

Gambler sees betting increase

EDITOR'S NOTE — Delaware recently became the first state in the nation to institute government-run betting on National Football League games.

But at football fans and others know, gambling on NFL games goes on elsewhere — illegally. Here is an interview with one man who has been wagering regularly for years.

CHICAGO (AP) — "You have no chance whatsoever," said the man who claims he has bet from "half a million to a million dollars a year" on sports contests for half a century.

"I've been betting baseball for 58 years and football for 45 years," said the bettor, who prefers to remain anonymous "because I don't want to get anyone in trouble, especially myself."

Mr. X was interviewed shortly after betting on pro football games became legal in Delaware.

"Once it gets started in Delaware, it'll spread like wildfire from state to state. First football, then it'll be baseball, basketball or what have you," said Mr. X, who through a

check of associates was found not to be exaggerating about betting up to a million dollars a year.

"The figure might sound big, but it doesn't have to be," he said. "A guy can go to the race track with a hundred dollars, hit the daily double big and then keep betting it in. By the end of the day he can break even and still have bet \$10,000."

Mr. X has kept records through the years and says he's come out neither a winner nor a loser.

"I know that if I only bet college football, I'd be a rich man, a very rich man. I'm a big winner on college football, maybe 80 per cent. But I'm just as big a loser in professional football and baseball."

"I have kept records and made intensive studies on college football. I take the points and bet certain teams. College football is difficult for the odds-makers to handicap consistently. There are too many variations, too much change in personnel year in and year out."

"Pro football is different. Teams are set and by the time the exhibition season is over, the handicappers have the games pegged to a decimal point."

"Baseball is impossible to beat because you play seven days a week and six months a year. The percentages grind you out. The bettor has to win 53 per cent of his bets to break even. Depending on how you bet, you need to win almost 57 per cent of your bets to come out reasonably ahead," said Mr. X.

Olympian to aid Lion fencers

By GARY SILVERS
Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State fencing team, coming off an eleventh place finish at the nationals last March, will be given added assistance this season by New York University (NYU) Olympian Steve Kaplan, who recently enrolled as a graduate student in physical education.

Kaplan, a native of Queens, New York, was the nation's number five sabre fencer at Montreal this summer. Although he finished only 28th in a pool of 48, the American is greatly remembered for his stunning 5-3 quarterfinal victory over Russian bronze medalist Viktor Sidiak in the team's 9-1 loss.

Needless to say, the Soviets have the best sabre team in the world. They swept every medal in both the team and individual events and crushed the eighth ranked Americans 48-25 in touches.

"The Russians had perfect footwork, balance, control, and mental discipline," said Kaplan. "And plenty of experience. To be honest, we knew we were no match for them and set our goal for fifth place."

The United States team, under the coaching of veteran Csaba Elthes, was comprised of 18 starters. To make the team, each member had to compete in the National Fencing League of America (NFLA) and accumulate a certain amount of points over the duration of three years.

The sabre fencers who, along with Kaplan, earned flights to Montreal, were Peter Westbrook (Newark, N.J.), Alex Orban (Lake Hopatcong, N.J.), Paul Apostol (New York, N.Y.), and Tom Losconzy (Passaic, N.J.).

"Each day of competition, we had to rise at 6 a.m. to train with the other nations," said Kaplan. "We did have the evenings to ourselves, but had an 11 p.m. curfew."

Kaplan started his fencing career at Martin Van Buren High School in Queens. He captained number one ranked NYU to two NCAA championships in 1970 and 1971 and, in the later

year, also captured second place in the individuals.

In 1972, one year after his graduation, the sabre fencer was ranked eighth in the country.

"I would have loved to compete in Munich (1972 Olympic site), but the AFLA only chooses the top five," said Kaplan. "And since the peaking years in sabre are from 25 to 35, I was also considered a bit too young."

Since then, however, Kaplan has fenced in Europe, Russia, Sweden, Italy, and Hungary with the international team and competed in the Pan American Games. He's also been a finalist in the last three U.S. Nationals.

"Before I came here," said Kaplan, "I trained with the New York fencers' Club under Coach Elthes. Of the 24 total fencers who went to the Games, I'd say 20 of them were his pupils."

"At Penn State, I plan to work out about two hours a day," he added, "so that I can give some individual lessons and stay in shape. My goal is Moscow in 1980!"

No decision on Alston's retirement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Both Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Walter Alston and club President Peter O'Malley yesterday denied a published report that Alston in his 23rd year with the Dodgers, would retire at the end of this season.

"I talked with Walt this morning," O'Malley said, "and he told me he has

made no decision concerning his plans for 1976. I'll talk to him again during our organizational meeting here during our last home stand."

Alston, 64, echoed O'Malley's comments saying: "Nothing definite has been decided about next year, and I don't expect there will be until I meet with Peter O'Malley."

A story by veteran baseball writer Bob Hunter in yesterday's editions of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner said Alston will announce his retirement a few days prior to the end of the season and that Dodger Coach Tommy Lasorda would replace him.

The story was not attributed, and Hunter would not reveal his source.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Golf
All candidates for Penn State's men's golf team should report to 114 Rec Hall (on the main gym floor behind the bleachers) today at 6:30 p.m. for an informational meeting.

Baseball
There will be a meeting for all those interested in trying out for the Penn State baseball team in Room 112 of Rec Hall at 5 p.m.

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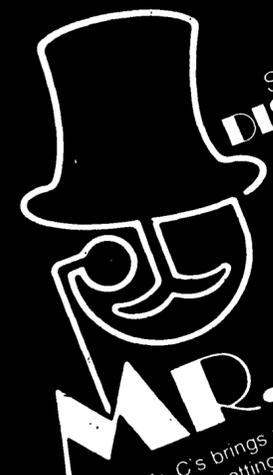
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