

The Sportseer



Weak Schedule? Not That Weak!

By Lou Prato
Sports Editor

Ever since we took over the sports editor's desk, we've been receiving complaints concerning the so-called "weak schedule" facing Penn State's 1958 football team.

Why don't they play "SOMEBODY" one gent said scornfully. "FURMAN? Even my high school team wouldn't play them. And MARQUETTE? Why, they haven't won a game in two years.

"Of course I know we have to play PENN," my congenial (???) friend continued, "even though they stink, but why NEBRASKA, BOSTON U. and HOLY CROSS? Our freshman team could probably whip them without even trying."

Now, I'm not going to defend the schedule—I'll leave that job up to head coach Rip Engle who is more of a master at brain-washing. But I personally, feel that the 10-game slate carded for the Lions this fall isn't as weak as my scholarly friend (and his faithful followers) believe.

NEBRASKA—Only a fool would see the Huskies as a tough opponent. However, no team can be taken for granted, especially the season's opener. (Remember last year's Penn game.) Nebraska has been the doormat of the Big Event Conference (better known as Oklahoma and others) for the past several years, and according to pre-season reports this year will be no different.

PENN—This is reputed to be Coach Steve Sebo's best squad in his five-year coaching regime. They have 21 of 32 lettermen returning, including a couple speed merchants, Fred Doelling and Jack Hanlon, and enough linemen to form two teams. All the Quakers need is a quarterback to lead the attack. An Ivy League crown (their first in a long time) could be reaped if they find that QB.

ARMY—Who needs to say more? The Cadets have the best halfback tandem in the nation in all-American Bob Anderson and captain Pete Dawkins. And fullback Harry Walters is no slouch, either. They need a quarterback too, but Joe Caldwell is probably the answer to that problem. Their line is supposed to be undermanned, but we doubt that. Army, just like its counterpart at Annapolis, almost always comes up with a winner.

MARQUETTE—Last year, we beat winless Marquette, 20-0. It was a moral victory for the Warriors, who outplayed us for part of the game. Coach John Druze, an old protege of Frank Leahy, has 26 veterans back including 10 starters, plus a host of promising sophomores. All of which should make for an interesting Homecoming attraction.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY—This is BU's toughest schedule in 11 years according to reports. (Navy, Syracuse, West Virginia and Holy Cross are included.) Coach Steve Sinko, also has a host of veterans, including the starting backfield which ranked tenth nationally in scoring. They are two deep in lettermen at every position but tackle and are three deep at fullback, right end and center.

SYRACUSE—Coach Ben Schwartzwald is looking for some linemen to replace the four regulars that graduated. If he finds them, the Orange could cause more trouble than expected. (Right now, most pre-season pickers rank them one step behind the Lions in the East). They have the backfield, headed by Chuck Zimmerman—one of the nation's most underrated signal callers. Zimmerman completed 55 per cent of his passes for 770 yards and five touchdowns last year. It looks like a typical State-Syracuse clash.

FURMAN—Here again is a weak sister of a weak conference—the West Virginia-dominated Southern. But a new coach (Bob King), nine returning regulars and the freshman eligibility rule (which gives schools the size of Furman the privilege of using freshmen) could make the Hurricanes the surprise team of the conference.

WEST VIRGINIA—This is reputed to be one of Pappy Lewis' strongest Mountaineer teams—especially in the backfield where seven of ten veterans return including quarterback Dick Longfellow and scatback Ray Peterson. And 260-pound Blaine Stutz is touted as all-American timber. All this spells trouble in Morgantown.

HOLY CROSS—Undoubtedly, the Crusader's are the dark horses of the East. Twenty-three lettermen return, including two all-American candidates—quarterback Tom Greene and guard Jim Healy. Greene was an all-East selection last fall and was second in the nation in total offense (for nine games). His five favorite receivers are also back. Mix all this with a third straight unbeaten freshman team and the final game in the history of the present Beaver Field should be a doozie.

