

Stickmen, Netters At Home Today

By LOUIE PRATO

For the first time in fifteen years, Penn State will oppose interstate rival Lehigh in an intercollegiate lacrosse game.

The Lions, who snapped out of a midseason slump Saturday with a 15-4 win over Swarthmore, meet the Engineers at 3:30 p.m. today at Beaver Field. The game is the second of a four-game home stand that will include the 1956 season for the Nittany stickmen.

Not since 1941, when Coach Nick Thiel's team handed Lehigh a 12-5 loss, have the two schools faced each other on the lacrosse field.

The Lehigh-Penn State lacrosse series began back in 1915 when the Engineers from Bethlehem were one of the perennial lacrosse powers of the nation. Lehigh won the first two games in the series—10-2 in 1915 and 15-1 in 1917—but from then on it was all Penn State.

The two schools broke relations in 1917 and did not meet again until 1927. When play was resumed, the Lions were in complete control. They routed the Engineers, 11-2, in the third game of the series and for the next six games—between 1934 and 1941—the Nittanians rolled over the Bethlehem school with relative ease.

In recent years, Lehigh has not fielded a potent lacrosse team. In 1954 they won four and lost seven. Last year, Coach Dave Dockham's men could win only one of their eight games.

Thus far this season, the Engineers have continued in their losing manner. Although no official team record has been received by Coach Nick Thiel, he is almost certain that they have not won more than two games.

Eight lettermen from the 1955 squad are the mainstays of the Lehigh lineup. Five of the eight holdovers are juniors while the other three are seniors. There are only two other seniors on the Lehigh roster—both reserves.

One of the five juniors, Fred Gould, is an ex-teammate of Lion scoring star, Bill Hess. Gould and Hess played together at Manhas-

By TOM WERNER

The resurging Lion tennis team, seeking its third straight victory, will face Juniata—a squad which came uncomfortably close to an upset last season—on the Beaver Field courts, at 3:30 p.m. today.

Last year the Nittanians went past the .500 mark for the first time with the Juniata win and they almost did not make it. The match was decided in the last two contests as the Lions came out ahead, 5-4.

This year Juniata will field a majority of sophomores due to heavy graduation losses.

Back from last year's surprise scrappers will be Phil Lankford, playing the same number one spot that he occupied last season. In the '55 contest Lankford swept Lion Ed Seiling off the court, 6-1, 6-1.

Known for his 'head' play, Lankford has no special forte as a racquet technician, depending on his ability of quickly detecting his opponent's weaknesses and capitalizing on them.

Coach Sherm Fogg said that he would take no risks of dropping the match by inserting untried men into the lineup as he did last year.

Fogg plans to field his veteran team with the exception of Mike Walker, who will be given the number six singles spot for his intercollegiate debut.

Larry Adler, removed from singles competition, will be handed a doubles berth with Joe Eberly.

Coach Fogg warned that the Juniata squad will be a tough one to beat, coming to Beaver Field with upset plans in mind.

The Nittany netters will have to win the rest of the season's matches to equal last year's 7-5 slate. Standing at 3-5 now, the Lions will face West Virginia and Bucknell away before the finale at Pitt on May 25.

Today's contest will be the last home showing for the netmen this year.

Penn State, a perennial power in golf, has been beaten only once in its last 17 starts, twice in its last 30 outings.

Tri Delt, DZ, Capture Wins In Coed Tilts

Delta Delta Delta defeated Phi Mu 22-14 and Delta Zeta beat Atherton 12-5 on the loser's side of the elimination schedule in the coed intramural softball league Monday night.

Tri Delt's initial loss came at the hands of Beta Sigma Omicron in the first round of play, but the latter team was downed by Kappa Kappa Gamma in its second game.

Delta Zeta lost its first tilt with the Atherton team, but beat Alpha Gamma Delta in its next game.

In tonight's games Delta Zeta meets Delta Gamma, and Delta Delta Delta tangles with Kappa Kappa Gamma at 6:15 on Holmes Field.

The winners of these two tilts will meet each other tomorrow to decide the winner of the losers.

Leonides will battle Thompson in the second contest tomorrow to determine the undefeated winner of the elimination card. The winner of this game will then meet the winner of the loser's bracket next week to decide the champion of the softball league.

set High School, Manhasset, N.Y.

Coach Thiel, pleased with the way his switch of Lou Girard and Andy Bergeson turned out, will make no changes in the lineup which started against Swarthmore, Saturday. Girard moved from his attack spot to a midfield post and Bergeson stepped out of his midfield position into Girard's vacant attack slot.

'Nine' Seeks 14th Win Today

Seeking its best season since 1946 the Nittany Lion baseball team tries for its 14th win against Villanova this afternoon at Philadelphia.

The Lions have a 13-2 record, which is above par comparing it to last year's 17-5 mark. One of last year's defeats was absorbed in the district two playoffs.

With only four games remaining, the Lions can end the year with a 17-2 record, the best since the '46 club notched a 10-1 card.

Has Pessimistic View

But Coach Joe Bedenk has taken a pessimistic viewpoint of the forthcoming games. "We can easily drop two of these games," he said, "since we will be playing all the games away from home and within seven days."

