

The Scorebook

By **HERM WEISKOPF**
Assistant Sports Editor



PENN STATE'S GIFT TO BASEBALL

Tucked away in the annals of baseball history is the name and legend of John Montgomery Ward, former Penn State athlete who is credited by many historians with having thrown the first curve ball. It was in 1875 on the lawn in front of Old Main that Ward proved to former Penn State professor William A. Buckhout that a baseball could be curved. Ward set up stakes and then curved the baseball between the posts.

But this was only the start for Monty Ward. His contributions to baseball were numerous. In an article in Sport Life magazine in August, 1952, Hy Turkin wrote that Ward was "undoubtedly the greatest all-around baseball hero of the 19th century." that year by whiffing 271 batters.

Ward was a rare combination of pitcher, infielder, outfielder, manager, and pioneer in the days when baseball was struggling for survival. He broke into organized baseball in 1878 with Providence of the National League. Ward won 158 games and lost 102 in seven years as a pitcher before his arm gave out. That's an average of close to 23 wins a season in the days when most teams played less than 100 games a campaign! Monty won 22 and lost 13 in his freshman campaign. The following season he hit peak, copping 44 of the 55 games won by the pennant-winning Providence squad.

THE PERFECT GAME

One of the greatest feats in the annals of the sport was Ward's perfect game in 1879. Ward did not allow any runner to reach first base—a performance which has been unmatched in the National League for 75 years. He also won the NL strikeout championship.

In 1883 Ward was traded to the New York Giants, and two years later he retired from the mound and played full time at short. Ward was one of the finest shortstops in the game, and he became the first to perfect the short-to-second doubleplay combination which today is as much a part of the game as the leather-lunged fans.

Those were the days when players jealously guarded their secrets. However, in 1888 Ward became the first prominent player to write a book on how to play baseball.

Ward batted .371 in 1887 and played a leading role as the Giants swept to two straight championships. In 1888 the Giants faced the St. Louis Browns, winners of the American Association crown for the fourth consecutive season, for the title. New York copped the honors by winning six of 10 games. The Official Encyclopedia of Baseball of Turkin and S. C. Thompson states that "Ward was such a superb all-around player that one newspaperman wrote that the Browns would have won the series if Ward had shortstopped for them instead." A year later Ward paced the Giants to their second straight title by batting .417 against Brooklyn.

MANAGERIAL DAYS

A third league, the Players' League, was organized in 1890, and Ward took over as manager of the Brooklyn team, guiding his team to second place. The following year the Players' League was disbanded and Monty took over the helm of the Brooklyn entry in the National League. Brooklyn finished sixth that season and third the following year. Ward played most of the games at second base and shortstop, and duplicated his feat of 1887 by batting .371 in 1890. In 1893 Ward was back with the Giants, this time as manager-secondbaseman, a job he held for two years. Ward pulled the Giants from eighth to fifth in the 12-team circuit and the next season finished second to the fabled Baltimore Orioles.

Ward climaxed his baseball career by winning the first Temple Cup Series in 1894. A Pittsburgh sports-lover, William C. Temple, donated an expensive cup as a prize for the winner of a post-season series between the NL champ and runner-up. The Giants defeated Ned Hanlon's Orioles in four straight games.

PENN STATE'S DAVEY CROCKETT

Monty's five-year record as a manager shows 388 wins and 299 losses—a .566 percentage. He became a successful attorney following his baseball career. Ward died on March 4, 1925,—one day after his 65th birthday.

Although he is not yet enshrined in baseball's Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N.Y., Ward has been tagged as one of the "most likely to be elected" in future years. It is hard to match his record. His throwing of the first curve ball is questioned by many baseball historians, but he did much to forward the success of the pitch. His perfection of the short-to-second doubleplay; his perfect game of 1879; and his willingness to impart the "tricks of the trade" to others are milestones in the history of the game.

John Montgomery was a pioneer in the development of baseball. He was truly Penn State's Davey Crockett in the baseball world.

Inexperienced Stickmen Face Adelphi Thursday

Penn State lacrosse coach Nick Thiel will start a scrappy but inexperienced team when his stickmen encounter Adelphi College in the season's opener at Garden City, L.I., Thursday.

Six seniors, three juniors, and one sophomore are slated for starting roles as the lacrosse team meets three opponents within four days, beginning with Adelphi and ending with New Hampshire and Hofstra.

Leading the defense for the Lions will be Herb Harikawa, Bob Bullock, and Everett Weidner. Bullock is a junior. Thiel said defense has been good and is improving with every practice, but he said team lacks reserves, especially in the midfield.

Thiel said shooting has not improved and passing is poor. The inclement weather had some effect on the bad showing, he said, but it was due mostly to inexperience.

Another one of Thiel's foremost problems is the team's inability to pick up ground balls. He said this could be due to the green squad but added that this problem usually improves as the season progresses.

Thiel will rely on seniors Jim Hay, Dick Klien, George Bicklehaupt, and sophomore Ken Chestnut for his attack. Junior Bob Hamel, who was runnerup in the scoring column last year with 21 goals, will probably be the number one offensive threat for the Lions.

In trying to overcome the team's inexperience, Thiel is planning to outrun and outlast his first three opponents. "We will use three mid-field units to prevent any of the boys from becoming too exhausted," he said.

Adelphi will probably be the easiest of the three road opponents for the lacrossemen. Coach Claude Ruggian's charges wound up with a poor 1-7 record, with the only win being against Lafayette, 8-4.

Thiel said if his team loses the Adelphi contest, "look for a long and cold spring."

