

A Glance at . . .

SPORTS

By VINCE CAROCCI Sports Editor

A PROFESSIONAL'S COLUMN GETS OUR GOAT!

Al Clark, Sports Editor of the Harrisburg Patriot-News, is an volved) the lightweight division behind. However, none of the five avid follower of the Penn State football team. If any one writer will lose much of its prestige. devotes most of his column space to Penn State football, Clark is the boy. But, in the Dec. 1 issue of the Patriot-News, Clark wrote a have been honored with such outcolumn on Penn State football that we thoroughly disagree with standing grapplers as Don and

Clark wrote that the Lion loss to the Panthers has caused Gerry Maurey, Bob Homan, Dick some rumblings among the Penn State athletic board as to the future Lemyre, Larry Fornicola, Sid of some of Coach Rip Engle's assistants. He names no names. The Nodland and John Pepe. But this reason for this is that the Pitt loss eliminated the Lions from the year only one man stands out in possibility of a Gator Bowl bid. He writes:

"The defeat, rather the manner by which it was attained by a rock-and-sock Pitt team, pointed up State's weak pass defensive system and caused rumbling within the rank and file of alumni. The result is that some members of the Penn State athletic board will suggest a change in assistant coaching personnel . . ."

If there are rumblings about coaching changes for next year, the division alone. we haven't heard about them as yet. As far as we know, the same coaching staff will be back for another crack next season. And rightfully so. The coaches were not to blame for the Lion loss.

First of all, Penn State, as Clark later put it, "was reeling and helpless at the end of the game." Pitt did score the winning touchdown on a pass, yes. But, we feel-and it was the consensus of the press box, too-that the Panthers would've scored again, even if they were forced to do it on the ground.

Because the Lions could not match the strength of the heavier Panthers should not cast a reflection on the ability of the Lion scoring honors in Tuesday night's coaches. When a team is outmanned, it is outmanned and that's all there is to it. And if ever a team was outmanned. Penn State was by the Panthers. No coach can be held responsible for that, league laurels.

Secondly, we'll be the first to admit that Penn State was weak! Royer, of Alpha Tau Omega, on pass defense this year. But, it was through no fault of the coaches, won high singles with a tally of They knew who was making mistakes on pass defense—although 202 and copped high series with they never singled out any player to us—and made all attempts 585 points. The ATO squad highto rectify this. But, a coach can't play for his players.

Last season, Penn State had a fairly strong pass defense. Was A matches were Alpha Tau Omethis because of the Lion defensive system? Not entirely. Last year, ga, Phi Mu Delta. Phi Delta Thethe Nittanies had the players—Milt Plum, Billy Kane and Ray Alta, Kappa Alpha Rho, Theta Delberigi, for example—who could handle the pass defense patterns
ta Chi and Alpha Zeta. better than this year's club. Those boys learned the tricks to pass defense and were tough.

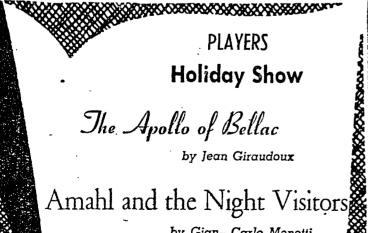
This year's lot didn't learn as quickly and suffered for it. But again, it's a case of a coach telling a boy his mistakes and showing him how to correct it—not playing the game for him.

If the Lion coaches made no attempt to rectify the errors, then get on them. But, they did attempt to rectify the Lion errors. The defenders weren't quick to learn-why go after the coaches scalp for it?

As far as we're concerned, the coaches did a creditable and conscientous job this year. They, in our opinion, are qualified coaches -and they'll be coaching at Penn State come the 1958 season.

The second point we wish to call to Clark's attention is that Les Walters did not lose his chance for All-America recognition with his performance in the Pitt game. In the same column, Clark wrote:

"A one-handed pass reception attempt by Walters, and it could be that Les handled the play as he thought best, cost the Hershey lad a sure berth on the All-America. Had Les taken in that ball-it was a play in the open for all to see-he would've scored. That would (Continued on page eight)



by Gian-Carlo Menotti

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ightweights May Lose Prestige

(This is the first of three !

and 137. But unless the unex-division but sophs Bill Gibson and pected happens (and it usually Bob Castagliola and juniors Joe does when Charlie Speidel is in-Cramp and Jack Maher, a refugee

Since 1950, the lightweights socks at the present time. that division—captain Johnny Island with an all-time dual meet Johnston, the two-time 130-pound record of 70-1 (he lost his match

reer record of 17-3, can't carry years ago, are the two sophs.

The biggest problem facing Coach Speidel is at the 123 post, where Sid Nodland -signed for

Royer Repeats Win In Bowling Action

Mel Royer, for the second straight week, took both personal intramural bowling, and again sparked his team to a sweep of

scored with 847 points.

Winners in Fraternity League



State College TV 232 S. ALLEN

For the past several campaigns, iors—one a transfer student—are the strongest division in the Penn State wrestling ranks has been the lightweight class—123, 130 ple of more strongest division in the penn the lightweight class—123, 130 ple of more graphs.

Sophomore Gordon Danks, a New Jersey prep school champ a compared to get baptism first. It's a long and difficult step from high school to college varsity. Remember, Pepe and Adams (two past Lion Eastern champs) fell down as sophomores." aspirants could wear Nodland's

> The situation is a little different at 137 pounds. Speidel has a couple of sophomores at that slot who have the potential to become Eastern champs—but you know how sophomores are.

Eastern champ and defending 130- as a high school freshman), and pound National titlist.

Danny Johnston (no relation to However, Johnston, who has an Johnny) who copped the Pennlalmost incredible collegiate ca-sylvania 130-pound state title two

Says Speidel of those two men: "Guccione and Johnston have a

find the right 123-pounder, we pend on sophomores. They have



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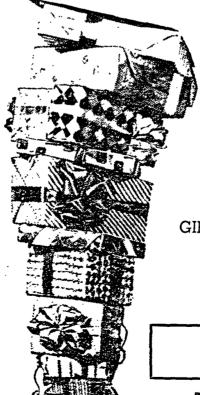
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