

SPORT-SCANNING

No Bowl for Lions— Just a Long Season

By IRA MILLER Assistant Sports Editor

Penn State's football team will quietly close out its season at Pitt next week and then, for the first time in five seasons, spend the Christmas holidays at home.

There is no bowl for the Lions to go to this year, no season-ending reward for an unexpectedly successful season.

There are many reasons for this, but a key one is the reluctance of southern bowl promoters to take an interest in eastern teams.

This all dates back to last year when the Lions, with a 9-1 record and the Lambert Trophy, were completely overlooked by the major southern bowls. Instead, the players were pressured into accepting a Gator Bowl bid and the result was painfully apparent to millions who saw it on national television.

So this year there is no pressure being applied from any direction and State's players have voted to veto any bowl invitations. They know the only ones they could qualify for anyway are the Gator and the Liberty bowls.

The Gator Bowl, played the last Saturday of the year, is the only southern bowl that makes a conscious effort to schedule an inter-sectional game and there are reports that this year either Pitt or Syracuse may wind up as the visiting team. The Liberty Bowl goes wild for the Nittanians every year but haven't gotten them since 1960.

"There's no feeling for a bowl here this year," coach Rip Engle said. "Last year we went when there was no feeling for it and everyone saw what a mistake it was."

But Engle knew where it all started—last year's snub by the Orange and Cotton bowls. This year again, the Lions were mentioned in Orange and Cotton bowl talk but when it comes down to the final decision, the only eastern team with a chance at either is Navy—and only because of the national appeal the academics possess.

The players, from whom must come a vote of approval, are bruised, battered and tired from one of the toughest schedules in the country.

The long season, made even longer by the two-week postponement of the Pitt game, has had its effects and few of the players are interested in prolonging it any more.

None of this bowl talk was much of an issue until Athletic Director Ernest McCoy issued his now-famous and much-publicized "No Bowls" proclamation about a week or so ago. He said at the time that "under no circumstances" would State accept a post-season invitation. This was before the players had cast their veto, but their feelings were well known.

In many quarters of the University, McCoy's decree raised an angry outcry by people wanting to know why the Lions would elect to stay at home.

Basically, the reasons are simple:

•The Lions knew they had no chance for a major berth. Of the six spots in the Orange, Cotton or Sugar Bowl, two are tied up by contract and the rest, as if by an unwritten law, are usually given to the South-eastern Conference. In the last 20 years, eastern teams have made three appearances in the Cotton Bowl, three in the Orange Bowl and one in the Sugar Bowl.

•Injuries have made the season seem a lot longer than it is to many of the Lions. Almost all the regulars have been hobbled at one time or another by various ailments and they just have had enough football. This, and the fact they must spend three weeks preparing for Pitt, means that to go to a bowl would mean virtually no rest from September to December.

•Conditions at training sites the last two years have been something less than ideal. If you have ever spent two weeks of your Christmas vacation at a deserted army base, you might know what I mean.

So when McCoy issued his decree, he was merely affirming what everyone close to the scene-long knew. The players don't want to go to a bowl, Engle doesn't want to go to a bowl, and McCoy himself doesn't want to go to a bowl.

It has been pointed out by some people that while McCoy may be the athletic director, he has no absolute veto power in policy matters and this rests solely with President Eric A. Walker.

But Walker prefers to leave such decisions to people who know what is going on in those particular areas. Unlike Pitt's Chancellor Litchfield, he doesn't try to run the football team, nor does he tell McCoy how to run the athletic department. And this is as it should be.

Post-season bowls serve as a fine reward for teams desiring such a reward. But they can't have bowls forced upon them, as the Lions learned to their sorrow last year. Next year may be a different story, but as for this one, it's Christmas-at-home. And this, too, is as it should be—this year.

Pitt, in a position much like the one the Lions occupied last year, also finds much the same situation with the southern bowls. They just don't seem interested. The Orange Bowl even goes so far as to say "Pitt doesn't play a representative schedule."

