

Late Luck leaves Lions but bowl stays



Tim Panaccio
Ass't Sports Editor

November and Penn State football. The two go together as smooth as peanut butter and jelly. Since 1966, when Joe Paterno first started coaching Penn State football he's been mashing out those P.B.&J sandwiches every game after All Saints Day.

Oh don't think it ain't been hard winning all those football match ups during that month year in and year out. In 1967 North Carolina State came here ranked fourth in the country one November afternoon and Paterno pulled out a 13-8 squeaker.

Last year the Pack came tracking up Mt. Nittany again and Paterno's November Luck withstood the cold and other factors in a cliff-hanging 35-29 victory.

But something happened this year. Some will say Paterno's luck spilled out in Raleigh. Actually, it has been oozing out since the first kickoff this fall.

Penn State barely topped Stanford. It lost to rain soaked Navy Army gave it a chill — for a while. Maryland won the stats and almost took the game with it.

N.C. State knew that Paterno's luck was almost drained. It knew this was the one year — the first time — it had a chance to slip some marshmallow in that peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Last Saturday Penn State lost for the first time in November since 1966. Just for the record, that was a 21-0 beating to Georgia Tech in Atlanta during Paterno's rookie season.

People are very happy in Happy Valley this year with the Lions. And people are even unhappier 150 miles southwest of State College. That's Johnny Majors' land.

So far, Majors and his Panthers (7-2) have yet to get a bowl bid, minor or major, no pun intended.

Majors is faced with an emotionally tense and disgraceful situation. He has been told, in so many words, that to secure a bowl bid, Pitt must beat Notre Dame.

Now when was the last time someone told Joe Paterno he had to beat a team ranked higher than his to get a bowl bid? Holy Rudegess! Penn State looks terrible in a loss to N.C. State and the Cotton Bowl comes knocking on the door. Majors is notably — and rightly so — upset with the bowl people.

Which sorta brings us back to Penn State. Are the Lions deserving of a Cotton Bowl bid? Here's one vote for "No."

Penn State (7-2) shouldn't be going to any bowl. On the other hand, Nebraska and Florida have no business going to the Sugar Bowl, or any other major bowl for that matter.

This makes the fifth straight year that the team we've invited to the Cotton Bowl lost before it got to Dallas. Wilbur Evans, executive director of the Cotton Bowl gloomily stated last Saturday.

"We're not embarrassed."
If Penn State isn't, it should be.



Lion grapplers prepping for cold winter schedule

By RICH CUTLER
Collegian Sports Writer

Bill Koll officially begins his eleventh season as coach of the Penn State wrestling team December 1. That will be the eleventh straight season in which his grapplers face one of the toughest — if not the toughest schedule in America's wrestling circles. It is a situation that Koll is proud to be in.

"We're trying to develop quality wrestlers year by year for the purpose of trying to prepare them for the nationals," Koll said. "We can't do this by wrestling patties every year."

Penn State, beginning this year, will no longer compete in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association. Instead the grapplers will go independent and face such schools like Kentucky, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Indiana State, Michigan, and Michigan State. The latter two — both top ten teams — will make themselves known to the Lions Dec. 1 and 2 when Koll's men travel to the Great Lake State for the opening two meets of the season. "They're two of the toughest around," Koll praised, "there's no question about that."

"Overall," added the veteran coach, "we'll be going up against the best in the south, the best in the midwest (Oklahoma), and the best in the east, of course."

Key returnees this season will include John Fritz (126), Jerry Villecco (167), Jerry White (190), Dan Brenneman (177), Dennis Sciabica (142), and Kevin Woodrow at 118. Both Fritz and Villecco were Eastern champs last year with Fritz finishing third and Villecco, fourth in the nationals.

Jerry White, a sophomore, grappled his way to a second place finish in the Easterns last year.

Newcomers that Koll is particularly high on include freshman Ray Frantz (118), a two-time Pa. high school champion, freshman Jim Earl (134), a former New York State titleist, and Dan Baum (126).

"We're gonna expect these guys to come through for us," Koll said. "Whether or not we have a good or bad year will depend upon whether our freshmen and our middle weightmen will come through."

Heavyweight Brad Benson and Larry Suhey are not practicing with the team at present. They're working for Joe Paterno.