PITT—Does Coach John Michelosen have Rip Engle's number? (Two losses and a tie is all the Lion mentor has to show.) The top four ground gainers of '57 are back along with a highly-touted sophomore fullback—Jim Cunningham. Maybe a Cotton or Gator Bowl bid will go to the winner of this Thanksgiving Day shoot.

Weak schedule? Not that weak!

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Hosterman Sees 'Rough Year' With Loss of 3 Key Booters

Soccer practice doesn't start for a week yet, but already Coach Ken Hosterman has troubles.

"I think it's going to be a rough year," the 33-year-old tutor said a couple of days ago. "I know I have 8 veterans back, but I have three key positions that must be filled—goalie, center forward and outside."

Hosterman, who in a five-year coaching tenure has always been an optimist of sort, went on to relate his current problems.

"I guess Ralph Becker (last year's number one goal-keeper) won't be back. We'll sure miss him, although we have two lettermen back—Don Dougald and Gerry Bruce. But Ralph will be hard to replace. You know, he had that real canny ability of anticipation. That is, anticipating when to come out of that net and stop a shot.

"Either Dougald or Bruce could solve my problem there. Both have the potential to be a star goalie. Dougald was outstanding in his sophomore year (in 1956) and I thought I had an outstanding goalie for the next two years.

"But he fell of last season, partly because of that broken finger. If he can regain his sophomore form, then there will be no problem at goalie."

Hosterman's headache at center forward is finding a replacement for last year's starter Bill Fiedler who will be switched to an inside slot this fall.



Don Dougald
... returning Lion goalie

"Fiedler moves better at inside," Hosterman said of his junior all-American candidate, "and he'll have more opportunity to score there. (Fiedler scored 20 goals in 1957).

"Of course, that leaves my center forward spot open, and I have no idea who I'll use there. I could put Ihor (Chyzowych) there but I think he'll be more valuable at fullback.

"I'm hoping someone comes up from Ogontz Center," Hosterman continued, "like the last two years when I got Herb Hertner (a two-year veteran) and Ihor. Otherwise, I don't know what I'll do."

At the outside, it's a case of finding a wingman to go along with veteran Pete Wadsworth. Wadsworth played at both the wing and inside spots as a reserve last year. But Hosterman figures Wadsworth's speed will make him a full time terminal in 1958.

"I have hopes that Lou VanFafelghem will return," Hosterman said. VanFafelghem was an outside starter as a sophomore last season, but he may not return to school this semester.

"If he doesn't come back," Hosterman added, "I'll be counting on material from Ogontz, again. Of course, there may be a sophomore or junior from last year's team that I've overlooked. I'll know better when practice starts."

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Spring Sports Pick Managers

The Athletic Association has released the names of the managers for the following spring sports—baseball, track, lacrosse and tennis.

Lam Hood will be the head manager of the 1959 baseball edition. His first assistants are Ronnie Kerr, Bruce Weintraub, and Robert Solot.

Art Bell heads the lacrosse team assisted by Robert Zechman, John Bonestall and George McTurk.

Gerry Carlson will be the head manager of the tennis squad. Roger Dreeben, Stan Foster and Richard White will serve as first assistants.

The track team has not announced a head manager as yet, but it released the names of the firsts—Theodore Lempert, Charles Schweitzer and Joel Daniels.

State Beat Nebraska In Last Meeting, 10-0

Penn State and Nebraska (the Nittany Lions' first 1958 opponent) last met in football in 1952, with Penn State winning a 10-0 game played at University Park. The Lions lead in the series, four victories to one. Other scores: 1920, Penn State 20, Nebraska 0; 1949, Penn State 22, Nebraska 7; 1950, Nebraska 19, Penn State 0.



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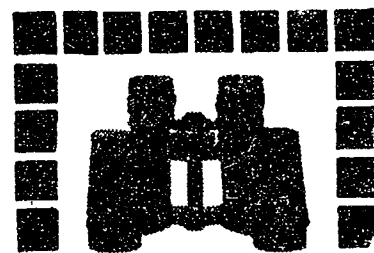
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