

Donchez abandons redshirt for 'suit of armor'

(...or, "Well, someone has to write about Donchez now that Sheeley's gone.")

By RAY McALLISTER
Collegian Sports Editor

Ah, yes, Tommy Donchez. A part time starter as a soph, the blond running back was supposed to furnish a great deal of the ground game the next year, to take up the slack Lydell and Franco had left behind.

But a second knee operation crimped those plans a bit. So Penn State, without the ground game it never did get until John Cappelletti found out he could run over people, waited around for Donchez to come back so he could run over people. He never did, of course, though there was suspicion he might near midseason, and thus one ground game was redshirted for his junior year.

Well, Tom Conchez is back and this time, he says, he'll stick around for awhile. One of the few veterans in the initial three-day session of spring training, Donchez has taken two scrimmages full of hitting and remains optimistic.

"I'm doing all right," Donchez said last night. "There's been no problem at all, really. I've been hit a lot in the two scrimmages we've had — no one worries too much about where they hit you — and it didn't bother me."

"My knees are normal now. There's no cartilage left but you don't really need cartilage for mobility."

Donchez, who'll be a junior football-wise in the fall, seems to feel other things are back to normal now, too. For when he talks of the other veterans at practice, he refers to them as



"the other seniors," before adding "the other guys who came in when I did."

A season on the sidelines, it seems, might have some guys itching to get into the pads, the uniform, the game. But for Donchez it was quite a different story last fall.

"I enjoyed being red-shirted," he said, "I really did. I was a free spirit for those couple of months, able to do what I wanted to. I got my weight up about 10 pounds. It helped my grades, too."

Evidently it didn't hurt Donchez too much in other areas, either. Last week, under the scrutiny of pro scouts on cam-

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—Tom Donchez

pus, he and everyone else were electronically timed in the 40 yard dash. Donchez' 4.97, in pads, was his best ever. As for now, though, performance is not necessarily on his mind. "I'm not out to set any Penn State spring training records," he laughed. "I'm just trying to get acquainted with football again."

"When you come back after being away so long, you feel awkward in a uniform. It's like a uniform of armor. But after half an hour it comes back to you."

Though, as he said, "there's nothing fun about spring practice," Donchez admits he's more than happy to be back.

"I was looking forward to it," he said. "It really is something to look forward to because you get kind of tired of playing pick-up games at Rec Hall."

Though the confrontation is not immediately at hand, eventually Donchez and Bob Nagle will be paired off in an attempt to find a starting fullback for next fall. Nagle held the position last year but actually it was Donchez' position he was holding.

"I'm sure I'll be playing fullback but it might not be first string," Donchez said. "I take it one day at a time right now."

"The position is Bobby Nagle's. He's the fullback so I'm the one who's challenging. But I'm not worried too much about that right now. I'll just let the chips fall where they may."

ASTROTURF BURNS — Defensive tackle Barry Crissman has left the Penn State team, purportedly because coach Joe Paterno indicated he would see little in the way of playing time this fall. "I just couldn't see going through all the work for what I was getting. It just wasn't worth the money," the 6-0, 225-pound junior said, before adding that Paterno said "It's up to you." Crissman's four-year scholarship thus will be cancelled at the end of this term.

The 60 or so players who have been practicing since Saturday have finished for the week and will be joined this weekend by 28 lettermen who were excused earlier. Sixteen more practices, as allowed by the NCAA, is what they'll go through before the annual Blue-White game May 19.

Voithofer leaves for Middletown

Casper Voithofer resigned yesterday as Penn State's assistant basketball coach to return to his old job at Middletown High School.

Voithofer, who was head coach for three years at Middletown before a four-year stint as assistant here, listed the reasoning behind his leaving as being two-

fold. "First," he said last night, "I've got a young family — a child 3-months old, one 15-months and one five years — and I'd like to be with them more. In college coaching, too often you're away from your family."

"And, after four years as an assistant, I felt that desire to return to a head coaching position. I welcome that challenge again."

Voithofer replaces John McKendry, who resigned earlier this month, after

leading his team to a third-place finish in the PIAA Class B tournament. McKendry cited undue pressures in his resignation.

In his last season with the highly successful Middletown program, Voithofer took the school to a 28-1 record and the Class B state championship. "They look me to a state championship," he laughed last night.

