

Improved slate for Lion Harriers

By DAVE BROWN
Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's cross country team is in the midst of a real meat-grinder of a schedule. "We can't sit around crying about the schedule," coach Harry Groves said. "Every team we meet from here on is improved."

"But that's the way I like it. I don't like to go out knowing we can win. That's ridiculous. But this way we'll be pushed to end up with the best possible performance."

The Nittany Lions hit the road to face a "good" West Virginia team tomorrow. The Mountaineers have a deadly one-two punch in Alex Kasich and Bill Hawkins. Groves said Kasich "took Charlie Maguire down to the finish last year" before settling for second place in 24:45, good enough for the ninth best time ever recorded on the five-mile White course. Hawkins usually runs "pretty tight together" with Kasich.

In a quadrangular meet with Ohio State, Bowling Green, and Central Michigan, WVU finished third. However, Kasich beat some classy runners to earn individual honors.

Against the Mounties, coach Groves is looking for "depth that has some meaning."

In a 27-28 loss to Villanova,

the Lions' depth was evident but not quite enough to pull out the victory.

"It's a matter of getting closer to the front. We need three guys at 25:20. And we need six or seven men in front of their fifth man. Against Villanova, their fifth man beat our fifth man."

"We ran a fairly fast race on Saturday," Groves continued. Every guy was putting out. It's just a matter of not coming back in shape from the summer. We must build on what we have."

Groves is counting on a group of six or seven strong finishers from among team captain Steve Gabriel, Paul Stemmer, Paul Augustin, George Christopher, George Dixon, Walt Majak, George Malley, Jim Morrison, Ron Secord, and Ken Wilson.

Last year Penn State handled WVU, 22-26, but now the harriers need a win at Morgantown just to even their record at 1-1. This is indeed a rare position for Groves, who has never had a losing season in 20 years of coaching.



Penn State captain Steve Gabriel

A black manager for baseball...

CLEVELAND (UPI) — Frank Robinson became the first black manager in baseball's 105-year history yesterday, and the highest paid manager as well when he was named playing manager of the Cleveland Indians.

Robinson, who signed a one-year contract and will receive the same \$173,000 next season he is getting now as a player with the Indians, was completely composed during a heavily-attended news conference. He said he felt he was being given the job "because of my ability and not because of the color of my skin."

"The only reason I am the first black manager in the major leagues is that I happen to have been born black," said the 39-year-old Robinson, only man ever with the Most Valuable Player award in both the National and American Leagues.

"I want to be judged by our play on the field," he said after his appointment to succeed Ken Aspromonte, who was fired. The Indians finished fourth in the American League East this season with a 77-85 record, their best winning percentage in six years.

President Gerald Ford sent Robinson a congratulatory wire stating the appointment was "welcome news not only for the Indians, the American League and all of baseball, but also for baseball fans across the nation."

Attending the news conference were Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn and American League President Lee MacPhail.

Mrs. Jackie Robinson, whose husband — no relation to Frank — broke the color barrier in major league baseball as a player in 1947, was also on hand and called Robinson's appointment "significant and highly commendable."

The new Cleveland manager said, "If I had one wish that could be granted right now, this is it — that Jackie Robinson would be here to see this happen today."

"I hope that baseball people are saying, 'here he is, that's it. I think I have been hired here because of my ability and not because of the color of my skin.'"

"I expect the most difficult part of my job to be getting to know my players. Not knowing their abilities — I know that already, from playing with them and against them. But getting to know them as people. Learning what makes them tick, how to get that something extra out of them — or what makes them slow down."

"I hope they'll feel they can come to me and think of me as a pal," he said. "I'm not going to demand respect but I want to be close to them. It's a very thin line."

...but he's overdue

CLEVELAND (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn said baseball should not be patting itself on the back over the appointment of Frank Robinson as the game's first black manager.

"I don't think that baseball should be exceptionally proud of this day," said Kuhn, who attended the news conference at which the Cleveland Indians named Robinson their manager for the 1975 season.

"It's been long overdue, and I'm not going to pat myself on the back for it. It's time to say we've got something started and I'm proud of that," Kuhn said he has been trying to influence a club to hire a black field mentor.

"I've talked to a lot of clubs," Kuhn said. "I like to call it jawboning. Robinson was one of the players that I thought should be named a manager."

Ironically, Kuhn said he didn't talk to Cleveland about making such a move.

He said it is important that the first black manager be in the right city.

"I happen to be one of those people who thinks that Cleveland is a good baseball town and this a good spot for Robinson to be," Kuhn said.

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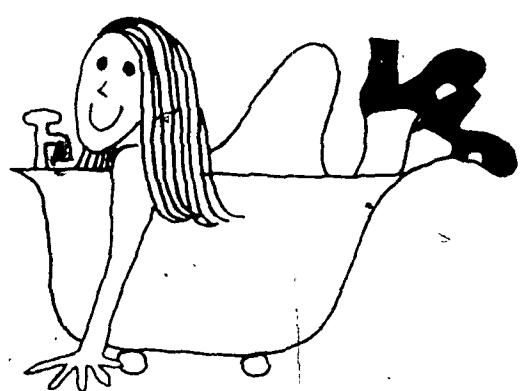
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- ★ HYPNOSIS in ATHLETICS wub lounge 8pm
- ★ PADDLEBALL 102 kern 8pm
- ★ CYCLING waring lounge 8pm

wednesday oct. 9

- ★ SKIING pub rec room 7pm
- ★ SPORTS EQUIPMENT 106 fisher 8pm
- ★ WOMENS WEIGHTLIFTING rec hall 8pm weight room
- ★ WOMENS GYM TEAM gym studio-white bldg 5:30
- ★ SPORTS BROADCASTING hub main lounge 8pm

thursday oct. 10

- ★ SPORTS for HANDICAPPED pub lounge 8pm
- ★ SWIMMING & DIVING natatorium 7:30 pm
- ★ WOMENS GYM TEAM gym studio-white bldg 7:30 pm
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