

The Scorebook

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THE LAST PAGE

The Scorebook swings open for the last time, but before it closes I would like to jot down a few notes of thanks. The last year is the hardest—watching my last football game; seeing Jesse Arnette drop one last hook shot; "pulling" for victories—and the last column is even harder. How do you say "thanks" for a touchdown, a field goal, a victory? But it's time to thank those who helped me, thrilled me, and inspired me. I owe so much to so many that it seems unfair to bow more graciously in one direction than in another. But before I bow out I'd like to tip the ol' straw hat in the direction of Penn State track and field coach Chick Werner.

I have worked with the Lion track mentor for the past three years, covering cross-country, indoor track, and outdoor track. Among other things, Werner taught me to love the sport to which he has dedicated his life. Yesterday on the wet, green grass of Beaver Field I interviewed Chick Werner for the last time. Yesterday on the wet, green grass of Beaver Field he told me "his" story.

Charles D. Werner was one of the greatest names in the history of U.S. hurdling, and it all started many years ago when he got a ticket to go to the National Collegiate Athletic Association outdoor track and field championships at Stagg Field in Chicago. It was there that Werner—then a high school track star in the Chicago suburbs—became fascinated with the sport. Earl Thompson, now head track and field coach at Navy, set a record in the high hurdles event in this title meet, "I was fascinated," Werner said, "because I couldn't see how anyone could run so fast with those things in front of him. I guess the 'bug' really started biting me there."

It was not until Werner went to the University of Illinois that he really began making a name for himself. "I wasn't much good at anything," the Lion coach admits, "but I was fascinated by the hurdles." And so it went—hour after hour of grueling practice and heartache. And then came the records.

Werner's No. 1 thrill came during a preliminary heat at the National Amateur Athletic Union's championship meet "about 1927." But let Werner tell it: "That was the year I won the title. Well, in this preliminary heat I hit the third hurdle. I fell down, rolled over, and then got up. By that time everyone had passed me, and they were all pretty good men. My coach had turned his head and walked away when I fell down, and by the time he turned around again I had won the race." Werner competed for the Illinois Athletic Club in that race and John Behr was his coach. Behr has been an Olympic boxing coach, but he earned his greatest distinction by developing Joe Louis—the famous Brown Bomber and kingpin of the ring world.

Werner had a hand in setting five world records—four by himself and one with a medley relay team. Probably the best performance ever turned in by Werner came one night in New York City when he took part in a series of hurdles events from 40 to 80 yards and won all three, setting world marks in two races.

Following his days of active competition Werner moved into the freshman track coaching spot at Illinois and soon was elevated to the varsity position. But Werner is now in the midst of his 22nd season as head coach at Penn State—a job which has earned him the title of one of the most highly successful and respected coaches in the nation. When the U.S. team went to Helsinki, Finland, for the 1952 Olympic Games, Werner had a spot on the coaching staff. This trip resulted in Werner's biggest thrill as a coach, for it was at Helsinki's enormous stadium that one of his pupils—Horace Ashenfelter—pulled one of the greatest upsets in the history of the sporting world. This was the occasion of Ashenfelter's "miracle victory" over Russian ace Vladimir Saltykov in the 3000-meter steeplechase grind.

But mixed in with the many thrills, heartaches, and disappointments have been an ample share of laughs. Werner likes to recall the time he took his Illinois team to the Texas Relays. Before leaving, Werner had been instructed by the athletic director to warn the boys not to take any silverware or other items from the places where they ate. Werner passed the word along to his boys before they stopped to eat at a restaurant in Austin. All the boys got up from the table before Werner did. Werner got up, grabbed his coat, and as he walked over to the counter to pay the bill he drew a cold stare from the waitress. "Okay," she said, "you can take that silverware out of your pockets now." The amazed coach had a hard time explaining his innocence until he spied his boys standing in front of the restaurant laughing.

Then there was the time on the train coming back from Michigan when one of his athletes was showing off some trick toys he had picked up. He was astounding his teammates with some handcuff tricks. Finally, the boy got Werner to consent to get in on the gag. The trackman handcuffed himself to Werner and threw the key out the window. And there they sat, vainly trying to get the handcuffs off. When they got off to eat at a diner several of the boys went in first and told the people there not to worry and that Werner was merely a prisoner who was being transported from one jail to another. Only after he had taken his seat in the diner did the gagster admit he had thrown away a fake key and unhandcuffed him.

One time at Annapolis the night before a meet with Navy, Werner crawled into bed after everyone else had supposedly gone to sleep. But much to his surprise he soon found that his boys were laughing with glee as he tried to outmaneuver a cat which had been placed in his bed.

And so it has gone for the silver-haired coach. But this is the last page in The Scorebook and there's just enough room left to say "thanks to everyone for everything."

