

The Sportseer



# What Happened To the Lions?

By Lou Prato  
Sports Editor

Since returning from our sojourn to Nebraska, we have been barraged from every corner with all kinds of insults, criticisms and questions concerning Penn State's humiliating 14-7 loss to (quote) lowly (unquote) Nebraska.

"What happened out there?" seems to be the least sarcastic remark made by my accosters.

Well, my friends (especially my fair weather comrades), let's not be too harsh on the Lions—you may be eating your words before the next week is out. (Of course it might be this gent who will be ordering a champ hat ala ketsup down at the Corner Room next Monday morning.)

Nebraska is not a better team than Penn State, despite the final results of Saturday afternoon's fiasco. That's not only our view, but the opinion of many who witnessed the Lion defeat, including several Cornhusker followers.

OK, joker, then why did we lose?

There isn't one single answer to this question, but a combination of answers. And we mean to touch on all of them.

Some critics point to the complacency of the gridders—the cockiness that sometimes goes with a heavy favorite. No, we don't think the team was cocky. But we do feel that they underestimated Nebraska. So did almost every reader of this column, otherwise, the embarrassing defeat would not have been a surprise.

Then there's the point of team moral. Here, perhaps, is the key to the whole answer. Nebraska admittedly pointed towards the Lions. Players and coaches alike said they were "up" for the game. And no doubt, Penn State was "down." What team wouldn't when their foe is a sophomore-studded outfit which had won only one of ten games the previous season.

Probing further into the morale picture, let's look at the game itself. Nebraska's punting, and the tantalizing "reverse English" of the boots, kept the Lions in a hole for most of the game. Who wouldn't feel demoralized after continuously playing with your back up against your own goal line?

And what about the scintillating 92-yard romp on the kickoff return just after the Lions had taken a 7-0 lead early in the fourth quarter. If any one play could be termed the back-breaker, that was it.

Some blame the setback on Penn State's failure to open up its varied attack. But how in the world can you open up your attack when you're deep in your own territory? Besides, when a team controls the balls as long as the Lions (83 plays to 49 for the home team) and runs up such an enormous advantage in total yardage (334 to 181) it should win—no matter if only one series of plays are used the entire game.

Another root of the trouble, according to the Monday morning quarterbacks, is the Lion coaching staff—especially the head man, Rip Engle. "They (Penn State) would have won if they had some coaches," some one remarked. Well, if that's the case, how

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# X-Country Candidates Summoned

By GEORGE FRENCH

With only a week and a half remaining before the opening meet with Navy, varsity cross-country Coach Chick Werner is still looking for candidates for his squad.

Werner's small squad so far consists of only nine runners with freshman or varsity experience. Of 11 numeral winners on last year's undefeated frosh squad, only two — Denny Johnson and Herm Weber — are out for the varsity team. Both were undefeated in dual meet competition as freshman harriers.

Returning varsity runners are seniors Fred Kerr and Ed Moran and juniors Chick King, Dick Engelbrink, George Jones, Sam White, and Jack Williams.

Two new candidates who have reported to Werner are Dick Doyle, a transfer student who went to high school with Engelbrink, and Norm Hettinger, a former schoolboy runner from New Jersey who did not go out for the frosh cross-country or track squads. Both are sophomores.

Werner believes that at the present time he has the makings of a strong squad, is worried about what might happen if a couple of his men were sick or injured because of the small squad.

Freshman Coach Norm Gordon has been pleased with the performance of his squad so far, but would also like to see more recruits. "It's hard to tell what you really have at this stage of the game," Gordon said. "Some of the more experienced runners are naturally in a little better condition than the others, but the frosh with little or no meet experience should be in good condition in a week or two."

Candidates for the freshman or varsity squads should report as soon as possible to Werner or Gordon at 4 p.m. on the golf course.

## Four Letter Winner

As a Western Maryland College undergraduate, Penn State grid coach Rip Engle lettered in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. He was an all-Maryland end in 1929.

# Booters Lack Experience In Defensive Alignment

By SANDY PADWEE

(This is the last in series. Today the defense.)

An army which has a good attack force but poor defense certainly won't win all its battles. In soccer, a team must have a good defense to help out its offense or it won't fare too well, either.

This is the situation that faces. He has a good offense but defense is on the weak side.

Paul Bauer is the only experienced man in the Lion defensive trio which includes two fullbacks and a goalie.

Bauer earned his letter last year as a combination halfback and fullback with most of his time spent at fullback. Bauer plays his position with authority. His only drawback is lack of speed.

"Sometimes the opposing wings get by him," remarked Hosterman.

Finding a partner for Bauer is the big problem Hosterman must solve. He has five candidates from which to choose. They are: Dick America, Igor Bak, Mike Ackley, Phil Gumm and Jerry Aberaczinkas.

Right now, Ackley and America seem to have the best chance of starting, although neither has seen much varsity action. "Ackley has been looking good in our scrimmages," said Hos-

Lion mentor Ken Hosterman.

"However, he still has a lot to learn."

The only thing that is keeping America out of the starting lineup, according to Hosterman, is that he can't play with both feet. In soccer this is a necessity for every player.

The rest of the candidates are still too green to crack the lineup. "With a few more scrimmages under their belt they might come around," Hosterman said.

At goalie Hosterman plans to start Gerry Bruce, the departed Ralph Becker's understudy last year. Hosterman is pinning a lot of hopes on him. He is optimistic about Bruce because of his outstanding play in practice sessions.

Bruce will be backed up by Larry Fegley and Steve Smack. Fegley has never played in a college soccer game yet. Smack was the goalie on last year's freshman team.

Asked to comment on the defensive situation Hosterman said: "I feel that our defense will mature. With a few games under their belt I'm confident that they'll do all right. When the defense does get settled we'll really be hard to stop."



Bauer

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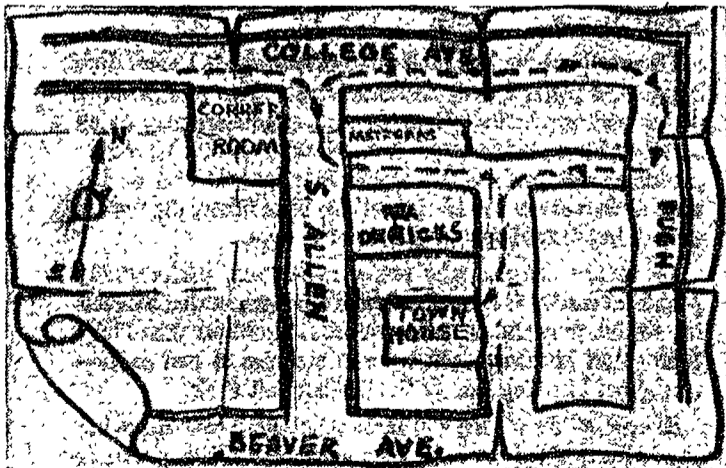
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