

"Same Difference"

Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO
Collegian Sports Editor



We were told and have been under the impression that most people confuse Penn State with Penn. When State's title was recently changed, we thought it would create a greater dilemma. No such luck. It may have to anyone but the Lambert Trophy committee. As far as the committee is concerned, there is little difference between Penn State College and Penn State University. (The committee annually awards a trophy which is supposed to be emblematic of Eastern football supremacy.)

For three years, we have been trying to figure out this committee's rating selections. For love nor money, we still can't. Take last year for example. Final ratings were: 1. Syracuse; 2. Princeton; 3. Navy; 4. Penn; 5. Villanova; 6. Pittsburgh; 7. Yale; 8. Penn State (whew! never thought we'd make it.)

One may ask, so what? What was Penn State's record? Only 7-2-1. Michigan State and Syracuse defeated the Lions, while Purdue was held to a 20-20 tie. But what hurts most is that the Nittany Lions did beat Penn, 14-7, and Pitt, 17-0.

Because of this "crazy" rating system Penn State can be well tabbed with this moniker—"Win and drop, lose and advance." If there will be a year when the latter holds true, 1953 is it. After two losses—Wisconsin and Penn—Coach Rip Engle's gridders were holding down the fifth slot. The following week Penn State easily defeated Boston U, 12th team in the East. The Lambert Committee, however, was kind enough to keep the Lions in fifth place.

In its release, the committee stated that Syracuse (6th) continued "to remain a contender to repeat its Lambert Trophy success of last year by its victory over Fordham." Moreover, it said "The Orange strength will be tested this week by Penn State." So, Syracuse failed its test, but the best the Lions could muster in the ratings was sixth. (Notice: It dropped)

The week of Oct. 25 Penn State defeated Texas Christian, and was moved up one position. Only because lowly Brown (18th) upset Holy Cross, the third team in the East. The next week Penn State lost to West Virginia, and it climbed to third place. (Amazing!)

Because no college made any outstanding achievements the weekend of Nov. 7, Penn State remained in third place, winning over Fordham. The lowest blow of any weekend came yesterday. Although Engle's eleven rung up 54 points against Rutgers, which was 13 points underdogs, according to the experts, Penn State was only good enough for FIFTH place. (Notice: dropped two places.)

We are certain the Lions should not move above Army or Penn, but we can't see why they should lose ground. Pitt and Navy ride above Penn State. Pitt's selection can be justified because it did wallop North Carolina St., 40-0. Whether or not it should be on top or below Penn State will be settled Saturday.

Navy? If only beat Columbia (13th in the East), 14-6; yet it moved from fifth to third place. Ripley may have some "Believe it or not's" that are puzzlers, but we would like to include the latter among his leaders.

One thing is certain if the committee is up to its old tricks, a Penn State win Saturday would blot the record books as an outstanding achievement, but the committee will only ask the courtesy of Penn State to take a "down" step in the Lambert Trophy ratings.

SUGAR BOWL IS GETTING SOUR

Speculation is growing that West Virginia will win a bid to the Sugar Bowl. Although the Sugar Bowl officials insist the "field is still wide open," it is becoming more evident that the Mountaineers have been invited to the bowl—at least informally.

Tuesday when the quarterback club held its meeting, sports-writers, noted officials of the Mid-Winter Sports Association, sponsors of the event, were quick to defend W. Virginia when they were belittled for its performance last Saturday.

The speculation grew even more evident yesterday when Irwin Poche, president, reacted upon the crowd at the Tulane-Vanderbilt game where the people laughed when news of W. Virginia's defeat was announced. "I think it's a terrible thing to laugh at boys trying to win a football game" he replied angrily, "and I think the Tulane crowd should be the last people to laugh at anybody." (Tulane hasn't won a game since its opener, but has tied Army)

General Manager Fred Bigley, who scouted the game, said: "If the Sugar Bowl invites W. Virginia, there will be no reason for anyone to be ashamed of them."

We still say: "Remember the 1952 Orange Bowl."

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Lion's Don Malinak Is Sterling All-Around Gridiron Performer

Perhaps the most constant member of Rip Engle's '53 Nittany Lions is co-captain Don Malinak, one of seven senior gridgers.

