

Sport SPOTLIGHT

By DICK McDOWELL
Collegian Sports Editor



Wherever George Sisler goes you'll always find baseball. That's the way it's been for the diamond immortal since the days when he was promoting misery for American League pitchers as a St. Louis Brown.

The former Brownie great, now Supervisor of Scouting for the Pittsburgh Pirates, slipped into State College yesterday, and after speaking to a public relations class, headed for Beaver Field, accompanied by his son Dave, to watch the Penn State-Rutgers game.

George has given up active scouting to a major extent since he has joined the Pirate staff. He handles most of the desk work now but he still gets out occasionally to look at prospective major league material. And he kept a close watch on batting practice yesterday as he sat in the stands at windy Beaver Field.

The 61-year old scout, so far the first and greatest member of baseball's number one family, was enshrined in the Hall of Fame in 1939 and is without a doubt one of the greatest in the all time list of baseball stars.

Sisler holds one distinction that only seven other men can claim. He reached the magic .400 mark while in the majors. In fact he did it twice. In 1920 he batted .407 and then plastered the ball at a .420 clip in 1922. In fifteen years of major league ball, stretching from 1915 to 1930, the Immortal George batted .340.

Sisler's two sons, Dave and Dick, both have made their names in the sport. Dick, currently with the Columbus Red-Birds, firmly etched his name in the record books as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies when he blasted a two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning against the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1950 to sweep the then "Whiz Kids" into the World Series.

There's an interesting story told about that one. Father George, then a scout for the Dodgers, sat in the stands that day as the two teams battled for the pennant. When Dick lofted the ball into the right field stands the Phillies were in and the Dodgers, including George, were out. Sports writers covering the game still swear that George rose to his feet to cheer his son with tears glistening in his eyes as he visioned his cut of the series bonus floating away.

Sisler's youngest son, Dave, was one of the most sought after young hurlers in the college ranks last year when he pitched for Princeton. He finally signed with the Boston Red Sox, but will have to postpone any professional baseball plans for a while since his main occupation now is found within the ranks of the U.S. Army.

Sisler's days as a Brooklyn scout were quite different from his present occupation. However, moving from a pennant winner to a cellar club (he came to the Bucs with Branch Rickey, his boss at Brooklyn) has only made life more interesting for him.

"The Pirates are going to be alright," he said. "We're improving every day and are going to continue. I can't predict when it will come, but one of these days we'll be up there with the best. Those rookies in our lineup now are good and aren't hurting us a bit."

Naturally the question came up concerning Pirate improvement this year. Would they narrow the wide gap between them and first place this year? "We aren't interested in narrowing that gap," he said. "There's no difference between 50 games out and 55. There's only one place to be—1/2 game in front," he grinned. That's what we're looking at."

The topic switched from professional to college ball. "College baseball is spotty," he said. "Most teams have a few good ball players. On the average, however, a good college club will compare with a Class B minor league team."

He pointed out that more college ball players are reaching the majors each year. "I can remember," he said, "when you could count the number of college men in the majors on one hand. They used to talk about Earl Combs and Eddie Collins and some of the others—all college educated—as freaks. Why right now I could name 50 or 60 off hand."

Sisler conducts a constant search for talent. Baseball has been with him for over forty years and he is part of the colorful legends which still live within the game.

Four hundred hitters are a scarce commodity these days. Ted Williams was the last to do it. But George probably won't mind another addition to the select group—particularly if he happens to be the scout who signs him. Major league scouting is an extremely jealous business and George Sisler is no piker. He goes after a good young ball player today in the same manner that he went for Lefty Grove's curve ball. Remember he was a .400 hitter, too. Who knows it might eventually pay to be a Pirate fan.

V-Ball Champs Crowned

By BILL EISENBERG

The set-ups of Jack Muse and the general all around play of the Delta Chi volleyball team proved too much for a game Alpha Chi Rho team. Delta Chi beat back two determined Alpha Chi Rho rallies to take the fraternity intramural volleyball championship in straight games, 15-13, 15-12.

Delta Chi started fast and appeared to be on its way to an easy victory when Alpha Chi Rho suddenly caught fire. The losers poured through eight straight points to move within one point of Delta Chi, 14-13. At this point, however, they lost the service, and the winners lost no time in adding the game point.