In New Hampshire the Nit-tanians will be encountering a co-champion. But the stickmen from Durham lost eight starters via graduation and Coach Barr Snively is in the process of rebuilding his whole team. Only two start-

12 Teams Win V-Ball Games

Six independent and six fraternity teams gained victories in the intramural volleyball tournament Wednesday night at Recreation Hall.

Four of the independent contestants resulted in forfeits, with the Irvin Aces defeating the Highballs, the Pioneers winning over the Pershing Rifles, the Monsters downing the Patricians and Wetzel's beating Dorm 29. In other independent action, the Salooners overwhelmed the Duces, 15-1, 15-5, and Dorm 12 stopped the Six Warriors, 15-5, 15-13.

In the fraternity action, Sigma Chi's A team edged Triangle in two out of three contests, 14-16, 15-7, 15-2; the Tau Kappa Epsilon A squad downed Sigma Pi's A aggregation, 15-10, 15-4; Phi Gamma Delta's A unit took the measure of Phi Mu Delta, 15-7, 3-15, 15-13; Sigma Phi Epsilon's A team humbled Alpha Phi Delta, 15-5, 15-1; Lambda Chi Alpha's B squad nipped Theta Kappa Phi's B team, 7-15, 15-7, 15-2; and in the evening's finale Pi Kappa Phi's B team defeated Aca-cia's B squad, 14-16, 15-4, 15-5.

ers—Will Johnston and Al Gir-rari—will return to the lineup. Hofstra will probably be the roughest tilt, with the possible exception of the Navy game, for the stickmen in the entire schedule. But Thiel isn't counting his boys out yet, for as he put it "any team can be upset."

Reichler Picks Giants to Win

By **JOE REICHLER**

NEW YORK, March 31 (AP)—I pick the New York Giants, a well-balanced, strong and confident club, to win their second straight National League pennant but only after a terrific, hand-to-hand, three-cornered battle with the Milwaukee Braves and the Brooklyn Dodgers.

These three clubs figure to dominate the rest of the National League with the youth-studded St. Louis Cardinals squeezing in to the first division in another three-team fight with Cincinnati and Philadelphia. Despite obvious improvement that should give their backers hope for the future, the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates cannot hope to improve their 7-8 finishes of a year ago.

The Braves and Dodgers undoubtedly are stronger than they were last year when injuries rendered such key men as Milwaukee's Bobby Thompson and Brooklyn's Roy Campanella hors de combat for lengthy spells.

The writer picks the order of finish this way:

New York, Milwaukee, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh.

Greeks Take WRA Titles

Sigma Sigma Sigma copped the Women's Recreation Association intramural basketball championship last night but lost to Delta Delta, in the final round of the bowling intramurals.

Eileen Johnson scored 22 points as Tri Sig, winner of League IV, defeated Thompson 3 and 4, 42-32 for the title. Barbara Drum tallied 11 points for Thompson, League I titlist.

Barbara Gooding's 169 points in the final round helped Tri Delt, League III champion, edge Tri Sig, 599-568, for the bowling championship.

In the first round of bowling playoffs, Tri Delt defeated Women's Building, winner of League IV. Tri Sig, who took the League I title, defeated Alpha Omicron Pi in the second round. The AO-Pi's were winners of League II.

He Caught Lots of Fish—Big One Didn't Get Away

FORT ERIE, Ont., March 31 (AP)—A 310-pound sturgeon, 6 feet long, was caught in Lake Erie today.

Bill Berry, part-time commercial fisherman, took it on a steel night line with minnow bait. He landed it after a three-hour struggle.

Ontario Lands and Forests Department officials said in Toronto the fish equalled in weight a 7-foot, 6 inch sturgeon caught by Frank LaPointe in Lake Superior's Batchawana Bay in 1922. La-Pointe's fish holds the great lakes record for sturgeon.

About two-thirds of Berry's fish was dressed for sale. At the current Fort Erie retail price of 60 cents a pound, it would bring \$124.

Tennis Squad Preps For April Opener

Despite stiff winds and inclement weather, tennis coach Sherm Fogg has begun preparations for the Lions' first net encounter, April 16, against the University of Pennsylvania. The Quakers are the only newcomer to the Lions' card this spring.

Fogg has a quintet of five lettermen returning, a veteran who sat out last season, and a trio of sophomores—all of whom will bolster the Lions' squad and could very well break into the starting lineup.

Top Men Missing

Absent from last year's squad, which brought home a 9-2 record, will be the number one and two men—Dick Robinson and Lew Landon. The loss of Jack Ray will also hurt Fogg who feels that his chief problem will lie in locating replacements for these men.

"I can visualize that we'll win more than we lose," Fogg said. "But we won't be as strong as last year, although we should be stronger than many of the teams we meet."

Returning to form a nucleus will be the number three man of last year's squad, Bill Ziegler; Chris Christiansen, Doug Zuker, Ed Seiling, Dean Mullen and John Clarey. Clarey sat out last season after performing the previous year.

Promising Sophomore

Fogg rates sophomore Joe Eberly, a local product, as a good bet for future hopes. Jim Quinn and Al Williams are the other sophomores who will vie for a starting position against the Quakers of Pennsylvania.

The Lions have been working

out for approximately three weeks; however, rain and high winds have thrown a wet blanket over proceedings.

The 1955 schedule: April 16, Pennsylvania; 19, at Maryland; 20, at Navy; 26, at Bucknell; 30, at Lehigh.

May 7, Georgetown; 13, Carnegie Tech; 14, Syracuse; 18, at Juniata; 21, Colgate; 25, Bucknell; 28, Pittsburgh.

Pollo Vaccine Intended Only for Select Groups

NEW YORK, March 31 (AP)—The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis insisted today that its Salk polio vaccine should be given only to organized units of first and second grade pupils, free of charge.

The foundation asked special safeguards from local communities if any other plan is followed.

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