

4 Lettermen Expected To Return to Lion Line

By ROY WILLIAMS

Penn State's 1955 football squad—hard hit by the graduation of 13 veterans—will have six of its 11 positions filled by lettermen Saturday when it opens with Boston University at Beaver Field.

Head grid coach Rip Engle, who ended his two-a-day drill sessions with the start of classes yesterday, has tabbed four of those six lettermen for duty on the front line with Lenny Moore, left halfback, and his running mate Billy Kane, right half, the only letterwinners returning to the backfield for the opener.

On the line co-captains Frank Reich and Otto Kneidinger will return to their old duties with Reich at center and Kneidinger at left tackle.

The two other letter winners—Earl Shumaker and Dick DeLuca—will open at the guard slots. Shumaker, although he has been sidelined with injuries recently, is expected to be ready for the Boston U. tilt.

At the end slot, Paul North of Baden is expected to be at left end and Les Farls at right end. At right tackle, Jack Calderone of Chester looks like the opening day nominee with Kneidinger a fixture at the other tackle position.

Engle, in addition to having to name three newcomers to his forward wall, also is searching for depth at each slot—save center where he has a wealth of material in Ed Kleist of Duquesne, junior Dan Radakovich, and sophomore Benny Malesky to back up Reich.

Injuries—which have harassed Engle's entire squad during practice sessions—also hit at end where Engle already has headaches with a host of manpower and ability but a definite lack of experience.

Doug Mechling, a Leesburgh junior who was running at right end, has been sidelined with an ankle injury. With North at left end and Farls at right, Engle will go to Ned Finkbeiner, Les Walters, and Leo Kwalik for reinforcements. Only Kwalik has had playing time with a limited 28 minutes last year.

At right tackle behind Calderone, Engle will rely on the squad's biggest man—Walt Mazur who weighs in at 222—to take up the bench strength along with junior Clint Law. "Law," Engle said yesterday, "has been working very hard at right tackle."

Behind Kneidinger, at left tackle, Engle has Jim Harding, senior 195-pounder in addition to sophomore Jerry Summerly, a 209-pounder, for bench power.

At guard, however, Engle has Sam Valentine, a 185-pound letterwinner, to back up DeLuca at left guard. At right guard only Shumaker has experience. Soph Willard Smith and junior John Arnst are other aspirants as Shumaker's understudies. Valentine is still a front-running candidate for a starting role Saturday.

Radakovich, a 178-pound junior, played 44 minutes last year at center followed by senior Ed Kleist. Sophomore Malesky of United will also be in reserve.

Engle said yesterday that his line was "much smaller than last year." Engle, who has only four men out of the 40 on the squad who are over the 200-pound mark, pointed out however, that he has several men who are on the verge of that mark. Of the four over 200, only two top the 210 bracket.

As far as game experience is concerned Engle has nine men on the front line whose playing time ranges in figures from Reich's 338 to Mechling's 23.

IM Grid Entries Due Next Friday

Touch football inaugurates the intramural department's athletic schedule for this year. Entries must be turned in at the IM office, in Recreation Hall, by 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 23.

An organization may enter only one team. Independent men may play for only one team.

All games are played on the lighted practice area at Beaver Field. Games will be played Monday through Friday from 7 to 11 p.m. Play will start September 26.

Complete information regarding rules, dates of play, and other important items may be obtained at the IM office.



—Photo by Walker

IT'S YOURS NOW—says Bobby Hoffman to his teammate and right halfback Bill Kane of Munhall as the two Lion gridgers go through pre-season practice drills. The two lettermen, along with 38 other Lion football aspirants, will wind up pre-season practices this week in preparation for the season-opener at Beaver Stadium Saturday at 2:00 p.m. with Boston University. Hoffman, a senior, has been a standout choice to return to his quarterbacking chores this fall.

Terrier Backfield May Be Powerful

Boston University—which met the Lions in 1951 and 1953 only to suffer defeat in both cases—comes to Beaver Stadium this Saturday with what is regarded as one of the East's best backfields. The game, the opener for both squads, will be televised throughout the East.

In the past Coach Buff Donelli's BU elevens have featured colorful and explosive backfields. And this year the Boston Coach has the material to continue his squad's reputation.

3 Backfield Losses

Although he lost his starting quarterback in Thomas Gastall by graduation plus his all-East fullback Sam Pino and his left half Joe Terrasi, Donelli is expected to knit another hard-running backfield unit.

