

# Small Man—Big Loss

By RON KOLB  
Collegian Sports Editor

(Second in a series of articles analyzing the 1968 Penn State football team during spring drills. Today's topic—defensive ends and defensive backs).

Tell a coach he has to find a replacement for a graduated 5-10, 182-pound football player. "No problem," he might say. "Those little guys are a dime a dozen. We'll put in one of those 6-8 superstars from Massillon, Ohio. No problem."

Then tell a coach he has to replace a graduated 5-10, 182-pound defensive safety who was Associated Press second-team All-American, defensive back-of-the-year in the East, first team All-East and honorable mention UPI All-American, and who was a signal caller and a team leader.

Then pick the coach up off the floor after he's fainted.

Penn State has such a problem. Tim Montgomery, who will try to make the New Orleans Saints NFL team this fall, left behind one of the toughest defensive positions vacated. It's up to defensive backfield coach Frank Patrick to find a replacement for that small man in the big job.



NEAL SMITH  
... fill his shoes?

"This will certainly be the key to our defensive backfield," Patrick said at practice yesterday. "But I've been pleased with what I've seen from Neal Smith. He's been doing very well so far."

That last statement goes for Smith's entire varsity career. So much has been written on the fact that he came to Penn State without a scholarship and went out on his own and won a starting job, that he's probably wondering himself whether he's where he's supposed to be. Judging from last year, it's safe to say he's real.

The 5-11, 174-pound junior from Selinsgrove certainly compares to Montgomery in stature and speed, but his transition from cornerback to safety will be the most difficult job. One thing is sure—it won't be like high school when he was a 150-pound tight end and linebacker.

Smith will have John Anderson (6-1, 195), a sophomore who was listed as a quarterback on the freshman team, pushing him for the job. John Haberman, another newcomer, is a third possibility.

Last year's back-up man behind Montgomery was a Lonnie Monceli, a diminutive (5-10, 171) junior from Nutley, N.J. This year he'll get a chance to emerge from the shadows, being listed as a tentative starter at one of the cornerback slots.

The other cornerback, and perhaps the fastest runner on the team is junior Paul Johnson, a giant among the other halfbacks at 6-0, 178 pounds. He won a starting berth last year at offensive wingback and boasted the longest play from scrimmage of the season (80-yard touchdown pass from Tom Sherman against Maryland). It was his only TD of his varsity career. To get another he'll have to start intercepting a few. Like Bob Capretto, who graduated.

"Lonnie and Paul have done well in what we've worked so far," Patrick commented, "but they're still learning, and it will be awhile before we can determine how they'll do."

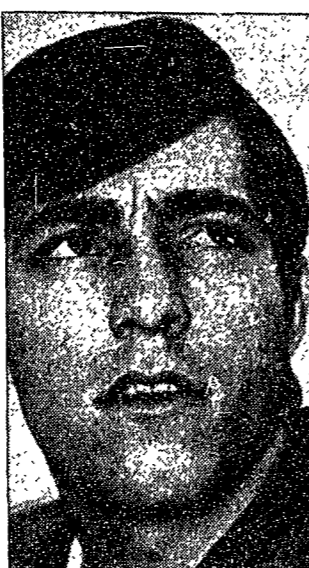
Reserves in the defensive backfield include Mike Smith (5-11, 180), a good prospect from the freshman team; George Landis (6-0, 185), also in his first year on the varsity; Tim McKinney and Greg Pfennig, a pair of newcomers



PAUL JOHNSON  
... switches to defense

with limited experience.

The backs' jobs will be a lot easier if someone else can (a) slow the receivers down at the line of scrimmage, or (b) get to the quarterback before he gets rid of the ball. For that chore, the Lions have (a) a pitcher, (b) a little brother, and (c) a player with a millionaire's name.



FRANK SPAZIANI  
... strong returnee

Gone from the defensive end positions are co-captain Jim Litterelle and Tim Horst, who take with them 415 pounds of muscle.

Returning is fastballer Frank Spaziani (6-2, 210), currently serving them up for Chuck Medlar's baseball team. End coach J. T. White doesn't expect the senior's absence from spring practice to hurt either his chances or the team's. Spaz did it last year and turned out to be one of the best at the position.

Another returnee is Lincoln Lippincott III, who you'd think simply has to be a banker's son. Actually, Lincoln Lippincott II is a submarine squadron commander. A second-stringer at right end last year, Lippincott (6-3, 193) dislocated a finger in practice this week and will miss a session or two. White isn't too worried.

"I've had Line and Spaz with me last year, and they know what's going on," the coach said. "They're tough enough to come back and play well even though they're missing. When we get Spaz back, we should be all right."

A third candidate for kill-the-quarterback honors is George Kulka (6-4, 195), a junior and the younger brother of State's center, John Kulka. George had been destined for an offensive tight end position last year, but his bulk and determination caused his shift to the other side of the field. He worked at left end quite a bit at the Gator Bowl.

In reserve, White has junior Ed Odorisio (6-2, 206), soph Steve Prue (6-1, 195), and senior Terry Snyder (6-3, 205) at left end. Right end reserves include Ed Stofko (6-0, 212), a junior who started at middle guard last year until he was injured. The standout performer stands a good chance for action at his new position.

Other possibilities include soph Tom Templeton and newcomer Tom Chunchick.

