

sportscope

A Plea for Sanity— In ACADEMICS

By IRA MILLER Assistant Sports Editor

In the 30 months since Penn State formally switched from the semester to the term system, there has been much said and little done about the relative advantages and disadvantages of this (term) system.

There have been inquiries, committees and debates—but nothing has been done. And unless something is done soon, we are likely to witness the degeneration of our athletic program to powder-puff Ivy League-type schedules.

Penn State can not continue to play top-rated teams in every sport and hope to be successful under the strain of the term system. One need just look at the academic probation list for the fall term to see that something is inherently wrong with our academic structure when almost 3,000 students fail to record even a minimal 1.70 average.

Our admission standards are among the highest at any state university, so are tuition fees. But despite high-calibre students and high-paid instruction, these high-probation lists still exist.

"We are told to go out and get athletes," wrestling coach Charlie Speidel recently said, "And then when we get them, they can't get into school."

And he might well have added that once they get here, it's a problem to keep them eligible.

Speidel's teams must annually face one of the nation's most rugged schedules. This year's card includes the defending champs of the East, the Big 10, the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Ivy League and the Southern Conference.

But they must go on every trip knowing that each class missed is more than 3% of the term's work; that they are starting out 18 classes behind in a course as opposed to the 48-meetings in the semester system. And yet they must play teams such as Maryland, a comparable institution, yes; but not exactly the Princeton of the South.

Rip Engle's footballers went through another of their traditional meatgrinder schedules last fall but every player who made trips missed nine days away from campus. That's a good bit to miss in 10 weeks.

And Engle has two strikes to begin with—only about half the All-State "Big 33" could meet our requirements, and far less than half will eventually show up here.

Basketball coach John Egli lost three men to academics over the term break. Though none of the losses could be termed serious, the situation alone is enough cause for alarm.

And at Penn State when an athlete (or anyone, for that matter) goes on academic probation, he is lost for the term, not just for a week or a couple of weeks. At Pitt for example, athletes bounce off eligibility lists like golf balls on cement. Yesterday, the Panthers lost five wrestlers, two permanently. But the other three are likely to return at any time.

Syracuse also allows athletes to work off ineligibility. Take the case of footballer Gerry Everling. He had nine months to run on a disciplinary probation rap when he was reinstated last fall.

These aren't exceptional cases. They, rather are the rule. And there should be something done here to allow our athletes (and their fellow students) to work back into the good graces of the University.

We have agreements with Pitt, Syracuse and West Virginia about such things as recruiting, red-shirting and admissions but these are literally not worth the paper they're printed on.

Syracuse, for example, recruited (if that's the proper word; hijacked would be better) a halfback named Floyd Little last fall. Anyway, the story surrounding him is that he took the college boards so many times they finally gave him a volume discount. Army and Notre Dame also wanted him; the Irish even hid him out at Bordentown Prep School for two years while he took his College Board marathon.

Penn State coaches and athletes must work under the highest of pressures; few schools require any coaches to teach, here all coaches must teach courses—sometimes even during their respective seasons.

Trips must be made with an eye toward saving every possible moment—for every minute away from campus is a valuable one. That's why incidents such as last fall's at Syracuse—when the bus was delayed while Tom Bedick retrieved a forgotten slide—can be laughed off. Our athletes must be students first, even on the road.

There was also the "amusing" incident at Syracuse last year of Joe Vargo having to fly up late because he couldn't get a test postponed.

There is a drastic need for overhauling of some of our academic procedures—and with all due haste. Serious consideration should be given to changing probation rules, lightening work loads of courses, and perhaps even abandoning the term system.

College is a time of learning and growing up and there is more to it than just studying books. Extracurricular activities, especially intercollegiate athletics, have long been a cornerstone of our American university system and I would hate to see them destroyed by an administration eager to push students through even quicker than the IBM machines can count them.

It is never easy to admit mistakes; harder to admit big ones. But the term system is one of the biggest our University has ever made. And if it isn't realized soon, those outsiders who sometimes confuse Penn State with Penn may not be very far off, especially when it comes to athletics.

Pitt Entertains Lion Cagers

Control of Boards May Decide Game

By JIM BUKATA, Sports Editor

It should be a titanic struggle at Fitzgerald Field House tonight when Pitt and Penn State square off in the first half of their home-and-home series. Game time is 8:15 p.m.

