

Season Promises to Cap Exciting Career for X-Country Captain

By JOE GRATA

For the past two years, State cross-country captain Howie Deardorff has finished consistently in top-ranking positions and this season promises to be no exception.

The spunky 5-8, 130-pound senior has tactfully combined outstanding physical and mental attributes to establish himself as a powerful runner, an esteemed leader and a fun-loving sportsman.

Starting with an Oct. 6 meet at Pitt, Deardorff must carry the load of responsibility left by the graduation of former Lion standouts Gerry Norman, Steve Moorhead and Mike Miller. But work is nothing unfamiliar to Deardorff.

In last year's Navy meet at Annapolis, Deardorff paced the Nittanians to a 20-38 win by placing first and setting a new record on the Middies' course with a time of 25:32 minutes.

THE PERSONABLE harrier also figured in ties for first place in victories over Pitt and Manhattan. His performances have heard him as one of the nation's top echelon runners.

When new cross-country and track coach John Lucas, former Boston University standout appointed recently to replace Charles (Chic) Werner, held the first formal workout session this fall, he was particularly impressed with Deardorff.

"Howie seemed very eager and aggressive," Lucas said last week. "I think he's a fine boy and a fine runner."

Deardorff arrived at Mount Nittany with impressive high school credentials.

Representing Johnstown High School in the 1959 PIAA meet held on the University golf course, Deardorff pushed his small but powerful frame to a record-breaking finish for the two and one-eighth miles distance.

HE FAILED to reap the event's laurels, however, when he was edged by Joe Thomas of Uniontown High. Thomas, too, turned in a record-breaking time, but



HOWIE DEARDORFF

it was slightly better than Deardorff's.

The Lion captain claims he came to State because "I had a school-boyish idea that I wanted to run track here more than I wanted to study."

But Deardorff quickly discovered that academic requirements must be met first. Currently he sports a highly respectable average in the landscape architecture curriculum — and Deardorff must certainly learn a lot about that while galloping around Centre County and other areas during strenuous nine-mile runs.

Deardorff stems from a family where cross-country and track seem to be old stuff. Howie's brother, Earl, captained the University of Michigan track team in 1960. Now 13-year-old brother Jeff is getting into the act by running for Cochran Junior High School, a branch of the Johnstown Public Schools System.

Deardorff explains a particular fondness for distance running.

"That's my speciality," he said. "There are many good men to compete with. The opportunity to run against the very best all of the time is encouraging."

Everything indicates that Deardorff has eliminated most of the

flaws in his running and is approaching smooth, efficient championship form.

Challenging Deardorff for the top-spot on the Lion cross-country squad are sophomores Colin Grant of England and Dick Lampman. Right now, it's anybody's guess as to which of the fleet-footed lads will break loose in a race.

DEARDORFF CONTENTS that his biggest disappointment in running as a harrier was in last year's ICA race at New York City.

The Nittanians were leading the pack of harriers and seeking a second consecutive ICA title with a mile-and-a-half remaining when Deardorff was forced to stop because of cramps.

"I was running close to the front with Gerry Norman when a muscle spasm hit me in the stomach," Deardorff, sounding still dismayed, said last night. "I had to stop to rest for about three or four minutes. But it seemed more like twenty."

As a result of the sudden attack, a disappointed Deardorff finished 48th. Had he finished within the highest 30 positions, the Lions would have copped the crown. Nevertheless, the harriers managed to place as runner-up to a strong Michigan State contingent.

Frosh Grid Coach Impressed With Desire, Size of Squad

By FRANK QUIGLEY

Although only one day of practice has gone by, the 1962 crop of freshmen football players has already impressed freshman coach Earl Bruce.

"Although it is too early to tell much about the quality of the team, I have seen few freshman teams that have shown as much desire and willingness to play as this team displayed to me at Monday's practice," Bruce said.

Bruce said that comparing this year's team with past teams, ability-wise, would be unfair because of this year's emphasis upon recruiting linemen.

"This is an unbalanced team," Bruce said, "because we have 21 linemen and only five backs."

As far as individual stars are concerned, Bruce said that he would have to put his team through some contact work before singling out any standouts.

BRUCE WAS quite satisfied with the physical size of the team and when you look down the roster and find that the smallest lineman weighs 190 pounds and the smallest back weighs 175, you are inclined to agree with him.

The largest linemen are tackles: Joe Vierzbicki (6-6, 245), Tom Frederick (6-5, 245), Gary Eberle (6-3, 240), and Dick Holzer (6-3, 238).

In addition to these huge tackles, Bruce has some burly guards and ends to work with. Bob Del Grosso (6-0, 228), Don Steinbacher (6-2, 225), and Ed Stewart (6-2, 220), add beef at the guard spot. Ed Loudon (6-4, 208), Richard Nikolishen (6-3, 200), and Bill Huber (6-1, 195), throw their weight around at the end position.

HALFBACK Dave McNaughton (6-2, 203), is the biggest back. Other backfield prospects are halfback Dick Barrett, fullback Don Kunit, fullback Bob Riggle, and quarterback Dick Gingrich.

Overall the linemen average 213 pounds and the backs average 195.

Bruce and assistant Jay Huffman will prepare the frosh for varsity action by drilling them on the Penn State Multiple-T offense. Bruce said that he would stress the fundamentals and basic plays in working with the team.

Huffman, standout center and linebacker on State's Liberty and Gator Bowl teams of the past three years, moved into the assistant spot when Dan Radokovich moved up to help coach the varsity linemen.

Ortiz To Defend Title

TOKYO (AP) — Carlos Ortiz of New York, world lightweight champion, will defend his title here on Dec. 3 against Teruo Kosaka, Japan's lightweight champion, promoter Akira Honda said.

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