

Catching up on some ZZZ's at the football rally

Back the Lions pep rallies are good for catching some ZZZ's. Occasionally someone will get up and say something that causes heads to immediately swivel and supporters to cheer and skeptics to groan, but on the average they pack about as much punch as a 1933 temperance rally.

The ever-loyal Blue Band serenades the football captains, Joe Paterno and the hyper-active Nittany Lion until the evening closes with all present in the congregation faking their way through the alma mater.

The fact that they're held outside in the dark doesn't exactly lend itself to thrills and pom poms, but the pep sessions do manage to bring out the die-hard loyal on campus and in the Nittany Valley and in that sense, they are important.

It's been said before and perhaps it is true—you can be loyal and true to a team that wins, but you can only fall in love with a loser.

Fans who have lived through the '60s with the Phillies or Mets can best testify to this. That might be amended to say one can only fall in love with a loser that comes close. It's no secret why the fans didn't break down the gates at Pitt Stadium last season.

Penn State hasn't even been close to a losing season for a long time so perhaps the best adjective one can use to describe the larger-than-usual throng that gathered outside Rec Hall last night would be well-wishers.

Pre-season All-America linebacker Ed O'Neil woke a few

people up when he said, "On Saturday we'll show the people we are the greatest football team in the country."

O'Neil said it like he meant it and while nobody argued with the 6-3, 220 pound senior, there was a buzz of skepticism on the fringe of the crowd. The same words uttered in either camp prior to the Army-Navy clash would cause a tidal wave on the Hudson or the Severn.

At Penn State, however, the prediction wouldn't even dry up an old dairy cow. Lion students and fans take their football in smaller doses and with infinitely more objectivity, even though the team is one of the few substances at University Park a student can identify with and look forward to.

All of this is not to say Lion rooters, especially those enrolled at the University, don't take their football seriously. If you believe that, pick any TV room on campus tomorrow and go in rooting for the Cardinals. You will not only quickly see the light, you'll also get a good look at the emergency medical facilities here on campus.

So perhaps it's only pep rallies that push the student's



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like Stanford, but it won't be like last year at Tennessee where Bob Nagle and I were starting in our positions for the first time," Cappelletti said. "Shuman will be new at quarterback but he has the ability to make up for anything he lacks from experience."

The 6-1, 206-pound tailback also said he didn't anticipate defenses waiting for him to come scrambling out of the backfield.

"We might be throwing a little more if it comes to that," he said; "but we always try to get the ground game established first. We like to start inside to get going."

Cappelletti, as all successful and sane backs tend to do, praised the offensive line for its experience.

This year when Cappy takes the field on Penn State's initial possession of the season, he'll have an added measure of confidence and knowledge.

"I'll know more of what to expect this time," he said. "At Stanford, for instance, it's going to be hard to get outside. And the experience has helped me read things better."

Lion rugby club hosts Villanova

Penn State's rugby club opens its fall season against Villanova tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the rugby pitch adjacent to the East Hall IM fields. The match will be the first of an 11-game schedule with the 'A' squad boasting a 6-0 record from last fall.

President Jerry Starobin was encouraged by the large turnout at Tuesday night's practice with some 60 guys showing up. The 'B' squad will play in the prelim and the 'C' match follows the 'A' game.

"Rugby gives a lot of guys that played high school sports an opportunity to play something at the college level," Starobin said.

"It's a very easy-going game; very competitive, yet not hard-nosed," he said. "The club is composed of teachers, University employees, undergraduates and grad students."

Lion notes

Deadlines for student season and Iowa single game tickets have been extended to Sept. 28.

There is a meeting for all freshmen and transfer students wishing to play varsity baseball Monday at 5:15 p.m. in 268 Rec Hall.

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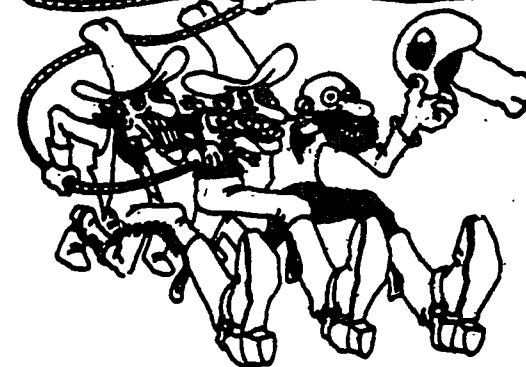
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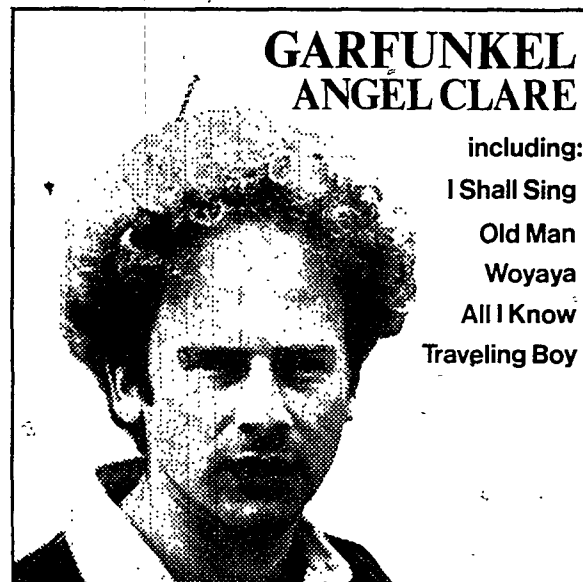
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