

Nite Owl

Adams Deserves Job When Speidel Retires

By JIM BUKATA Sports Editor

Speculation continues to grow as to who will be named to succeed Penn State wrestling coach Charlie "Doc" Speidel when he retires in March after a 38-year coaching career.

Some observers feel the position has already been filled. In fact they contend that the man was told he was hired for the job over two years ago and that he will be officially named when the season ends.

However, Director of Athletics Dean Ernest B. McCoy said "no decision has been reached on who will be named the new coach."

McCoy said that a committee has been formed to study possible candidates and that they will screen applications in order to get the best possible coach available for the job.

"We'll probably contact six or seven men who we feel are qualified for the position," McCoy said. "We have to ask the permission of the schools where these gentlemen are now to allow us to talk with them, though."

Then McCoy said the candidates will be narrowed to three or four before a final decision is reached. Listed prominently as likely successors for Speidel's job are Homer Barr, John Johnson, Jerry Maurey, Charlie Ridenour and Dave Adams, all graduates of Penn State.

Barr Top Choice

Barr, the popular coach of the State College High School Little Lions, appears to be the leading contender to get the job. That is if he hasn't been already picked as most people assume.

He was an outstanding wrestler at Clearfield High School under Art Weiss and later a great heavyweight for Speidel. And since taking over at State High, he has molded the team into one of the most powerful aggregations in Pennsylvania.

During Barr's coaching career the Little Lions went unbeaten in 64 dual meets that covered a five-year span. He was honored for the accomplishment in Sports Illustrated.

Johnson was a NCAA champion while wrestling for the Lions. He is now coach of Stevens Trade in Lancaster. The former Clearfield High School star has going for him the fact that he has coached above a high school level.

Maurey, the coach at perennial powerhouse Clearfield High School, was a great crowd pleaser during his college days at State. He is one of the few persons ever to win four PIAA high school wrestling championships while attending Clearfield High School.

Ridenour is prominently mentioned for the spot. He is a State College High School graduate and coached at Penn and Lock Haven State. He also served as an assistant under Speidel.

Then there is Adams. The Bellefonte High School graduate who also captained State appears to be lost in the shuffle for the spot despite the fact that he has served as Speidel's assistant for the past six years.

McCoy just about counted Adams out of the picture when he recently said that State was "looking for a man who had previous head coaching experience."

However, McCoy also said that Adams would be given the same consideration as anyone of the other applicants when the decision is made in the near future.

Situation Looks Bleak

Yet, as things stand now, the situation looks mighty bleak for Adams. His fate may have been decided over a year ago. It was learned that he had been called in and told that a head coaching job was open in Ohio and that he would be given a top recommendation for the position.

McCoy confirmed that Adams had been summoned in but said that anytime a position is open where it is felt that State has an assistant who can qualify, he is told about the matter.

Thus it looks like Adams' name can be scratched from the list of hopefuls—the highest form of injustice. For if anyone is deserving of getting the position when Speidel retires it is Adams. He has labored as an assistant under one of the great masters of wrestling. He has acquired not only the wrestling know-how but the psychological strategy from Speidel.

And he has personally handled and trained many of the better wrestlers the Lions have had during the past few years. Adams can often be seen working out with members of the team, teaching them new holds and eliminating any bad habits that might have been picked up.

And although the name of Speidel helps to lure talent to State, it is Adams who has gone out and actually recruited the wrestlers that represent the Lions.

"He is one of the big reasons why I came to Penn State," wrestling captain George Edwards said. "He was sincere and honest about the school and laid the facts on the line. And I've found everything to be true that he told me. Coach Adams has also helped me immensely during my college career with his wrestling knowledge. I really gained in experience from listening to and wrestling with him."

In addition to working with the varsity, Adams also coaches the freshmen. He plays a big part in the future of Penn State wrestling by training the squad under Speidel's system.

Maybe Speidel's successor has already been decided upon. If so, and the person isn't Adams, a great miscarriage of justice has been done. If the coach is still to be selected then Adams is deserving of the job.

And to think that Speidel has not even been asked once for his recommendation as his successor.

Lions Win Detroit Title; Backcourt Duo Sparkles

By JIM BUKATA

Before the basketball season started, Penn State coach John Egli said the success of his team would depend on how it did during the first half of the season.

"We play nine of our first 11 games on the road," Egli said. "If we can play 500 ball during this time against some tough opposition then we could have a real good year."

The Lions have played seven of the contests already and are sporting a 4-3 record. Included are four straight wins and a title in the Detroit Motor City Classic.

