

Competition Stiff At FB Position Participation Stressed By WRA Group

By VINCE CAROCCI
Sports Editor

(This is the last in a series of articles covering the positions on the Penn State football team. Today—the fullbacks.)

The quarterbacks are talented,
The Halfbacks, too;
But, don't forget the fullbacks,
Cause they're good!

That pitiful attempt at poetry may be disappointing, but all indications are that the 1957 Penn State corps of fullbacks won't be—if fall practice drills can be used as a sound basis of judgment.

Right now, there are four gridders vying for the starting berth—Emil "Babe" Caprara, Maurice Schleicher, Ben Williams and Pete Shopa, with Caprara and Schleicher leading the field by a fair margin.

According to backfield Coach Frank Patrick, Caprara and Schleicher are waging a battle similar to the one being fought at halfback (where four men are closely matched for starting honors) and it can not as yet be said definitely just who will be the starter at Penn, Sept. 28.

These two gridders are used to close competition between



"Babe" Caprara



Maurice Schleicher

... they're making it tough at fullback themselves. Last season, although Caprara started more times, the two just about evenly divided their playing time.

Caprara played with the starting unit of quarterback Milt Plum and halfbacks Billy Kane and Ray Alberigi—all graduated—most of the time last year. Schleicher joined the Al Jacks-Bruce Gilmore-Andy Mocoyni backfield on Coach Rip Engle's surprising second unit and at times relieved Caprara on the first club.

According to Patrick, Caprara has looked exceptionally well both offensively and defensively and his faking has been instrumental in the success of the halfbacks on dives and end sweeps. Because of this, he has the inside track on the job right now, Patrick said.

But, the battle is not won—not yet, anyway. Patrick said that Schleicher, who has been handicapped by minor bumps and bruises this fall, is just now rounding into his best playing shape and is starting to give Caprara quite a tussle for the job.

The battle between Williams and Shopa for the third team position is almost as close as the Caprara-Schleicher match. Both boys have shown sporadic moments of good running ability—neither can claim the job for his own.

Williams was the number three fullback most of last season while Shopa is playing college football for the first time since his discharge from the Army last spring. Shopa, a junior, spent the 1951 season at fullback for Engle before he entered the service.

Looking at the situation in general, Patrick expressed an optimistic attitude toward the future when he said: "As a whole, the fullback position is pretty well fortified. They're all terrific players who can do a good job when called on in a ballgame."

Penn State's WRA Intramural program, which will begin Monday, Sept. 23, is designed to afford recreation for every Penn State woman, regardless of athletic ability, and is conducted to emphasize participation rather than recognition.

This year's intramural chairman will be Sally Jervis. Jean Nigh and Barbara Thiel are her assistants.

The various teams entering the intramurals will be composed of independent and sorority girls. Each dormitory unit and sorority will elect an intramural representative who will attend a meeting 5 p.m. every Monday in White Building.

WRA has an intramural point system in which a Participation Cup will be given to the unit or sorority with the largest percentage of girls participating. This cup is presented each semester. Last semester's winner was Delta Zeta sorority. In addition, an Intramural Cup will be presented to the unit winning the most games. Last semester, Kappa Kappa Gamma was awarded this cup.

The following will be the intramural program for the coming year: first semester—hockey, badminton, swimming, table tennis and basketball; second semester—volleyball, basketball, bridge and softball.

Spahn Wins 20th, Braves Top Cubs, Magic Number 5

CHICAGO, Sept. 20 (AP)—Lefty Warren Spahn missed the finish, but became the majors' first 20-game winner as the pennant-bound Milwaukee Braves routed Bob Rush with a 5-run seventh for a 9-3 triumph today over the Chicago Cubs.

Pending tonight's St. Louis at Cincinnati game, the Braves moved 4½ games ahead of the runner-up Cards.

Spahn, 36, who recorded his eighth 20-victory season, yielded three hits before cautious Manager Fred Haney yanked him with one out and two Cubs on base in the bottom of the seventh. He was replaced by Don McMahon, who struck out the next two batters to end the threat.

Rockefeller Offer Vetoed by 'Bums'

NEW YORK, Sept. 20 (AP)—Multi-millionaire Nelson Rockefeller today upped his offer to \$3 million to buy land for a new stadium for the Brooklyn Dodgers, but was promptly rebuffed by Dodger President Walter O'Malley.

Originally, Rockefeller—who is vying desperately to keep the Dodgers in New York—had offered \$2 million for the land on the downtown Brooklyn site which O'Malley wants for his team.

Penn State's sophomore center, Earl (Bud) Kohlhaas, is a 2-time all-State selection from Mechanicsburg High School.



