

# Lion Eleven Opens at Missouri

## Tomorrow's Game Rated As Tossup

By SANDY PADWE  
Sports Editor

En route to Missouri with the Lions—Faced with what Coach Rip Engle terms "the toughest opener in years," Penn State kicks off the 1959 football season tomorrow against the highly touted Missouri Tigers in Columbia.

Missouri hasn't won an opener in 12 years but the oddsmakers still rate the game a tossup.

The two squads are almost perfectly matched. Penn State has 18 lettermen back while Missouri has 19 and both have outstanding quarterbacks.

State has Richie Lucas, an All-American candidate while Missouri has pitcher Phil Snowden, the top signal caller in the Big Eight a season ago.

Add veteran backfields and lines and a great afternoon of football is in the making.

Missouri finished with a 5-4-1 record in 1958 and because so many returnees are on hand the Tigers are being picked to give Oklahoma a run for Big Eight conference laurels this season.

Tomorrow's game should be a wide open affair with the Tigers attacking from Coach Dan Devine's multiple offense while the Lions will run from a wing-t.

Observers feel the game could very well turn into a duel between Lucas and Snowden.

Lucas, acclaimed as the best all-around player in the nation by the usually reserved Engle, can do everything. He's a good passer, an excellent running quarterback and handles the punting.

Snowden, who completed 53 per cent of his passes last season, has been the starting quarterback



Phil Snowden

at Missouri for the last two years and Devine says this should be Phil's best.

Snowden will face a real challenge when he takes on the Lion pass defense which led the country in interceptions a year ago.

Jim Kerr, who is slated to be Penn State's starting right halfback, was the individual leader

with five steals good for one touchdown and 122 yards.

The Lions also will have to set up their defenses to stop Missouri's hard running backfield composed of halfbacks Mel West and Norris Stevenson and fullback Ed Mehrer.

West and Stevenson are speedsters and Mehrer is a "grind-em-

out runner."

West wound up as the 12th leading ground gainer in the nation as a sophomore last year and Mehrer had Missouri's best rushing average (6.4 yards per carry).

Missouri's line is lighter than State's but it has plenty of veterans. Co-captains, tackle Mike Magac and center Tom Swaney, give the Tiger forward wall four years of varsity experience.

The ends are well taken care of with All-Big Eight choice Danny LaRose at one terminal and senior Gordon Smith at the other. Junior letterman Bucky Wegener is slated to start at left tackle where he was a solid performer last season.

At guard, the only sore spots for Missouri, Devine has junior Rockne Calhoun, and sophomores Paul Garvis and Paul Henley fighting for the opening assignments.

Graduation claimed his all-conference guards—Don Chadurck and Chuck Rash.

The Lions will match Missouri in the starting lettermen department. The backfield will be Lucas at quarterback, Dick Hoak at left halfback, and Kerr at right half. Pat Botula, Penn State's captain gets the nod at fullback.

The line from left to right reads like this: Henry Opperman at left end, Charley Janerette at left tackle, Earl Kohlhaas, left guard, Jay Huffman at center, Frank Korbin, right guard, Tom Mulraney, right tackle and Norm Neff at right end.

All are lettermen except Opperman and Huffman.

Since Engle substitutes units, his alternate squad is expected to see a lot of action.

Sophomore Galen Hall will quarterback the number two group, but Engle has hinted that Lucas might see action with both teams.

Dick Pae will be the second unit left halfback and Ed Caye or Jack Urban will be the right half. Sam Sobczek will be the fullback.

The line has Dave Alexander, John Bozick and Bob Mitinger at ends, Andy Stynchula and Stew Barber at tackles and Bill Popp and Dick Butterfield at guards. Dick Wilson is the center.

This will be the second straight year the Lions have opened with a Big Eight team. Last fall they traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska and were upset by the Cornhuskers, 14-7.

Following tomorrow's game the Lions return to the Nittany Valley for two consecutive home games. V.M.I. comes to Beaver Field next Saturday and Colgate plays the Lions the following week.

GRID NOTES—A host of Lions are still nursing minor injuries but the medical department says none are too serious . . . Guard Sam Stellatella, who turned his ankle in practice Monday will not make the trip . . . Denny Schaefer, sophomore fullback is taking running exercises . . . he dislocated his shoulder in the first scrimmage . . . He's expected to be ready for Army . . . The Lions will work out this afternoon at Columbia . . .



Richie Lucas

## College Grid Teams Swing Into Action

By The Associated Press

Purdue, voted the team most likely to succeed this year in the formidable Big Ten, leads off a big weekend of college football tonight against UCLA, once one of the powers of the Pacific Coast.

The game is one of the highlights of a weekend which sees almost half of the nation's top title contenders, including defending champion Louisiana State, in action on far-flung fronts.

The Boilermakers, a seasoned team with 24 returning lettermen, rule a 13-point favorite over the Bruins of Los Angeles, who get a chance to return to the Rose Bowl after three years on probation. The game is in Los Angeles.

Other games have Florida at Tulane in a Southeastern Conference opener; George Washington at Detroit and San Jose at Denver.

The bulk of the weekend program is scheduled tomorrow topped by the meeting of Louisiana State and Rice in Baton Rouge.

This is the national television offering of the week, being presented over NBC starting at 4:35 p.m., EDT.

LSU is favorite to repeat in The Associated Press pre-season poll. Rice was runnerup last year in the Southwest Conference. LSU is a 14-point favorite.

Other headline games send Clemson against North Carolina in a battle which may ultimately lead the victor to the Atlantic Coast championship; Texas goes against Nebraska. Mississippi against Houston, Texas Christian against Kansas; Southern Cali-

Penn State has appeared in eight N.C.A.A. District Two baseball playoffs in the past 10 years. Including 1959, the Nittany Lions won the District title three times.

fornia against Oregon State; and Georgia Tech against Kentucky.

Mississippi, with one of the nation's best passers in Bobby Franklin, is rated No. 8 in the preliminary AP poll. Purdue is No. 11; North Carolina No. 12; Texas Christian No. 13; Southern California No. 14, Texas No. 17 and Clemson No. 18.

### Nittanians Seek 21st Winning Grid Season

Penn State will seek its 21st consecutive winning football season this fall.

The Nittany Lions last lost more grid games than they won in 1938, when the record was 3-4-1.

### Fogg Is Tennis Coach

Sherm Fogg has been Penn State's tennis coach since 1947. His best season was in 1954 when the Lions finished with an 8-2-1 record.

## Coe Wins Match In Amateur Golf

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (P)—Charlie Coe, the razor-sharp defending champion, knifed through numbing cold, fog and rain yesterday on the way to a 4 and 3 victory in the fifth round of the U.S. Amateur Golf Tournament.

The Oklahoma city thin man's triumph over Ted V. Gleichmann, Ventura, Calif., sent Coe into the quarter-finals over the 7010 yard par 71 Broadmoor course.

Harvie Ward, a two-time winner like Coe, was experiencing trouble in weather reminiscent of a rainy, winter day in his native San Francisco.

David (Spec) Goldman, 50, Dallas, built a 2 up lead over Ward with par golf on the front nine. Although he slipped three over par on seven holes of the second nine, Goldman held a 2 up lead through 16 when their match was suspended temporarily.

Basketball was the first indoor sport to be played at Penn State. The first game was played in 1897 only six years after Dr. James Naismith originated the game.

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