

The Sportseer



Officials Arouse Rip Engle's Ire

By Lou Prato
Sports Editor

Coach Rip Engle was a sad and disgruntled man Saturday following Penn State's 14-6 defeat to Syracuse—sad that his team lost and disgruntled with the officials. By Monday morning most of the disappointment had worn off—but none of his anger with the officiating had disappeared.

"I'm sending a note to (Asa) Bushnell, the (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference) commissioner, concerning the officiating in our game," the Ripper said. (The ECAC handles the appointment of officials to Eastern games.) "I know we can't do anything about it now, but I want to avoid anything like that in the future. I think we are entitled to know why these things happen and what we can do to prevent them from happening again."

Engle did have a partial solution to the above problem, and he included his opinion in the Bushnell note.

"One thing they can do," Engle said, "is have a meeting between the coaches, referees and league officials after a game such as ours. I mean, there everything could be hashed out—and movies could be shown to point out the officials' mistakes. The Southwest and Southeastern conferences do that, and I can't see why we don't."

"Another thing they do down South," Engle continued, "is have practice games for officials. In the spring they put the officials in the scrimmage games, and other officials sit in the stands and write up reports on them. They also take movies to help point out mistakes. I remember the game we saw like that down at Georgia Tech one year. But the ECAC never does anything like that."

"I know people are saying we're alibing for our loss, but that's not true. Even with all the penalties we still should have beaten Syracuse. They have a real good football team, but we made too many mistakes. We played a better game this year than last year, when we beat them, 20-12, but we got some breaks then. This time, they had the breaks."

Engle had a right to complain about the officiating as the movies of Saturday's game bear out.

Just what did the movies of the game prove?

Well, we saw only a part of the flicks, but that was enough to convince us of the blundering by Saturday's arbiters. The movies show apparently that: 1) Henry Opperman did not throw a "clipping" block; 2) the "illegal procedure" penalty just before the ill-fated Boxick pass should have been against Syracuse instead of State; 3) Halfback Don Jonas— from his flanker position—was not in motion as the referee maintained on that 39-yard pass from Al Jacks to Jonas; and 4) Syracuse had two men in motion—one of which was illegal—on the 35-yard pass from Chuck Zimmerman on a third down and 20-yards-to-go situation.

Other evidence brought out in the movies shows Syracuse com-

Riley Discusses Referee

(Continued from page six) to point out that football is played under NCAA rules, or should be. The "illegal procedure" penalties were five-yarders. Once toward the end of the third quarter we were driving into Syracuse territory when set back to our own 33 for an "illegal shift." This was especially puzzling to the fans. It was 15 yards.

To offset the Syracuse jumping around tactics we used a long count. On a long count our linemen are coached to straighten up (come to a stand) so they can resume a crouching position with more relaxation. This is not a maneuver to pull the other team offside and is a fairly common practice in football, used by many teams including the Cleveland Browns. It is perfectly legal as long as there is a one second count before the ball is snapped.

The fifteen-yard penalty was assessed by Referee VanLengen, who claimed that we had not paused for the second. On another occasion a Syracuse lineman was drawn offside and infringed upon our side of the ball. As is customary (Army did it four or five times against us) several of our linemen plowed into their opponents. The offside penalty should be called against the first player who infringes. Referee VanLeng-

gen called an "illegal procedure" against us.

Rip Engle, as everyone knows, takes his football pretty hard. He made no secret of the fact that he was very bitter. "I know," he stated, "that I'm just heaping problems on myself for talking like this, but I think it is important enough for me to speak my mind in justice to our players who are (Continued on page eight)

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