As a MATT-er-a-FACT

By MATT MATHEWS
Assistant Sports Editor

PITT AND OKLAHOMA—OUR GUESS

Most prominent in the minds of sports writers and avid sports fans is the opening of the college football weekend—and what a game they have scheduled at Pittsburgh for the 1957 opener: Pitt vs Oklahoma!

With no further adieu, this column will go all out on a limb with its first prediction of the year.

Pitt will win . . . it's got all the horses necessary!

This prediction was not pulled out of a hat. It's our firm conviction after seeing and talking to peak-conditioned Pitt gridders and reviewing the statistics.

One of the outstanding jinxes facing the 62-man squad from Norman, Okla., is that the Sooners continually play a sub-par game on opening day—particularly on the uneven year and this happens to be 1957.

Two years ago, the Sooners national championship team looked like a high school unit in the opener with a North Carolina team that lost nine games. The Oklahomans squeaked by in that one, 13-6, with a second half comeback.

In 1953, they dropped their first verdict and were tied by Pitt, 7-7—the last mar on their present 40-game win streak. Incidentally, in 1951 the Sooners dropped two of its first three games and in two even-numbered years, 1948 and 1952, they were again unsuccessful in winning the first game of the season.

Now we will try to show you that this 1957 edition will probably be just as "green" as the previous ones that had difficulty in winning their initial contests—all-America back Clendon Thomas to the contrary.

Wilkinson will be the first to admit that he lost a wealth of material in the backfield—and we are thinking of more than all-America back Tommy McDonald, the fourth leading scorer in the nation.

We are thinking of a position where inexperience will hurt the most . . . quarterback. Slick Jimmy Harris is the number one man that Wilkinson is attempting to replace. But the 41-year old coach also lost his number two man, Jay O'Neal. To fill the gaps, he will probably go with Dale Sherrod, a converted senior halfback. Need we say more here.

All-American Jerry Tubbs is gone. His replacement will have the honor of holding out one vicious hunk of all-America material, Pitt center Charley Brueckman. Both first-string guards are also missing, and their successors will be aligned against mean Danny Wisniewski, 6' 235 pounds, and "Little John" Guzik, 6' 3", 245.

On that experienced Pitt line, including "inexperienced" ends Jim Zaonos and Dick Scherer, will be another all-America candidate—tackle Jim McCusker, "listed" at 6'2", 245 pounds.

According to the official team roster, the line should average 228 pounds per man, which still makes it the largest mountain of beef and muscle congregated on a college gridiron club this year. They're "Michelsen" Men," and that means they are in top physical shape. It seems Mr. Mike just likes to wear you down for a half and then score away.

Going into the game, Oklahoma will still have their 40-game win streak and their 116-game scoring record on the line. This, and Wilkinson's ability to come up with championship teams, seems to rate the invaders as an eight-point favorite. We just don't agree.

Another jinx we almost forgot to mention . . . Oklahoma doesn't fare too well on wet gridirons. The last time they played under a shower at Norman was in a losing effort and the coach got fired that same year. Wilkinson's teams have never played in the rain.

While he was an assistant under Jim Tatum in 1946, Oklahoma played twice in the rain. The sodden Sooners won from TCU by a mere 14-12 margin and lost to Kansas, 16-13. COME ON RAIN!

Malzone Ineligible For Rookie Honors

NEW YORK, Sept. 20 (AP)—Frank Malzone, Boston Red Sox third baseman, is not eligible for the rookie of the year honors, the board of directors of the Baseball Writers Assn. of America, said today.

Dan Daniel of the New York World Telegram and Sun, president of the association, said the board decided Malzone's 103 times at bat in 27 games last year disqualify him from being considered a rookie.

Gym Managers Called

Sophomores interested in applying for gymnastic manager positions are requested to sign up immediately in the Athletic Office, second floor of Recreation Hall.

Top College Grid Teams Face Rugged Opener

It's been a good many years since the big boys of college football have sneaked in a couple of easy breather games to open the season. Usually, they resembled the exhibition type, with coaches cleaning the bench after the score hit 60-0.

Not today however, as the 1957 season opens with a bang, and the national championship just might be involved, plus a couple of major conference titles. For instance:

1. Oklahoma, national champs for the last two seasons, throws a 40-game winning streak on the line at Pittsburgh against the dangerous Pitt Panthers.

2. Oregon State, defending Pacific Coast Conference champions, meets Southern California, the 1956 runner-up, in a night game at Portland, Ore.

3. The Atlantic Coast Conference title could hinge on opening games between Duke and South Carolina at Columbia, S.C., tonight, and North Carolina vs North Carolina State at Chapel Hill, N.C.

Mat Manager Candidates

Sophomore students interested in becoming wrestling managers are requested to sign their names immediately in the Athletic Office, second floor, of Recreation Hall.

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