

Off and On

And When It's Over

By JOHN MORRIS
Sports Editor

Sometimes you wonder if it's worth the long hours at the shop, the missed meals, the lack of time to sleep or study and the bone-chilling walks back to your room at three or four in the morning. You have been cursed and condemned, criticized and castigated.

But when the long night is finally over and the papers begin to roll off the presses, you have a feeling of accomplishment that makes the walk home a little warmer, a little shorter.

When this paper comes off the presses, it will mark the end of more than three years work for me on the sports staff of The Daily Collegian.

The years have gone quickly, but the fastest period has been the three weeks since I submitted my resignation to the Board of Editors. And now, when it's all over, there is neither time nor space to express the gratitude I owe to so many people.

To former sports editors Sandy Padwe and Jim Karl, to the coaches and trainers of nearly every Penn State team, to the gang at the shop and to my fellow staff members — present and past — thank you.

Collegian has afforded me the opportunity to meet an amazing variety of people. I have met my share of "yes" men and other shallow characters, but most of my acquaintances in the last three years have been wonderful people. I feel privileged to call some of them my friends.

So many memories dash through my mind when I think of these last three years.

I remember standing on the intramural football fields in the fall of 1959, the thrill of my first by-line, a long bus ride with the baseball team, a tennis match in a snow-storm and the crowd of shivering students that greeted the football team after its heartbreaking loss to Army this fall.

I can also recall the incessant chatter of Don Jonas on the baseball field, Roger Kochman's 100-yard kickoff return against Syracuse in 1959 and a riotous bridge game with Dave Robinson on the plane trip back from California.

Individual members of the cast of characters who make up the Penn State sport scene also come to mind.

To mention just a few:

DUTCH SYKES — Mr. Sykes' intramural office serves as a training grounds for young reporters. To my knowledge, he has remained as cooperative and understanding as he was with me.

JOE BEDENK — The white-haired baseball coach who will announce his retirement officially at the end of this term. Bedenk was a great coach who had only one losing season in his 32 years of coaching the sport at Penn State. He resembles Casey Stengel physically and occasionally in his speech, but there is only one Joe Bedenk.

CHUCK MEDLAR — The huge head trainer of the football team and the man most likely to succeed Bedenk as baseball coach. One of the most popular men in Rec Hall circles, Medlar is rarely seen without a cigar clamped between his teeth.

GENE WETTSTONE — A fine teacher and leader, Wettstone is the greatest gymnastics coach in the country and is considered the foremost American expert on the sport. He is a pleasure to interview.

RIP ENGLE — The "Silver Eagle," always a gentleman, is one of the most successful coaches in the United States. Gracious in defeat and modest in victory, there are few men I admire more.

Memories of these men and others will remain with me through the years.

The Daily Collegian has been more than an activity. It has been an education. That education has been worth all the sacrifices it involved.

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Lions Head South

LION RECORD-BREAKER

(Continued from page one)
football superiority. Dartmouth was second.

By beating both Pitt and West Virginia, the Lions retained possession of "Old Ironsides," the ugly three-sided hunk of steel that symbolizes the winner of the State-Pitt-West Virginia rivalry.

The opponent for the Lions in this year's Gator Bowl will not be decided until after the Florida-Miami (Fla.) game this Saturday night. If Florida wins, it will be the Lions' opponent.

Should Florida lose, however, Duke becomes the likely opponent for the Lions.

THE WINNER of the Florida-Miami game was originally supposed to be the host team, but Miami's 29-7 loss to Northwestern ten days ago eliminated the Hurricanes from the picture.

Duke seemed to be the choice of many of the Lions.

"I think the guys would like to play Duke," quarterback Pete Liske said. "Duke is always a good team and this year they have lost only to Georgia Tech and Southern Cal. There's no shame in that."

Team captain Joe Galardi agreed with Liske.

"I hope we play Duke. We showed the southern people that we could beat one of their teams and I'm convinced we can do it again."

It was Galardi who told reporters that the vote to attend the Gator Bowl was "decisive."

THERE HAD been rumors of opposition from a bloc of senior lettermen, but Liske gave the reason for the decision after the meeting.

"We feel that we have our prestige to uphold in the Gator Bowl," the Lion signal-caller said.

This Penn State team should certainly be capable of doing just that.

The Lions have been impressive all year except in the game at Army. In that contest, the Lions had one touchdown called back and another touchdown pass was dropped in the end zone.



PETE LISKE

The Nittanios recorded wins over Navy (41-7), Air Force (20-8), Rice (18-7), Syracuse (20-19), California (23-21), Maryland (23-7), West Virginia (34-6), Holy Cross (48-20) and Pitt (16-0).

Liske and All-American half-back Roger Kochman led the Nittanios this year.

Liske set three Penn State season records—touchdown passes, total offense and passing yardage.

His season total of 1,302 yards broke the former record of 1,238 yards made by Richie Lucas in 1959 and his passing yardage—1,037—topped Tony Rados' 1,025 in 1953.

Liske's total of 12 touchdown passes in one season broke the record of nine held by Rados (1952) and Shorty Miller (1912).

Kochman, who Engle has called the Lions' greatest back since Lenny Moore, led all State rushers with 595 yards and a 5.4 yard average gain per carry. In addition, he caught 12 passes for 254 yards and four touchdowns. He led the Lion scoring parade with 48 points.

"Kochman does all the little things that make the difference between a good back and a great one," Engle said. "He is our best blocking back and leads all our backs in tackles."

Pitt Upset Highlights Booters' Season

By IRA MILLER

Turned giant-killers in the second half of the season's final game, Penn State's soccer team can now sit back and look hopefully toward next season. State scored twice in the second half to upset Pitt, 2-1, Saturday in Pittsburgh.

While a 3-6 season can hardly be termed successful, the Lions were plagued through the year with key injuries and also suffered the loss of three starters who quit the team.

STATE DID produce its bright spots too, however. The Nittanios came up with some fine sophomores, in George Berzkains, Ray Dacey, Al Jacobsen and John Katona, all of whom were starters by the end of the year.

Berzkains, Jacobsen and Katona did an effective job of plugging the gaps caused by the loss of forwards Al Schattschneider, Tom Flanagan and Ed Hinojosa. Captain Jay Stormer was converted to the front line as a result of the losses and this gave

Dacey his chance. Dacey, along with Dieter Heinze and Harry Kline, formed a rapidly-improving halfback line that could spell trouble for Lion foes next year.

Two weeks into the season, coach Ken Hosterman came up with an untested goalie in Jay Robbins and gave him a chance. Robbins seized the opportunity and didn't yield the position until the last game.

Stormer and Val Djurdjevic were the only seniors among the Nittany starters. Stormer is a prime candidate for the first Bill Jeffrey Award which will be given to State's outstanding player. The winner will be announced Jan. 4.

Before the Pitt game, the booters' only victories had come against small schools—Bucknell and Gettysburg—which made the win over the Panther's even sweeter. The Lions lost to six big foes—West Chester (last year's national champ), Colgate, Maryland (this year's national runner-up), Navy, Temple and Army.

But the Lions came to life the last two weeks of the season to justify the confidence Hosterman has had in them all year.

Throughout the season, he kept insisting the Lions were better than their record showed and "one of these days we'll surprise someone." To put it mildly, Pitt was surprised Saturday.




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