

From This Angle...

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PENN STATE'S GREATEST SOCCER TEAM?

A year ago Ken Hosterman moved into a coaching position at Penn State that was almost a legend. He replaced Bill Jeffrey, who had become a Penn State fixture, as head coach. For 27 years the old Scot had produced soccer teams that annually ranked with the best in the nation, and often rivaled the best in the world.

Hosterman, a player under Jeffrey as an undergraduate, was left with a group of talented sophomores and a monstrous Penn State soccer reputation to uphold.

He added a little more talent, and this week, with an undefeated season within his grasp, is in command of what may be the best booting aggregation in the United States, and possibly the best in Penn State history. That's an awful lot to say about any team, but the pieces have been sifting into place in the last few weeks and there are many who have already placed the Lions on soccer's high pedestal.

Colgate coach Mark Randall, whose team was one of five which have fallen to the classy Lions, was impressed enough to call Hosterman's outfit the best he'd ever seen. Randall wrote Hosterman a letter shortly after the game at Penn State. He made this statement:

"I want to congratulate you on having the best soccer team I have ever had the privilege to see."

There were no ifs, ands, or buts. It was a terrific compliment to a Penn State soccer team that has torn apart five of the best soccer teams in the east with almost ridiculous ease.

Randall added in his letter:

"Our players are humble in their respect for the ability and excellent play of the State men. They are also thankful for such a vivid lesson on how to play soccer." (ed. note: Penn State won the game, 9-2). "But most important are their remarks; As one man said... "They are not only great players but a good bunch of men and sportsmen."

Randall's comments have been echoed by almost every coach that has had the misfortune (or is it fortune?) of coaching a team against the Lions.

Joe Palone, the hard-bitten Army boss, who would rather win than eat, hails from a traditional soccer stronghold at West Point. The Lions whipped the Cadets, 5-1 last week. It was the worst defeat the Black Knights have ever suffered against Penn State and the worst Palone has taken in seven years at the Point.

Palone had plenty to say about Penn State after that one. He called the Lions a "great" team. His all-American captain Scotty Adams echoed.

"If Penn State goes undefeated, it should be the national champ," he said.

But it doesn't stop there. Jimmy Walder, one of soccer's best known figures, also had praises for Hosterman's team. Walder has been refereeing Penn State soccer matches since 1919 and was around when Jeffrey put together a 65-game winning streak from 1934 to 1941. He called the 1954 squad the best he's seen at Penn State.

Should the Lions topple Navy tomorrow in their final home match, they could conceivably go the whole way. Only Temple and Penn remain after the Middle battle. The Owls and the Cadets were both spoilers last year, and the Cadets have already fallen. Hosterman and his men of the foot would like nothing better than to leave their mark on Temple in the finale, and walk off with a perfect slate. And there's an excellent chance that it's going to happen, too.

THE SPORT IS ON THE UPSWING

Soccer has always been the most popular sport in Europe, but even now is still growing on the Continent. England and Hungary recently played to over 200,000 fans in an international match in England.

And in the return match in Hungary the demands for seats were phenomenal. Officials received requests for two million tickets. However, the Stadium held only 80,000.

The sport's development in the United States has paralleled, on a smaller scale, the growth of European soccer. Small colleges in every corner of the country are picking up the sport, and in some cases it is replacing more expensive football. Big Ten schools are beginning to play the game and several Big Seven schools have teams. There are plans for official adoption as a conference sport.

And if you think Dodger fans are rabid, here's one that stops them all. One fellow, anxious to see the Hungarian team play against the English club, sneaked into the stadium a full week before the game. He lived there for six days with a huge supply of food on hand. The guy almost made it but was discovered just before game time.

Penn State's veteran wrestling coach, Charlie Speidel, conducts a day school for high school wrestlers in August of each year.

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Oberly Will Wrestle on TV Sunday

Bill Oberly, number one heavy-weight wrestler on Penn State's NCAA third-place finishers last year, will appear on the coast-to-coast Ford Foundation Omnibus television show Sunday. The program will start at 5 p.m.

The CBS educational show will feature both a professional and amateur wrestling match.

Navy's Pete Blair, last year's eastern and national heavyweight and 191-lb. champ respectively, will oppose Oberly in the amateur division match. And the duo will be anything but strangers when they take to the mats before the nation's TV fans.

The Nittany grappler faced his Sunday opponent twice last year, both in a regular season duel and in the Nationals at the University of Oklahoma.

Blair pinned him on both occasions, but not without a tussle. In the nationals, Oberly met the Middle in a semi-final bout, and threatened an upset with a take down and a near fall. They were entered in the 191-lb. class.

