

Engle to Start Hall Saturday

Halftime



Will Lightning Strike Twice?

By JIM KARL
Sports Editor

After the rumble over Penn State's 10-6 loss to Army died down and people began discussing the few heartening performances of that pallid game, (Jay Huffman's continued brilliance at center, Joe Blasenstein's savage tackles and Harrison Rosdahl's all-around line play), the talk got around to Roger Kochman.

Kochman, if you don't already know, is the halfback who almost ruined Syracuse's bid for a national championship two years ago with a 17-yard touchdown burst on a delayed handoff and a fabulous 100-yard scoring jaunt through most of the Orange team.

The Lions lost that game, 20-18, but local fans will always remember that State came from two touchdowns back to almost upset the eventual No. 1 team in the nation.

It goes without saying that Syracuse won't soon forget that game either, and especially the way a sophomore halfback almost single-handedly ruined their undefeated season.

When the Orange come to town again Saturday they'll get another look at that elusive back with the powerful legs, the twinkling blue eyes and the lean look of stunning speed.

But even off his performance against Army Saturday, it's hard to say that Kochman is the same unleashed fury that rambled 100 yards against the Orange.

In fact, until just yesterday, Kochman was running on the second team, a fact that Syracuse fans would find hard to believe.

But a lot has happened since that brilliant November Saturday two years ago, and the whole story can be summed up in one word — injuries.

A week after the Syracuse game Roger was walked to the sidelines with a knee injury in the first quarter against Holy Cross.

Despite his limited appearances in 1959, Kochman was touted as a possible All-American until a summertime baseball



100-YARD ROCKET SHOT



LION TRAINER CHUCK MEDLAR HELPS INJURED KOCHMAN TO SIDELINES

injury sidelined him for the 1960 season and almost ended his football career.

With an entire year away from football and a wobbly knee to boot, Engle was afraid to even hope that Kochman would regain the form he showed against Syracuse in '59.

But in spring practice Kochman walked away from pileup after pileup, although his knee was still giving him trouble.

When he came out for football this fall, he could cut without pain and he showed flashes of his former speed.

But minor injuries kept him from practicing much and even though he gained 60 yards against Navy in State's first game of the season, something seemed to be missing.

The following two games were uneventful, then against Army Saturday Roger picked up 54 yards in 12 carries, which made him the top ground gainer on both squads.

This fact in itself is not spectacular, but the way Kochman got that yardage—those ripping, driving cutbacks into a massed Army secondary that was unhampered by any downfield blocking—was at least a good sign.

Now Engle has made his wholesale lineup switch, which includes moving Kochman up to first team in place of Al Gursky.

And the Ripper, remembering a brilliant November day in 1959 when he saw the greatest clutch run of the year, is keeping his fingers crossed that Syracuse's return to the Nittany Valley will prompt Kochman into performing his magical feats once again.

Sieminski, Smith, Jonas On 2nd Team

(Continued from page one) two games with a bruised shoulder.

Engle said that Hall will play only on offense against Syracuse and that Pete Liske, who played with the first unit the past two games, will take over for Hall on defense.

In a similar maneuver Engle said that Kochman would be used exclusively on offense and that Gursky would play only on defense.

All in all, Engle made six personnel changes on State's first two teams, but he emphasized that the starting lineup Saturday may be entirely different.

"As of now, these are the changes we've made," he said. "But I didn't name the starting team for Syracuse."

Before the season started State was acclaimed throughout the nation as one of football's top powers. But injuries to three first-stringers—Hall, Hart and Robinson—plus costly mistakes and a lack of scoring punch, have reduced the Lions to a .500 ball club.

The latest Lambert Trophy ratings, which rank the top football teams in the East, list State sixth, and put such teams as Villanova and Rutgers ahead of the Lions.

Engle called off practice Monday and instead had a closed meeting with the coaching staff and the team.

At the meeting Engle went over the game movies with the players and "corrected their mistakes."

Then yesterday morning the coaching staff had a meeting of its own, after which Engle announced the lineup changes.

"Some of the fellows we moved up deserved the promotion," he said, "and others we simply moved up by default. Certain boys aren't doing the job and we just had to make some changes," he said.

Engle said that the switches weren't made in haste or panic and that "all we're trying to do is get a little more concentration, a little better performance, on the field. I think we can play better football than we've been playing."

After the meeting Monday, Engle said that "the boys realize their mistakes now and I know they'll try hard to remedy them."

Engle was particularly displeased with the Lions' downfield blocking and loose tackling against Army. Several times Cadet halfbacks broke away for valuable yardage after seemingly being stopped by State defenders.

But with State facing perhaps its toughest game of the season Saturday, Engle isn't worrying about State's past performances.

"Army is water over the dam, now," Engle said. "We have to start thinking about Syracuse."

The Orangemen are 3-1 so far this year and Lion coach Frank Patrick rates them on par with the 1959 Syracuse team which won the national championship.

"They're every bit as good this year," he said. "They have the material and this year they have the determination to go along with it."

"Syracuse has arrived," Engle said, "but we still have a long way to go. They have a big back (Ernie Davis) who is a break-away threat, and we certainly aren't going to outman them in the line."



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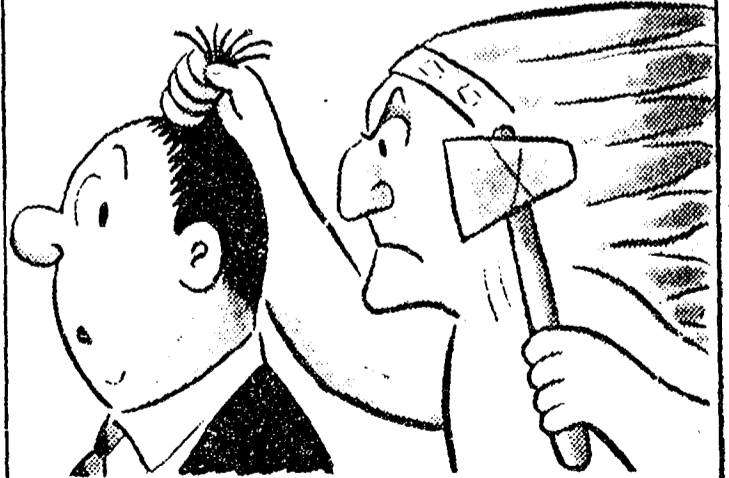
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