

Off and On



Rip Reminisces On 1950 Grid Team

By JOHN MORRIS
Sports Editor

Charles A. (Rip) Engle laid his head against the pillow on the soft airplane seat and shut his eyes for a moment. The drone of the plane's four engines was a familiar sound to him.

The silver-haired Penn State coach had been to many points of the globe to conduct coaching clinics. He had visited Europe twice and Japan once.

The nine-hour ride to California, where his team would play Marv Levy's Golden Bears, was just a short hop for the popular Lion head coach.

Rip Engle is a successful coach and, consequently, he is often asked to coach all-star squads.

The Ripper was head coach of the Blues in the Blue-Gray games in Montgomery, Ala., in 1951, 1952, and 1953. In 1955 and 1956 he was a member of the East coaching staff in the East-West Shrine game in San Francisco, becoming head coach for the East in 1957.

In addition, he was co-head coach of the National All-Stars in the 1959 and 1960 Cooper Bowl games in Arizona, and in 1961 he served as co-head coach of the East team in the first All-American Bowl in Buffalo, N.Y.

He has never had a losing season since coming to Penn State in 1950. His 12-year record here shows 82 victories, 35 defeats and 4 ties. That record includes Liberty Bowl victories over Alabama in 1959 and Oregon in 1960 and a Gator Bowl victory over Georgia Tech last year.

BUT ENGLE wasn't thinking of places he has been or of all-star squads he has coached. The Lion mentor opened his eyes and chuckled, remembering the 1950 football season.

Arriving on Mount Nittany after a highly successful eight-year tour of duty at Brown University, Engle was too late for spring practice.

"They had already had spring practice by the time I got there," Engle recalled. "But we got the boys out again and had practice all over. But the freshmen weren't there so we had another spring practice for them."

"We wanted to make sure we were ready for our opener," Engle continued, "so we brought the boys back and started fall practice on Aug. 15. By the end of the season I was really sick of football."

Engle succeeded Joe Bedenk as head coach and installed the winged-T. The Lions responded well to the new system, winding up the season with a 5-3-1 log.

"We had a good team that year," Engle said. "But the biggest controversy of the year wasn't over our team or anybody we played. Everybody was more concerned with where we would sit."

"That was the first year that we sat on the East side of the field," Engle explained. "The students wanted to sit behind the team, so instead of moving all the students, we moved the team. People were sure I was to blame for moving the team. I got letters in favor of the move and letters claiming we were crazy to move and sit with sun in our eyes."

SINCE THOSE early days Engle has built Penn State into a genuine football power, a team playing a rough schedule and bidding for national recognition.

As the quality of football at Penn State has improved, so has the Nittany Lions' following grown.

"I got a lot of advice from a lot of people," Engle said as he pulled a piece of crumpled paper from his pocket, "but this has to be one of the best letters I have ever received."

To The Hole Football Team

Satrday my Dady said you were a bunch of Bums and I Said You Was the GREATEST in the Hole WORLD and thnn my Dady says to me you no that bike you want. So I Bett with by Dady my nex 2 weeik alonge 1.00\$ a weeik that you beat the Syracuse by 2 touchdowns. P.S. I still think you best evem if you lose —but plesse win buy 2 touchdowns. God Bless You

Sined,
David Feldman

The return address on the envelope just said "Brooklyn" or Engle would answer the letter.

"We didn't win by two touchdowns," the Lion coach said, "and I would like to send him a football autographed by the squad."

If David Feldman, Brooklyn, is a normal Penn State football fan, he would probably much rather win that bicycle with the same bet next year.



RIP ENGLE

Lions Squeeze by Bears As Pass Defense Falters

(Continued from page one)
one reception of Lenny Krouse's 22-year-old record.

Kochman gained more yardage rushing than any other four men on the field. The Rocket zoomed for 130 yards in 19 carries.

There were other outstanding Penn State players. Fullback Dave Hayes gained 37 yards rushing, including vital first down yardage on every Penn State drive.

And, of course, All-American end candidate Dave Robinson gave his usual sterling performance. He had four catches for 43 yards and played brilliantly on defense.

The Nittanies (5-1) started out like they intended to run California into the ground. They gained upwards of 150 yards in the first quarter but were held scoreless by the biggest game of Drop-the-Hanky ever held in front of 31,500 people.

THE LIONS were penalized 71 yards in the initial period in a display of flag-waving that effectively blunted three Nittany drives.

State scored the first time it got the ball in the second period. Kochman got the Lions started with an 18-yard dash from the State 20-yard line. The Nittanies' All-American halfback candidate gained a total of 46 yards as the Lions marched 80 yards in 12 plays.

Hayes scored the touchdown on a one-yard plunge and Ron Coates added the extra point to make the score 7-0 with six minutes gone in the second quarter. Coates put his foot into a 27-yard field goal the next time the Lions had the ball. A pass interception by Junior Powell set up the boot.

Then Morton took over and, as California fans gasped with glee, moved the Bears 73 yards in seven plays for a touchdown just before the end of the half.

THE SCORE came on a four-yard pass from Norton to Jim Blakeney, but Tom Blanchfield missed the extra point in the jubilation that followed.