If that is so, then I guess a representative schedule must include teams like South Dakota State, Iowa State, Kansas State and Oklahoma State (all played by Nebraska) or possibly Houston, Chattanooga, and Tennessee (all played by Auburn, Nebraska's likely opponent in the game at Miami).

An Associated Press survey before the season indicated that Pitt, Penn State and Notre Dame play the nation's three toughest schedules. Add UCLA and I would go along with that. And it's interesting to note that the two eastern teams (Pitt and State) thrive on such competition, while Notre Dame and UCLA have won four games between them.

Cagers Face Duke in Opener

Nittanians Tangle With Blue Devils, N.C. State on Two-Game Road Tour

By JIM BUKATA Sports Editor

An upset-minded Penn State basketball team kicks off its 1963 schedule tonight at Durham, N.C., against the highly-touted Duke Blue Devils.

This is the first of a two-game tour for the Lions. Monday evening, John Egli's cagers will meet North Carolina State in Raleigh. They will then return home to face Maryland in the home opener at Rec Hall next Saturday.

The Lions will be distinct underdogs tonight against Duke. The Blue Devils are ranked 4th in the country in pre-season polls and have 10 of 14 ballplayers back from last year's squad which finished third in the NCAA playoffs.

Leading the list of returnees is All-American candidate Jeff Mullins. The 6-4 senior, who can play either guard or forward, averaged 20.3 points a game last year while hitting 54.9% of his shots.

He is expected to take up much of the slack left by the graduation of Art Heyman, college basketball player-of-the-year.

However, Blue Devil fans feel confident that Mullins will step right into Heyman's vacated spot.

Egli feels that Mullins is as good a ballplayer as Heyman, if not better.

"Both are great ballplayers," the Lion coach said, "but Mullins is a team leader and can rally the team behind him. He is more of a team player too."

Egli said that Mullins is deadly both inside and out. "He drives and also is deadly accurate with one-hand, push shots from the corners," Egli said.

Terry Hoover, the Lions' sixth man, may miss tonight's game at Duke due to a death in his family, it was learned last night.

"And he is also a good ball-stealer and usually the first man to reach a loose ball."

Mullins will team in the front court with a pair of 6-10 giants. Jay Buckley will jump center for Duke while Hack Tison will play the other forward spot.

Big Front Line

"They must have one of the biggest front lines in college ball," Egli lamented. "I don't see how we're going to be able to battle them on the boards."

In the back court, coach Vic Bubas will use Buzzy Harrison, a 6-3 senior and Ron Herbstler, a 6-2 junior.

The Blue Devil bench is loaded with talent and Bubas can call upon any one of a half dozen ball-



JEFF MULLINS RON HERBSTLER

players to perform more than adequately.

Bubas is especially high on a pair of sophomores from Pennsylvania, Jack Marin and Steve Vacendak.

Marin at 6-6 is counted on to spell Tison. He is the brother of Lion reserve Chuck Marin.

Vacendak, a guard, played his ball in Scranton. He will be the top reserve in the back court.

Others on the Duke squad are Ted Mann Jr. (6-5), Ray Cox (6-0), Denny Ferguson (6-0) and Frank Harscher (6-3).

Egli is not too optimistic about upsetting the Blue Devils but feels the team has a better chance than it would later in the season.

"I'm glad we're catching them early," Egli said. "Boy I'd give my heart to beat these guys."

Lion Starters

The Lion coach said he would start sophomore Ray Saunders (6-6) and junior Ron Avillion (6-5), at forwards; senior Tom Malinchak (6-6) at center and senior Bobby Donato (5-10) and junior Bob Weiss (6-2) at guards.

"Our boys are going to have to be patient and wait for the good shot," Egli said. "It doesn't look like we're going to get too pressed to duplicate or top last year's 15-5 record." A tough road schedule and general overall improvement of all the teams are

the two main deterrents toward a banner year.

Monday evening, State faces an inexperienced North Carolina State team. The Wolfpack have 11 sophomores on their 15-man squad and have only two lettermen returning.

