

TIME OUT...

By RON GATEHOUSE, Asst. Sports Editor



... FOR DISA AND DATA

CROSS-COUNTRY WOES: A few short weeks ago Penn State cross-country coach Chick Werner was hashing over what he expected the Centennial season would hold in store for his Lion harriers.

"It's too early to tell how good we are," he said, "but I do know that we'd have to go pretty far to find a schedule as tough as we have this year."

And after a quick glimpse at the results of the three meets the Lions have entered to date, it appears that Werner wasn't talking through his hat.

How good his 1955 harriers are may or may not be established in Werner's mind, but there's one factor that he's bound to be sure of by now—the 1955 cross-country schedule is tough.

To date, the Lion harriers have faced—and lost to—Navy, Cornell, and Michigan State. Respective scores were 22-39, 20-37, and 18-43.

The figures don't seem quite as overwhelming when the prowess of these teams is taken into consideration. Navy threw a bundle of experience at the Nittanians; Cornell made a strong bid for the IC-4A title last November; and the Spartans are given an edge for this year's Big Ten Conference crown.

But things don't stand at all promising for the remainder of the season either. Pitt, the Lions' Friday opponent, had a 22-meet win streak snapped, 27-28, by Villanova Oct. 15. The Panthers and Villanova finished two-three in last fall's IC-4A's.

Then comes Manhattan. The Jaspers, who host the Lions Nov. 5, were the 1954 IC-4A crown-bearers.

To round out the season, Werner's runners travel to the Nov. 14th IC-4A's in New York City, and then move to East Lansing, Mich., for the Nov. 28th national collegiate meet.

But don't count the Lions out yet. Last year they finished the regular season in the red with a 1-4 mark, but went on to rank fourth in the IC-4A's and fifth in the NCAA festival at East Lansing.

Two members of the present team—Captain Doug Moorhead and Don Woodrow—were among the leaders in the Lions' smashing post-season showing last fall.

AND SOON THE TWAIN SHALL MEET: Last year two standout soccer players graduated from Penn State's national champion team—Captain and All-American Jack Pinezich and star halfback Gerry Gillispie.

Since both were enrolled in the University's advanced ROTC program—Pinezich in the Air Force and Gillispie in the Navy—it wasn't long before Uncle Sam put in his bid for the Lion teammates.

Pinezich entered the Air Force last May, and after spending a few weeks in Texas, entered Flight Training School in Missouri. The Air Force picked up news of his college soccer achievements, and selected him for a berth on the armed services team, which traveled to Iceland for a three-game series.

Upon returning to the States, Pinezich was taken out of flight training to practice soccer and

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Engle Fears Penn Upset Saturday

Penn State, on the wrong end of the scoring count in three of its first five games this year, moves into the favorite's role Saturday for the first time in two weeks when it tangles with Penn in Philadelphia.

Penn is winless over two seasons; it has suffered five losses this year. Even with this, however, the Lions are less sure of victory over their traditional foe than they have been for years.

For Coach Rip Engle, this is the poorest start his team has made since his first squad here in 1950.

That team, like this one, lost three of its first five games, but finished with a 5-3-1 record.

Although Engle's squad will be the favorite Saturday in the 43rd meeting of the two grid outfits, he is fearful of an upset.

"A team like Pennsylvania is hard to figure," the Lion coach said. "Our scouting reports indicate they're not as bad as their record but simply have been unable to put their stuff together."

"We, of course, are having our own troubles, and if Pennsylvania should have a good day, and we should have a bad one, almost anything could happen. Call me a pessimist, if you want, but that's exactly how I feel about this game."

Engle definitely is in no mood to blame his team. "I think it's only fair to say that our team has played better ball every week. It's a simple case of not having as much as the other fellow."

In the West Virginia game, the statistics were overwhelmingly in favor of West Virginia; the Lions stand-up-and-fight brand of ball in the first half before they were outmanned and outsized in the second half, however, is shown in the statistics of the first half:

First downs: PSU—9, WVA—9; yards gained rushing: PSU—147, WVA—77; yards gained passing: PSU—60, WVA—66.

J. T. White, Lion scout who has trained his eyes on Penn for three weeks, goes along with Engle in

his estimation of Coach Steve Sebo's eleven.

"I have only admiration for this team... I have yet to see it quit... these boys play the game right down to the final whistle... the opposition simply has been too much for them," said White.

Williams Retains Lead in Grid Poll

Collegian Sports Editor Roy Williams retained his slim lead Saturday in the Daily Collegian's weekly grid poll when he recorded a 9-6 slate.

Williams extended his lead to four games when Earl Bruce—representing the Nittany Lion coaches—hit on only eight out of 15 to fall into a two-way tie for second place with staffer Fran Fanucci.

Fanucci tied Williams' mark of 9-6 for the day and erased his one-game deficit to tie the coaches in Saturday's selections.

Assistant Sports Editor Ron Gatehouse failed for the second consecutive time to move out of the cellar when he also missed seven of the 15 picks.

Senior Member

Charlie Speidel, as head coach of wrestling since 1927, is the senior member of the Penn State athletic coaching staff.

Varsity, Fresh Cagers To Begin Practice

Penn State's varsity basketball team will begin practice at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Recreation Hall. Coach John Egli has announced.

Don Swegan, freshman cage mentor, also announced that all freshman basketball candidates will report for an organizational meeting at 6:45 p.m. tomorrow on the main floor in Rec Hall.

Freshman practice will begin at 4 p.m. Monday.

Candidates for both the varsity and frosh squads should pick up physical cards in 204 Rec Hall any time this week.

Michigan State's basketball coach Fordy Anderson has a cousin with the identical name who coaches high school football at Ft. Wayne, Ind. Catholic Central.

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three weeks ago he was sent to Germany to again tour with a service team. And he made his European debut in true all-American fashion.

Arriving one day before he was scheduled to play, the former Lion great started for the American squad and scored three goals to pace his teammates to a 5-3 win over the German squad.

And just a week ago Tuesday, Gillispie received orders to report to Wiesbaden, Germany, to play on the same team with Pinezich. The squad, under the auspices of the Air Force, is making a 45-day tour throughout Europe. At the end of that period, Pinezich and Gillispie will return to the States for the Olympic tryouts Dec. 30th in New York City.

Another former Lion booter, Ron Coder, a goalie on the 1951 squad, is also touring with the service team.

THE LIONS HAVE A PUNTER: Representatives from Pitt sitting in the scouting booth Saturday at the Penn State-West Virginia

game had nothing but praise for Jim Hochberg's brilliant punting performance against the Mountaineers.

In seven attempts this season, the Lion quarterback has booted 308 yards for a 44 yards-per-kick average. As a junior, Hochberg's four kicks (a fifth was blocked in the TCU game) went for a 41-yard-average.

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