

Joe Paterno: Campaign '72

By GLENN SHEELEY
Assistant Sports Editor

Joe Paterno's been on so many planes lately he's likely to answer his Rec Hall telephone with a cheery, "This is your captain speaking."

Paterno, whose 11-1 Nittany Lions were ranked fifth in the 30-6 Cotton Bowl victory, is in the middle of his present recruiting tour.

His personal campaigning was set back temporarily this year while he sunned himself on an 11-day tour on the Queen Elizabeth with Penn State alumnists Jan. 29-Feb. 8. The 12-game schedule the Lions played last year also contributed to the delay.

The situation is not really that critical, due to last year's heavy draft which saw Penn State dig up "around 40" recruits. The agreement Penn State has with the er members of the Big Four (Syracuse, Pitt and West Virginia) limits 100 scholarships over a four-year period.

"We took so many kids last year because we never have been at 100 for four years," Paterno said. "We expect to get 22-25 this year."

Paterno said the "crucial period" for gathering top material is the middle of February, a span which had Paterno and his assistant coaches airport-hopping around the country.

"We should know how we did within the next ten days," he said. "March 15 is the signing date for the Big Ten Conference. There's about eight or nine kids we know of that are torn between Penn State and the Big Ten."

Last year's Penn State team featured numerous high school quarterbacks performing at positions where they never got a chance to pass the football. Paterno feels this typifies how the Lion coaches seldom restrict their search solely to filling any one position.

"We never look for one thing," he said. "We look for a good athlete — the type of kid that fits into our program. You never want to back yourself into a corner."

Paterno, who holds an unprecedented record of 53 wins, 11 losses and one tie in his six years at Penn State, has had difficulty making believers of his team's strength in the past. But apparently his recruits don't believe in the polls, either.

"Right now more people are interested in Penn State football than have ever been since I've been here," Paterno said. "We get more letters from kids further away. We have a better shot at the really good ones."

Penn State's schedule has been a controversial matter in recent years. The critics claim the Lions "never play anybody tough." Well, last year Air Force and West Virginia gave them a battle. Texas, a last-minute opponent, could have easily done the same. Tennessee, as Paterno would like to forget, won the fray.

This season's card again pits Penn State against Tennessee and Big Ten representative Illinois, who won five of its last six games a year ago.

The Tennessee game is scheduled for Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Knoxville, the site which last year spelled trouble as Penn State lost 31-11. Officials of the two schools had originally slated the game for Dec. 9. However, the Penn State people later discovered the date was right smack in the middle of the players' final exam period.

"Tennessee understood we had a problem," Paterno said, "and we got a release from the contract. We negotiated for what we felt would be fair to both of us."

An unfair negotiation, according to Paterno, would have been an afternoon game in Tennessee amidst the South's hot summer sun. The compromise made it a cooler evening game.

Penn State already has six home games scheduled for the upcoming season — the reason given for the Tennessee site. The television exposure, which somehow always manages to enter into the picture, might still present itself to a Penn State-Tennessee rematch.

Paterno said the chances of a telecast now are "poor". But ABC-TV has not yet released its schedule and the game would seem to be an important one since the "season" for both schools could be on the line.

Paterno will call his 1972 edition together April 8 for spring practice. The Blue-White game, the final intrasquad contest, is slated for May 13.

Gymnasts favored to take EIGL'S

By MARK SIMENSON
Collegian Senior Reporter
Penn State has been preparing for its second season, the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League Championship, all year long.

Tommorrow night coach Gene Wettstone will be able to tell if his team did their homework, namely practicing the difficult compulsory routines that make up half the team score.

Earlier this year the NCAA

handed out a set of standards needed to reach the National tournament at Iowa State April 6-8. The compulsory exercises on Thursday night are the official 1972 Olympic requirements.

Any gymnasts whose total for the compulsory and optional exercises exceeds 100 points qualifies for the Olympic semifinals held at Berkley, California late in May.

One of Penn State's goals is to qualify their three all-

around men for the Olympic trials. Marshall Avener topped the century point mark last year in the Easterns as a sophomore and will probably repeat that feat. Correcting minor problems that produce costly deductions could yield two more qualifiers in Billy Mitchell and Jim Kruest.

The Lions are overwhelming favorites to win Wettstone his 16th Eastern title. While they could dominate every event, the

State gymnasts are working as a team to meet the requirements for the NCAA tourney.

The team with the highest total of compulsory and optional scores will represent the EIGL at Ames, Iowa. The Eastern champion is determined by assigning two points for each dual meet win and two points for each team that it places ahead of in the combined compulsory-optional standings.

The scoring for the individual medalists is complicated and an adding machine is needed if you want to obtain the correct scores. Thursday night's compulsory and Friday night's optional exercises are averaged together and then added to the score received in Saturday night's individual competition.

After two nights of competition, the top eight in each event are selected as finalists for the third night in Rec Hall.

In the first two nights, there will be three events going on simultaneously. Here is a summary of the top performers in each event to watch.

