

Lucas Leads in Total Offense

Kasperian Tops Lion Scorers, Rushers Again

For the second successive year, halfback Dave Kasperian has emerged as the leading scorer and rusher on Penn Stat's football team.

Kasperian, a senior from Worcester, Mass., tallied 46 points on seven touchdowns and four extra points and gained 381 yards in 98 carries on the ground.

Last year, the diminutive Kasperian also recorded seven TDs but failed to notch an extra point. All four of his PATs this season were recorded in the Furman tilt where he also had two TDs. He rushed for more yards in the 1957 season—469—but carried the ball more times—122.

Kasperian also finished high in yards in 123 plays to better Jacks' 1957 total offense record of 675 yards on 125 plays.

Passing-wise, Lucas completed 36 of 80 pass attempts (45 per cent) for 483 yards and three touchdowns. Four passes were intercepted by Jacks, in turn, hit on 27 of 69 flings for 285 yards and one touchdown. He had three passes stolen.

Lucas also topped the punters with a 37.3 average on 29 boots and was second in scoring with the pass receiving department—placing behind pace-setter Maury Schleicher. Both grabbed nine aeriels but Schleicher recorded more yardage—127 to 107. However, Kasperian tied with



Dave Kasperian ... leader on offense

Junior Norm Neff in touchdown pass receptions with two. Neff also caught nine passes, gaining 106 yards.

Incidentally, Kasperian was honored as Penn State's most valuable player last Sunday by the Pittsburgh Curbstone Coaches—an organization similar to the State College Quarterback Club.

Junior quarterback Richie Lucas was the Lions' total offense and passing leader this year, taking both titles from senior Al Jacks. Lucas gained a total of 701 40 points—six TDs and four PATs.

A couple of sophomore halfbacks led the other major individual departments — Jim Kerr in interceptions and kick-off returns and Dick Hoak in punt returns. Kerr swiped five enemy aeriels for 122 yards and ran back six kickoffs for 136 yards. Hoak returned nine punts for 135 yards.

Lucas made the longest touchdown run from scrimmage with a 49 yard sprint against Marquette. However, sophomore center Wayne Berefield's 98-yard touchdown run on a pass interception against Boston University ranks as the Lions' longest scoring play. Sophomore Don Jonas' 58-yard punt runback against Holy Cross rates behind Berefield's dash.

A Lucas-to-Kerr pass for 38 yards in the Holy Cross tilt was the longest pass scoring play.

Last fall, the longest scoring play was a 51-yard aerial from Jacks to end Les Walters, now with the Washington Redskins. However, the longest TD sprint from scrimmage in 1957 was an 8-yard scoot by Kasperian.

As a team, the Lions gained 3270 total yards to opponents' 2298 yards. That's an average of 327 yards per game for Coach Rip Engle's squad—one of the best in the country.

On the ground, Penn State gained 2429 yards for a 242.9 game average—a figure that will probably rank among the top five in the nation. Final NCAA statistics will be released next week.

However, it's almost certain that the Lions will capture the major college interception crown this season with 27. Army, the closest rival, has 25 interceptions but their season has also ended.

Last year, the Lions intercepted only 11 enemy aeriels.

As a passing team, the Lions gained 841 yards on 70 completions in 164 attempts for an 84.1 game average. Last year, they ranked seventh in the nation with a 131.9-yard average per game on 1187 yards. However, the 1957 ground game racked up only 1673 yards for a 185.9 average.



As a MATT-er-a-FACT

By MATT MATHEWS Associate Sports Editor

JUST FOR THE RECORDS—

I was talking the other day to a student who had to construct an athletic area for a certain major university that had outdated its facilities.

It seems the major part of the assignment called for moving the football stadium from one section of campus to the opposite direction which Horace Greeley once suggested (although this land was also more or less in the "wilds.")

Our friend doesn't care for football stands that are far away from the field, so he moved his up close. In doing so, he merely eliminated the track, which he would "conveniently" build outside of the stadium.

On the surface, the plans looked OK to this writer until I asked him if the track was suitable to establishing new records. He didn't know and cared less. His only excuse—"After all, football's the only important sport."

I then asked him if breaking the four-minute mile would be important enough. After his affirmative answer we checked the plans more closely. The student had planned construction of his track in an open area and running in an east-west direction.

Close observation showed that prevailing winds blew in those directions so that any record set on the new track would be disallowed because the wind would be at the runner's back and aiding him. (The international track body rejects records when winds of 5 mile-an-hour or more aid the runner.) And if he ran into the wind, no record could be set.

So we ruled out the directional layout.

Then we checked the track composition and found out that there were no plans. No soil drainage consideration, no plans on the materials to be used in the track and no basis of authority on which he planned the construction.

He flunked the project.

The University is now considering a second plan for the construction of a stadium—including a track inside the stadium (which may run north and south so that the winds, blowing from the side, may neither aid nor hinder the runners.)

It would be nice to see a four-minute mile at Penn State even though Eddie Moran will never get the "perfect" home track on which to set it. Some of the sophomores or freshmen may see it here—and possibly a few other records if our "minor" sports are given just consideration.

OTHER MATTERS—"Sports Illustrated" is presently off on its pseudo-authoritative stories on the top winter sport—basketball. About the only worthwhile article, by Shirley Povich, is one mocking the overruled sport of giants (which may be a highly practical comment since I agree with the view that basketball is over-officiated) . . . From another source comes the news that Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain is in favor of raising the basket above the present 10-foot height. It seems Wilt hits his head on the rim on shots from underneath and "it hurts" his head. What a shame!

Summaries

INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Table with columns: Player, TDs, Extra Pts., Total. Lists Kasperian, Lucas, Kerr, Jonas, Hoak, Paolone, Gilmore, Neff, Soberzak, Herfield, Mooney, Jacks, Botula, Bozick, Schwab, Schleicher.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Table with columns: Player, No. Rushes, Yards Gained, Yards Lost, Net Gain, Yards Per Rush. Lists Kasperian, Botula, Gilmore, Hoak, Lucas, Mooney, Kerr, Soberzak, Paolone, Jonas, Pae, Funder, Jacks, Serabis.

PASSING

Table with columns: Player, No. Att., No. Compl., Had Int., Yds. Pass, TD Pass. Lists Lucas, Jacks, Hoak, Serabis, Jonas, Kasperian, Kerr.

PASS RECEIVING

Table with columns: Receiver, No., Yds., TDs. Lists Schleicher, Kasperian, Neff, Kerr, Hoak, Botula, Jonas, Bozick, Mooney, Truitt, Opperman, Schwab, Barber, Paolone, Soberzak, Cimino.

KICKOFF RETURNS

Table with columns: Player, No., Yds. Lists Kerr, Paolone, Kasperian, Hoak, Jacks.

PUNT RETURNS

Table with columns: Player, No., Yds. Lists Hoak, Jonas, Kerr, Pae, Gilmore, Kasperian, Jacks, Paolone, Lucas.

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

Table with columns: Player, No., Yds. Lists Kerr, Ruslavage, Stellatella, Herfield, Lucas, Kasperian, Mooney, Botula, Gilmore, Schleicher, Jacks, Janerette, Bozick.

PUNTING

Table with columns: Punter, No., Yds., Ave. Lists Lucas, Jacks, Pae, Hoak.

TEAM STATISTICS

Table comparing Penn State and Opponents across various statistics like First downs, Total yards gained, Yards per game, etc.

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