The second game was a much more normal affair. Alpha Chi Rho held the lead in the early part of the game, but Delta Chi soon knotted the count at five all. The winners then went on to build up a lead of 11-7, when Alpha Chi Rho, sparked by Ron Weidenhammer and Jack Sherry started to rally again. With good set-ups and excellent spiking, the losers managed to knot the count at eleven all. Delta Chi then took charge and scored five straight points to

take the game and the championship.

Delta Chi advanced to the final by virtue of victories over Phi Epsilon Pi, Alpha Sigma Phi, and Theta Xi. Alpha Chi Rho scored victories over Phi Delta Theta, Tau Phi Delta, and Phi Kappa Tau, before being stopped by Delta Chi.

In the independent section of the playoffs, the Iron Men proved too strong for the Sexy Six. The winners turned in an outstanding performance in scoring an impressive 15-10, 15-10 victory.

The Iron Men, who were runner-up in last year's tournament, put together a combination of good spiking and excellent placement shots to finally gain the championship.

The Iron Men gained the final by successive wins over the Scorpions and the Hawks. The Sexy Six made the title shot with a first round bye and a victory over Irvin Heights.

Penn State will play its traditional four home football games in 1954, opening against the University of Virginia October 9.

Smith Ineligible for EIGA Tilt; Boyanowski Inserted in Lineup

By ROY WILLIAMS

Bob Smith, Penn State's golf whiz during its three-match win streak this season, has been declared scholastically ineligible for the Eastern Intercollegiate Golf Association tourney slated to start Saturday at Dartmouth University.

Coach Bob Rutherford has chosen Jim Boyanowski as Smith's sophomore replacement for the EIGA tourney at Hanover, N.H. Boyanowski and Jim Gerhart, both sophomore newcomers to the

Nittany links squad, are the only men on the Lions' six-man squad who haven't seen EIGA tourney play.

Three seniors—Captain Rod Eaken, Joe Webb, and Gordon Stroup—and one junior, Warren Gittlen, will make up the largest part of Penn State's entry. They have participated in at least one EIGA tourney.

First Season on Varsity

Smith had been a mainstay for the Lions this season, although it was his first season on the local greens as a varsity linksman. He was medalist in two of the three Lion wins.

But Boyanowski and Gerhart are not without some match experience. Gerhart lost his match in the opener at Navy. Boyanowski took a victory against Bucknell. Neither golfer has played medal play, however, against varsity competition.

Penn State will not only be battling a heavy entry card of 16 member schools of the EIGA—plus Syracuse and Boston College who have been named guest entries—but also a tough Dartmouth course.

Course Heavily Wooded

The heavily wooded Hanover Country Club is cut by numerous small streams making it "troublesome" Rutherford said yesterday. Par on the 5920-yard course is 70. The course, however, is comparatively short for a championship match; most tournament courses range close to the 7000 yard mark. "The actual condition of the course, may also cause everybody some trouble, too," Rutherford hinted. Golf courses in Buffalo were opened only last Sunday because of several weeks of inclement weather.

Rutherford has been unwilling to pass judgment on the opposition, but regards his own team stronger than the unbeaten unit which won nine straight last year. He believes the top half of his lineup is just as strong as it was a year ago, and the bottom half stronger.

After the team champion has

been determined Saturday night as a result of Saturday afternoon's scoring, the 16 men with the lowest scores of the entry card of over 100 golfers will be announced.

Rutherford will accompany his team home Saturday night if none of the Lions qualify for the individual crown. If any of the Lions are included in the selected number, they will shoot the Hanover course again on Sunday for the individual Eastern golf title.

Eaken lost the title to Yale's sophomore sensation last year, Gerry Fehr. Eaken made the semifinals in the same tourney in 1952 as a sophomore. This year he and Fehr are pre-tourney favorites.



Bob Smith
Declared ineligible

6 Teams Win In IM Soccer

The opening round of intramural soccer competition got under way last night with six teams scoring victories. Five of the encounters were decided by a 1 to 0 count.