"The team has really come on strong lately," Egli continued. "Our club is young and two early defeats like we suffered against Duke (92-62) and North Carolina State (64-60) could have been disastrous. But they really bounced back against Maryland, Syracuse, Western Michigan and Detroit. And I think we would have done much better against Toledo but the club was tired from playing its third game in four days."

Pitt Next Foe

Ahead for State are four tough road encounters beginning with arch rival Pitt at Fitzgerald Field House Saturday evening. Then next Wednesday the Lions play at West Virginia where they haven't been able to win since 1955 and follow this up with games at Syracuse and Colgate, Jan. 17 and 18.

The Lions were simply outclassed by Duke in the season's opener early in December. The Blue Devils, paced by the great shooting of Jeff Mullins and an overpowering advantage in height, broke to a 20 point halftime lead and turned the game into a one-sided affair in the second half.

Carver Clinton and Bob Weiss led State with 21 and 19 points respectively. "We just didn't play good ball in that Duke game," Egli said afterwards. "I think we have a much better club than we showed out there."

Two nights later at Raleigh it looked like another resounding defeat at the hands of North Carolina State. The Wolfpack pulled to a 17 point lead with 15 minutes remaining before the Lions went into a full court press and almost pulled out the win. Sophomore

Ray Saunders threw in 20 points to pace State while Larry Larkins scored 26 for N.C. State.

Yet despite the loss, Egli remained optimistic about the chances of his team.

"Our two backcourt men, Weiss and Bobby Donato had bad games against the Wolfpack," Egli said. "In fact Donato didn't play well at all on the two game tour and I know he's a much better ballplayer than he showed."

Egli Turns Prophet And how right Egli was. The Lions returned home to face a sophomore laden Maryland team in the home opener at Rec Hall and it was Donato and Weiss who sparked State to an easy 91-62 win.

Donato had the best night of his college career as he connected for 30 points. Weiss chipped in with an additional 20 while Tom Malinchak hit 15 markers.

The Lions even their record at 2-2 with a 95-76 win over Syracuse, and again Donato sparkled. The senior captain tallied 22 points to lead a balanced scoring attack against the Orange. Clinton had 21 points while Weiss connected for 17. Ron Avillion and Saunders were also in double figures with 14 and 11 points respectively.

Decided Underdogs After a two-week layoff the Nittany cagers headed to Detroit to participate in the Motor City Classic. They were paired in their first tournament favorite Western Michigan in the opening round and were



BOB WEISS



BOBBY DONATO

decided underdogs.

However, the Lions nipped the Broncos 97-92 in overtime and the next night upset Detroit, 88-83, to become the first Eastern team to win the tournament.

The backcourt duo of Donato and Weiss led the Lions against Western Michigan. Donato threw in 31 points including a bucket with 54 seconds remaining in regulation time that sent the game into overtime. Weiss had 24 points as did Clinton.

Ajac Triplett led the Broncos with 27 while hetsot Manny Newsome tallied 26.

(Continued on page seven)

Peru Cagers To Appear At Rec Hall Tomorrow

Penn State's basketball team will add a touch of international flavor to its schedule tomorrow evening hosting the national championship team from Peru. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Nittany Lions will play host to the Peru team on the third leg of an 11-game schedule mapped out by the United State Basketball Federation.

The Peruvian team lost its opener against Oglethorpe, 89-66, Monday evening and last night lost 91-69 to Pitt.

Because the game is being used to raise money for both the Peruvian and American Olympic teams, an admission price of 50 cents will be charged to everyone attending the game.

The majority of the players participating against the Lions are international coaches. He has a record of 214-74 as coach of the national teams of Italy, Greece, Turkey, Austria, Sweden and Peru. He once coached Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash.

Leading the Peru attack is Ricardo Duarte, one of three brothers in the starting lineup. During a 1961 tour of the United States he averaged 29 points a game. He is 6-7 and will play one of the forward positions.

Jumping center will be 6-8 Raul Duarte and at the other forward will be 6-3 Enrique Duarte. They will be joined in the starting lineup by 6-2 Oscar Sevilla and 6-4 Thomas Sango, called the "Octopus."

Handling the Peruvians is Jim McGreor, one of the leading international coaches. He has a record of 214-74 as coach of the national teams of Italy, Greece, Turkey, Austria, Sweden and Peru. He once coached Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash.

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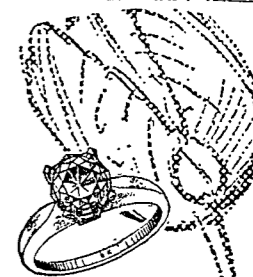
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