

Off and On

Three Lions Leap Into Pro Ranks

By JOHN MORRIS
Sports Editor

"At its best," Rip Engle said in reference to his 1961 football team, "it was the best I have ever coached."

Perhaps the Silver Eagle's comment, following as it did a lopsided 47-26 victory over arch-rival Pitt, was spoken in the excitement of the moment. But, nevertheless, the Nittany Lions of 1961—Lambert Trophy winners and Gator Bowl champions—must rank as one of the greatest Penn State teams in the last 20 years.

At their best, they were tremendous. Blending a bone-crunching running game and the passing of quarterback Galen Hall, the Lions gained 3691 yards to rank sixth nationally in total offense.

After losing early season games to Miami and Army, the Nittanians won six of their last seven games, their only loss coming at the hands of Maryland, 21-17.

The Lions were magnificent in their last three games. They walloped Holy Cross, 34-14, and then Pitt, 47-26. As a finale, the Nittanians ripped defense-minded Georgia Tech, 30-15, in the Gator Bowl.

Three members of the fine '61 team have made the sizable jump from college to professional football. They should make it big—they're used to being champions.

GALEN HALL: Ignored by the pros in their post-season draft, "Butch" finally made believers out of the Washington Redskins with a spectacular passing display in the U.S. Bowl in Washington's new D.C. Stadium.

As a Lion, Hall was the master of Engle's multiple offense, proving himself particularly adept at ball-handling and faking in the backfield.

The stocky, bespectacled Nittany star had perhaps his two greatest games for State in his last two appearances in a Lion uniform. He set a Penn State passing record with 256 yards in the win over Pitt and then guided the Lions to a 30-15 victory over Georgia Tech in the Gator Bowl, easily winning the Most Valuable Player award.

Hall battled Norm Snead for the starting Redskin job for most of the pre-season training period and is sure to see plenty of action this season.



GALEN HALL

BILL SAUL: A great natural athlete, Saul might have been able to play nearly any position on a football team.

He was the Lions' Reddy unit center for three straight years, splitting the time almost equally with starter Jay Huffman. He reached perhaps the peak of his college career when he led the Lion defense that stopped Syracuse's great Ernie Davis cold on two consecutive plays at the State two-yard-line in last season's 14-0 Lion victory.

Drafted second by the Baltimore Colts, lean and mean Saul has earned a spot on the National Football League contender. Coach Weeb Ewbank considers him one of the top college line-backing prospects to hit the pros in years.

He is the number one replacement for the Colts' three great linebackers—Don Shinnick, Bill Pellington and Jackie Burkett.



BILL SAUL

BOB MITINGER: Never an outstanding offensive end, Mitinger more than made up for his pass receiving shortcomings with his rough defensive play.

It was largely because of his outstanding play on defense that he was named to the American Football Coaches Association's All-American team.

Always hustling, Mitinger was particularly strong at putting a hard rush on the opposition quarterback. He is a player who, as Engle put it, "whether right or wrong, always gave 100 per cent."

The hard-hitting Nittany stand-out played in several post-season All-Star games, excelling as a defensive end.

Mitinger is now considered a very promising linebacker by the San Diego Chargers of the American Football League.



BOB MITINGER

'Reddy Unit' Holds Key To Nittany Grid Success

By JOHN MORRIS

With Saturday's season opener against Navy just three days away, Penn State coach Rip Engle and his aides are working feverishly to mold a second unit that will be able to give State's strong first team some assistance.

"I'll match our first unit against any team in the East," Engle said, "but the second team may hold the key to our success. We're just not ready for Navy."

Engle's main problem is lack of experience in the "Reddy unit" line, a forward wall that includes three untested sophomores.

"A lot depends on those three sophomores — Bud Yost, Bill Bowes and John Simko. All three of them are fine athletes, but they are all playing new positions."

Yost and Bowes will probably be the Reddy unit ends behind starters Dave Robinson and Dick Anderson. Yost has been switched from halfback this fall and Bowes made the change from quarterback to end last year. Simko, a former tackle, will be the right guard on the Reddy unit.

Two other members of the Reddy unit line will also be appearing at new positions.

Ralph Baker has been switched from end to center and Bernie Sabol, formerly a fullback, will go at left guard. Veterans Terry Monaghan and Ron Tietjens add experience and strength at tackle.

The first unit line is set with Anderson and Robinson at end, Chuck Sieminski and Gerry

Eagles Release Jonas

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The National Football League's Philadelphia Eagles Tuesday released rookie Don Jonas and Jim Beaver and signed as free agents halfback Merrill Douglas and defensive tackle Joe Lewis.

Jonas, a former Penn State halfback from Scranton, Pa., who drew praise from Eagle Coach Nick Skorich during pre-season training, was used in Sunday's loss to the Cardinals as a safety on kickoffs and punt returns.



PETE LISKE

... eyes season opener

Farkas at tackle, Joe Blasenstein and Harrison Rosdahl at guard and captain Joe Galardi at center.

This year's team is blessed with a herd of talented backs.

PETE LISKE is firmly established as the first unit quarterback and seems to improve every day.

The 6-2, 190-pound junior operates smoothly behind the Lion line and is passing with more authority than he has in the past. He connected for five touchdown passes in the Nittanians' three pre-season scrimmages.

Left halfback remains a question mark despite the presence of All-American candidate Roger Kochman and hard-running Al Gursky.

Kochman, hampered by a pulled groin muscle, and Gursky running with a pulled muscle in his right thigh, have been alternating at the post all week.

"We'll play whoever is whole," Engle said after Tuesday's practice session. "Kochman will play as much as he is able."

Kochman will probably start

with Gursky chomping at the bit in reserve.

Little (5-9, 160) Junior Powell has apparently nailed down the starting right halfback job. An outstanding pass receiver, Powell is exhibiting more power than he had shown previously.

BARRELLING BUDDY Torris is the first unit fullback. Always a hard runner and good defensive player, Torris has developed into a premier blocker.

All freshman and sophomores interested in becoming varsity football managers should register immediately in 249 Rec. Hall.

The Reddy unit backfield is set with slick-throwing Ron Coates at quarterback, Gursky and Frank Hershey at halfbacks and veteran Dave Hayes at fullback.

The Lions have been working on polishing their pass defense all week. Pass defense was the Lion's downfall in the Maryland

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