Coach Everett Case, who in 17 years has had only two losing seasons, said he has never had a squad so short on experience.

"We're going to have to resort to a slow-down style of attack," Case said. "We must teach our boys the ABC's of the game before we try and do anything fancy."

Wolfpack Young

Three sophomores will be in the starting lineup against the Lions. Hal Blondeau, Ray Hodgdon and Bill Moffitt will open along with senior captain Pete Auksel and junior center Larry Lakin. The latter two are the only lettermen Case has returning.

The Wolfpack lost a promising ballplayer when 6-9 center Ron Gossell was seriously injured in an auto accident. Another ballplayer, 6-4 John Arganbright, signed a baseball contract.

Another sophomore-dominated team awaits the Lions in the home opener.

Maryland has six veterans returning from last year's squad which posted an 8-13 record, but coach Bud Millikan has indicated he will use three crack sophomores in his lineup.

Neil Brayton and Gary Ward, both of whom averaged over 20 points a game for the Terrapin frosh, should start along with 6-8 Rick Ward. Returnees Scott Ferguson and Sam McWilliams figure to get the other berths.

The Lions then take a week off before facing Syracuse at Rec Hall Dec. 14. Coach Fred Lewis' cagers are banking heavily on sophomores to lead them back to respectability after two dismal years.

Dave Bing, a 6-2 guard who broke all the freshman scoring State," Egli said. "It has to be one of my better teams."

Still the Lions will be hard many second shots with their advantage in height."

Egli said that Terry Hoover, Carver Clinton, Jim Reed, Jerry Roseboro, Marin and Don Stepanausky would all probably see action.

"This squad has more depth than any I have ever had at marks, is the big reason for optimism on Piety Hill. And the (Continued on page seven)



THE STARTERS: Penn State's starting five for tonight's opener at Duke. Front: Bobby Donato and Bobby Weiss; rear: Ron Avillion, Tom Malinchak and Ray Saunders.

Saunders Only Sophomore To Crack Nittanians' Lineup

(This is the fifth of a series of articles on members of the 1963-64 Penn State basketball team. Next is Terry Hoover.)

Ray Saunders has yet to play his first varsity game, but Penn State basketball coach John Egli is already expecting great things from him. Already, he's the only sophomore to crack the Lions' starting lineup.

"He'll never be a big scorer for us," Egli said, "but he does so many things well and seldom makes a mistake. This is the big thing."

Egli's only wish is that Saunders would be only a couple of inches taller. Then, according to the Lion coach, he could hold his own with any ballplayer around.

"The thing you have to admire about him is the way he tries to better himself," Egli continued. "He is always striving to perfect new moves and polish the old ones he knows."

Saunders was not a big high school star at West Mifflin, a suburb of Pittsburgh, but he attracted the attention of Penn State along with Louisville and Maryland.

He was an All - Section 6 WPIAL choice his senior year and the other four who made the team will all start as college sophomores this year.

Bill Ryczaj at West Virginia,



RAY SAUNDERS

Stewart Johnson at Murray State, Buddy Benedict at Clemson and Tim Edwards at Massachusetts were members of the team along with Saunders.

Saunders was a high school forward but was switched to center last year by the then freshman coach Snowy Simpson. He averaged over 17 points a game for the freshmen and was instrumental in leading the team to a 7-1 record.

Egli moved Saunders back to forward this year, but also plans

to use him in the post.

"He can shoot well from outside," Egli said, "but what I like about him is the way he handles the ball in the pivot. He works the ball smoothly and has an accurate shot from the key-hole."

The Lion coach said Saunders has been improving steadily since the first week of practice, but he really showed his stuff in a scrimmage against Duquesne last week.

"Egli makes it so one of the reasons Saunders seems to be progressing so well stems from the fact that he had a high school coach who stressed fundamentals of basketball."

"It makes it so much easier to work with a boy when he has had the necessary training in high school," Egli said. "I know his coach, Bill Casper. He's a real 'bug' on teaching the basics of the game."

The only thing Egli is fearful of is the fact that Saunders might feel nervous playing away from home before the big crowds early in the season.