Captain Ken Hagerstrom, right halfback, is the only holdover but Donelli figures his new material will adequately fill in for losses by graduation.

Hagerstrom is being eyed by BU followers as an attention-getter on the basis of scoring 54 points, snagging 18 passes for 491 yards, and earning a rushing average of 4.9 yards per try in 1954.

Southpaw Kicker

John Slauson could win the number one fullback assignment with the Terriers on the basis of his left foot. As a southpaw kicker, he has been getting off some booming punts and solid kicks through the goal posts. Slauson is a transfer from Wisconsin where he understudied Alan Ameche for one year.

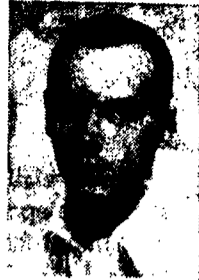
Although Donelli has 17 lettermen returning for duty this year only two of these are at quarterback. But that may be all Donelli needs in addition to a junior and sophomore vying for the number one spot.

One of the two lettermen is senior Tom Lerario, of South Catholic in Philadelphia, a left-handed passer. Last year Lerario, understudying for Gastall, saw little action.

Letterman Phil O'Connell is another possibility for Donelli. Having worked with the sensational Harry Agganis, who died during the past summer at the age of 25, before going into the service two years ago, O'Connell reportedly has swung into line to help solve Donelli's major problem—quickly and easily.

Of the 43 men returning to

TIME OUT...



By RON GATEHOUSE, Asst. Sports Editor
... with Chick Werner

Quite a few words of praise have been passed around cross-country and track and field circles concerning Penn State's Charles (Chick) Werner. The Lion mentor, who doubles as head coach in both sports, has a long-standing reputation as one of the best in the business. And because of the wealth of knowledge he's built up in working closely with both the Fall and Spring sports, Werner is today recognized both nationally and internationally as one of the top manufacturers of outstanding distance runners.

Because of the much-heralded track performers he's turned out in assembly-line-fashion, Werner, on several occasions has been invited abroad to offer advice and guidance to foreign track and field athletes.

During a five-week period the past summer, from June 29 to August 7 to be exact, Werner visited Finland for what can be safely termed his most beneficial and worthy performance to date outside the Nittany Vale.

Accompanied by another top personality in his field, the University of Pennsylvania's Ken Doherty, Werner visited the nation of the inland waterways representing the Educational Services branch of the U.S. State Department.

The five-week period was spent visiting more than 30 summer camps, which Werner describes as athletic havens. Offering advice and comment through his observations along the way, Werner fulfilled a three-fold purpose on the tour.

First of all, his repertoire of international track and field performances was enlarged by leaps and bounds; secondly, the ideas reaped by the Finns through Werner's advice are sure to promote that country's chances of repeating its excellent performances of the past when the 1956 Olympics roll around; and last, and probably the most important, the tint of goodwill enveloping the tour will go far in furthering Finnish relations with Penn State, United States coaches and athletes, and this nation as a whole.

While in Finland, Werner and Doherty were escorted by Armas Valste, Finland's head Olympic track and field coach.

The duo made numerous lectures before Finnish track and field aspirants, most of which had to be interpreted. Werner's topics usually laid stress on distance running, while Doherty gave general all-around reports. The Penn coach is author of what Werner terms the finest book of its type in the world, "Track and Field Athletes."

Pointing to an interesting sidelight on his trip to Finland, Werner chuckled a bit and went on to tell of one of the nation's favorite pastimes—and it didn't concern running in the least. Seems as though nearly every Finnish family has a "Sauna Bath," comparable in some ways to the Turkish variety which has risen to extreme popularity in this country.

Another variety of the "Sauna Bath," a larger type found mainly in cities, is open to the public.

Preparing a "Sauna," as it is often referred to, consists of heating stones and rocks to a terrific temperature, and then emptying a dipper of water on them after they have cooled slightly.

"Everyone takes a 'Sauna' at least once a week, 52 times a year, and can you imagine a whole family sweating it out at once in a 15' by 25' room," the Lion coach commented in dead seriousness. "I had seven or eight," he said, "and they really make you feel like a million."

From this corner it looks as though Werner may have more than athletics in mind if he decides to take another trip to Finland in the near future.

Hey there! You with the Twinkle Toes—

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