

"The Christmas Song"

# Sam's Song

By SAM PROCOPIO  
Collegian Sports Editor



This is the day. The day when the Daily Collegian sports staff writes its special letter of requests and thanks. We checked the files. And we were right.

His name: Santa Claus.  
My job: Write one.  
Dum da-dum dum!

Dear Santa:

It is quite unusual for you to receive a letter of thanks. For the millions of letters you are burdened with at this time of the year are filled with requests and more requests. Here in the sports world at the Penn State University, however, we send our seasonal greetings with a golden thanks.

How can we ask for anything better than a .653 all-sports winning percentage (79-41-3) that you gave to us in the 1952-53 academic year? That handsome record would stand up against the best in the nation.

You gave us unbeaten records in wrestling, gymnastics, and golf. The matmen and gymnasts, of course, were given Eastern Intercollegiate titles. Still, the priceless gem is the memorable night of March 28 when you gave to us two National Collegiate titles in the same two sports. Yes, you did a great job.

Here are other reasons why we want to thank you Santa. Penn State's golfers copped second place honors in the Eastern's—only two strokes behind the 599 scored by Yale's championship team.

Joe Bedenk's diamondmen, runner-up in the NCAA District Two play-offs, carried a fine record of 14-5-1. State's bid to the NCAA play-offs was the third time in five years.

Well, we did have losing seasons in tennis, boxing, lacrosse, and track, but we believe the sophomores and freshman you have sent us will make one or two of these turn in creditable records. Anyway, we can't have everything.

This 1953-54 season found Penn State's two fall sports, football and soccer, add one more to their loss column than they had in the previous year. However, there certainly weren't any better thrills found in two great schedules. And too, you gave cross-country an unbeaten season.

We would like to thank you for giving Penn State one of the finest trainers, Chuck Medlar, and his trainer, Ray Ulenski, who had much to do with Co-captain Tony Rados' playing as much and as well as he did. We only hope you give our fine football coach, Rip Engle, a quarterback like Rados. You did give him three fine G-Men to protect that forward wall, namely, Rosey Grier, Sam Green, and Jim Garrity.

Before we quit shaking your hand on Penn State's football performances, we certainly want you to know that Engle's staff, Al Michaels, Frank Patrick, Jim O'Hara, Earl Bruce, Joe Paterno, and Sever Toretti, is great.

We had the opportunity to sit next to three of these coaches who were spotting at the Pitt-Penn State contest. And there is little doubt in our minds that they had much to do with our success.

We believe you gave us a fine replacement for soccer coach Bill Jeffrey in Ken Hosterman. He had a 5-2 won and lost record for his first season.

The Lions' basketball season though young, is certainly starting off on the right foot. We want to give you a pat on the back for bringing Jesse Arnelle to the basketball form and grace of his freshman year.

We can't forget to thank you for giving us such a wonderful bunch of coaches like Joe Bedenk, Eddie Sulkowski, Gene Weistone, Charlie Speidel, Chick Werner, Norm Gordon, John Egli, Bob Rutherford, Sperm Fogg, and Penn State's intramural "Pride and Joy" directors, Gene Bischoff and Dutch Sykes.

Then too, what would the Nittany Lions do without the fine gentlemen who are in close association with Penn State sports like Jim Coogan, publicity-director, Ike Gilbert, assistant athletic director, and Ernest B. McCoy, athletic director.

Well, it's a million thanks once again. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

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# Speidel's Wrestlers Seek to Build Streak

By SAM PROCOPIO

There is a sport axiom which says that you can't win 'em all. This may be true. But there is one wrestling coach, namely, Penn State's Charlie Speidel, who intends to make the most of it. As far as he is concerned when the wrestling season opens Jan. 9, he'll give his opponents everything except the dual meets.

Speidel has coached his matmen through 29 consecutive wins without a defeat and has taken his wrestling aggregation to the Eastern Intercollegiate tournaments for the last three years as strong contenders. Each time his matmen emerged victorious. Last year, as host to the NCAA tourney, his team created the "man bites dog" feat when the Nittany Lions copped the National title.

What did the Lions do? Well, they walked off the Rec Hall mats as the first Eastern team to win an NCAA title. This was against a record field of 167 wrestlers from 57 colleges. They stopped Oklahoma A&M and Oklahoma from winning the title which remained in that state almost every year that it was at stake.

In fact, out of the 22 national championships, the latter Big Seven teams have shared the crown 19 times. The Oklahoma Aggies copped the title 16 of the 19 times.

When one scrutinizes Penn State's wrestling schedule, it is viewed as Notre Dame's 1953 football schedule—murder.

The Lions open against Cornell which already has two games under its belt. It was this same Cornell team that gave Penn State its first scare last year. The battle went down to the heavyweight class before Speidel's matmen had clinched their 26th consecutive victory.

Another drawback for Speidel is the fact that only three of his eight scheduled meets will be in home territory. Besides the Big Red opener, the Lions will face Syracuse and Pitt at Rec Hall. Both are well-known in the wrestling circles as "top-notch teams."

Pitt, which was recently added to the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, will be eligible for the eastern title this season. And the Panthers will undoubtedly have much to say when Penn State seeks its fourth straight EIWA title March 12-13 at Ithaca, N.Y.

Speidel's 1954 wrestling schedule follows:

- Jan. 9, Cornell, home
- Jan. 16, Lehigh, away
- Jan. 30, Army, away
- Feb. 10, Maryland, away
- Feb. 13, Syracuse, home
- Feb. 20, Navy, away
- Feb. 27, Pitt, home
- March 3, Penn, away

## Weather Slows W. Va.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Dec. 16 (AP)—The West Virginia University football coaching staff hopes Georgia Tech won't be as tough as the weather that's been hampering pre-Sugar Bowl drills here the last few days.

## IM Boxing—Yanks, A's Make 11 Man Trade

(Continued from page six)  
a 155-pound scrap that had the crowd roaring. Lawrence won his 175-pound fight with Acacia's Cecil Wellen and Jack Dillon of Phi Kappa won a forfeit over Bob Winters of Beta Theta Pi to reach the 155-pound finals against Pierce.

Phi Kappa Sigma's two winners both had their hands full. McChesney kept Chambers off balance with head-faking while landing right jabs to the head. This overcame several tough stabs by the loser which connected.

Martin Strategy Pays Off  
Martin's policy of staying away from Hough and waiting for his openings payed off. Hough, definitely the aggressor, scored well with a second round flurry, but the winner's counter-punching proved to be the difference.

Phi Sigma Kappa's hopes ride with McGraw and Carroll. The former, a defending 121-pound champ, staged his usual third-round flurry to win out over Davidson. McGraw, while not as an adept a jabber as his opponent, once again found his "bolo" right cross to be the answer.

Carroll, Grier Meet Tonight  
Carroll set the stage for a climatic meeting with Rosey Grier of Alpha Phi Alpha tonight by decisively defeating Tussey, in a fight which was stopped early.

In the Friedman-Fry tussle, both missed many jabs but also landed some hard punches to the head. Cramer and Pierce slugged it out toe to toe before the latter got the nod, while in the last bout, Lawrence scored with a left jab to cop the verdict.

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