

Sport SPOTLIGHT

By DICK McDOWELL
Collegian Sports Editor



THE SPLIT-T "OPTIONAL"

A READER WRITES: I watched the Blue-White football game Saturday and was somewhat amazed at the tremendous offensive changes from last season. Why should Rip Engle make any changes now after four years of success under the old system?

(Ed. Note) Rip Engle has not made any changes in his offense, merely some additions. What Rip unveiled Saturday was the split-T "optional" and from this corner it looks like a sure thing next fall. Engle gave it an occasional try last season and this spring went to work in earnest to perfect the optional—T-formation's youngest variation.

The optional is not an offense in itself. It is actually an adaptation of the wing-T offense. Penn State fans have seen it in action before. Little Ed "Meadows" Mioduszewski scared a favored Penn State team two years ago with his brilliantly deceptive ball handling. The Lions had their hands full in winning 35-23.

Here's the way the system works: The quarterback, taking the ball from center circles his end in what looks like a bootleg play. With his halfback trailing him, he has the option to keep the ball and continue running or lateral to the trailing back just as he is about to be tackled.

The key to its success is naturally the quarterback. Last season Rip had a great passer—the best in Penn State history—in Tony Rados. But hampered by a bad knee, Rados just wasn't a running back. However, this fall Engle has a crew of quarterbacks who can run. Don Bailey, Bob Hoffman, and freshman Milt Plum are all perfect quarterbacks for the optional system.

Bailey in particular demonstrated this in the Blue-White scrimmage Saturday. He is fast enough and appears to have that fifth sense that tells him when to lateral. Proper timing makes the system.

And there is plenty of passing ability in these three signal callers. Add three fine veteran ends—Jesse Arnette, Jim Garrity, and Jack Sherry—a two-deep, well-proven line, and you have a passing offense that can be a threat to anyone. Two powerful full backs, Charlie Blockson, and Bill Straub, outside speedsters Lenny Moore and Buddy Rowell, and Ron Younker, give the Ripper a ground offense that could be devastating.

Now with the addition of the "optional" variation, the Lions have taken on a new threat. In 20 days Penn State coaches developed it amazingly. Give them six more weeks in the fall and the finished product may be the key to a successful football season.

TRACK GETS A CONVERT

Overheard after the Penn State-Navy, Track meet: "Well track and field has just acquired a new fan. I never knew it could be so exciting." That was typical of the reactions of many fans who witnessed the Lions 68-63 victory over Navy Saturday at Beaver Field. Granted the meet was an exceptional one, with four Penn State records and six meet records smashed, but there is no indication that it should end there.

Pitt and Michigan State follow Navy to Beaver Field and a strong possibility looms that more records may fall, and certainly the meets will be just as close. Pitt buried West Virginia last week by an unbelievable 111-19 score and Michigan State corners most of the power in the Big Ten.

The evident dog-eat-dog competition looming in the future plus Rosey Grier's continual record boosting in the shot put (he has broken the record three times already this season), record breaking performances by Charlie Blockson, Ollie Sax, and Art Pollard, should be enough to convince even the staunchest supporters of the goriest brutal sports that they have been missing the boat.

Track is alive, really it is you TV boxing fans. You'll find that it packs as much action, drama, and thrills as even the bloodiest championship fight—and no first round knockouts either.

Eastern Golf Entry . . .



UNBEATEN in dual competition for 12 straight meets, the Penn State Golf team, pictured above, will be a serious contender for Eastern title honors in the 1954 championships at Hanover,

N.H. this weekend. Left to right are, Gerald Gerhart, Bob Smith, captain Rod Eaken, Joe Webb, Warren Gitlen, and Gordon Stroup.

Lion Golfers Enter Easterns Saturday

By ROY WILLIAMS

Penn State's unbeaten golf team will leave early tomorrow morning for Hanover, N.H. to renew its bid for title recognition in the Eastern championships at Dartmouth University Saturday through Monday.

Last year the Lions finished second to Yale University, just two strokes off the pace set by the Eastern Intercollegiate Golf Association team champs.

But Coach Bob Rutherford has not decided definitely who will make up his six-man team entry in the Eastern links classic.

Play 54-hole Series

During the nine-day layoff since the Lions' third victory of the current campaign over Bucknell, Rutherford has put his highly talented squad through a 54-hole series of medal play to determine the two remaining slots on his roster.

"So far," Rutherford commented, "I think Rod Eaken, Gordon Stroup, Warren Gitlen, and Joe Webb will form the bulk of the team."

"The two remaining slots," Rutherford continued, "will be determined between Bob Smith, Gerald Gerhart, and Jim Boyanowski."

Smith Big Surprise

Chief surprise of the early campaign has been Senior Bob Smith; intramural champion last year. He won medalist honors in his first two varsity appearances.

But Boyanowski and Gerhart are vying for attention. In the 54-hole intra-squad matches, Smith shot a total of 211 strokes in three rounds; Gerhart edged Boyanowski by two strokes with a 219 score.

Rutherford's first four choices and hold-over George Kreidler all saw action in the 1953 Eastern tourney at Princeton.

Scoring for the tourney is medal play (the number of strokes the man takes at each hole); dual-meet scoring is match play. "We played medal play this past weekend," Rutherford said, "because that's what the boys will meet this

weekend, and it is much tougher."

Eaken in Top Slot

The Nittany Lions, who own convincing victories over Navy, Gettysburg, and Bucknell, will again lead off with Captain Eaken, who last year went to the 21st hole of the title final before yielding individual honors to Yale's sensational sophomore, Gerald Fehr. The Reading senior went to the semi-finals as a sophomore in 1952. This year, he and Fehr are again pre-tourney favorites for the individual action.

Each six-man team of the 18 expected entries will shoot a 36-hole course. The team will then take its four lowest scores of the six. The team with the lowest total for four men will be named champs. Seventy-five strokes is usually average for a man, or 150 strikes for 36-holes.

After the team champion is determined, individual play will begin. The 16 men with the lowest scores in the entire field which is expected to exceed 100 entries will vie for honors.

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