



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 avid follower of the Penn State football team. If any one writer 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 column on Penn State football that we thoroughly disagree with.

Clark wrote that the Lion loss to the Panthers has caused some rumblings among the Penn State athletic board as to the future of some of Coach Rip Engle's assistants. He names no names. The reason for this is that the Pitt loss eliminated the Lions from the 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, 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 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.

Secondly, we'll be the first to admit that Penn State was weak on pass defense this year. But, it was through no fault of the coaches. They knew who was making mistakes on pass defense—although they never singled out any player to us—and made all attempts to rectify this. But, a coach can't play for his players.

Last season, Penn State had a fairly strong pass defense. Was this because of the Lion defensive system? Not entirely. Last year, the Nittanians had the players—Milt Plum, Billy Kane and Ray Alberigi, for example—who could handle the pass defense patterns 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 conscientious 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)

## OPENS TONIGHT

PLAYERS

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# Lightweights May Lose Prestige

By LOU PRATO

(This is the first of three articles on the prospects of Penn State's 1957-58 wrestling team. Today—the lightweights.)

For the past several campaigns, the strongest division in the Penn State wrestling ranks has been the lightweight class—123, 130 and 137. But unless the unexpected happens (and it usually does when Charlie Speidel is involved) the lightweight division will lose much of its prestige.

Since 1950, the lightweights have been honored with such outstanding grapplers as Don and Gerry Maurey, Bob Homan, Dick Lemyre, Larry Fornicola, Sid Nodland and John Pepe. But this year only one man stands out in that division—captain Johnny Johnston, the two-time 130-pound Eastern champ and defending 130-pound National titlist.

However, Johnston, who has an almost incredible collegiate career record of 17-3, can't carry the division alone.

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

the last three years. "If I can find the right 123-pounder, we might be in business," Speidel says.

Three sophomores and two juniors—one a transfer student—are the top contenders for that berth. Sophomore Gordon Danks, a New Jersey prep school champ a couple of years back, is leading the division but sophs Bill Gibson and Bob Castagliola and juniors Joe Cramp and Jack Maher, a refugee from Rickter College, aren't far behind. However, none of the five aspirants could wear Nodland's socks at the present time.

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.

Guy Guccione, a native of Long Island with an all-time dual meet record of 70-1 (he lost his match as a high school freshman), and Danny Johnston (no relation to Johnny) who copped the Pennsylvania 130-pound state title two years ago, are the two sophs.

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

lot of potential but you can't depend on sophomores. They have 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."

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## Royer Repeats Win In Bowling Action

Mel Royer, for the second straight week, took both personal scoring honors in Tuesday night's intramural bowling, and again sparked his team to a sweep of league laurels.

Royer, of Alpha Tau Omega, won high singles with a tally of 202 and copped high series with 585 points. The ATO squad high-scored with 847 points.

Winners in Fraternity League A matches were Alpha Tau Omega, Phi Mu Delta, Phi Delta Theta, Kappa Alpha Rho, Theta Delta Chi and Alpha Zeta.

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