



Scanning SPORTS

By FRAN FANUCCI, Sports Editor

REMOVED FOR A PINCH HITTER!

After spending four years working on The Daily Collegian and working with all the personnel in Rec Hall it is rather difficult to write your last column and not feel slightly disturbed.

The enjoyment I received from interviewing, arguing, and traveling with Penn State's coaches is much too vast to describe in words. But probably the experiences I encountered covering Lion sports events can be more feasibly put on paper.

Without even pausing a minute to think, I can say candidly that the most exciting moment, or sports event, I witnessed was the Lion football team's stunning upset over Ohio State last October.

The tremendous roar of approval by Penn State followers after the game and the ride back from Columbus, via pullman, were too much to ever forget. But the morning of the game was a complete reversal.

We stayed at the same hotel as the Ohio State team and, except for a few thoughts of the Illinois upset a few years before which built our hopes a little, we just thought this would be another loss. The Buckeye team was roaming all over the hotel lobby when we approached the cashier. I was stopped by an ardent Buckeye fan, who apparently noticed the Penn State sticker on my suitcase.

"I'll give you 28 points and State," he said boastfully. I stopped for a second, thought for a minute and then turned it down. My reason was aided by the comparing of scores between Eastern Colleges and Big Ten Colleges. Army beat us by seven points, but the following week the Cadets absorbed one of their worst licks in history from Michigan. Michigan was rated a trifle under Ohio State on pre-season polls, so using swift mathematical skill I figured we would lose by at least four touchdowns. This was apparently the poorest logic ever used to figure out a winner, as I was to see in about seven hours from the time I was offered those 28 points.

Other major thrills I had during my stay here were generally centered around the wrestling team. In the past month or so I saw approximately 400 wrestling matches and never was I tired of watching.

Johnny Johnston's winning the NCAA 130-pound title and John Pepe's losing the 137 crown were the most tension-packed matches I saw this year. Pepe, nursing a cracked rib and an injured knee, was almost unable to climb out of bed the day of the finals, but yet he met and beat a champion in every match he wrestled, except for the finals. Lehigh's Joe Gratto won on riding time, but to every Penn State fan it was a win for Pepe, who was told that he would be lucky to reach the finals in his condition.

These were the best moments of my four years on the Collegian.

The most outstanding achievement accomplished by the sports staff was the promoting of the Dick Kadis Fund, which brought publicity to the Collegian and to the Varsity "S" Club from many parts of the state.

The honorary membership awarded me by the "S" Club for taking part in the Kadis drive was one of the most cherished honors I have ever received. And I'd like to take the time and space now, if I may, to express my thanks to the "S" Club and to all the coaches, IM and athletic directors, ticket managers and players for the fine cooperation given this office the past year and a half.

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Baer Experiments with Plastics, Develops Athletic Repair Kit

By VINCE CAROCCI

Often times, a hobby can turn into a profitable occupation. This may be the case for Lion lacrosse coach Earnie Baer, who is constantly looking for new ways to improve athletic equipment.

Baer's latest innovation is a plastic repair kit for athletic equipment. He believes it to be the first such kit designed specifically for the repair of athletic equipment.

Baer first thought of this idea while successfully searching for material to repair lacrosse sticks. During the search he came across fiberglass—an inexpensive material which is easy to apply and requires few if any tools.

Baer found that fiberglass resists alkalis and acids, is rustproof and waterproof, and does not corrode. He was especially impressed with its amazing flexibility and durability. According to the Fiberglass-Evercoat Company, fiberglass is a "coating that has five times the tensile strength of steel."

Baer began using fiberglass in the repair of lacrosse sticks and found that it saved approximately \$150 during the first season it was used. He also discovered that it adheres to almost any material found in athletic equipment. From this evolved the idea of the repair kit.

Only seven items go into the kit's composition. Baer uses plastic resin, one of the toughest bonding plastics in existence, a curing agent to cause the resin to become hard, a reinforcing fiberglass fabric, chopped glass fibers to make a putty when necessary, fiberglass rovings for reinforcement in delicate repairs such as fishing rods and badminton rackets, brushes to spread the resin over the object and cups in which to mix the plastic resin and its curing agent.

The repair process itself is relatively simple. "Anyone can do it," Baer said. The first step is to remove all foreign matter from the area to be repaired. Baer advises the use of sandpaper or a similar abrasive to do this—never a chemical remover.

The next step is to cut the necessary fabric and measure the amount of plastic resin and curing agent. Then the plastic resin is thoroughly mixed with the curing agent and the mixed plastic and glass fabric is applied to the area to be protected.

That completes the repairing process. The repaired item will be ready for use in four hours. If an infrared heat lamp is used, the item will be ready in only five to ten minutes.

After experimenting successfully with fiberglass, Baer wrote an article in the January 1956 issue of *Scholastic Coach* describing the results he obtained through its use. The re-



Daily Collegian Photo by Marty Scherr

Coach Earnie Baer

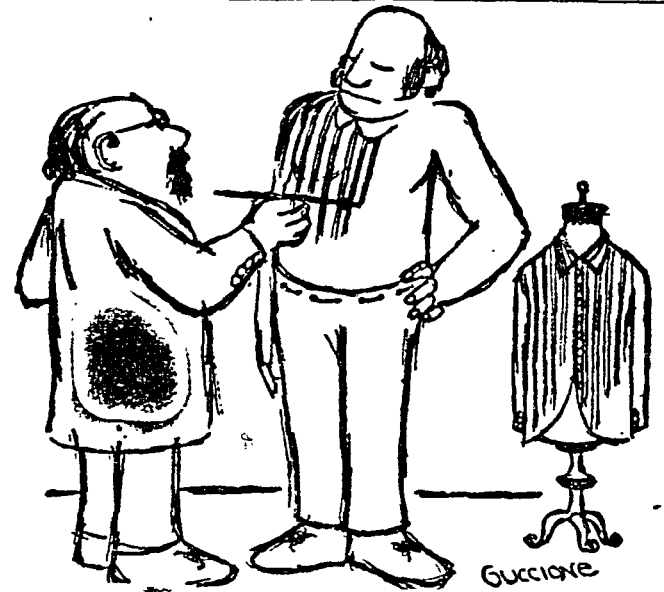
He puts his hobby to practical use

sponse to the article was very good and he decided to draw up the kit.

Baer himself does not manufacture the material used in the kit. After a thorough investigation, he found the best materials to use. He orders each material from a different manufacturer and packages them in the kit. The kit repairs anything from

tennis racquets and fishing rods to boat hulls and canoes.

Baer's kit has been on the market since September. He has already sent kits to every state in the Union and believes that the interest will continue to increase. Mail order is the only way by which to procure one of his kits. In discussing his interest in (Continued on page eleven)



GO, VAN, GOGH!

Once upon a time, when the world was really evil, and a thief lurked behind every bush, cautious men had their shirts painted on! The reason for this is explained by a perceptive saying of those days:

"Forsooth, nothing deters those rapsallions about town. They'll steal anything that isn't buttoned down."

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