

The Scorebook

By HERM WEISKOPF
Assistant Sports Editor

Ike Gilbert, assistant director of athletics, said just what we had hoped he would the other day when we were discussing the freshman sports program at the University. "Our first job is to keep them (the freshmen) in college," Gilbert said in speaking of reasons why first year students are not permitted to compete in varsity sports.

This may be entirely the wrong approach to this topic, but we felt proud of the fact that Gilbert came out with this statement rather than saying that the University is complying with this ruling merely because it has to. "The sports program at the University—including intramurals and freshman and varsity sports—is only an 'auxiliary enterprise,'" Gilbert said.

These two statements by Gilbert couldn't help but make me feel a little prouder of the athletic setup at the University. In these days of cries for deemphasis it is especially pleasing to be reassured that Penn State is not a "factory for athletes" as some colleges and universities seem to be.

Gilbert pointed out that the University started its frosh athletic program back in the 1910's. One of the main reasons for instituting this idea was that it was felt that college freshmen were not ready for varsity competition. It takes at least one year to become acquainted with the style of play at the college being attended and to learn that college ball is a lot different than the high school variety. Many injuries and a better brand of athletics will also result from this year indoctrination.

However, some southern conferences permit the use of freshmen in varsity sports. Another exception to the rule is that colleges with fewer than 500 males are permitted to use yearlings on varsity teams.

Seven freshman teams played officially scheduled games during the past scholastic year. This year eight of the 11 varsity sports at the University will also carry freshman teams that will compete officially. In all cases the number of contests scheduled for each frosh team last year has been increased. Below is a list of the freshman teams that will compete during the 1954-55 season, including the number of contests played last year and the total to be played this year:

	1954-55	1953-54		1954-55	1953-54
Football	3	2	Soccer	1	0
Cross-country	2	0	Track	3	2
Basketball	5	4	Wrestling	3	2
Lacrosse	2	1	Baseball	5	4

Boxing has been dropped from the Penn State athletic program and therefore no freshman pugilistic squad will be organized. Schedules have not been obtained for the yearlings in three sports—golf, gymnastics, and tennis. One of the difficulties connected with scheduling is that contests must be booked a year in advance, Gilbert pointed out. Illness early in the year kept Gilbert idle for more than a month, and as a result scheduling plans were hampered.

Maybe you have been wondering why some of the top college athletes are being advertised as "four-year lettermen" when the current ruling would enable him to earn only three varsity letters. The answer is that during the war years restrictions were loosened and first year men were allowed to take part in varsity sports. But three years ago the old ruling was up back in effect. The last of the "wartime" athletes will be graduated from the nation's colleges and universities next year.

The athletic program for the freshmen at the University has expanded greatly in the past two years and has now become an integral part of Penn State's athletic setup. With the work of such men as Gilbert backing the program it should prove to serve its purpose of keeping Penn State both scholastically and athletically near the top.

Three Teams Post Wins In IM Play

The Geeche Birds, Panthers, and Nittany 33 plus 1 posted wins last night as intramural football action moved into high gear at Beaver Field.

An intercepted pass boomeranged and proved the undoing of the Zips. Midway in the first half, a Geeche Bird pass was intercepted on the Zips' 6 inch line. On the next play, however, a pass went astray and was picked out of the air by Jim Heckler, who raced the remaining ten yards for the score. The Zips could not move the ball, and the game ended Geeche Birds 6, Zips 0.

A fifteen yard, third down, pass play from Ron Ross to Les Alston, proved the margin of victory, as the Panthers upended Dorm 32, 6 to 0. The score came after a Dorm 32 pass was intercepted deep in their own territory.

In the dying moments of the game, Dorm 32 rolled to the Panther five, but lost the ball on downs at that point.

The Cave Men versus Nittany 33 plus 1 game proved to be an even up affair all the way. Continued pass interceptions, and excellent kicking by both teams, as well as fine all around defensive play led to a scoreless game. At the end of the regular period of play, the number of first downs were also tied at one apiece.

This situation called for the invoking of the seldom used tie-breaking rule of the intramural department. Under this rule, the ball is placed on the fifty yard line. Each team is then given three plays, to be run alternately. The team who winds up with the ball on their opponents side of the field is declared the winner.

Neither team was able to move the ball on their first try, and the Nittany boys met with no success on their second try. A five yard pass to Ed Williams put the Cave Men in a good spot. On their last try, however, Nittany 33 plus 1 came up with a fifteen yard pass play to the Cave Men forty. A Cave Men pass went astray, and the game ended Nittany 33 plus 1, Cave Men 0.

Frosh Athletic Schedules

Penn State freshman athletic schedules, reinstated a year ago, will be continued during the forthcoming year. Limited schedules are already arranged in football, soccer, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, baseball, track, and lacrosse.

Three Penn State basketball stars—Jack Sherry, Jesse Arnette and Bob Rohland—once again will perform on the gridiron in 1954. All three are ends.

Chillrud to Captain Harriers in Opener

John Chillrud has been selected captain of the cross-country team for the opening meet of the campaign tomorrow at Annapolis against Navy and Villanova.

A new captain will be picked each week, with only seniors being eligible for the position, Coach Chick Werner said yesterday.

Chillrud competed on the track and cross-country teams while attending high school in Schenectady, N.Y. Werner called Chillrud "very diligent" and said that he has "persevered against a lot of discouragement."

Werner pointed out that Chillrud is what is known as a "mechanical" runner—a title for those who have overcome the handicap of a lack of "natural" talent. "Chillrud has learned a lot, but he has to keep thinking while he's running," Werner said.

This "thinking while running" seems to have paid off for Chillrud. Until last season he was just another man on the track team. Then one day during a time trial he hit his stride and was clocked in 4:19 for the mile—a great improvement over his usual 4:35's. From that time on Chillrud was one of the big men on the track squad.

This week's leader of the hill-and-dalers has come a long way in his three seasons at Penn State, and Werner feels he may hit stardom this year. Werner is taking ten runners to compete in the varsity meet and Norm Gordon, freshman coach, is taking ten more for a battle with the yearlings from Navy and Villanova.

Running along the banks of the Severn River will be nothing new for the Lions. Last year Navy and Georgetown fell before the Blue

and White in a triangular meet at Annapolis.

Werner is counting heavily on the sophomores on the squad, and has pointed to Roberts and Mowry as possible surprise stars in tomorrow's encounter.

Navy's five-mile layout is exceptionally hilly, and in order to prepare his squad for such a race Werner has sent the runners through several workouts on the Centre Hills golf course. Although the Lions have had less than three weeks to prepare for tomorrow's opener Werner has put the team through some heavy workouts. "We have left no stones unturned in an effort to come up with a winning combination," the Penn State mentor said.

Wrestlers to Meet

Freshman and varsity candidates for the wrestling team should report at 4:15 p.m. Monday to Recreation Hall. Sophomores interested in becoming a wrestling manager should also attend.

Charlie Speidel, head wrestling coach, will give a brief resume of this year's work at the meeting.

In four seasons under Rip Engle, Penn State football teams have averaged 18.2 points per game.



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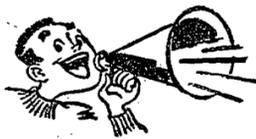
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