

The disappointing slump

Joe Boyle shook his head when he heard the question, hesitating for a moment but then shrugging. "No, I don't know what's wrong with Johnny," said Penn State's golf coach. "He's been hitting the ball OK but he just can't seem to score well."

Johnny is John Krumrine, the only senior on the golf squad, a fifth place finisher at last year's eastern championships and at the beginning of this year, Boyle's most consistent golfer. Krumrine started strong this year, hitting the ball well even in the adverse weather conditions of Happy Valley's early spring.

The first match this year against Navy and Columbia Krumrine shot a 75, leading the field and displaying the type of game—good hard drives, accurate short game and steady putting—that had made him the number one Lion golfer.

Krumrine was playing the type of golf he was accustomed to playing, low 70's golf. At the Lehigh match Krumrine ballooned to an 83. Still, the team set a course record that day and Krumrine's high scores didn't seem important.



Brian Miller
Sports Writer



Penn State captain John Krumrine before ballooning scores and poor season.

Photo by Tom Peters

The Lions traveled to the Kepler Invitational in Ohio at the end of that week. Krumrine had been sick before the match but he hadn't felt that would hinder him. Something had though; Krumrine finished the two day, 54 hole competition at 256, 27 strokes behind the tournament medalist.

"The greens were hard there and even a good shot could bounce off," Krumrine said just after the match. True, many of the golfers had complained about the greens but Krumrine was the senior, the two year varsity veteran and he felt he should have lead the Penn State team, not finishing 16 strokes behind his freshman teammate Sherm Hostetter.

At West Virginia the following Saturday, Krumrine turned in an 81; not good but better than the three scores of 83-88-85 he had collected at the Kepler.

Maybe he was breaking out of the slump. Perhaps the high scores were just the result of Krumrine's illness. Monday's Mid-America, the second major tournament the Lions had entered in less than a week would tell.

Krumrine shot 83-81—164, 22 strokes behind the tournament champion, Paul Davis of Ohio State.

Obviously, Krumrine hadn't broken out of the "slump." Penn State had been blown out in the Mid-American, finishing 13th in a 15 team field. Krumrine's scores were the highest of all Penn State golfers.

The State College native, who had piled up a record of 73-3-3 for the Little Lions, was philosophical after the tournament disasters, the tournaments that had introduced Penn State into the big time collegiate competition.

"My short game hasn't been very good," said Krumrine. "I just wasn't hitting the greens at the Mid-American."

"Maybe it was because I had so much trouble hitting the greens at the Kepler. I think that tournament hurt my confidence. I'm really disappointed."

Krumrine was disappointed. He had wanted to lead the young, inexperienced, and inconsistent team. For two years he had played in the shadow of Dan O'Neil, the 1972 and 73 Eastern medalist and now with O'Neil's graduation, Krumrine had felt the pressure to carry most of the load, and so far he hasn't.

"I haven't felt good physically all spring," he said quietly before last weekend's Eastern Championships. "But the pressure is on me now to play well, on the whole team for that matter. We all need a good first round in Ithaca."

There was pressure at the Easterns for the entire Penn State squad. It would be the last trip to this tournament because of the University's withdrawal from the ECAC and the Lions had won the last two tournaments, seven of the past 11. They wanted to leave the Easterns on top.

Krumrine had hoped to do well, especially since a poor

Jeffrey Field's Red Dragon night

By **TIM PANACCIO**
Assistant Sports Editor

Tonight is Red Dragon night at Jeffrey Field. For the price of nothing, you can see Cortland State's Red Dragons (6-1) breathe, shoot, spit, and engulf fire at 7 p.m. against Dick Pencek's Lions (4-3).

Cortland (State University of NY) is perhaps the best team Penn State will face this year. It is the current U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association college champion and it spews fires of talent like a bazooka.

Sophomore Jud Smith steers the attack with 17 goals followed by Jim Luchsinger with 18 goals. Smith is first because he has 14 assists on the side and Luchsinger but one. Last year, Smith was one of 12 Red Dragons who had over 50 points on the year.

