

Grandstand Views



# Joe Bedenk, One of The Best

By Sandy Padwe  
Collegian Sports Editor

In two years Joe Bedenk will retire and then he'll become one of Penn State's greatest legends.

Knowing Bedenk, retirement won't come easy. How can it after you've spent 35 years thrilling Penn State crowds both as a player and coach?

Bedenk sat back and pondered the question a short time ago in his Rec Hall office and even though he joked about it a great deal, it was plain to see he was going to miss Mt. Nittany.

"Boy, am I going to loaf when I get out of here," Bedenk said with a wink, "I'll have real banker's hours then."

"Yep, it's almost over now. I don't think they'll get along without me," he said with a laugh. "Hell's who's going to start all the trouble?"

Thirty-one years as head baseball coach, one as football coach and 20 other seasons spent as line coach haven't changed the old warrior a bit.

Now 62, with a head of silvery hair and a devilish smile that lights up his face like a Roman candle, Bedenk is the same fiery competitor who gained All-American honors while captaining the 1923 team which won six games, lost two, and tied one.

Bedenk played all his intercollegiate athletics under the immortal Penn State coach—Hugo Bezdek, now a member of football's Hall of Fame.

"I was what you call a running guard in those days," Bedenk said, his face conveying the impression that these were the times that never will be forgotten. "I led the interference for Light Horse Harry Wilson, who was one of the greatest backs of all-time."

Bedenk also was a major cog in the undefeated 1921 team and the Rose Bowl team of 1922 which lost to Southern Cal, 14-3, in one of the classics of grid history.

You might think that the Rose Bowl trip was Bedenk's greatest thrill, but it wasn't. He's prouder of the only touchdown he scored during his career. It came against North Carolina State during his senior year.

"I'll never forget that play," Bedenk recalls. "I went through the North Carolina State line and blocked a pass just as the quarterback was getting ready to throw it. The ball went straight up in the air and I caught it and went all the way for a touchdown. Bezdek was so happy he gave me two new sweatshirts."

Bedenk spent his spring semesters playing baseball for Bezdek but he never gained the stature he enjoyed as a football hero. However, he did have an excellent mind for baseball, and to this day he rates as one of college baseball's top strategists.

Through the years Bedenk's baseball teams have won 391 games against 151 losses. His teams have appeared in the College World Series three times, finishing in the runner-up slot in 1957 and fourth place in 1959. The Lions have missed the District playoffs only three times in the last 11 years and one of those years was 1960.

That team ranks as Bedenk's biggest coaching disappointment. The pre-season polls tabbed the Lions as a "can't miss" team because they had nearly everyone back from the squad which finished fourth in the 1959 College World Series.

But the breaks didn't go State's way and the Lions literally booted away games with costly errors and lack of clutch hitting.

Things got progressively worse and Penn State, the darlings of the collegiate baseball world, finished with a 9-9 record, with Bedenk taking it all very philosophically.

"That's why baseball is such a great game," he said. "One day you're a hero and the next day you're a bum. You can't blame it all on luck though. There's a great difference in the attitudes of the modern day athletes and the ones in my time.

"Just, the other day one of my old teammates was here and he saw the football team practice. He was amazed how short practice was. Gosh, we used to scrimmage longer than they practice.

"Our scrimmages were really rough, too, just like a game. In fact, and this is true, the managers used to have a cart for the injured players and they put anyone in it who was hurt so they could wheel him down to the old track house where we lived.

"I can remember one scrimmage that was particularly rough. Players were being knocked all over the place. When practice was over, we went down to the track house to eat and the coach called the roll and Pete Redinger was missing.

"A few of us ran up to the field and sure enough there he was lying in the cart still out cold and stiff as a board from the weather."

Sitting and listening to Bedenk is quite an education because he talks about the old days with a reverence that has been lost in today's rush for the dollar bill.

A lot of people are going to miss Joe Bedenk "when it's all over." As a player he was one of Penn State's greatest and as a coach he's been a taskmaster who has commanded respect and produced great teams.

Individuals like that don't come along very often.

