

a dean's view

Changing Times Haunt Speidel

By DEAN BILLYCK
Sports Co-Editor



Charlie Speidel wasn't complaining. He's not that type of a person. He was just talking facts, but as he talked you noticed a touch of sadness in his usually boisterous voice — and you couldn't help feeling a little sorry yourself.

Penn State, long the undisputed king of eastern wrestling, is slowly teetering from its now precarious throne. And Charlie Speidel has only two more years to watch the slow death take place.

He's 63 now. Retirement for Penn State coaches is mandatory at 65.

HAS 179 WINS

Speidel, the dean of eastern wrestling coaches, has piled up 179 wins during his 33 years of coaching State grapplers.

But that's not all he's done. Back in the 30's he was the man most responsible for stirring interest in wrestling in Pennsylvania high schools.

The products of those high schools formed the nucleus of his great teams. Now they are forming the nuclei for the future great teams of Maryland, Rutgers, Navy, Syracuse — and the already great teams of Lehigh and Pittsburgh.

Many of his former wrestlers, now coaches themselves in high schools throughout the State, provide him with an excellent combination scouting system and good will program. But as Speidel says, "You can't feed wrestlers on good will."

Does all this mean that Penn State is de-emphasizing wrestling? Far from it. In fact, the sport is probably getting more support than it ever got.

The only trouble is that other schools like Maryland, Lehigh and Pitt are doing a little more than State is.

WRESTLING GROWING FAST

Wrestling is in an evolutionary period right now. It's growing fast and coaches predict that soon it will rival basketball as the top winter sport. In some areas such as Centre County it does already.

More and more high schools in the East are taking up the sport. Even the South, long a dormant area, is beginning to show signs of waking up.

Both Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, the number one and two teams in the country this year, have between 20 and 25 scholarships for wrestling. They battle for the Big Eight title before packed houses of 8,000 plus.

While wrestling is on the way up, State seems to be on the way down in the grappling world. However, Speidel's hands are tied. He only has so many scholarships to give and Penn State's academic requirements are a little higher than rival schools, which doesn't make his job any easier.

ONLY THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

How much can you do with three scholarships? Not much and that's what happened to the Lions this year. Bob Haney, George Edwards and Ron Pifer were the only grapplers with full scholarships this year.

And with only three scholarships, Speidel did a bang-up job. Let's take a look at what his three boys did. Haney compiled a 9-1 dual meet record and a third place eastern finish as a sophomore, Edwards had an 8-1-1 record also as a sophomore and Pifer took third in the nationals and second in the easterns in his final year at State. Last year he won the eastern crown and finished in the runner-up spot at nationals.

You can't do a much better job than that with three scholarships, but unfortunately you don't win too many matches with three wrestlers.

From 1951 to 1960 the Lions won the eastern crown five times. But in 1961 the picture began to form. State finished third that year and this season the Lions dropped to fourth, even on their own Rec Hall mats.

GOOD WILL NOT ENOUGH

Charlie Speidel knows his good will ambassadors, no matter how hard they try, will have a tough time convincing a promising prospect to go to Penn State when he can get twice as much aid at another school.

His Lions are no longer referred to as the kingpins of the East. And as long as the present scholarship policy continues, State will go steadily downhill in wrestling.

However, competition is good for any sport. Charlie Speidel knows it, and he isn't crying. But it is hard to lose, especially for a man who's so used to winning and only has two more years to savor that indescribable taste of victory.



CHARLIE SPEIDEL

... recruiting problems

Strengthening of Mound Staff May Hold Key to Lion Future

By JOHN MORRIS
Penn State's pitching staff isn't exactly what one could call overstocked, but the overall picture isn't nearly so dismal as it was just ten days ago.

Just that long ago it appeared that senior righthander Marlin Biesecker was the only able hurler on a depleted staff. Things have changed considerably.

The strength or weakness of the Nittany pitching staff could hold the key to how well the team, apparently well-stocked with hitters, does this year.

Before the spring practice started, coach Joe Bedenk and pitching coach, Chuck Medlar were looking forward to one of the best mound corps in Bedenk's 32-year reign here, but then illness and scholastic problems hit the Nittanians.

Righthander Dave Bergey, a diabetes victim, had to obtain permission from home before he could rejoin the staff. The hard-throwing senior, a spot starter last year, has only been working out for one week.

Promising sophomore Walt Bloom is on scholastic probation and is lost for the season. Bloom had been considered a candidate

Successful Coach

Coach Gene Wettstone has led Penn State to seven national and 10 eastern gymnastics championships. His all-time dual-meet record is a brilliant 95 wins and 30 defeats.

for a starting role this year. IN ADDITION, star lefthander Bob Fenton, a 6-1 winner over Gettysburg in the Lions' opener Tuesday, had to fight his way through some University red tape before he could join the squad. Complications over Fenton's term standing arose because the stocky junior attended the summer term last year.

