Hall. In seven of the nine games played the winning margins were five points or less.

The Tanks defeated the NROTC five, 19-14. Jack Fry led the attack for the Tanks with seven tallies and Dick Wright took the game's high-scoring honors with nine points for the Middies. Ed Houck sank 11 markers to aid the Snipers' cause in trouncing the Toad Hoppers, 28-17. Irvin Hall downed the Iso Gang in a tight battle, 19-15. Tom Seeman and Fred Spott each hit the basket three times for the victors.

In one of the closest tilts of the evening the Meteors edged the Plungers, 17-12. Paul Wolfe boosted the Meteors score with eight tallies. The Wildcats bowled

over the Irvineers in a one-sided contest, 33-13. Ray Walker scored 10 points for the victors.

With the half-time score reading 16-9 against them, E.M.R. rallied to defeat the Schmoes, 29-25. Ervin Baker tallied nine markers for E.M.R. The Bombers and the Mihs locked horns and the final score showed the Bombers out in front 21-19. Tom Keegan contributed seven points to the victor's cause.

Bob Gourley racked up six markers for McElwain Men, who tumbled the Forty-Niners, 16-11. In the final battle of the evening the Sabres' Connie Lentz swished the net four times to help defeat Ford City, 19-14.

The Lions earned the right to meet the Penguins next Thursday night for the independent intramural swimming title when they nosed out the Sharks, 21-18, last night at Glennland Pool. The

Sharks were out in front 17-13 as the two teams entered the final event; diving. Gene Frick and James Harper, however, saved the day for the Lions when they finished one-two respectively.

Alpha Tau Omega lost to Pi Kappa Alpha 29-12, and Theta Xi outswam Beta Sigma Rho, 27-14, in the other two meets.

Attendance Up

Penn State last year played its ten football games before more than 300,000 persons to set a new Lion record in this department.

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SATURDAY NIGHT—
Jerry Miller Duo

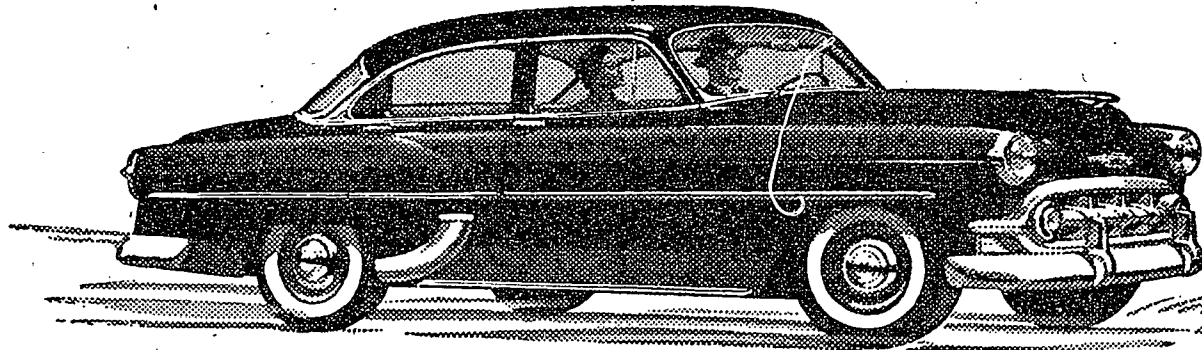
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PERSON WHO picked up Navy overcoat in Sparks last Friday return to Collegian desk. \$10 reward.

LORD ELGIN wrist watch, brown leather strap, Saturday morning at Beaver Field clean-up. Phone 8-9095, ask for Troy. Reward.

HELP WANTED

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