Final home laX fray

Senior co-captain John Espey was a third team All-America last year and returns at midfield with Scott Noble and Paul McGee.

The defense isn't bad despite the loss of All-America Bob Ernst who graduated. Boku (pronounced Beaucoup) Hendrickson, Shawn McDonald and Bob Deegan give the Dragons a solid firewall, if you will, around All-America goalie Pete Graham.

Graham is strong. For beginners, a little history first. Last year, Graham broke his own school record of 203 saves with 209 rescues. He averaged 13.9 saves a game, another record.

This year...He has broken New York state's record for career saves with 517 (previous record was 496). He now has 105 coming into this game on the season and is averaging 15 saves every contest—another record to come?

His 39 efforts against Massachusetts carried the Dragons to a 10-9 victory in five overtimes. On the subject of overtimes, Cortland lost its only game to Hobart by that identical score in one overtime.

Now that pretty much takes care of the defense and any balls going into the crease area. But what about those shots that don't get to Graham? The Red Dragons stingy defense has allowed only 6.2 goals find

the crease area per contest.

In the meantime, the offense has tingled the twine for 13.1 goals every game.

Penn State in seven previous tries has managed only to tie against Cortland. Last year, Pencek's squad took a 20-5 beating.

Pencek will be relying on Billy Abriel, Keith McGuire, Jack Barry and Carl Hurtzig to penetrate that firewall mentioned before and score.

It'll be tough but the Lions should be up for this one. And if nothing else, tonight is the last time Penn State performs at home as they close the season out with three road games, so it will want to leave spectators with something nice to remember.

Lion baseballers hunting Buffalo

By **JEFF YOUNG**
Assistant Sports Editor

Len Bartek and his pals are goin' up north to hunt some Buffalo. An' if he's on target, they might all be able to do a little more huntin' later on.

Bartek (4-0) is Penn State's starter for the opening game of its doubleheader today at Buffalo. And if the Lions (13-

3) can sweep today, their chances of receiving a District 2 playoff bid are looking pretty good.

"It's really hard to say, cause we're independent, and sometimes it helps and sometimes it hurts," said the junior righthander. "But I think if we take both games, we're gonna get the bid."

Bartek's last outing was by far his best, as he threw a 7-0 shutout at Juniata one week ago. Medlar had him in the bullpen for both games of Sunday's Temple sweep, but didn't find the need.

"I can pitch with one or two days rest," he said, "though my arm has been a little sore. I think it's just the change back to cold weather."

Speaking of weather (above the expletives of frustrated baseball coaches), it won't be much warmer than 50 degrees when Bartek takes the hill this afternoon. But he isn't worrying much about the climate.

"It doesn't matter once you

get loose," he said. "The only thing it might do is affect the hitter, since he's just standing there a lot of the time and the pitcher's always working."

Against Buffalo, a team with four senior infielders hitting better than .300, Bartek expects to fire his big sinker as long as its sinks, "but some days it just doesn't work."

For Buffalo (19-11) the probable starters are lefty Jim Niewczyk (3-2) and righthander Jim Ridel (3-3). Penn State's nightcap starter will come from Mitch Lukevics, John Maier, or Steve Nielsen.

Golf team competing

Penn State's golf team is in Indiana, Pennsylvania today for the 18-hole, six-team Indiana Invitational Golf Tournament.

It will be the fourth invitational the Lions have attended this year, the others were Kepler, the Mid-American and last weekend's Eastern Championships.

Penn State is the defending champion, although Indiana's Ron Milanovich captured the 1973 medalist honors.

The six team field consists of Indiana, Penn State, Akron, Youngstown, Pittsburgh and Eastern runner-up Bucknell.

Boyle has selected a seven

man squad of John Krumrine, Tom Amendola, Fred Von Borgen, Tom Sulkowski, Rod Franc, Sherm Hostetter and Bob Dine. — Brian Miller

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