Neither team has set the world on fire, but before the season is over, one of the two teams could very well earn a berth in the NCAA playoffs. And a convincing win never looks bad in the eyes of the tournament committee.

Last year the Panthers swept both games and earned a bid to the post season tournament. However, this year, despite the fact that only Ben Jinks graduated, Pitt has had trouble keeping itself above .500.

The Panthers won their first three games of the season but have since floundered to the point where their record is only 5-4. It must be remembered, though, that the team has been handicapped by a series of injuries to center Paul Krieger and forward Brian Generalovich. Both will be in the starting lineup tonight.

Tonight's Pitt-Penn State basketball game from Fitzgerald Field House will be broadcast by campus radio station WFPM. Irv Eisner, Bob Resch and Walt Scott will handle the contest scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m.

To go with his three big men, Pitt coach Bob Timmons said he would start Calvin Sheffield, the team's leading scorer and either Dave Roman or Larry Szykowny at the guards. Bob Lovett, who scored 26 points in the Panthers' last win over Dartmouth and Daryle Ruby will also probably see plenty of action.

The Panthers' major problem will be to stop Penn State's slick guard combination, Bob Weiss and Bobby Donato. During the past five contests, four of which resulted in wins, it has been Weiss and Donato who have carried the attack.

"I think we have two of the finest guards in the East, head coach John Egli said. "They definitely have a lot to do with how our team goes. Just look at our first road trip when Donato was still a little rusty from lack of practice. We just couldn't get our attack moving."

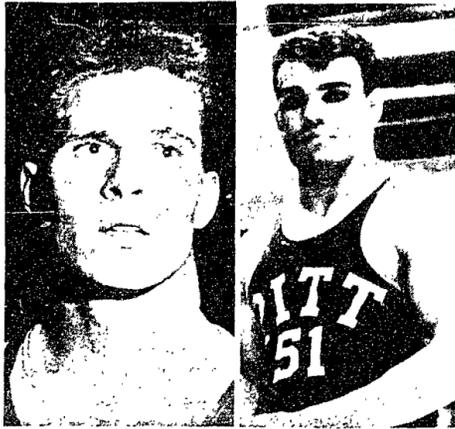
Up front Egli said he will start sophomore Ray Saunders and Tom Malinchak at forwards and sophomore Carver Clinton at center.

In reserve the Lions will have Ron Avillion, Jim Reed, Jerry Roseboro, Chuck Marin, Don Stepanusky, John Ludwig and possibly Terry Hoover.

Hoover Question Mark Hoover, the 6-8 forward from Monterey, Ind., twisted his ankle during a workout Wednesday evening and is still not fully recovered. He also missed last year's second game against Pitt due to a broken nose suffered in the West Virginia game.

Timmons saw the Lions defeat Syracuse earlier in the season and came away from the game quite impressed. "This is a much better squad than State had last year," the veteran Pitt coach said. "Last year they relied on Earl Hoffman to do all their scoring but now anyone can hurt you. We're going to have to be at our best to win the game."

During Timmons' ten years as head coach, his teams have beaten State 12 times and have lost only eight. And only once, in the 1961-62 season, has Penn State been able to win both games.



TOM MALINCHAK BRIAN GENERALOVICH

Rules Group To Vote On Free Substitution

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—The Football Rules Committee of the National Collegiate Athletic Association meets today to consider once again the plea of the nation's coaches for a return to free, unlimited substitution.

A check of committee members indicated strong sentiment for a more liberal substitution rule. Some even support the unlimited variety that prevailed before 1952.

"The chance is always present," said the committee chairman, Ivan Williamson, Wisconsin athletic director, "that free substitution will be voted back into existence. If the coaches on the committee ever got together, they could swing it."

Nine of the committee's 13 voting members are coaches. Some, however, are from smaller schools which find it difficult to finance the larger squads and coaching staffs required by platoon football.

Jack Curtice, rules chairman of the American Football Coaches Association, was on hand to present the argument of the coaches for a return to the days of offensive and defensive platooning and one-way specialists.

Almost every year since 1952, the substitution rules have been liberalized, moving the game gradually back toward the old style. Last year, platooning was permitted on second and third downs.

Curtice called this "a tremendous step in the right direction" but he said it still failed to satisfy the demand for a free substitution rule that would be "easy to administer and understand."

