

# High Spirits, Good Conditioning Make Midshipmen Dangerous

By JIM KARL

Football coaches usually don't burden themselves with a lot of rules, but there is one old axiom that is always safe to remember: "Never underestimate a service team."

Penn State's opener with Navy at Beaver Stadium Saturday may shape up to oddsmakers and fans as just a routine game for the Lions, but Rip Engle and his coaching staff know better.

"Navy is in an excellent position to pull some upsets, starting with our game," Engle said. "No one really expects too much of Navy, so there's no pressure on them. They'll be relaxed and a relaxed team can be dangerous. I look for them to be high-spirited and extremely well-conditioned."

Wayne Hardin lost 17 lettermen, including All-American Joe Bellino, from last year's Lambert Trophy winners, but the Navy coach is surprisingly optimistic. He has a veteran line and although his backfield is inexperienced, the potential is there.

The Middies have a setback from Williamsport who Coach



JOHN HEWITT  
... Navy captain

this position plus a top sophomore prospect.

Greg Mather and Gary Kellner are the lettermen and Jim Campbell, an all-round athlete from Homestead, Pa., is the sophomore.

Hardin has three lettermen, Larry Graham, Dick Fitzgerald and Ron Testa, returning at tackle and two highly-rated guards in John Hewitt and Vern Von Sydow.

Hewitt saw more action last year than anyone but departed center Frank Visted. He will captain the Midshipmen.

Steve Hoy was switched from guard to center with the departure of Visted and Paterno rates him as one of the top linebackers in the nation.

Hardin was non-committal on his starting lineup but the first team backfield will probably include Ron Klemick at quarterback, Stewart and Carl Fink at halfback and Ron Bell at fullback.

Joe Paterno calls "the closest thing they have to Joe Bellino this year."

"He's their flankerback," Paterno said. "In Navy's setup the same halfback is the flanker all the time. Stewart is a good, all-round back. He's fast, elusive and is an excellent receiver."

"Most of their backs are very quick," Paterno said. They have two boys in the same backfield who run the 100 in 10 flat, Sai (John) and Merritt (Dick)."

Paterno, who scouted the Middies in their 21-14 loss to Missouri in the Orange Bowl, said that Hardin has plenty of experienced linemen on hand.

Although graduation took two top-notch ends in Frank Dattilo and Jim Luper, Hardin has two lettermen returning at

## A New Look in a New Era--

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Collins at halfback and Ray Poage at fullback. Kansas will field John Hadl at quarterback, Curtis McClinton and Bert Coan (when he becomes eligible) at halfback and Jim Jarret at fullback.

Wisconsin is the team most likely to pull a Cinderella finish comparable to Minnesota of last year. The Badgers have the fastest backfield in the Big Ten, the best quarterback in the conference (Ron Miller) and one of the best ends in the nation (Pat Richter). But best of all is that they are picked to finish in the second division in the race for conference honors.

Look for Tom Hennessey, Holy Cross' Brockline Blur, to emerge as one of the top backs in the nation... Gale Weidner of Colorado to rival Roman Gabriel as the top passer in the nation... Pitt, Georgia Tech and Notre Dame to have better seasons than a lot of the "experts" predict... Iowa to play UCLA in the Rose Bowl.

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## Gridiron Notes

Rip Engle doesn't think all the ballyhoo that Penn State has been getting this year will make his gridders over-confident. "Not our kids," Engle said. "They know what they have to do and they'll do it" ... Rumor has it that the editors of Sports Illustrated couldn't decide whether to feature Bob Mitinger or Ernie Davis in their football edition. The feature article dealt with the new type of football player emerging in college circles today—one with both brains and brawn. Mitinger won the nomination ... Tom Cohane, Sports Editor of Look, predicts Penn State will meet Florida in the Liberty Bowl. Don't put any money on it ...

Due to the rash of scandals in college basketball and football, the Lions are having closed practices this year. A campus patrolman stands at the gate to Beaver Field and checks passes ... Penn State will stay at the Civil Engineering Camp at Stone Valley on Friday nights before home games this year ...

Pete Liske may get the nod over Don Caum to quarterback the Reddie Unit Saturday ... Gary Wydman, sophomore halfback currently running with the second team, looks impressive in pass defense drills.

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