Soph Future Tennis Star

Meise Shines For Netmen

Collegian Sports Writer

Although the Penn State tennis team didn't exactly explode on the courts this spring, it could be said that the team "blew-up". Lion net squads had enjoyed winning seasons the last four years and there were plenty of high expectations for the present campaign. But rainouts, bad luck and a weak team spirit dropped the Lions on their tails, creating a 4-5 record which can't get any better than 5-5.

All is not completely dark however, because hiding in the back room with the old tennis balls is the Flatbush battle cry—"Wait till next year!" You wonder how far that ever got the Dodgers, but then the Dodgers never improved from one year to the next like the Lions could next season.

There will be a bumper crop of netmen coming up from the freshman team next year to add a spark to the varsity competition, but the hopes for a strong, experienced nucleus next scason rest on the shoulders of a hard-working netman, Bob Meise.

Came A Long Way

Meise came all the way from Rio De Janerio, Brazil to Penn State—but not to play tennis. He followed his brother to the United States to attend college and Lion fans can thank Philadelphia for being the only reason he chose State—he has relatives there. But for that, Meise might have been winning tennis matches at some other campus this spring. But then again, maybe not.

"I played a lot of tennis in Rio, but I was not overly concerned about playing in college," Meise said. "I'm not sure I would have played if it wasn't

for the coach. I really think Coach Cathrall does a great job and I enjoy playing under him."

It's sort of un-believable that Meise would not want to play tennis in college after the highly successful career he had at Escola Americana High School in Rio. Allowed as an ex-High School in Rio. Allowed as an exception to play five years (8th - 12th grades) of tennis rather than the usual four, he led the varsity team to five straight undefeated seasons as he personally went unbeaten those five years. In addition, he was the team's captain and first singles player his last three seasons. But Meise doesn't believe these are

such great accomplishments.

"My high school team was really more of a club," the sophomore said. "Everything was very informal. Two teams would just get together whenever they wanted and played a match. There was never any pressure because we always won.

"State's winter trip to Virginia was my first real competition and you can bet I was scared.

BOB MEISE

But over the year I got more experience and began to play better."

Cathrall had nothing but praise for the up-and-coming netman, saying, "Meise is a powerful tennis player, he likes to just blow his opponent off the court with hard serves and shots. He's good in both singles and doubles, but I believe his style of play makes him better in singles competition. It has to be remembered however, that he has had to double with more than one partner over the season, and that always hurts."

Meise agreed with Cathrall concerning his

Meise agreed with Cathrall concerning his style of play. "I like to hit the ball hard and play in the back half of the court," he said, "However, if the situation arises. I will also move up to the net to make the play. I play my best against tough competition because it is usually my style of play. If my opponent is a slow, steady player, I will slow down to keep from making a mistake."

Disappointed: Satisfied

The soph netman was disappointed about the team's poor showing this year, but felt some satisfaction over his personal record. He cited the gain in needed experience as his most important accomplishment, but would have liked to improve on his 5-3 singles and 4-4 doubles records. His convincing win over Navy's Cutler Dawson, 6-2, 6-3, was his greatest thrill of the year. It came when most Lion singles were losing, as the Middies won 5-4.

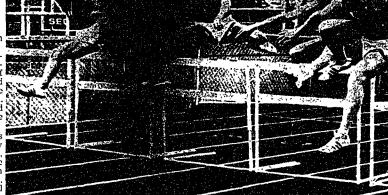
Despite all his past accomplished.

5-4.

Despite all his past accomplishments, the first thing now in Meise's mind is next season. "I believe this season gave me a lot of needed work for the years to come. When I go back to Brazil this summer I plan to play quite a bit of tennis in order to get ready for next season. I'm really looking forward to it."

You are not alone Bob Meise. Penn State tennis fans are also looking forward to it.

MRC Championships



Trio of Hurdlers Pace Track Team

—Collegian Pholos by Pierre Bellicial
THE CONSISTENT RUNNING of these three hurdlers gave the Lions lots of points this past season. Chuck Harvey, Ken Brinker and Don McCourt are preparing for the IC4As this weekend.

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Dickson Loses Wheel In Final '500' Tune-up Bobby Johns' Mongoose-Offenhauser.

-Larry Dickson almost ruin-ed his chances in tomorrow's

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP) 500-mile auto race yesterday when his car lost a wheel during the final practice session.

Thirty of the 33 drivers shook down their cars yesterday during the two-hour prac-tice session.

Dickson, of Marietta, Ohio, courted near disaster on the south turn when his left rear wheel came off in a low speed practice lap. The 1968 U.S. Auto Club sprint car champion skidded into the nearby pits without serious damage to the car or himself.

"I'm sure glad it didn't hap-pen on the next lap, when I planned to turn one on," Dickson said.

