

Penn State's IM Program Rates With Nation's Best

By LES POWELL

If you are one of the 4000-plus new students who takes his first look at Penn State this week, you may be impressed, among scores of other things, by the preseason raves being heaped upon the Lion football team in newspapers throughout the East.

If you're an ardent enthusiast of sports in general (and Penn State sports in particular), you might have read during the past academic year of the basketball team's passion for upsetting the top clubs on its schedule, the fine showing by the Lions in the NCAA

baseball tournament or the varsity golfers' near-victory in the Eastern tourney at Annapolis.

In a matter of weeks, however, you will realize and greatly appreciate the fact that the University's vast athletic program far from ends with varsity competition. Working behind the scenes to plug the gap between physical education classes and intercollegiate athletics is a small, underpublicized group which has broadened the scope of Penn State sports since 1930—the intramural office.

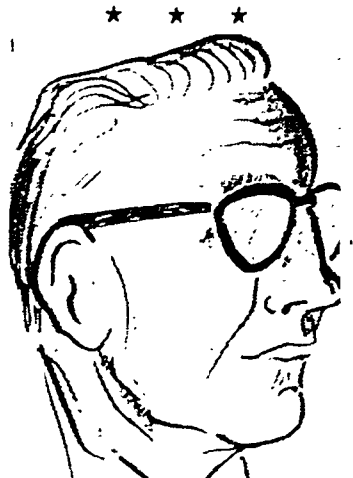
Intramural athletics—popularly known as "IM's"—have played a vital part in building and retaining sportsmanship among fraternity and independent groups since former football coach Hugo Bezdek introduced the program at Penn State 27 years ago. Bezdek, who probably considered Penn State's 1924 Rose Bowl team as his finest achievement, conceived something that will be going strong after great grid squads of the past are forgotten.

Penn State's intramural program is unique in that its administration has been solely in the hands of the intramural office since 1946. Until that time, the program was run by a system of student managers, similar to that employed by varsity sports. Such a method was the only one possible at the time. But its drawbacks, such as very limited records and lacks of time, resulted in its abandonment.

The present system does not entirely exclude students from its management. Every fraternity has an athletic chairman to organize its teams and keep the players informed on playing dates, times and special announcements. Students also assist in officiating intramural competition. Last year, 72 undergraduates, most of them varsity athletes, were used as game officials.

The remainder of the program—that part which the average student takes for granted—is carried out by the IM office. The intramural department's staff is in complete charge of printing all schedules, formulating and publishing rules and announcement sheets and maintaining records.

Instead of an intramural handbook which would collectivize the information, periodical announcements are distributed a few weeks before a given sport is to open. The latter method keeps the program fresh and serves its purpose more effectively. Handbooks are impractical since they would seldom be read thoroughly.



GENE BISCHOFF



"Dutch" SYKES

I.M. Sports
Basketball
Football
Tennis

The IM office's mimeographed announcement sheets state the entry deadline for each sport, entry fees, rules, starting times and type of tourney (single elimination or round robin) and explain certain drawbacks of competition.

The latter point is of major importance to those interested in basketball play. Most teams must play a portion of their schedule on Friday nights, when many students are going home for the weekend, and playing dates cannot be changed.

Lateness of games is a conflict which must be faced in all sports. Due to the lack of facilities, classes and varsity sports, 80 per cent of IM action takes place after dinner hours (5-6:15) and 50 per cent after 9 o'clock.

These and countless other hazards have provided an avocation for Gene Bischoff, director of the intramural program. Bischoff, who holds an M.S. degree from Ohio State, came to Penn State via Oberlin (Ohio) College and OS. In 1934, he succeeded Bezdek in the IM driver's seat and led the program's highly successful reconstruction.

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Booters Seek New Fullback

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ward Dutch Walz. This leaves senior Per Torgeson and junior Mike Stollmeyer, the other two booters in the scoring deadlock, as Hosterman's top competitors for the season. "Unless they're out-hustled, they're my big men," he said.

The Lion mentor also looks for considerable help for Herb Hertenner, Walt Krauser and Paul Bauer, all of whom saw considerable action last season. Don Dougald, Lawrence's understudy last year, figures to be the leading goalie candidate this season.

Hosterman also feels that Howie Maierhoffer, a transfer student from Buffalo last fall who had to sit out the season because of the intercollegiate transfer rules, may help his club. "I hope to use him a bit," he said.

He is also looking for help from last year's frosh squad.

Hosterman also expressed some happiness over the schedule. For the first time in his five-year reign, his club has more home games than away games—six to four. He said he expected the home encounters—Penn, Temple, Navy, Pitt, Maryland and West Chester—to be the toughest.

The Lions Tune Up...



IT'S SCRIMMAGE TIME on the Beaver Field practice gridiron as Coach Rip Engle sends his charges through first-week practice sessions.

Hi, Penn Staters!



Here's a great big Hello to all you students—old and new. Stop in today and plop your hats on the counter . . . whether they're blue dinks or black pointed ones. Their owners will be treated to the same delicious food and wonderful service that has made the Penn State Diner a favorite through the years.

Penn State Diner

West College Avenue

"Stop at the Sign of the Lion."

It's The Same Welcome Mat

That's right frosh. The same welcome mat that was out at Balfour's for your father is still out for you. And Crum Jenkins has been keeping it in place all this time.

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Balfour is well known on every campus for fine jewelry. So why not show that you are right in the swing of things and send some one at home a piece of Penn State jewelry from Balfour.

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L. G. Balfour Co.
in the "A" Store

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