## MAJOR LEAGUES

By The Associated Press				AMERICAN LEAGUE			
NATIONAL LEAGUE				W.	L.	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	86	54	.614	New York	82	57	.590
St. Louis	79	69	.532	Baltimore	83	58	.589
Milwaukee	80	61	.567	Chicago	81	60	.574
Los Angeles	77	64	.546	Washington	71	70	.504
San Francisco	70	71	.496	Cleveland	70	70	.500
Cincinnati	64	78	.451	Detroit	64	77	.454
Chicago	53	85	.384	Boston	61	80	.433
Philadelphia	52	88	.369	Kansas City	50	90	.357

Yesterday's Results:  
 Los Angeles 5, Chicago 4  
 (Last night's games not included)

# Hollenback's Gridders Return For Beaver Stadium Opener

By JIM KARL

Back in 1909 footballs were made of genuine pigskin, not rubber. If you wanted hip pads you had to make your own. And specialists were people found only in hospitals.

This was college football on Oct. 2, 1909 when Penn State mowed down Grove City, 31-0, in the first game ever played on New Beaver Field.

Today 12 members of that undefeated but twice tied Lion squad will be present at the dedication of Beaver Stadium, the largest all-steel structure in the country.

Beaver Stadium, seating capacity 44,000, is quite different from the wooden grandstand that housed a grand total of 500 fans back in the days when "Wild Bill" Hollenback's boys roamed the turf.

Hollenback, fresh from an All-American season at Penn, was the first full-time head football coach in Penn State history.

Under his tutelage that first year were some of the outstanding names in Penn State grid annals: Lloyd F. "Dad" Engle, Burke M. "Dutch" Hermann, Charles "Heff" Hershman, J. L. "Pete" Mauthe and Edward H. "Bull" McCleary were but a few.

Hollenback had plenty of material, but there were those who wondered about handing over the reins to such a young coach.

"He was a pretty tough coach," said Dutch Hermann, "but he was the same age as we were. In fact, I think there were one or two fellows who were older."

But as the opener drew near and the squad began to develop, Hollenback's age was quickly forgotten.

The State Collegian, harbinger of the Daily Collegian, said in a pre-game write-up Sept. 23, 1909: "With a large, promising squad of football candidates, an excellent corps of coaches and a shortened schedule, we feel that Captain Larry Vohris, '10, with a strong eleven, is going to make one of the best records this fall ever made on the gridiron by a State team."

"Most of the football team have now been at work for almost two weeks and the opinion of those who ought to know is that our White and Blue is going to show up surprisingly strong."

The Lions proved in the opener that the prediction was right.

A post-game account in the State Collegian, Oct. 7, reads: "By exactly the same score with which Captain McCleary's eleven 'took over' Grove City College last fall, captain Vohris's team won from the Western Pennsylvanians last Saturday in the first game of football played on the new Beaver field gridiron."

"... Watson was particularly good in his hard, low tackles and Dick Smith in his end runs, on which he always threw off several tacklers and made appreciable gains."

"Hermann, McCleary, Hershman and Captain Vohris composed a backfield which has fought valiantly for the White and Blue in at least half a dozen battles and the combination was up to its habit of helpful aggressiveness and sturdy defense."

Vohris, who died during the flu epidemic shortly after

World War I, scored the first touchdown in that Beaver Field tilt.

The Lions walloped four other opponents that year, shutting out

squad set Penn State records which still stand today.

Halfback Mauthe holds six: points per season (119); points, career (171); extra points, one game (8); extra points, career (56); field goals, one season (8); field goals, one game (3).

Vohris kicked more field goals during his career (20) than any other Lion and Halfback "Bull" McCleary hold the record for touchdowns in one season (13).

### Soccer Managers

All persons interested in becoming soccer managers should report to the Lion shrine at 4 p.m. Monday.



PETE MAUTHE  
... holds six records

Geneva, 46-0, Bucknell, 33-0, West Virginia, 40-0, and Pitt, 5-0. They tied the vaunted Carlisle Indians, 8-8 and traditional rival (in those days) Penn, 3-3.

The Lions continued their winning ways on Beaver Field during the next few years and they weren't defeated until the last home game of the 1913 season when Notre Dame turned the trick, 14-7.

Hermann, who alternated at quarterback with Vohris on the 1909 eleven, makes his home in nearby Boalsburg. He rates Pitt, Penn and Carlisle as the toughest foes the team faced that year, with the edge going to Carlisle.

"Probably toughest of all were those Indians," he said. "They were slippery, tricky and well coached."

Carlisle was coached by "Pop" Warner and featured the running of the immortal Jim Thorpe.

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