Trio Still Out

Three cars still in rebuilding stages since qualifications didn't take advantage of the test period. They were rookie Bruce Walkup's Gerhard t-Offenhauser, Johnny Rutherford's Eagle-Offenhauser and

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Fengler ordered two drivers to restore their cars to the configuration they had in qualifications—a basic USAC

Rules Problems

One of the major rules pro-blems this year will be one which forbids a driver from taking fuel from a teammate's reserve tank in the pits. The 25J-gallon limit, plus a car's starting load of about 75 gallons, may be crucial this year.

Some of the powerful new turbocharged Ford engines reportedly were getting less than two miles per gallon on methanol, the standard racing fuel. However, they can increase mileage by blending with gasoline which gets better mileage but runs hotter and threatens engine damage.

Pitchers Can Field, Too

PROVING THAT HE can back his hurling with good fielding, pitcher Roy Swanson picked up this bunt. The sophomore hurler owns a 6-5 record with three saves in his rookie season on the Penn State varsity.

Intramural Champions Win in Track Events

In the intramural track championships held at Beaver Stadium this week, Phi Delta Theta edged Phi Gamma Delta for the fraternity title, and Cambria, Cumberland and Dunmore Houses ended in a three-way tie for first place in the dormitory division.

Winning the 100-yard dash for the fraternities was Tom Aloan of Beta Theta Pi in 10.6. Greg Edmonds of Phi Gamma Delta won the 440 in 51.4 and Phi Delta Theta won the 880-

George Allen of Phi Delta Theta won the shot put with a 43-1 toss while fraternity brother Jack Ham leaped 6-3 in the high jump. Gary Deuel won the long jump for Phi Gamma Delta with a 20½-fot hop.

In the domittory finals, Bob.

In the dormitory finals, Bob Hollenbach of Cumberland won the 100 in 10.6 and led his house to a win in the 880-relay

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Sancake of Hemlock won the 440 in 55.4 and Ingo Kriet of Dunmore hurled the shot 37-

In the jumping events, Curtis Johnson of Cambria went 19-4½ in the long jump, and Dave Bremer of Bedford tied with Ace Abelsma of Blair at 5-10 in the high jump.

In the independent competition, Paul Mayer won the 100 in 11.6 and the 440 in 56.1

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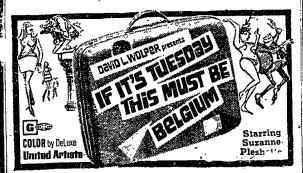
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NOW PLAYING



The Colorful World of Softball

Collegian Sports Writer

Watching the opposing teams come onto the field for the Men's Residence Council softball championship is like watching a late night horror flick. You know the bit—there's an explosion under a polar ice cap some place, the earth rumbles and opens up, and out of it come these things.

The Barbarians of East Hall's Armstrong-Bradford house poured over the diamond as if they were fighting one of the Holy Crusades. Ten of them (there were ten because softball uses a fourth roving outfielder) wore outfits straight from "Our Gang." Little league caps several sizes too small, sun glasses bigger than a Volkswagen's windshield, T-shirts with names like "Thor" in magic marker and shirts that lit up in the dark. Lebanon House, the once-beaten horde from Beaver Hall, dressed with more conservative class. They wore stained dungarees, football jerseys and trousers which went out of style with the Great Depression.

Colorful Officials Colorful Officials

Colorful Officials

Four umpires, in formal blue, came on like the retreat from Stalingrad. They limped, puttered and rolled onto the field as if they were bringing up the rear in the Bataan Death March. The first base official. Steve Dorfman, hobbling around on a broken ankle, threw men out with the emphasis of a peg-leg pirate slashing the deck with his sabre. The second base ump showed up with his left arm in a sling and the fellow behind the plate is lucky he escaped with his front teeth.

Tight Game

Which brings us nicely to the game. If there could be such a thing as a pitchers' duel in softball, this had to be it.

Chuck Colony, who had fast-balled Armstrong-Bradford through an unbeaten season, was on the mound for his third championship game in as many years. He had never won. He wanted this one so badly that he'd even skipped supper to get ready.

ready. I was afraid when they got men on base in the late in-

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nings," he said later with a blush.

Now most softball pitchers have three speeds — slow, slower and reverse. Colony's repertoir includes fast, faster and "God help them." It was the last that was called upon in the threatening extra inning.

Lebanon House's underhander, Glenn Sheaffer, was just as impressive. They say his pitches had something on them. Actually, they jumped around like butterflies.

Scoreless into the bottom of the overtime eighth, the Barbarians managed to send John Heisey across the plate on a punched shot to the left fielder by Randy Shultz. Lebanon's left fielder hung his head as the ball dribbled past. His teammates may hang him.

Very Serious

The men who deal in the softball racket are fully serious about the game. Practice is held three or four times weekly. Exams are cut in favor of a game. Training includes throwing frisbees through the halls in the early hours of the morning. But its fun and the competition for the trophies is keen.

When it was all over, the Barbarians swarmed home to pizza and root beer. The manager was carried into the shower, along with the Resident Assistant.

Just like the Major Leagues.



THE FIREBUGS Max Frisch

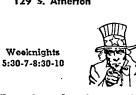
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