



The Sportseer

By LOU PRATO
Asst. Sports Editor

"It was one of my most exciting thrills," Joe Sabol, captain of Penn State's 1957 football team said when I approached him concerning his trip to Miami, Florida, over the Christmas vacation as a member of the North All-Star football squad.

Sabol was one of five Lion grid-ers to appear in a post-season all-star classic in late December. He and end Jack Farls played in the Mahi Shriners' 12th annual bowl game in the Orange Bowl on Christmas Day.

"We really had a lot of fun," Sabol said. "They treated us like kings. We practiced for about two hours in the morning — running through dummy scrimmage only — and the rest of the day was ours. There wasn't even a curfew, except the night before the game, but most the guys were in early."



Sabol

"What did you do after practice?" I asked. "Oh, I went golfing and swimming usually. But I also went to the horse races and dog races and I even did a little deep sea diving on the side. I visited a Sequarium too. Man, that was really interesting. These fish jump 15 feet out of the water and take food sticking out of the mouth of a man."

"Who paid for all this?" I questioned.

"The Shriners most of the time. We stayed at one of the big Miami hotels and we had six white 1958 Oldsmobile convertibles at our disposal at all times. Why some of the players such as Jim Ninowski and Dan Currie of Michigan State brought their wives down there with all the expenses paid by the Shriners. It was a honeymoon for Ninowski for he had just recently been married. He and Currie were our co-captains, incidentally.

"And that's not all," the three-year Lion veteran continued. "Many of the married guys went on to the Hula Bowl and even some are going to the Senior Bowl—and their wives will go along with all expenses paid."

"Did you keep in the Christmas spirit?" I asked.

"In more ways than one," Joe said. "We even exchanged Christmas gifts. We drew names out of a hat and bought a gift that would cost no more than a dollar. I had Jerry Goebel's name—he's a center from Michigan—and I bought him a bottle opener. Ray Nitschke, a fullback from Illinois had my name and he got me one of those shakers for mixing drinks."

"What did you think of Duffy Daugherty?" I asked. Daugherty was the head coach of the North team.

"I was really impressed with Duff," Sabol answered. "I met him last year at a high school football banquet and I wanted to see what he was like as a coach. The multiple offense system is great and it's really easy to learn."

"I don't think I'll ever forget that locker room talk right before the game. We all gathered around Duff and I think you could have heard a pin drop. He said: 'I don't know what

you boys do at your schools before a game but up at Michigan State we have a custom where we pray—not to win, we'll let the win take care of itself. But we pray that we have a good game and that no one suffers a serious injury. After that," Sabol said, "I was ready to tear the Rebs apart."

"Well, how did you spend Christmas eve?" I asked.

"That was really exciting. We met Rocky Marciano that afternoon and he invited all of us players from the North over to his place for some movies. He's quite a comedian—we really enjoyed ourselves at his place."

"Who impressed you most as a player?"

"Currie," Sabol answered without even pausing. "He's an All-American, there's no doubt about that. He'll make the pros easily. He played middle linebacker and I was right beside him on the left hand side. Jack (Farls) was right in front of me. We played the whole game on defense."

"Bob Cummings of Iowa also impressed me. He's the 173-pound guard who edged Alex Karras for Iowa's most valuable player this year. It's not that he was such a great ball player, but he was really a clown. I think he was the best liked player on the team."

"Let's see," I said. "Your team won, 23-20, after stopping the South with the ball on the one-yard line on the last play of the game."

"Yea," Joe said. "Both Jack and I were in on the last tackle and it really felt great."

"You also blocked an extra point, recovered a fumble and made some wicked tackles behind the line of scrimmage, didn't you? And didn't Farls re-

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Rough Road Ahead for Grapplers

Inexperience May Cost Matmen More Victories

Inexperience cost Penn State's wrestling team a victory against Illinois last Saturday and it may cost the Lion matmen more than that before the season is over.

"Illinois had a fairly strong team but they are no national champions," Coach Charlie Speidel said in a post-mortem of his team's 19-8 loss. "We're going to meet tougher teams in the likes of Lehigh, Cornell and Pitt. It was our inexperience that beat us."

Speidel had five newcomers in the Lions' starting array, including three sophomores and two seniors, and all five were beaten by their Illinois opponents.

"It's like I've been saying for a long time. It takes a while for sophomores to make the change from high school wrestling to college. There's a transition that has to be worked out. Sophs need experience to make the right decision."

Speidel wasn't referring to sophomores in the academic sense but in wrestling knowledge. Thus he includes seniors John Rusnak and Ray Pottios in this discussion.

"Dave Adams didn't come



Guy Guccione
... pressure gone

through as a sophomore and neither did (John) Pepe," Speidel continued. "And for that matter neither did (Earl) Poust. It took

them at least a year to get settled."

"Even the football team had trouble rounding the sophomores into form," the Lion coach said referring to Penn State's early 1957 grid woes.

It wasn't only the team loss that stunned Lion fans. For almost everyone couldn't believe (and some still can't) that Guy Guccione's fantastic 69-match win streak had come to an end.

Guccione (a sophomore, no less) had compiled a 71-1-1 record since he first participated in the sport as a high school freshman. But Bill Muther, an Illini veteran who finished fourth at 137 in the NCAA tournament last year, punctured all this with a 7-5 decision over Guccione.

"He found out that he can't muscle everyone in college," Speidel said of the Guccione loss. "That's just what happened to Bruce Gilmore last year. I know Gilmore would have been much smoother this year."

And what did the "phenomenal" sophomore think of the defeat himself? "I ran out of gas," Guccione said. "I didn't pace myself. At least the pressure is off now and I'm glad of that."

Frosh Matmen Set for Lehigh

By BILL JAFFE

If past records and performances are any indication, Penn State's freshman wrestling team should be one of the best in the school's history.

The Nittany Lions will open an abbreviated three-match schedule Saturday at Bethlehem when they tangle with the Lehigh frosh at 7 p.m.

The Lion freshman are coached by Dave Adams, last year's Lion varsity co-captain and Eastern Intercollegiate wrestling champion at 147 pounds. Adams is a graduate student in physical education this year.

At 123 pounds the top prospect looks to be Rodney Gibble, a 1957 PIAA wrestling champion at 112 pounds. Gibble, who wrestled for Manheim Central High School, was a three-time entrant in the state tourney and lost in the finals in 1956.

Although he is ineligible to wrestle this year, Don Wilson will

be one of the top prospects for the varsity next year at 130 pounds. Wilson transferred to State from Ohio State where he was a varsity performer.

A WPIAL wrestler from Washington High School, Steve Dasta, will bring an impressive high school and tournament record to the Lion mats.

Jerry Seckler, who did his high school wrestling at Valley Stream high school in Long Island, will be a top candidate at 147 pounds. Seckler was named the outstanding wrestler in last year's Lehigh Prep School wrestling tourney.

Other top candidates for middleweight berths include Robin Smith and Jim Byers, a State College product.

Another PIAA state champion will battle for a middleweight berth. Greenville's Emery Morrison won the 154 pound crown in the state tourney and was one of the outstanding performers.

Another entrant in the state

tourney will battle for one of the heavyweight berths when Allentown's Tim Stauffer takes to the mats. Stauffer learned his wrestling from a former Lion wrestler and EIWA champion, Glenn Smith.

The heavyweight position will be anchored by probably one of the finest wrestlers on this year's squad, Johnston Oberly, following in the footsteps of his brother Bill, won numerous titles in competition while in school at Washington, N.J.



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