

Locker Room Psychology Plays Big Part in State-Pitt Game

It appears that locker room psychology is going to play a big part in the 60th renewal of the Pitt-Penn State series, one of the nation's most bitter grid rivalries.

The two arch-rivals meet in Pitt stadium Saturday but tension has been building for weeks and is just starting to erupt.

Both Rip Engle and Panther coach Johnny Michelosen are using plenty of newspaper clippings to fire their teams up and the strategy is working.

The Panthers are reported fuming over an Engle statement made in Worcester, Mass., Saturday after Penn State won its fifth game of the year, 33-8, over Holy Cross.

Engle's statement involved Pitt's bowl status.

"They've been talking about bowls over there and what have they got to shout about? Four wins and three ties? That's not much to shout about," Engle was quoted.

In addition, Pitt's All-American end candidate Mike Ditka is out to prove that he's better than Penn State's Bob Mitinger, no matter

what the sports publicists say. The propagandists haven't been idle around Mt. Nittany either.

The Lion dressing room is loaded with Pitt literature including one ditty which says, "unbeaten Syracuse offers the Panthers their last chance for a prestige victory



Jay Huffman



Jim Smith

as triumphs over their remaining three foes after Saturday will mean little."

The three remaining foes referred to were Notre Dame, Army, and Penn State.

The Lions need little reminder about the importance of Saturday's game. They've been waiting for it since Nov. 21, 1959 when Pitt pulled a 22-7 upset.

"I wouldn't even go back home

if we didn't beat Pitt," Lion tackle Jim Smith said after practice yesterday.

"We may have a winning season but beating Pitt will make it a successful season," he said with special emphasis on "successful."

"That's how all the guys feel," the junior from Latrobe continued. "I know because we had a meeting of our own Monday night and talked about Pitt."

"Since I almost went to Pitt, this is my big game," center Jay Huffman said as he joined the conversation. "This game is the key to the season."

Werner Proud of IC4A Champs

Penn State stands as the cross country champion of the East as a result of its IC4A victory Monday, and Coach Chick Werner couldn't be happier.

"This is a team that Penn State can be proud of. They're good and they're getting confident. They're also getting good in the eyes of the opponents," Werner said.

"The IC4A meet was hard work and a meet that everyone of our boys can be proud of," he said.

"They got tired, but they fought off that tiredness. The period of resisting the temptation to give up is well rewarding as you can see."

Although Penn State is the Eastern champion, Werner isn't making any predictions about the NCAA meet at East Lansing,

Mich., Monday. "Nobody can say how anyone will make out in the NCAA. But we'll be tough, and we'll be one of the teams that have to be reckoned with that's for sure," Werner said.

"Our boys are getting very, very scrappy, and very, very tough," Werner continued, "and their confidence is growing every day."

"We can't become champions without getting a little boost of confidence and that's what has happened to this team," Werner concluded.

State finished first in New York Monday ahead of Army and defending champ Michigan State.

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BROWN WALLET containing important papers near Rec Hall. If found drop at HCB desk.

DIETZGEN LOG LOG Slide Rule, Nov. 11. Please return—Maurice Hutton, 104 Watts. "I need it badly."

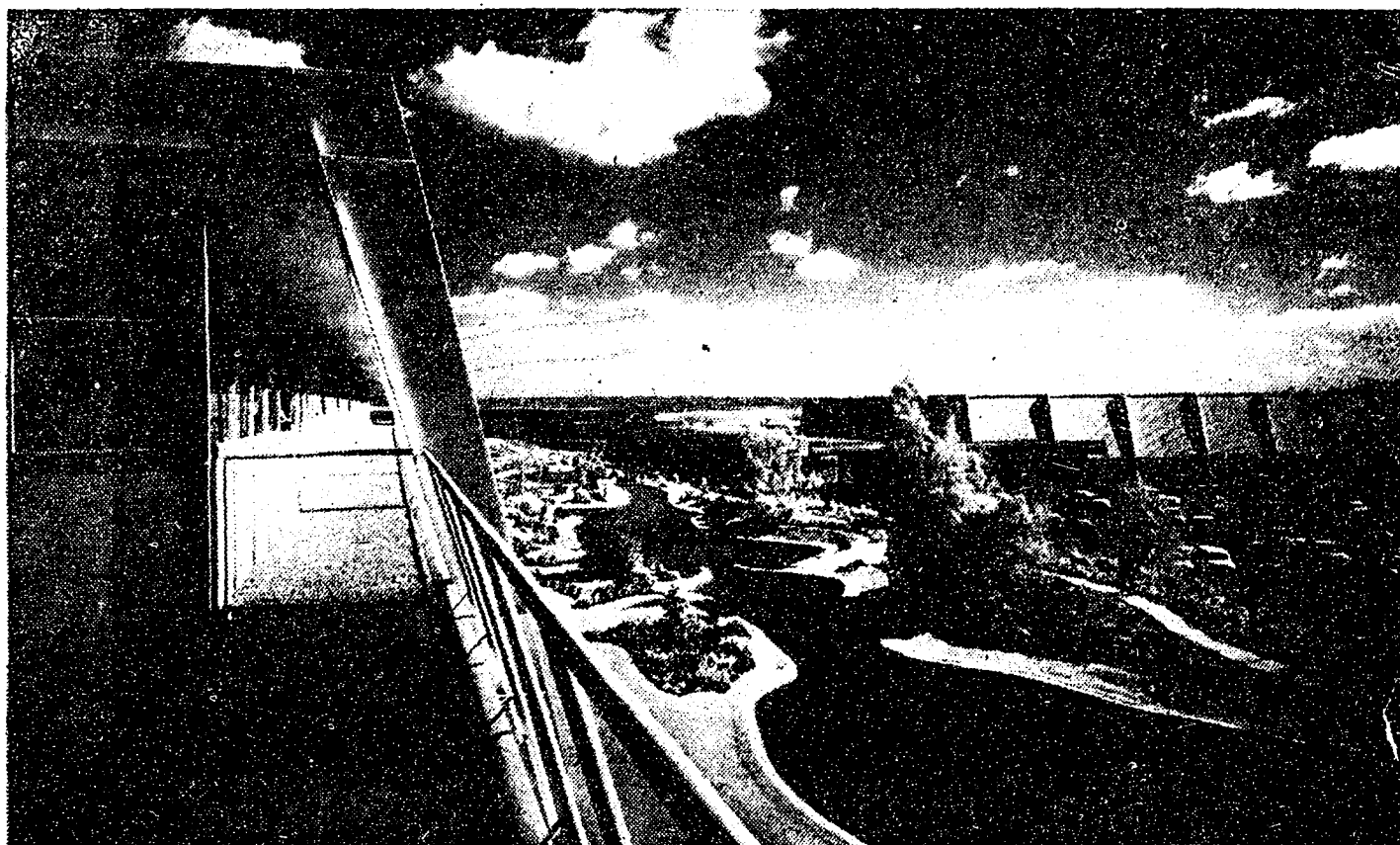
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