All-Around — Avener is clearly favored to retain his title as the Eastern all-around champ. Teammates Mitchell and Kruest have a chance to finish near the top. Kruest was third last year.

Free Exercise — The top three finishers from the 1971 tournament have graduated. John Crosby and his Southern

Connecticut Owls have declined to enter this year leaving the mat routine open. Avener, Mitchell and Jerry Young were the next three finishers and the medal could be taken by any one of the three Lions.

Pommel Horse — Four of the six 1971 finalists return to Rec Hall, including medalist John Worthington of Navy. Worthington's 18.90 was the top individual score among the event winners. Avener placed third and Eric Swanson of Navy took fourth.

Still Rings — Mitchell and Vince Faust are the State contenders in this event. The Lion captain took second last year on the rings, his best event.

Long Horse Vault — The Lions swept the first four finishing spots last year with Jim Kruest winning the medal. The addition of Brandt Atkins could give State the top five vaulters. Whichever gymnast is having a good three days will win the medal.

Parallel Bars — Dave

Genest of Massachusetts will defend his medal on the parallel bars while the Lions' best swinger is Avener. Penn State also dominated this event at Amherst last year by taking the second through sixth places.

Horizontal Bar — Dan Pillasch of Army is now on military duty, leaving the high bar to Avener. This is the Lion junior's best event, score wise. Kruest also does well on the high bar.

As you can see, most of the names mentioned are those belonging to Penn State gymnasts. The Lions will dominate the show with the most competition being of the intrateam variety.

Ivy League champ Cornell has been added to this year's get together, but the Big Red won't make a dent in the Lions 1972 Eastern Championship.

While Penn State is not out to collect medals, they will be the owners of most of them when the contest concludes on Saturday night.



SHEELEY



MARSHALL AVENER, Penn State's outstanding gymnast, will be the leading contender for the all-around title in the EIGL's, scheduled for tomorrow and Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 in Rec Hall. Avener led coach Gene Wettstone's squad to an undefeated season this year.

All-around favorite

Intramural wrestling finals

These are the lineups for intramural wrestling finals:

Fraternity
128 — Alan Hughes (Phi Kappa Theta) vs Tom Morck (Acacia)

135 — Bill Brown (Phi Kappa Sigma) vs Dave Snell

142 — Robert Bini (Acacia) vs Chris Teaf (Phi Kappa Sigma)

150 — Ray Keeney (Delta Theta Sigma) vs John Glantz (Sigma Chi)

158 — Mike DeMoise (Kappa Sigma) vs Tom Piscitelli (Delta Upsilon)

167 — Jack Snyder (Phi Gamma Delta) vs Dennis Keller (Delta Theta Sigma)

176 — Ed Wentzer (Lambda Chi Alpha) vs Greg Palmer (Phi Kappa Sigma)

190 — Ed Croco (Phi Kappa Theta) vs Gil Gahner (Phi Kappa Psi)

Hwt. — Rick Brown (Phi

Kappa Delta) vs Lee Stone (Pi Kappa Phi)

Dormitory
128 — Merle Helsel (Schuylkill) vs Howard Stock (Lawrence)

135 — Greg Heist (Cambria) vs Phil Binotto (Warren)

142 — Rick Callahan (Cumberland) vs Art Badger (Cambria)

150 — Roger Reinhart (Cambria) vs John Peters (Montgomery)

158 — Robert Peters (Montgomery) vs Gary Snell (Snyder)

167 — Denny Norman (Northampton) vs Gary Summers (Easton)

190 — Jim Gerstenlauer (Butler) vs Robert Bray

(Hazelton)
Hwt. — Jim Rosecrans (Montgomery) vs Keith Krueger (Maple)

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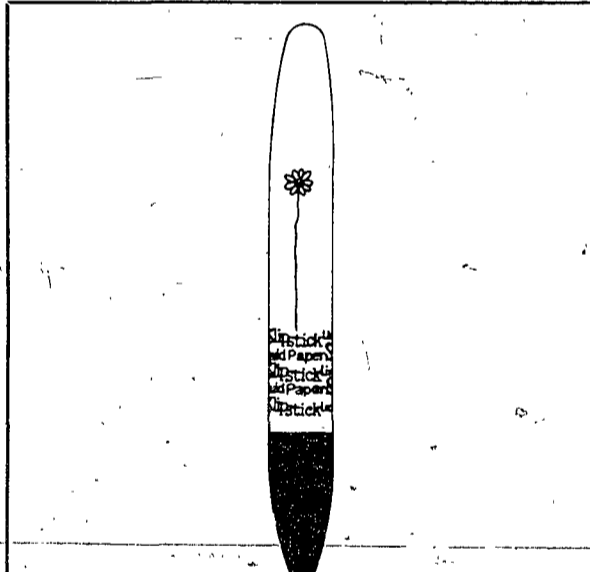
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July 14, 1972	July 30, 1972
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