At last week's meeting at New York, 98 per cent of the coaches voted for a return to unlimited substitution.

Opponents of the idea say that it prevents the development of the complete football player who can go both ways.

Pennel Headlines Card In K of C Track Meet

BOSTON (AP)—John Pennel, Tom O'Hara and Canada's Bill Crothers—all pointing for autumn in Tokyo—headline the 38th Boston Knights of Columbus Games tonight in this critical Olympic year.

Meet records in the pole vault, mile and the 1,000-yard run will be threatened seriously as the indoor track season officially gets under way on Boston Garden boards.

Pennel is history's only 17-foot pole vaulter and he will be out to demonstrate the skills which won him the Sullivan Award as top amateur athlete of 1963.

He is pitted against four consistent 16-foot vaulters in Dave Turk, Rolando Cruz, John Belitz and John Uelses, Garden record holder at 16'4". This extraordinary field takes aim at the 15-6 K of C mark.

O'Hara is the deceptive little redhead with the unorthodox style and sub four-minute clockings who is rated with Dyrrol Burleson as America's two premier milers.

O'Hara, edged by Burleson outdoors in 3:56.9, ran 3:59.2 when he pushed Jim Beatty to the indoor record of 3:58.6 and won the Banker mile in Chicago in 3:59.5.

Former IC4A indoor mile champion Peter Close predicts O'Hara "should be our No. 1 man in the Olympics next fall."

Vic Zvolak of Villanova, IC4A and NCAA champion, along with Pat McNeal of Kansas State, Ray Stevens of Nebraska, Jim Irons of Toronto and Larry Rawson complete the mile lineup.

Crothers, the Toronto strong man who recently broke the indoor half-mile mark at San Francisco with a 1:50.2 clocking, is the class of the 1,000.

He could shatter his 2:08.6 record here if pushed sufficiently by Ergas Leps of Toronto, John Dunkelberg of North Carolina, Dick Smith of Maryland, Arnie Cummings of Baltimore, Tom Bauer from St. Johns of New York and Lowell Davidson of the Boston AA.

John Thomas returned to his familiar heights with a 7-1 high jump at San Francisco, one-half inch higher than his K of C record.

His competition is expected principally from Theodoro Palacios of Guatemala and Finland's Henrik Hellon.

IM Bowling, Swimming The second half of the intramural bowling season gets underway tomorrow night on the Rec Hall lanes. IM director Dutch Sykes said yesterday. He also announced that swimming entries would be accepted at the IM office all next week. Competition begins Jan. 22.

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Rifle Team At Lehigh In Opener

By BOB ZALZNECK

The Penn State rifle team swings into action for the first time this season when it meets Lehigh University today in Bethlehem. The first two matches of the season, with Pitt and Indiana State College, were canceled.

The outlook is bright with eight men returning from last year's team, which had a creditable 6-4 record. The returnees are seniors Neil Anderson, Dave Kline, Walt Estep, Richard Taylor and captain Charles Nagel, and juniors Walt Morrow, Hiram Wolfe and Mike Beckmeyer. Making up the balance of the team will be senior Tom Golf and junior Wayne Dunlap.

Marine sergeant Carol Waite is the new coach, replacing Army sergeant Joe Watson, who has been sent to Korea. The new assistant coach is Army sergeant Rodney Washburn. Sgt. Washburn said that this year's team will be stronger than last year's, due mainly to the added experience.

Team captain Nagel said that he thought this year's team has a good chance to win all its matches.

The schedule finds the marksmen on the road two of their next three matches, at Maryland and the Naval Academy, while Army visits University Park in between the two away meets. They are then home for three straight weeks, with Villanova, Cornell and West Virginia, and finish their regular season by traveling to Pittsburgh for a match with Duquesne.

The Lions officially end their season by participating in the Eastern Intercollegiate Rifle Association match on March 27-28.

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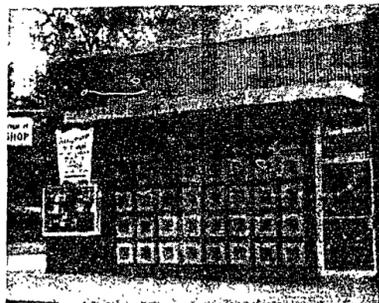
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