Acacia had the honor of winning the night's first contest by topping Beta Sigma Rho, 1-0. John Johnson scored the only goal. Pi Kappa Alpha outlasted Kappa Alpha Psi on Bob Little's penalty kick in the second half.

Alpha Chi Sigma had four corner kicks to top Tau Kappa Epsilon, 1-0. Jim Griffiths notched the only goal against Alpha Zeta but this was enough as Phi Kappa went on to win, 1-0.

Delta Chi outscored Alpha Tau Omega, two corner kicks to one, and was awarded a 1-0 victory. Sigma Pi won over Alpha Sigma Phi, 3-2. Payson Burt and Hall Waltz scored for Sigma Pi, and David Murphy and Joe Rowley kicked goals for the losers. Sigma Pi won on corner kicks.

Baseball's Big Leagues

American League
Cleveland 7, Philadelphia 2
New York 4, Baltimore 2
Washington 1, Chicago 0
Detroit at Boston, ppd.

National League
Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 3 (8)
Milwaukee 3, Pittsburgh 1 (6)
Brooklyn 7, Chicago 0
Cincinnati 7, New York 1 (8)

CHICAGO, May 5 (P)—Brooklyn's Russ Meyer "de-homerized" Chicago with a shutout six-hitter today, taming his old Cub mates for the 11th straight time as the Dodgers won their first 1954 Wrigley Field appearance, 7-0.

Former Cub Meyer held the Bruins without a home run in a game for the first time this season. The Cubs had homered 28 times in 13 previous games.

Singles by Peewee Reese and Junior Gilliam and walks to Gil Hodges and Carl Furillo scored Reese for a 1-0 Brooklyn lead in the first.

Lion Stickmen Seek to End Losing Streak

After five road losses in succession the Penn State lacrosse team returns to Beaver Field Saturday to meet Rutgers. Starting time has been moved to 4 p.m. because of the scheduled track meet with Pitt. Last year the Lions bowed to the Scarlet, 14-7.

Rutgers has taken the measure of Dartmouth, Lehigh, and Penn, and has dropped a close decision to powerful Maryland. Penn represents the only common foe, having defeated the Lions, 9-7. The Scarlet ran up an impressive 8-2 won-lost record last season. The losses were to Penn and Princeton.

Coach Red Twitchell welcomed back eight lettermen at the start of the season. Four of these lettermen returned to midfield posts, making the midfield by far the Scarlet's strongest unit. Twitchell succeeded Fred Fitch as Scarlet mentor in 1950 and led the team to a mediocre 7 won 7 lost season. In the three years since, however, he has guided Rutgers to 24 wins and just five defeats.

Twitchell first gained fame at Rutgers in the early 1930's when he received All-America honors in lacrosse. He also received All-America mention as a center in football. After graduating in 1935, Twitchell acquired a valuable coaching experience at New Jersey and Long Island high schools. Following a short term as coach at Hofstra, he became assistant coach of lacrosse at Rutgers and three years later succeeded Fitch as head coach.

Berths Decided In 2 IM Finals

Dick Robinson, Theta Xi, and Bob Vanner, Sigma Chi, advanced into the intramural badminton finals Tuesday night. Robinson beat Lou Landon, Sigma Pi, 15-7, 15-7; and Vanner defeated Bill Wallis, Sigma Pi, 15-5, 3-15, 15-5.

In the independent ranks Hang Lim, who has had only 3 points scored upon him this year, will face Karl Segner for the independent championship.

In handball action played Tuesday night, 4 teams moved into the semi-finals. Jim Garrity and Jerry Maurey, Delta Upsilon, beat John McDonough and Dick Maticia, Alpha Sigma Phi, 11-21, 21-20, 21-18; John Hawk and Art Cusick, Sigma Chi, defeated Stan Engle and Bill Fahnstock, Sigma Nu, 21-17, 21-10.

Norm Hickey and Dave Girard, Sigma Nu, beat Dave Meckley and Bob Eddings, Theta Xi, 21-8, 21-14; Morton Averick and Marvin Freed, Phi Epsilon Pi, beat Frank Kilmer and Frank McIntyre, Acacia, 21-3, 20-21, 21-19.

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