The match will be serving a pre-season 'feel out' for the two grapplers, as the two will be facing each other in the coming



Bill Oberly
In TV Debut

season. Blair is now a senior, while the Nittany performer is only a junior.

Betas, Phi Delts Score Easy IM Swim Wins

Beta Theta Pi and Tau Phi Delta splashed to easy victories in their respective intramural swimming meets last night at Glennland Pool. The Betas trounced Alpha Sigma Phi, 35-5 while Tau Phi Delta took it just a little easier on Kappa Sigma, 32-8. In the evening's third meet, Phi Sigma Delta topped Phi Sigma Kappa, 25-15.

Beta Theta Pi limited the Alpha Sigs to just one second and two third-place finishes as Ben Witmer, Fred Page, Charles Turner, and Karl Schwenzfeier paced the winners to the easy decision. In coping the relay event, the Betas missed the intramural record of 59.9 by just four and one-half seconds.

Bob Zelle and Dick Foster each copped two events to lead Tau Phi Delta to its runaway win. Zelle took the free-style and diving events with a 35.6 timing and a 16.9 score. Foster captured the back and breaststroke honors with times of 50.5 and 53.4 seconds.

WRA Results

VOLLEYBALL

League 4 — Beta Sigma Omicron forfeited to Little Lions; Phi Mu forfeited to Kappa Delta.

League 5 — Delta Delta Delta over Sigma Sigma Sigma; Kappa Kappa Gamma over Gamma Phi Beta.

League 6 — Chi Omega over Alpha Omicron Pi; Kappa Alpha Theta over Delta Gamma.

Co-captain Don Balthaser and Frank Reich, who are sharing the center spot on the 1954 Penn State football team, were keen rivals as schoolboy centers at Reading and Steelton, respectively.

PIAA X-Country To Be Held Here

Nearly 150 of Pennsylvania's top schoolboy runners will vie for title recognition in the 15th annual PIAA cross-country championships at Penn State Saturday. A wide open race for individual and team honors is predicted.

Mt. Lebanon, perennial team favorite and last year's winner, failed for the first time in years to qualify a full team via the district eliminations. But New Castle, which won District 7 (WPAL) honors, is given an excellent chance because of its well-balanced squad.

Other teams expected to make a race of the event are Altoona, Ambridge, and Williamsport.

Ten districts, 16 full teams, and runners from 41 other schools will compete for honors. Of the 127 runners who completed the race last year, 47 are returning for another try at the title.

Otto Kneidinger of Bellwood is the only non-senior among Penn State's first four tackles this year.

Independents Dominate IM Court Action

Nine independent matches were played in IM basketball Wednesday night as first round action moved into its final days.

The Snooks began the night with an easy 32-24 win over the Engineers as the latter team, although having the game's top scorer in Jim Berish, could not match the speed of the Snooks. Berish scored 10 points.

The Engineering Colts leading by only one point at halftime, outscored Cody Manor in the second half to take a 25-20 victory. Bob Greenly led the winners with 11 points.

In the third game of the evening Nittany Co-op overwhelmed Wesley 5, 38-23. At the end of the first half the score was knotted up at 13 all, but the excellent shooting of Nittany proved to be too much for Wesley 5.

The Epars routed the Shirts in the fourth game by a whopping 39-6 score. Walt Arnold led the scorers with 10 points.

Toppers bowled over Dorm 3 by another wide margin, 34-19. Charley Aungst, of the Toppers, led the two teams with 10 points.

With the score tied at 7-7 at the end of the first half, Dorm 22 fought off a last second rally by the Nittany Rippers to safeguard their slim one point lead, as they won 18-17.

Dorm 12 beat out the 36 Vets, 39-31, as Mike Maczuzak scored 24 points to lead the winners and also come out high scorer of the night.

The ASP's scored a tight victory over the Whiz Kids, 25-23. The Whiz Kids were behind 17-6 at halftime but fought to within two points of the ASP's as the contest ended.

In the final game of the night the Turks overpowered Dorm 40, 50-15. Jerry Olexa was high for the winners with 19 points.

HATS OFF TO THE JUNIOR CLASS

This year's Junior Prom will be a howling success... It's traditional—you know what to expect (probably snow for one thing.) The monkey with his tin cup is the symbol of the organ grinder's haunting melodies—you know and trust him.

The Penn State Diner is an old campus tradition too. There you can always get good food and courteous, efficient service... students have come to expect that at the "Sign of the Lion." Stop in anytime... day or night—it's traditionally good



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