"I kind of wish we were opening at home," Egli continued. "It makes it a lot easier on a boy to play in front of a home crowd. I know Ray will be nervous at first, but he'll overcome that."

—JIM BUKATA

Gymnasts Appear Loaded; Face WVU In Opener Dec. 14

By JOHN LOTT

When it comes down to choosing a lineup for Penn State's gymnastics opener Dec. 14 at West Virginia, no doubt Lion coach Gene Wettstone will have a problem.

The Lions are knee-deep in talent for 1964, with several performers of nearly-equal ability vying for each event. The addition of an outstanding group of sophomores makes Wettstone's choice all the more difficult.

"Our key to success lies around our three all-around men," Wettstone said. The trio, juniors Mike Jacobson and Jim Culhane and sophomore Ed Isabelle, were steady performers last year and have shown improvement in early workouts this fall.

This is especially true in the case of Jacobson, heir apparent to Tom Seward as State's No. 1 all-around gymnast. Jacobson was always close to or at the top of the scoring in dual meets last year and promises to blossom into a real star this season.

Culhane Valuable Member 1964 could also be a big year for Culhane. "Although he has been hampered by several injuries," Wettstone said, "he appears to be a very important member of the squad because of his all-around ability."

Isabelle, who captured 11 of a possible 12 first places for State's fabulous freshman squad last year, "is also being counted on to come through with some important scores," according to the coach.

While the three all-arounders are the prime candidates for the free-exercise event, here is the way Wettstone sizes up the rest of the team at this stage:

Long horse: "The leading contenders here are junior Pete Saporano and senior F. P. Storz. Saporano is a man to watch this year and Sforza, who won't

be eligible until January, is beginning to show improved form. The other spots are wide open with Tom Burtnett, Gene Schofield and Doug Collins fighting for a regular position."

Side horse: "Senior Al Porter still appears to be No. 1 on this event. The return of Ray Cherry, who has been practicing teaching, gives us a valuable addition while sophomore Dennis Paoletti also promises to be of some help."

High bar: "In addition to the three all-around men, we feel Bill Keller could aid the squad here providing he develops more mastery of his routines."

Parallel bars: "Here again the all-around men are on top with Stu Altman also battling for a place."

Still rings: "As usual, this event is wide open with a lot of fellows in contention. One of our better boys is junior John Martin (whom Wettstone recruited from a physical education class last year). The other candidates for the rings are Bill Jenkins, Gary Williams, Keller and Al Marshall."

Following the Lions' opener with the Mountaineers, they travel to the University of Massachusetts Jan. 11. The local fans will get to see the State G-men in action for the first time Jan. 18, when they meet Springfield in Rec Hall.

Ressler Named by AP To All-East First Team

Penn State guard Glenn Ressler was named to the All-East football team announced yesterday by The Associated Press. Ressler, a 6-2, 226-pound junior from Dornisife, was the only Nittany Lion picked for first team honors.

State got no one on the second squad and only end Dick Anderson and quarterback Pete Liske on the third unit. Guard Bernie Sabol, center Ralph Baker and fullback Ed Stuckrath were named to the honorable mention roll.

Meanwhile, the Nittanians continued their workouts for next Saturday's delayed finale at Pitt. State will hold a brief, full-scale scrimmage at noon today and work hard the beginning of next week before tapering off Thursday. Kickoff time for next Saturday's game at Pitt Stadium is 1 p.m.

The All-East team: Ends—Jim Whalen, Boston College and John Parry, Brown. Tackles—Ernie Borghetti, Pitt and Gerald Philbin, Buffalo. Guards—Dick Nowak, Army and Ressler; Center—Jon Morris, Holy Cross; Backs—Roger Staubach, Navy; Paul Marth, Pitt; Mike Brown, Delaware; Gary Wood, Cornell; Cosmo Iacavazzi, Princeton.



GLENN RESSLER

Meeting of Varsity Club Sunday 10:00 p.m. Jackets are in. Delta Upsilon Fraternity

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