

Lions Virtually Assured Of Eastern Championship

By DEAN BILLYCK
Assistant Sports Editor

Before the start of the 1961 football season almost every prognosticator in the country was booming Penn State as the top football power in the East. Now, some 10 games later, the Lions are just where they were supposed to be—No. 1 in the East.

State is virtually assured of winning the 26th annual Lambert Trophy, emblematic of the Eastern major college football championship, after closing its season with a 47-26 thrashing of Pitt Saturday and accepting a bid to play in the Gator Bowl Dec. 30.

The Lions topped this week's voting for the trophy for the second straight time by gaining an average of 9.9 points out of a possible 10. One selector named the Lions second to Rutgers, one of the two unbeaten, untied major teams in the nation.

Syracuse placed second in the voting with an 8.9 mark and Rutgers finished third with 8.0;

Gator Bowl Log

Georgia Tech is 1-1 in the Jacksonville classic.

- 1946 Wake Forest 26 S. Carolina 14
- 1947 Oklahoma 34 N. C. State 13
- 1948 Maryland 20 Georgia 20
- 1949 Clemson 24 Missouri 23
- 1950 Maryland 20 Missouri 7
- 1951 Wyoming 20 Wash. & Lee 7
- 1952 Miami 14 Clemson 0
- 1953 Florida 14 Tulsa 13
- 1954 Texas Tech 35 Auburn 13
- 1955 Auburn 33 Baylor 13
- 1956 Vanderbilt 25 Auburn 13
- 1957 GEORGIA TECH 21 Pitt 14
- 1958 Tennessee 3 Texas A & M 0
- 1959 Mississippi 7 Florida 3
- 1960 Arkansas 14 GEORGIA TECH 7
- 1961 Florida 13 Baylor 12

Navy was fourth with 7.1 and Army fifth with 6.1.

Although one week remains before the final vote is taken, no one appears able to overtake the Lions' lead. Syracuse and Rutgers closed their seasons Saturday and of the top eastern teams, only Army, Navy, Boston College and Holy Cross have games remaining.

If the Lions win the trophy it will be the first time since 1947. That year State won nine straight games and then tied SMU 13-13 in the Cotton Bowl.

Almost lost in the midst of the Gator Bowl talk was the fact that six State seniors sacrificed the right to play in post-season all star games. Captain Jim Smith and end Bob Mitinger were to play in the East-West Shrine game at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco Dec. 30. Both were also selected to play in the Hula Bowl (Honolulu) in early January.

Quarterback Galen Hall, guard Dick Wilson and center Bill Saul were lined-up to play for the North in the annual North-South game in the Orange Bowl at Miami Christmas night. Center Jay



—Collegian Photo by John Beauge

FROM SMASHING BACKS TO SMASHING BOOKS

JAY HUFFMAN

GERRY FARKAS

Huffman was selected to play for the Blue in the annual Blue-Gray game at Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 30.

And not to be outdone, coach Rip Engle was to help coach the North in the North-South game.

Engle said yesterday that the Lions will not begin practice for the bowl game against Georgia Tech until Dec. 17. Right now Engle and his staff are concerning themselves with going over game films of the Engineers and scouting Tech against Georgia Saturday.

Harrier Coach Says Nittanies Ran Well

By DAVE LEONARD

Although Penn State's cross country team finished in eighth place in Monday's NCAA championship run, Lion coach Chick Werner was satisfied with his squad's performance.

"We finished as the eighth best team in the country, and any school can be proud of a team that does that well," Werner said. "I feel that our boys gave a good account of themselves throughout the entire season."

Werner was amazed at the strength of the field that competed at East Lansing, Mich. "The East once dominated cross country, and then it moved to the Mid-West, but Monday it was the Far Western teams that dominated the meet with Oregon State and San Jose State coming in one-two."



Chick Werner

Werner foresees a big upswing in American distance running after reviewing the results of Monday's meet. "The European countries have always belittled American distance running as being sub-par, but after what I saw, I definitely think that the United States is on the way up," Werner said.

The Lion harriers ended their season with a 4-1 mark in dual meets. They finished second to Michigan State, the only team to

win a dual meet from them in two years, in the IC4A championships.

Gerry Norman was the workhorse most of the year. The Englishman finished first in two meets (Pitt and Manhattan), and probably could have copped two others (Navy and Michigan State), if he hadn't been hampered by a leg injury.

Howie Deardorff took up when Norman was injured and set a course record at Navy.

Steve Moorhead, Mike Miller, Lionel Bassett, Ernie Noll, Ted Imweiler, Joe Nichols, and Fred Larson all gave good performances throughout the year.



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