

Eleven Dampened By Two Injuries

By DICK McDOWELL

Injuries to key players and the loss of veteran guard Sam Green cast an unexpected dim light last week on Penn State football prospects as head coach Rip Engle began the second week of drill for 53 gridders, including 17 lettermen.

Co-Captains Don Balthaser and Jim Garrity, both counted on as mainstays in the nearing nine-game campaign, suffered leg injuries in scrimmage. Engle said he did not know how serious the injuries were but both men were sidelined.

Green, 200 pound guard who saw extensive action during the last two seasons, was lost last spring due to academic deficiencies and did not return to school this fall.

However, the rash of injuries haven't slowed Engle and his staff one bit. The squad has been working since Sept. 1 and with the opener against top-notch Illinois just two weeks away. Engle has increased the pitch in an effort to sharpen his winged-T offense and establish a ready defense for All-American J. C. Caroline and powerful Micky Bates—Coach Ray Elliot's two biggest threats.

Following the Illini, the Lions must face Syracuse, Texas Christian, Virginia, Holy Cross, West Virginia, Penn, Rutgers, and Pitt.

Despite his obvious gloom over the possible loss of Balthaser and Garrity, Engle did seem encouraged about the appearance of the squad as a whole.

"The boys all reported in good shape," he said, "and have been working very hard. They've shown plenty of spirit."

The Lions' biggest asset appears to be a rugged and experienced line, backed by plenty of reserve strength. And he has veterans to fill three positions in his backfield. The biggest problem is still at quarterback.

The loss of Tony Rados through graduation opened a wide gap there, and at the present Don Bailey, who doubled as a halfback and quarterback last season, leads a flock of contenders for that position.

The Lions must play two straight on the road—Illinois and Syracuse—before they appear at Beaver Field against Virginia. Following that contest they entertain West Virginia and then travel to Texas Christian and Penn on successive weekends. Holy Cross and Rutgers wrap up the home schedule and then the annual battle with Pitt at Pittsburgh will close the season.

Penn State Sport Squads Prove National Rankings

By RON GATEHOUSE

Once again Penn State's coaches and athletes have made it more than theory that on the sports front the Nittany Lions annually rank with the nation's best.

Last year the Lions finished far in the black with a fine all-sports won-lost percentage of .693 on 77 wins, 34 losses, and two ties. The Nittanies also made an excellent showing of themselves in each of the five NCAA tournaments in which they were entered.

The Staters registered winning seasons in ten of the 12 varsity sports, and teamwise, recorded one champ, three third place finishers and a fourth in the nationals, an eastern winner, and two third places in the easterns.

Undoubtedly the gymnastic and basketball teams gained the most recognition when they placed first and third respectively in their bids for national fame.

However, three other Lion aggregations were not to be denied in their post-season classics. The University's number one winter sport, wrestling, grappled its way into a third place, as did the boxing team. The cross country runners took a fourth in their Fall finale.

The gymnastic, cross country, and track squads completed their campaigns with unblemished records. The three Fall sports, football, soccer, and cross country, accounted for the best seasonal record, posting a 15-5 log for a remarkable .750 percentage.

Yet, tournament-wise, the Winter sports get the nod as having accomplished the most. All four took a third place or better. The

wrestlers, cagers, and boxers captured third places, while the gymnasts settled for no less than first place.

Here are thumbnail sketches of how each of the University's varsity sports fared during the 1953-54 athletic year.

Football—Under the capable tutelage of Rip Engle, Penn State enjoyed one of its best years in the king of fall sports. The 6-3 record turned in by the gridders can be realized as an even greater accomplishment when the fact that they met some of the nation's top teams is considered.

Engle molded together a squad that was hard hit due to graduation and service calls and gained his charges a final rating of third in the East and 24th in the nation.

Led by pass-throwing, signal-calling Tony Rados, end Jim Garrity, and halfback Lenny Moore, the gridders turned back Boston University, Syracuse, Texas Christian, Fordham, Rutgers and Pitt. The Big Ten's Wisconsin, Penn, and highly-ranked West Virginia proved too much for the Lions.

Co-captain Rados finished first in the East and fifth in the nation in the forward passing department with 81 completions out of 171 attempts, good for 1025 yards and eight touchdowns. He was also 18th in total offense nation-
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Rec Club Elects Lieske

Bruce Lieske has been elected president to the Penn State Outing Club for the fall semester.

Other officers are Margaret Porterfield, vice president; Alla Horton, secretary; Patricia Olkkonen, treasurer.

Officers for the winter sports division of the club are Richard Seaborn, president; Dolores McHugh, vice president; Mary Mon-

roe, secretary; and Madeleine Reiley, treasurer.

Field and stream division officers are Raymond McCartney, president; Robert Jenkins, vice president; Dick Rice, secretary; and Joseph Humphreys, treasurer.

Presiding over the cabin and trail division will be Gerald Franc, president; Frank Boucher, vice president; and Marilyn Quigley, secretary. A treasurer for this division has not yet been selected.



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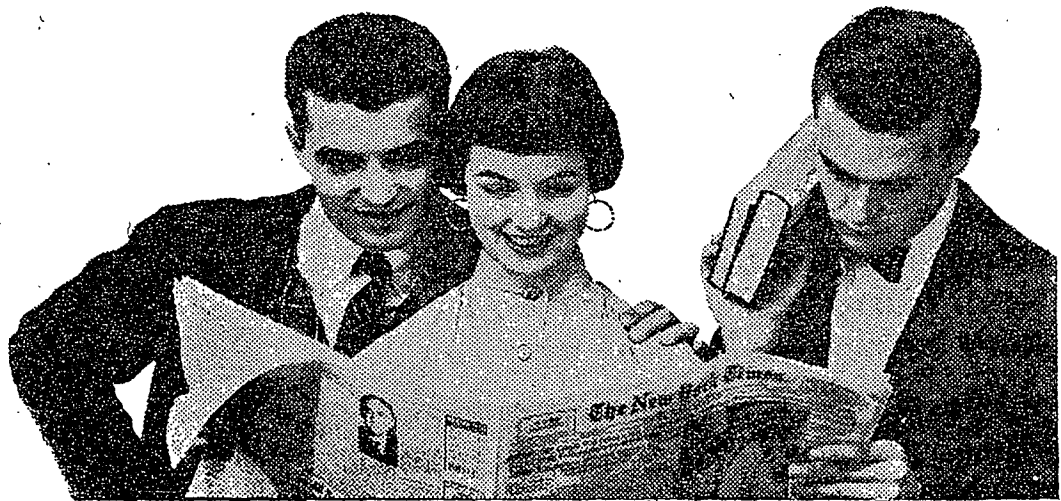
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