

Lions Open Season in 13 Days

Moore Returns; Straub Breaks Hand in Practice

In less than two weeks Penn State opens its 1955 Centennial football season. Then the Lions' head coach, Rip Engle, and his six assistants will see what their labors have reaped. But until then, it's anybody's guess as to what the Lions will field Sept. 24 against Boston University at Beaver Field.

Until word was received of Lenny Moore's status as a student, no one, not even Engle, could give a twinkle of an idea of what the Lions would have to offer on the gridiron this fall.

Moore's back in a Lion uniform now, and still no one will venture to give a twinkle of an idea of what the Lions will have.

And here's why. First of all, Engle has only 11 lettermen returning of which five are linemen and six are backs. Three of the lettermen are full-backs. On the line he has no lettermen at ends, and one at tackle.

At the ends, Engle has manpower with ten candidates—only one of which is a senior—but experience is the thing lacking. Ned Lewistown pro-

Two of the Lions' four home games will be televised on a regional basis during the 1955 season. Columbia Broadcasting System has chosen Boston U. on Sept. 24, and Syracuse Nov. 5 for two of the five games it will be permitted to telecast in the East with NCAA approval. These telecasts represent the first live television to originate from the Lion campus.

duct, Doug Mechling, and Paul North, both six footers, will be in the top bracket for the two opening-day berths.

Although he has no letterwinners at end, Engle may be able to whip this problem with sheer manpower and wait for experience to catch up.

In addition to losing four ends in Jesse Arnelle, Jim Garrity, Jack Sherry, and Bob Rohland, Engle saw Rosey Grier, Gene Danser, and Danny DeFalco pick up their diplomas in June leaving huge gaps in the tackle positions.

Although Engle is well-equipped with co-captain Otto Kneidinger set for duty at one tackle slot he will be looking to Walt Mazur, Jim Harding, and Clint Law to be ready in reserve for depth on the line. Jack Calderone, a 219-pound converted guard, should be ready to start at the other side.

The center of the Lions' front line will be strong with co-captain Frank Reich, Dan Radakovich, and Ed Kleist lined up for duty at center. Guards Earl Shumaker, Dick DeLuca, and Sam Valentine leave Engle with no worries in this department. Shumaker is a two-year letterman and DeLuca and Valentine each own letters.

At quarterback Bobby Hoffman—the only letterman of seven contenders for the job—plus Milt Plum, and Jim Hochberg are three boys who could rise to the position. Hoffman and Plum both played last year and both showed improvement during spring drills.

Although Don Bailey, who did the quarterbacking last year plus much of the punting and kicking is gone, Eagle has Plum, Hochberg, and Hoffman for punting and Valentine for extra points to work with in pre-season drills before he makes his final drafts.

With Moore in his running game, Engle's backfield worries will be held to a minimum. Although he has been less highly publicized, Munhall's Billy Kane is expected to have another good year with Moore as a running mate. Kane, a good runner in his own right, benefits with Moore's presence and the two should pack a solid wallop for Engle's winged-T attack.

Kane, who shared the right half-back slot last year with Bill Youkers, will be backed by Bobby Allen who looked good in that slot during spring drills.

Engle, however, will naturally be looking to Moore for much of his ground attack. The Reading speedster, who came up with an amazingly good summer to clean out his academic ineligibility, will definitely be hard pressed to match his play of the last two years.

In 1953 he galloped to touchdowns on 41, 59, and 79-yard runs and rolled up 601 yards from scrimmage, 228 on punt returns,

and 136 more on kickoff returns. Last year he scored 13 times with scoring jaunts of 22, 29, 54, 55, 57, and 60 yards and his ground gaining total of 1082 yards (8.0 yards per try) set a new Penn State record. Other yardage included 105 on punt returns, 159 on kickoff returns, 96 on runbacks of interceptions, and 44 on pass receptions.

In addition to his problems at tackle and end, Engle has had new headaches generated at the full-back slot which is somewhat unsettled.

Engle has three lettermen and a standout sophomore in Emil Caprara of Turtle Creek who could take over if the three lettermen do not produce quickly.

Frank DellaPenna and 210-pound Charley Blockson of Norristown each are lettermen hold-overs.

The day after Engle received word of Moore's return however, his number one man for fullback after spring drills were completed. Buck Straub, broke his hand in scrimmage. The injury will place Straub on the sideline for at least the first game, but he may be ready for the second tilt at Army.

The opening day chores, however, will be a three-way race between Caprara, Blockson, and DellaPenna. In any event the po-



Lenny Moore No. 42 Returns

sition will be fairly well manned at the season's start.

Some feel that the Lions look equal to the schedule which could mean that the team appears capable of giving a good account of itself without necessarily being able to match last year's 7-2 card.

The opposition is also looking better with Boston U., Army, Navy, West Virginia, Syracuse and Pitt ready to test the Lions to the hilt.

X-Country Schedule Set

Navy, Cornell, Michigan State, Pitt, and Manhattan, the second and fourth at home, will oppose Penn State in cross-country during the 1955 campaign. The Lion Harriers also will be represented in the IC4A and NCAA championships.

Blue Band to March

The Blue Band, Penn State's 96-man marching unit, has chosen the Virginia game at Richmond, October 8, and the Penn game at Philadelphia, October 29, for its

two traditional away-from-home appearances.

For the first time since 1942, Pitt will invade the Lion lair for its 1955 football joust with Penn State.

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