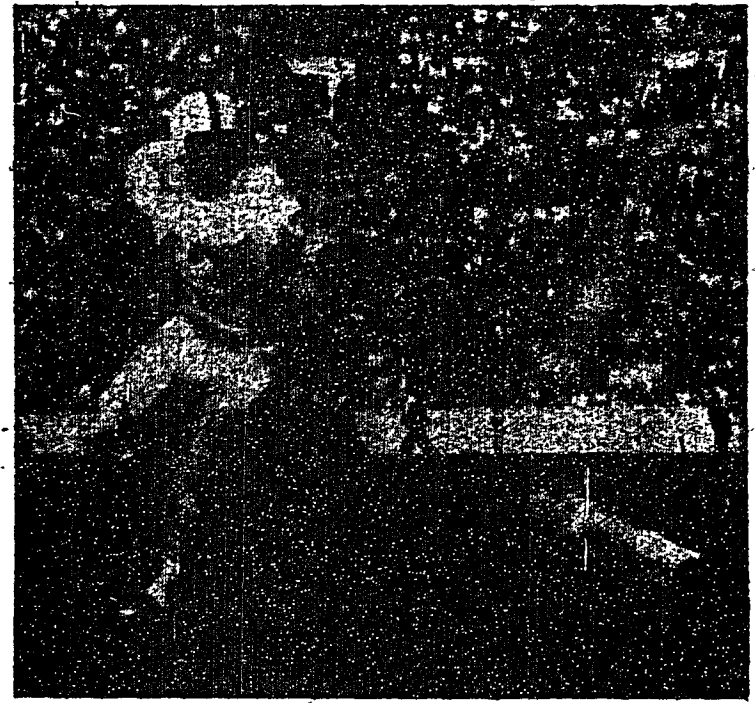
State's first unit, which managed to contain Morton most of the afternoon, stopped the California sophomore at the start of the second half.

Liske then moved the Lions 77 yards in 17 plays. Kochman scored the touchdown with a plunge off-tackle and Coates again added the extra point, making the score 17-6.

Lion coach Rip Engle then gave his regulars a well-deserved rest, inserting State's Reddy (second) unit in the game.

Morton riddled the Reddies' defensive backfield and the first unit was rushed back into action. But the Bears wouldn't be stopped, moving 75 yards in just nine plays. A two-point conversion narrowed the Nittanies' margin to 17-14.

KOCHMAN RETURNED the ensuing kickoff from five yards deep in the end zone to the State



LOOKING DOWNFIELD, Lion halfback Al Gursky pulls away from a tackle by California's Bill Turner after taking a third-quarter pass from Pete Liske. Gursky snared eight passes during the Lions' win, just one reception short of the all-time Penn State record.

26-yard line and the Lions' rejuvenated first unit began to roll. The running of Kochman and Hayes and two passes to Robinson moved the ball to the California seven. Then Liske rolled to his right and flipped a short pass to Gursky for the touchdown. Coates' extra point attempt was wide to the right and the Nittanies led, 23-14.

Again the second unit entered the game, and again Morton filled the air with passes. The Bears moved 73 yards in 11 plays for the score. Blanchfield's PAT making it 23-21.

With the tension mounting, the Golden Bears stopped the Lions immediately after the kickoff. Chuck Raisig, the second leading punter in the nation, boomed the ball 51 yards and the Bears took over.

It was here that the Lions deviated from the script. After

three complete passes, Robinson and Harrison Rosdahl broke through the ring of blockers protecting Morton and chased the California quarterback toward the sidelines.

Rosdahl clamped his huge arms around Morton and Robinson grabbed the ball in mid-air to stop the Bear drive.

With about a minute remaining, California regained possession on its own 20-yard line.

Morton moved the Bears to the 38-yard line and lofted a long pass intended for speedy Dale Rubin. The ball sailed out of bounds just over Rubin's outstretched fingertips on the Penn State 20-yard stripe.

That was the game. Morton threw another incomplete pass and then tossed a long bomb that Liske intercepted on the Lions' 17. Liske sat down with the ball on the next play as time ran out.

STATISTICAL LEADERS

RUSHING			
Name	No.	Yds.	TD
Kochman	19	130	1
Gursky	14	43	1
Hayes	11	37	0
Stoekbrath	2	12	0
Hershey	2	12	0
Klingensmith	2	9	0
Blanchfield	4	22	0
Blakeney	4	16	0
Morton	3	11	0
Epstein	1	16	0

PASSING					
Name	Att.	Com.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Liske	17	14	0	160	1
Coates	2	1	0	9	0
Morton	28	20	2	174	3
Walter	1	0	0	0	0
Balliett	2	1	0	16	0

PASS RECEIVING			
Name	No.	Yds.	TD
Gursky	8	88	1
Anderson	2	21	0
Robinson	4	43	0
Yost	1	9	0
Gridley	3	39	0
Blanchfield	4	43	0
Turner	3	44	0
Blakeney	2	8	1
Krum	2	30	0
Vaughn	2	34	0
Nelson	1	6	0
Lutes	1	9	1

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