The veteran coach said that he will start his top righthander, Stan Larimer, against Villanova today. Larimer has a 3-1 record

and owns a sparkling 2.03 earned run average, second only to Ed Drapcho's 1.03.

In his last start, against E. K. Knell, Larimer fanned 16 batters for a new Lion strikeout record, while allowing only three hits.

Lineup Remains Stable

The Nittany lineup will have Don Stickler behind the plate, Gary Miller at first, Lou Schneider at second, Guy Tirabassi at shortstop, Steve Baidy at third, captain Bob McMullen in left field, Jim Lockerman in center, and Jack McMullen in right.

If Villanova starts a lefthanded pitcher Dave Watkins will replace Jack McMullen in the outfield. Villanova's record was unob-

tainable but in a game with Navy Monday it lost 11-10. The Lions defeated Navy, 4-3, Saturday at Beaver Field.

Hold 19-17 Edge

In the overall series with Villanova, the Lions hold a 19-17 edge, which is one of the narrowest margins they hold over an opponent.

After today's game the Lions return home and then travel to Pittsburgh, where they meet the Panthers in a doubleheader Saturday. Drapcho and Larimer will be on the mound for the twin-bill.

The Lions close the season next Wednesday with Lehigh University at Bethlehem.

Scanning SPORTS

By FRAN FANUCCI, Sports Editor

PENN STATE'S BASEBALL TEAM!

Baseball Coach Joe Bedenk puffed on his cigarette, leaned back in his swivel chair, and within a few minutes had heaped a barrage of praises on his young but victory-minded team, which is surprising not only to University students but also its coach.

"I never though we'd win this many games," he said, "but they sure have been surprising me all along. If I have to point out one factor which is responsible for all this I would have to say its the pitching we're getting. Our defense is poor but our hitting has been above what I expected it to be."

With only three seniors on the team the logical conclusion almost anyone would draw would be that Bedenk is loaded for next year. But the soft-talking coach takes a different attitude.

"We should be a great team in '57," Bedenk said, "but you know how sports are; one year you're doing everything right and the next you do everything wrong. Take for example the 1953 club. We had everybody back from the year before with the exception of the catcher and we thought we had a terrific team. But we lost games—4-3, 3-2, 1-0—all by low scores. That's why I can't predict anything."

His sophomore-laden team is now doing everything right. For fans who have not seen a game this year a brief resume of each player follows:

Ed Drapcho . . . only a junior but already rated one of the top pitchers in Penn State history . . . is cool under pressure . . . has good control . . . sneaky fast ball which keeps hitters off balance . . . relies on his curveball during most of the game . . . Bedenk calls him "one of the best fielding pitchers in College baseball." One major league scout added his own comment concerning Drapcho's fielding prowess:

"When Drapcho pitches Penn State has five infielders in the lineup.

Stan Larimer . . . the second half of Bedenk's terrible pitching twosome . . . a senior, Larimer set a new Lion strikeout record last week when he fanned 16 Bucknell players . . . has a good fast ball, which is his most potent pitch . . . good curveball . . . good control.

Ron Smith . . . sophomore hurler, who has backed up Drapcho and Larimer when needed . . . relies mostly on control and slow curveball . . . should be a front line pitcher next year.

Stan Szymanski and Maurice Peace . . . two of Bedenk's spot pitchers . . . Szymanski has everything but control . . . Peace

has been hindered by illness and has pitched only one game . . . Bedenk thinks he could be a front line pitcher next year.

Gary Miller . . . hard working, sophomore first baseman . . . good hustler . . . fair fielder326 hitter, and one of leading RBI men on team.

Lou Schneider, second base . . . only senior in infield . . . good leadoff hitter and hard to pitch to because of his 5-6 size . . . good on double play . . . fair hitter . . . dependable fielder.

Guy Tirabassi, junior shortstop . . . Bedenk calls him "the live-wire of the infield" . . . having poor year on defense . . . but is good clutch hitter despite his low batting average. A worrier . . . but no matter how many errors he may make he is always the first one on the practice field the next day.

Steve Baidy . . . sophomore third baseman . . . doing good job at hot corner . . . quick on his feet . . . and has quick hands . . . good afield but only fair hitter.

Don Stickler . . . sophomore catcher . . . has excellent arm . . . slow runner321 hitter . . . one of the top defensive catchers in the East . . . good handler of pitchers . . . one of leading RBI men.

Bob McMullen . . . senior left fielder and captain . . . leading hitter at .453 . . . fastest runner on team . . . reminds fans of the Pepper Martin era of baseball with head-long slides and great hustle . . . although he bats left, he is effective against southpaws . . . leading RBI man with 15.

Jim Lockerman . . . junior centerfielder . . . broke out of his slump in the past two weeks . . . hitting .321 . . . average arm . . . good fielder and fast afoot . . . one of top RBI men . . . has trouble against lefthanded pitching. Jack McMullen . . . sophomore right fielder . . . good hitter, but only fair fielder and thrower . . . has potential to be a terrific hitter.

Dave Watkins . . . alternates with McMullen in right . . . good hitter . . . fair fielder . . . sophomore and should be starter next year.

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