



# A Glance at . . . SPORTS

By VINCE CAROCCI  
Sports Editor

In our book, Penn State wrestling Coach Charlie Speidel is among the masters in his field today. Wrestling fans would have to take that far and wide look to find many who are better than he at coaching the grappling. His reputation in the mat circle certainly rates with the best—and rightly so.

But, besides being a top wrestling coach, Charlie is also great newspaper copy. He is an attraction by himself at wrestling matches because his actions and his words typify his character—a guy who is as fiery as they come with a never-say-die attitude and a tremendous desire to win.

Charlie is a coach who never goes into a match with a defeatist attitude. Even this season, when wrestling talent—or better yet, experience—has not been on par with the past few years, Speidel refuses to concede the opposition anything until the match is over.

Want an example? Well, just before the Navy meet Saturday night at Recreation Hall, Speidel was asked by one of his former wrestlers if he had the crying towel out. Speidel's answer: "Nah, you never get any place with a crying towel." And, in case you haven't already heard, Penn State tied the favored Navy team, 12-12. That's Charlie Speidel for you.

During the wrestling meets, there isn't a fan in the building who puts more enthusiasm into each match than Charlie—and sometimes he seems on the verge of outdoing the wrestlers themselves.

But, to us, Charlie's one of our favorites because of the wiry remarks he makes off the cuff during the bouts—remarks that he makes in earnest but are by nature witty, especially to the fans. Here's two we picked up during the Navy match:

During the 123-pound bout between Jack Maher, PSU, and Paul Ilg, Navy, Speidel yelled to his boy as he was sizing Ilg up for a possible takedown: "Shoot, he has big legs, Johnny." Maher didn't get the takedown, however, and lost, 3-0.

And this during the Guy Guccione—Wes Phenegar 147-pound clash! As his boy Guccione stalked cautiously for a takedown opening, Charlie leaned far off his seat to warn: "Not yet, not yet," over the roar of the crowd.

Speidel seems to wrestle each bout in his mind. That's why he is about the "movingest" coach in the business. Fans are apt to see him in the strangest positions during a bout. That's because he's out on that mat in mind as much as the wrestlers are in body. And that's why you hear these quips over the roar of the crowd.

But, our favorite Speidel story goes like this: It was 1955 and Penn State was wrestling Navy at Navy. It was during that 1955 football season that the Middy gridders had come to Beaver Field to whip the Nittanians soundly, 34-14.

And the Middy rooters were letting Speidel know about it. "Who won the football game, who won the football game?" they kept chanting—the chants obviously intended for Speidel.

But, Charlie—an old Navy man himself during the Second World War—didn't let that bother him. Being a master of handling himself in all situations, he calmly turned to the Middy rooting section, gained a semi-quiet atmosphere, and answered simply but strongly: "ARMY." Army's gridders had beaten the Middies that year, 20-7. Not a word was heard along that line the rest of the afternoon.

That's Charlie Speidel . . . a great coach, an amiable guy, and a newspaperman's delight.

## WRA Sports Activities

Tryouts for WRA's Sports Day sports. Tryouts will be held at White Hall.

The following is the schedule for tryouts:  
Basketball—Wed. and Thurs., Feb. 5 and 6, at 7 p.m.  
Volleyball—Wed., Feb. 5, at 7 p.m.  
Badminton—Thurs., Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.  
Bowling—Thurs., Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.  
Participation is limited to two.

An organizational meeting of the Women's Recreational Association Rifle Club will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow in room 3 White Building.

## Lacrosse Candidates

Candidates for the varsity lacrosse team should report to varsity Coach Ernie Baer between 4 and 6 p.m. Monday at the Nittany Team Room, which is by the ice skating rink. Those who cannot report then should see Coach Baer as soon as possible after this date.

## Sports Dope . . .

Penn State in 1958 will play 10 football games, opening against Nebraska at Lincoln, Sept. 28.

This is the 70th successive year that Penn State has fielded an intercollegiate football team.

# Wrestlers Reach Halfway Point With Losing Season in Offing

It's been 11 years since Penn State's wrestling team finished a season under the .500 mark. But with the 1958 campaign at the halfway mark and the toughest part of the schedule coming up, a losing season is not beyond reality.

The Lions are sporting a 1-2-1 record, gaining a victory over Colgate in the season's opener; losing to Illinois and Lehigh and drawing with Navy. And there's no breathing spell in sight either with opponents like Cornell, Syracuse, Maryland and Pitt yet to be faced.

The last time the Nittanians had a losing season was in 1947. Coach Charlie Speidel's first year at the helm after his return from World War II. That year, the Nittanians won three and lost four.

The present Lion outfit will have some consolation (if you want to call it that) in that three of those four meets will be on home grounds. Only the Maryland event, two weeks from Saturday, will be away.

Speidel didn't have much to say over Penn State's latest outing, a 12-12 deadlock against Navy last Saturday night at Rec Hall. The draw was somewhat of a "moral victory" for the Lions since the Middies were rated pre-meet favorites.

"We had to give way a few pounds in a couple of weights," Speidel said, "otherwise we might have won the meet. But don't get me wrong, I'm not ali-

bying. We always put the best team available on the mats."

The Lion mentor did say he was still looking for heavyweight candidates. Ray Pottios is the current Lion heavyweight but Speidel feels that the Lion senior

week to get ready for Cornell," the Lion mentor said referring to Saturday night's battle with the Big Red. "Cornell is stronger than Navy in my opinion. In fact I still say that Pitt, Lehigh and Cornell, in that order, are the best of our league (the EIWA)."

### Wrestlers Asked to Report

All men who signed up for varsity and freshman wrestling have been asked to report to the Recreation Hall mats this week. Those who don't appear will probably be dropped from the squad.



Sam Minor . . . impressive against Navy could be wrestling at 177.

Speidel also said he was impressed with the showing of Sam Minor. Minor, wrestling at 167, decisioned veteran George Brainard, 6-3. "We'll have to work hard this

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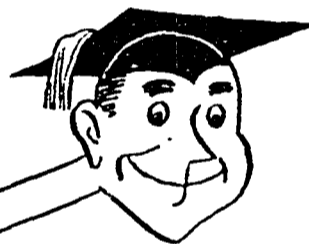
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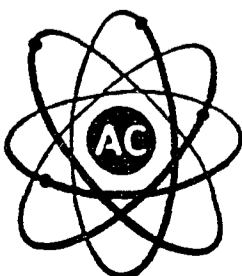
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