Keymen lost from last year's 10-0-1 squad are heavyweight Charlie Getty, and 134-pounder Bob Medina.

"You really can't replace a guy like Getty," Koll said. "But generally the young kids are able to take the place of the guys who graduate. We've got potential this year for a lot of guys to take over. That's our hope anyway."

Koll said this year's edition will be the youngest contingent he has ever had. "It will be, for the most part, an underclass squad. We lack experience in a lot of places."

"The upper weights will be a problem as far as depth goes," Koll added. "That's been a perennial problem because we've never had the numbers in those positions."

"We'll have a good, balanced team until we get one guy hurt. We just have to hope for an injury-free season."

Koll said he wants to trim the squad down to 20 by term break. "We're now in the middle of the quarter-final round of our round-robin tournament for our tryouts. We've worked real hard to get into shape the last two weeks."

The Lions have placed in seven national tournaments, all told — highest among eastern schools. They'll get an opportunity to perform before the home folks this season because at the end of February, Penn State will be hosting the NCAA regional tournament.

Lions lead nation in pro grid grads

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — Ask any football fan what college team has the most players in the National Football League today. Chances are he'll say Notre Dame or Grambling or maybe Southern California or Ohio State.

He would be wrong. The correct answer is Penn State.

Penn State has 27 players in the NFL. That's two more than Southern Cal., three more than Michigan. Four more than Ohio State, seven more than Nebraska, 12 more than Grambling, 13 more than Oklahoma, 17 more than Alabama and 18 more than Texas.

Most of the Penn State players who have made the pros have made it in the last three seasons, 18 out of the 27. Nine made it this season, four last season and five the year before.

The oldest Penn State player in the NFL now is Penn State also holds

another distinction. More rookies from Penn State made the pros this season than from any other college.

Ten Penn State players were drafted this year by the pros and nine made it.

Six made good this season from Southern Cal. and Michigan, five from Colorado, four from Ohio State, Tennessee State, UCLA, Kansas and Jackson State.

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The oldest Penn State player in the NFL now is

Dave Robinson, who is 33 and in his 10th year. Ralph Baker, defensive captain of the New York Jets, is 32 and in his 11th season as a pro.

It is fitting that both Robinson and Baker are linebackers, since Penn State has become known as a producer of pro linebackers. Ten Penn State pros are linebackers, five of them starters.

Robinson and Baker, Jack Ham with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Jim LaSlavic with Detroit, and John Skorupan with Buffalo are the starters.

State's other pro linebackers are John Ebersole with the Jets, Ed O'Neil of the Lions, the Dolphins'

Bruce Bannon, Doug Allen with the Bills and Tom Hull of the 49ers. Ebersole and Bannon were defensive ends at Penn State, as was Robinson.

Overall, 13 of the 27 Penn State pros start with the pros — Robinson, Baker, Ham, LaSlavic, Skorupan, Glenn Ressler, a guard for Baltimore; Dave Rowe, Chargers' tackle; Bill Lenkaitis, Patriots' center; Ted Kwalick, tight end at San Francisco; Cincinnati's Mike Reid at defensive tackle; Franco Harris, running back of the Steelers; Lydell Mitchell, running back at Baltimore; Charley Getty, offensive rookie tackle with Kansas City.

One of the Penn State pros, Chuck Crist did not play football in college. He was captain of the Penn State basketball team and signed with the Giants in 1972 as a free agent. He made the team as a safety man, and has played in every Giants' game the last two years.

A breakdown of the positions the Penn State players play in the pros indicates the versatility coach Joe Paterno has produced. Included in the 27 are ten linebackers, four running backs, three offensive tackles, two tight ends, two offensive guards, two defensive tackles, a quarterback and a safety.

In addition, 13 other Penn

Staters are playing pro football in Canada or with the World Football League. That's 40 in pro football for the Nittany Lions.

Playing in Canada are quarterbacks Don Jonas and Pete Liske, tackle Steve Smear, linebacker Charley Zapiec and flanker Chuck Herd. With the WFL are quarterback Tom Sherman, tackles Dave Joyner, Rich Buzin and Dave Bradley; guard Carl Schaukovich, linebacker Gary Gray, tight end Bob Rickenbach and center Mike Botts.

So next time — if you are a Penn State fan — if anyone chides you about Eastern football or a soft schedule, point to the pros and smile.

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