Thinclads Will Enter 14 Penn Relay Events

Track Coach Chick Werner announced yesterday that the Lions' thinclad team in the 61st annual Penn Relay Carnival set for Franklin Field this weekend will enter 14 events. As for his tentative lineup Werner said "just about the same group of boys" that ran in the Ohio Relays last week will make the trip to the two-day track extravaganza scheduled for Philadelphia's Franklin Field Friday and Saturday.

Werner said the Lions will be represented in the 440-yard, 880-yard, four-mile, two-mile, and mile relays plus the distance medley, sprint medley, and 480-yard shuttle hurdle relays. Individual entries will be in the 120-yard high hurdles, 100-yard dash, discus, shot, pole vault, and broad jump.

Art Pollard will enter the 100-yard dash as the Relay's defending champ. Pollard ran a winning 0:09.8 last year to win the invitation race after running a 10.1 in his preliminary heat.

Pollard, Bruce Austin, Dave Leathem and Jack Morin will run the quarter-mile relay. Werner, who said his lineup still may be changed after tonight's practice session, said Harry Mitchell, a sophomore, "may replace somebody."

The four-mile relay will be run by Doug Moorhead, Jim Pastorius, and Ted Garrett, plus the winner of a practice run set for tonight between John Chillrud, Paul Roberts, and Don Mowry.

Moorhead plus Al Terrill, Skip Slocum, and Bob Matz, will run the two-mile relay. In the half mile Moorhead, Pollard, Austin, and Leathem will get the call. Terrill has been assigned the 880 chore in the distance medley run with Austin running the 440 leg. Slocum, Pastorius, or Moorhead will get the three-quarter mile assignment. Ted Garrett, Moorhead, or Pastorius will run the final mile leg.

In the 120-yard high hurdles sophomore Rod Perry and Bill Youkers, who have carried the Lions in the last two meets with first-place wins, have been named.

Pollard, Austin, Leathem, and Morin will run the mile relay and the sprint relays. Captain Rosey Grier and Charley Blockson, a junior, will put the shot and throw the discus while sophomore Herb Hollowell enters the broad jump and Harry Fuehrer the pole vault. No Penn State entries will be made in the high jump or javelin.

Werner, who has pooled his strength for the Penn carnival rather than split his team between the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Penn event which will be run at the same time, will have his 440, 880, and distance medley squads plus his hurdlers, and broadjump, shot, and discus entries entering Friday afternoon's action. On Saturday the finals in the shot put and broadjump plus the pole vault, one, two, and four-mile relays, the 100-yard dash, and the shuttle hurdle relays will be run.

The Lions' 480-yard shuttle hurdle relay entry will be made up of the same team that scored a first-place win at the Ohio State Relays Saturday with a 1:01.7. Perry and Youkers will head the attack with sophomore Bob Young and Gary Seybert completing the quartet.

In America's largest track show eight relay championships for colleges, four for high schools, two for preparatory schools, 11 special track and field events, in addition to 83 assorted class relays for colleges, high schools, and preparatory schools and elementary schools will be included in the program. More than 3100 athletes, a record number, are expected to compete.

Major League Roundup

Athletics Sign Raschi

KANSAS CITY, April 26 (AP)—Vic Raschi, one-time ace of the New York Yankees who was waived out of both leagues and unconditionally released by the St. Louis Cardinals last week, was signed today by the Kansas City Athletics.

Terms of Raschi's contract were not announced.

President Arnold Johnson said Raschi will report to Kansas City Friday. The veteran righthander will work out with the club several days before seeing action.

Yanks Win, 5-0

CHICAGO, April 26 (AP)—Fastballing Bob Turley of New York throttled Chicago with a fine one-hitter and 10 strikeouts for a 5-0 shutout victory which moved the Yankees into first place over the White Sox today.

It was the first one-hitter in either league.

Notching his third straight victory against no defeats, Turley boosted his season strikeout total to 27 as he allowed catcher Sherm Lollar the only Sox hit, a clean single to center, in the second.

Tigers Win, 3-2

DETROIT, April 26 (AP)—Al Kaline, leading off in the ninth, smashed a towering home run high into the upper left center-field seats and gave the Detroit Tigers a 3-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles today at frigid Briggs Stadium.

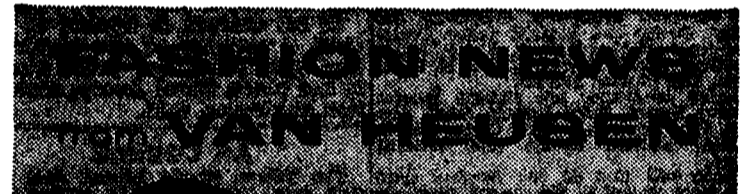
A crowd of 1319 saw the 20-year-old outfielder hammer a 1-1 pitch off Erv Palica for his fifth home run of the young season.

Indians Nip Senators

CLEVELAND, April 26 (AP)—Righthander Bob Lemon slugged a home run over the rightfield fence today to grab his fourth win of the season as his Cleveland Indians beat the Washington Nationals 3-2.

Newest member of the Penn State varsity staff is John Egli, who recently completed his first year as basketball chief.

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