

— sport folio —



'Nice Guy' Bedenk Ends Coaching Career

By KEN DENLINGER
Assistant Sports Editor

The person who coined the phrase, "Nice guys finish last," never met Joe Bedenk.

Bedenk, whose retirement became official last Tuesday, has given athletics over 40 years service as both a player and coach. As a player he gained All-America stature as a guard on Hugo Bezdek's 1923 Rose Bowl team. As a coach, his defense-conscious baseball clubs have molded a legendary record of 410 wins against 161 setbacks.

Meeting Bedenk, one wonders how a man whose hobby is refinishing antiques could dole out enough punishment to make All-America. But, for two years Bedenk led interference for Harry (Lighthorse) Wilson conceded by many, including Bedenk, as one of State's finest backs.

Bedenk's career reads like pages from the Hall of Fame. He's met them all—from boxing great Leo Houck to sportswriter Grantland Rice, from major league stars to collegiate benchwarmers—and made friends.

His scrapbook, if he had one, would fill volumes. But, he is not a believer in living on past laurels. "Those newspaper clippings don't put food on the table," he says.

He remembers a game against Lafayette when State ran every offensive play except one, and lost. "Lafayette punted the ball on first down every time they had their hands on it," he said "until they forced us back to our 15. We fumbled, they recovered, ran one play and scored— beat us 7-0."

It would seem that a game of this nature should stick out in Bedenk's memory because his coaching philosophy was based entirely on defense. He calls it "Inside Baseball."

"You hold the other team scoreless, and pray like hell for one run," he says.

THIS PRACTICE is fine for Bedenk the coach, but Bedenk the fan prefers his action to be wide open.

"I enjoy a 7-5 game when I'm in the stands, but not when I'm on the sidelines," he remarked.

Confidence is one thing Bedenk never lacked and he tried to instill this into his players.

"My teams never entered a game they didn't feel they had a good chance of winning," he said. "No matter what our opponents' record was we always figured we were as good as they were."

One of the early promoters of a college World Series, Bedenk is a charter member and one of the founders of the American Association of College Baseball Coaches, serving as its president in 1949.

MANY CHANGES have taken place during Bedenk's sports ten-



JOE BEDENK

ure, but the upsurge of the home run seems the most significant. While the long ball is a necessary part of any offense, Bedenk prefers that it take the form of a double or triple consistently rather than an occasional circuit blast.

Bedenk's career as an active participant in athletics is over, a routine of coaching will be replaced by a routine of leisure. He leaves to Chuck Medlar, his pitching coach for the past 14 years, the unenviable task of filling his shoes.

What does Bedenk plan to do with his spare time? Watch baseball, naturally. He plans a trip to Florida soon "to escape this miserable weather," where he will watch the majors in spring training camps. Then he'll come back "Home." He says he wants to watch all the sporting events he can because that has been his life.

"And you can be sure," he says with a twinkle in his eye, "that next baseball season I'll be around --to watch."

Modern Day Oakleys Test Lions Today

By ED CARPENTER

The Nittany Lion rifle team will go after its second victory of the young season when it entertains Duquesne University and Lehigh in a tri-meet at the University range beginning at 1:30.

An added sidelight to the meet will be the possibility of an appearance by the two modern day Annie Oakleys on the Duquesne team.

However, these two coeds, Janice Ann Barczak and Mary Ann Heinzl, have done little to bolster a mediocre Duquesne team. In its first eight matches this season Duquesne has been held winless, its highest team score being a meager 1379.

LEHIGH HAS a slightly better record, having broken 1400 a couple of times. However, neither team should be too big a threat to Sergeant Joe Watson's squad.

The one thing that could defeat the team is the old jinx of looking forward to the next meet. A week hence the team travels to West Point to face one of its toughest opponents. In previous meets the Cadets haven't been able to beat the Lions by more than 10 points. With better and more experienced personnel this year the Lions could pull an upset.

In its only match of the season, the Lions defeated Pitt 1417-1385. The four leading scorers were Mike Beckmeyer, 288; captain Dick Gogolkiewicz, 287; Dick Taylor, 282; Chuck Nagel, 281.

IMs Resume Tomorrow

The intramural sports department will resume its winter tournaments tomorrow with the continuation of bowling. Monday night will mark the resumption of basketball. Both tournaments will continue according to schedule.

Heinze Soccer MVP

Dieter Heinze was named the winner last night of the first Bill Jeffrey Award as Penn State's outstanding soccer player for the 1962 season.

At the same time, Heinze, a junior center halfback from Hamburg, N.Y., was also elected captain for 1963, succeeding Jay Stormer.

Pros Honor Mitinger

Former Penn State end Bob Mitinger, one of 13 rookies on the San Diego Chargers of the American Football League, was recently selected as the squad's "Rookie of the Year." A year ago Mitinger was named to the Coaches All-America Football Team.

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ECAC Threatens AAU Boycott

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The influential Eastern College Athletic Conference, representing more than 130 colleges and universities, dealt a damaging blow to the AAU-sanctioned indoor track season yesterday.

In a letter from Commissioner Asa Bushnell, mailed to member schools by the conference office in New York, and disclosed here at the National Collegiate Ath-

letic Association convention, the ECAC strongly urged its members not to compete in the meets unless they are sanctioned by the U.S. Track and Field Federation.

Chick Werner, president of the federation, said none of the big Eastern indoor meets has sought federation sanction. The recommendation, labelled a threatened boycott by the AAU, involves all of the major track powers of the East.

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