There was some question as to Fenton's readiness to pitch the opener Tuesday, but Bedenk and Medlar gave him the nod "to sharpen his control."

Fenton's control couldn't have been much sharper. The bespectacled southpaw limited the Bul-dogs to two hits and didn't walk

a man in his seven-inning mound stint.

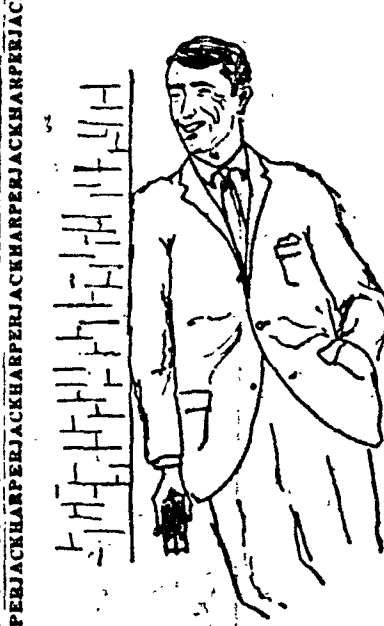
BERGEY'S RETURN, Fenton's superb pitching Tuesday and the emergence of sophomore Fred Spanier have strengthened the mound staff considerably.

"Spanier has come along really well," Medlar said yesterday. "We'll be all right in a couple of weeks when Bergey is ready to pitch."

Medlar was also pleased about the progress of junior Dick Stellman and basketballer Dick Noe.

Biesecker has drawn the starting assignment at Lehigh tomorrow afternoon and Fenton will face Villanova on the Wildcat's home grounds Saturday.

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All items subject to prior sale to University Departments and will be sold — as is — Terms cash. Lunch will be available on sale day.

Furniture

Chairs, tables, tubular steel beds with springs, wooden bunk beds with springs, chest of drawers, work bench, tablet arm chairs, sofas, wooden benches, steel folding chairs, wooden wall lockers, rugs approx. 14' x 18'.

Office Equipment & Machines

Typewriters, mimeographs, desk lamps, 4 drawer wood file cabinets, drafting tables, drafting sets, dictaphone, desks 34" x 60", desk 32" x 42", swivel chairs, posture chairs, 3 x 5 card files, ekalith activator.

Home Appliances & Houseware

G.E. wringer washing machine, Frilator (gas) deep fat fryers, ironing board, electric fan, double door refrigerator, alum. stock pots, small lot of chinaware.

General Equipment

1/2" copper-nickle tubing, space heaters, lawn mowers, cast iron stove, cast iron lamp posts, humidifiers, snatch blocks, 3/4" drill stand, forges, brass couplings, wood cutting band saw blades, milling machine cutters, machine gears, magnetic chuck, watertight metal boxes, angle & tee cutter, elect. grinder, racks for mounting elect-equip., maple platforms 5' x 8', doors, windows, J. A. Fay & Eagan jointer, tanks, bathtubs, steel roller conveyor, drill bits, sewer router with 3/4 hp elect. motor, rubber-tex base white paint, projection screens, pit cushions for bowling alleys, surfboard, 16mm movie cameras, multi-fleck paint 70 gallons, television sets.

Farm Equipment

John Deer 17 x 7 single disc grain drill model FB, McCormick No. 37 12 ft. transport disc harrow, McCormick two bottom trailing plow, Chrysler six cylinder industrial engine model 17A264, New Idea wagon.

Electrical Equipment

Climbing belts, safety switches, rotary surface switches, gasoline driven generator 10 kw, gas driven portable generators 250 watts 115 volts D.C., motor driven generator 16 kw 125 volts D.C., motor generator 115 volts A.C., motor generator 5 1/2 kw, coal shaker with 1/6 hp elect. motor, Fisher battery charger.

Electrical Test Equipment

Speech input units, Dumont cathode-ray oscillographs, power units, oscillators, frequency meters, signal generators, low frequency band 8.0 mc to 15.0 mc., amplifier power unit, motor control, high voltage test set, Bendix Radio test set, interval timer, range scope, amplifier, power supply, antenna plotter, synscope, megaphone.

Automobile Equipment

1957 International Utility Travelall station wagon; 1952 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pick up truck; 1947 Studebaker one ton pick up truck; 1940 Dodge 1 1/2 ton truck with A-frame, tires 6:00 x 16 recapped, tires 8:00 x 16.