No successor to the Penn State assistant has been named as of yet. —RMC

Intramurals offer a cure for sporting itch

By JEFF YOUNG
Collegian Sports Writer

There are about 27,000 students attending this University. Each of those 27,000 students has an itch, of one kind or another, that needs to be scratched from time to time. For those whose itches take the form of athletic competition, and who don't have the talent to play collegiate varsity sports, there is an institution for scratching those itches known as intramurals.

Organized intramurals got their beginning at Penn State in 1931 under the direction of the well-known football coach, Hugo Bezdek, featuring basic sports like football, basketball, wrestling and boxing. I-M Director C.M. "Dutch" Sykes remarked that at this time, tackle football was played. As the years passed, the program was revised and improved. Cross country was tried but the interest was not there. Boxing was discontinued when the Physical Education department discontinued formal boxing instruction.

The program grew as the University grew. A golf putting tournament was expanded to a medal play tourney in which the contestants played four rounds of golf. Other sports such as bowling, racquetball, and volleyball were added to the program when the necessary facilities became available.

Today Penn State has one of the largest and best intramural programs in the country. Last year over 50 per cent of the male students participated in IMS, which

scheduled a total of 5,807 contests. The program today includes 14 different competitive sports, with tournament play in each. There are three leagues; dorm, fraternity, and independent. Each year a champion is declared on the basis of points awarded for performances in each sport throughout the year.

Over the past ten years, Phi Gamma Delta has won the all-year championship five times, while in the dorms, where there is a much greater turnover, Balsam House has won three titles and Erie House has taken two. Consistent contenders in the dorm league are Balsam, Lackawanna, Erie, and Hemlock. The toughest frats are usually Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Delta Theta, and Delta Upsilon.

Behind all this play, there is much work to be done, including appointing officials,

writing schedules, keeping records, and handling the fiscal end of things. All this and more is taken care of by Sykes and his staff of five men. The job, says Sykes, "is hours and hours of time and work every night."

The future of IMS holds in store some changes which will bring about the involvement of more and more students, including women. At present, there are some intramurals for women, but the thing of the future, says Sykes, is co-ed recreation. Sykes said he feels that the number of competitive sports need not be increased, and that co-ed sports will be a welcome addition to the program

Is that so?

Penn State has finished in the Top Ten and gone to a major bowl game five of the last six football seasons.

Baseball roundup: Phils top Montreal

MONTREAL (AP) — Jimmy Hutton's two-run pinch double highlighted a four-run eighth-inning uprising yesterday that carried the Philadelphia Phillies to a 9-6 victory over the Montreal Expos.

With two out, Mike Anderson singled and Mike Ryan tripled to tie the score off Mike Marshall. Terry Jarmon walked. Hutton, batting for winning reliever Dick Selma, greeted Tom Walker with a tie-breaking double, then came home on Larry Bowa's single.

The Expos knocked out rookie Dick Ruthven, making his professional pitching debut, with a four-run second inning.

The Expos made it 6-1 with two runs in the fifth, one of them on Ron Fairly's first homer of the season.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Joe Morgan scored the first run of the game on Dave Con-

cepcion's sixth-inning single and slugged a two-run homer in the seventh as the red-hot Cincinnati Reds blanked the San Diego Padres 3-0 last night behind Ross Grimsley's eight-hit pitching.

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick Monday hit a fourth-inning home run and Ferguson Jenkins pitched a two-hitter yesterday, leading the Chicago Cubs over the New York Mets, 1-0.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Chris Speier singled runs home in the first and second innings, touched off a four-run fourth with a double and doubled home two runs in the eighth as the San Francisco Giants pounded out 21 hits and routed the Atlanta Braves 15-2 last night in the first game of a National League doubleheader.

BALTIMORE (AP) — Earl Williams slugged a two-run,

tie-breaking homer off New York relief ace Sparky Lyle yesterday night, climaxing a three-run rally that propelled the Baltimore Orioles to a 4-2 victory over the Yankees.

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Hal McRae's two-out, tie-

breaking single in the bottom of the 14th inning gave the Kansas City Royals a 5-4 victory over the Oakland A's last night.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Oscar Gamble hit a triple and two singles, driving in two

runs and scoring one as the Cleveland Indians, striking for four unearned runs in the second inning, beat the Milwaukee Brewers 7-3 last night in an American League baseball game.

CHICAGO (AP) — Bill

Melton's 100th career homer, a two-run blast, ignited a five-run fifth inning as the Chicago White Sox snapped a three-game losing streak with a 10-5 victory over the Texas Rangers Tuesday.

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