On the receiving end of 17 passes—good for 224 yards and one six-pointer, on the scoring end of a point-after-touchdown pass, and intercepting an opponent's aerial in the Wisconsin encounter—these are the more important achievements of the Nittany stalwart.

"Tam," as he is known to his friends, is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He has astounded and pleased uncounted grid fans with his sterling all-around play and outstanding downfield blocking over the season.

The 6'1", 200-pound left end, enjoying his fourth year in the Nittany Vale, hails from Steelton, the home town of his fellow co-captain, ace signal-caller, Tony Rados.

Plans Football Career

The seventh semester physical education major plans to string along with football after graduating and serving two years with Uncle Sam. His outlook for the future includes a coaching position, preferably in the capacity of an assistant in order to gain experience. However, if an offer in the form of a professional football contract were to come his way, it would rank above coaching on his list of occupations.

Don's weekly routine of football drills occupies a great deal of his time, as it does the rest of the Blue and White gridgers. He spends an average of two hours a day on the practice field.

Completion of each daily workout and the evening meal at the training table usually come around 7:30 p.m. The remainder of his time is spent studying and completing whatever personal duties he may wish to attend to. In addition, scouting reports, films of the previous game and films of the coming foe in action take a great deal of extra time.

Acts as 'Go-Between'

Asked as to what his main duties were in serving as co-captain, the 21-year-old hard-charging gridger stated, "Tony and I sort of act as the 'go-betweens' for the coaches and the boys. If any of the fellows have any problems or difficulties, they come to us, and if we are unable to solve them, we talk it over with one of the coaches."

Also, it is Don's job, along with Tony, to keep the spirit and morale of the squad high and to make the decisions on the gridiron



Don Malinak
Outstanding Lion End

when an opponent has committed an infraction of the rules.

Questioned as to what his opinion was of the newly-adopted one-platoon football rule, the blonde-haired gridger commented, "Although I played that type of ball in high school, it was sort of tough going back to it here, since we have employed the two-platoon system to a great extent in the seasons previous to the current one. I think it's a better brand of football the way it is now, and it sure separates the men from the boys."

As a departing gesture, this re-

Iowa's Fenton Cited by AP

IOWA CITY, Iowa, Nov. 18 (AP)—Iowa's big Bill Fenton, whose rugged end play in Iowa's unexpectedly top-heavy 27-0 victory over Minnesota earned him honors as the Associated Press Lineman of the Week, is hoping for another Hawkeye surprise against Notre Dame Saturday.

The senior end, who blends exceptional pre-medical school grades with outstanding athletic ability, said "we definitely have a chance against Notre Dame."

The Iowa City boy grew up around the university athletic plant. He captained the 1952 team and last year was selected as AP's Lineman of the Week for his part in Iowa's 8-0 shock of Ohio State.

Double Duty Man

Keith Vesling, a right halfback of Rip Engle's football team, is also a star pitcher on the Lion baseball team.

porter inquired as to what "Tam's" opinion was of the outcome of the coming State-Pitt clash. "I feel they're very much under-rated, and it's sure to be a great ball game," were his words.

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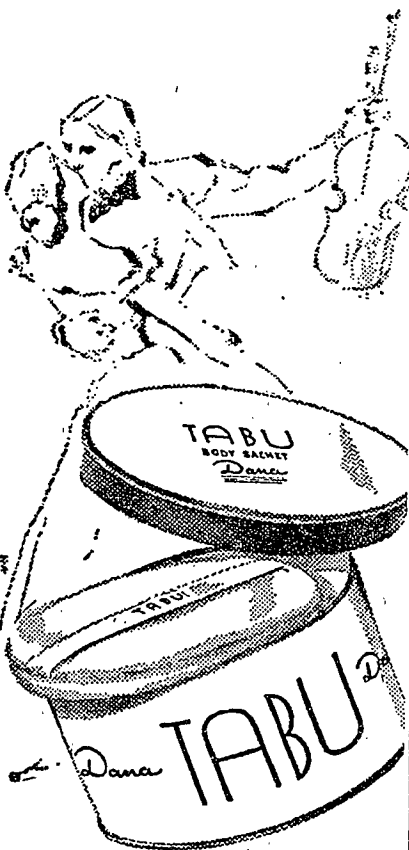


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