White hesitated to say how strong his defensive ends will be this year, especially since one of the keys to his plans is throwing baseballs. But considering that this is the coach who taught Green Bay's Dave Robinson and All-American Bob Mittinger how to bust through an offensive line, the pitcher and the younger brother and the guy with the classy name should work out quite well.

NEXT WEDNESDAY — LINEBACKERS AND KICKERS

**REGULARS RETURNING:** Defensive backs, Neal Smith, junior, safety, 5-11, 174; Paul Johnson, junior, halfback, 6-0, 180; defensive end, Frank Spaziani, right end, senior, 6-2, 208.

**RESERVES, NEWCOMERS:** John Anderson, sophomore, safety, 6-1, 195; John Haberman, safety; Orlando Monceli, junior, halfback, 5-10, 171; Mike Smith, halfback, sophomore, 5-11, 180; George Kulka, left end, junior, 6-4, 195; Lincoln Lippincott, right end, senior, 6-3, 190; Ed Odorisio, left end, junior, 6-2, 206; Ed Stofko, right end, junior, 6-0, 214; Steve Prue, sophomore, left end, 6-1, 195.

**EVALUATION:** Defensive backs need experience at their respective positions and Neal Smith must fill the small but talented shoes of Tim Montgomery. Defensive ends have strength and size, and should be effective.



ED ODORISIO  
... eyes end job



DEFENSIVE END COACH J. T. White yells instructions to his players at yesterday's session of spring football drills. White, in his 14th season at Penn State, has good size and fair experience in the candidates he's working with. Among the returnees are Frank Spaziani, now with the baseball team as a pitcher, senior Lincoln Lippincott and junior George Kulka.

## IM Volleyball

- GRADUATE**  
Automatons over Atherlon-Gewinners (15-6, 15-5)  
Physics over Aid-Hed (Forfeit)  
Brains over NSF's (15-9, 15-12)  
Elmos over Rockets (15-1, 15-3)  
Bobbies over Never-Was (15-8, 16-14)
- INDEPENDENT**  
Circle Raisers over Remains (15-7, 15-12)  
Tavern A.C. over NROTC (15-1, 13-15, 15-6)  
Lords over RBI's (15-10, 16-14)  
Hogan's Heroes over Belchers (15-12, 15-12)
- DORMITORY**  
Washington over Northumberland (15-8, 15-4)  
Belsam over Northampton (15-5, 15-3)  
Butternut over Jordan II (15-9, 15-9)  
Walnut over Poplar (15-12, 11-15, 15-13)  
Watts II over Sycamore (15-7, 15-3)  
Larch over Linden (15-10, 15-6)  
Cumberland over Huntington (15-6, 10-15, 15-11)  
Tamarack over Maple (15-11, 15-10)  
Jordan I over Juniper (15-12, 16-18, 15-5)  
Luzerne over Montgomery (15-6, 18-16)  
Cambria over Berks (15-4, 15-7)  
Adams over Lackawanna (15-9, 15-13)  
Centre over Erie (6-15, 16-14, 15-3)  
Mercer over Lancaster (15-10, 10-15, 15-12)  
Clearfield over Lehigh (15-5, 15-0)  
Milfiln over Lebanon (16-14, 15-5)  
Fayette over Schuylkill (Forfeit)  
Monroe over Lycoming (Forfeit)

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## Thinclads Head for Relays

By DAN DONOVAN  
Collegian Sports Writer

Unsuccessful in dual meets against two Eastern track powerhouses (Villanova and Army), Penn State's track and field team will meet 27 schools from the Midwest in the Ohio State University Relays in Columbus, Ohio.

The Lions' 32 athletes will be the only Eastern track and field representatives in the field of 500 athletes. The Big Ten schools are well-represented in the meet, as are the members of the Mid-American Conference.

Stiff Competition  
These teams will provide stiff competition for the State thinclads, but Lion Coach John Lucas says, "We plan to compete with these fine teams on an even par." Lucas bases his predictions on the encouraging week of practice since the Villanova meet.

"I feel that our team has begun to jell," he continued. "The boys seem stronger both physically and spiritually. Since our two losses our boys seem more resolute and filled with a quiet determination."

Chip Rockwell, State's team

captain, will meet some of the finest triple jumpers in the country tomorrow, including All-America Aaron Hopkins, the man who beat Rockwell in the NCAA championships last year.

Lucas, however, has confidence in his hop, skip, and jump man. "Chip has not faced tough competition in the triple jump all year," says Lucas. "But he is the sort of athlete who responds to competition. This is what makes him a fine captain and team leader."



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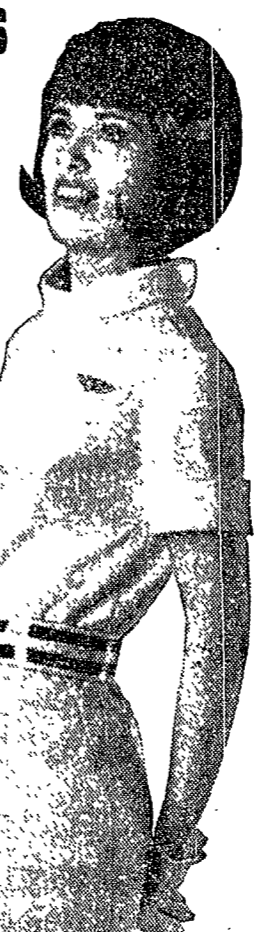
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