

Ruggers host Bucknell

Dolphin provides offense

By GEORGE WEIGEL
Collegian Sports Writer

Penn State's rugby team will get a chance to avenge last spring's two losses to the Bucknell Rugby Club tomorrow afternoon when the Lewisburg side comes to University Park.

"We're expecting a tough game from Bucknell," outside center Jim Dolphin said yesterday. "They always have a pretty good team but I heard they lost a lot through graduation since last spring."

Dolphin, who scored three tries last Saturday in Penn State's 34-0 win over West Virginia, has been the heart of the ruggers' offense so far this season.

"He's a good, all-around educated rugby player," coach John Lesko said. "You can just give the ball to him and let him run. He doesn't make many mistakes."

Dolphin began playing rugby in 1969 at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia.

After he graduated from there in 1973 with a degree in history, the Collingswood, N.J. native played wing for a year with the South Jersey Rugby Club.

One surprising thing about Dolphin is that rugby is the only sport he ever played. Being slapped together pretty good (6'0", 190 lbs.) with outstanding speed, Dolphin has the raw abilities to excel at almost any sport.

"Well, for one thing, I only weighed about 130 or 140 pounds in high school," he said. "But the nice thing about rugby is its informality. There's no coach standing over you all the time telling you to run laps or do push-ups."

He also likes the drinking part associated with the game.

In his 15 seasons of rugby, Dolphin has picked up some souvenirs of the game—such as two broken shoulders, a broken clavicle, torn cartilage in his knee, a dislocated finger, and the usual

set of rugby cuts and bruises.

"I still have trouble opening cans because of my finger," he said, showing his right index finger which is bent slightly backwards, kind of like a banana.

Besides his speed and strength, Dolphin possesses two other important assets, Lesko said. He's a smart player, and he seems to have a "sixth sense" for the game, he added.

Teammate Al Ashton called Dolphin "one of the best individual runners" he's seen.

"He's hard to bring down because of his upper-body strength," Ashton said. "You can't tackle him high."

Bucknell will have to deal with Dolphin and the rest of the Penn State ruggers at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Three sides of rugby are planned and the games will go rain or shine. The field is located behind the flower gardens across from East Halls.

Harriers travel to West Virginia

By BILL KLINE
Collegian Sports Writer

The seemingly loneliest of sports, long-distance running, entails a daily training ritual of long hours of solitary road work. Often, the cross country runner's only companions are passing cars, falling leaves and sidewalk cracks.

Lonesome may be the word for a runner's practice, but if a cross country team wants to win its share of the real thing—dual meets—running in groups is the only way to go.

"The key to winning the important meets would be to have four strong guys coming in together," says Penn State harrier Bruce Baden.

Baden, who was part of a three-man cluster of Lions last Saturday that finished 2, 4 and 5 as Penn State demolished Villanova, hopes grouping can again aid the Lions tomorrow morning when they run in Morgantown against West Virginia.

According to Baden, running in a group gives support to its runners. "If some guy is hurting, he'll want to hang on."

Baden also says grouping can have a negative psychological effect on the opponents. "You look like a strong team when you stay together like that," the junior says.

Michigan, who beat the Lions last year in the Central

Collegiate championships, "has a team that has seven or eight guys running together," says Baden. "It's powerful."

The Lions may be the perfect team to utilize grouping. They lost record-breaking Paul Stemmer to graduation, although retaining nationally ranked senior George Malley, who fills the number one position.

But behind Malley are a host of potential groupies.

"We have good depth," Baden says. "We have a good solid group of seven guys, or hope to have." In addition to Baden, they are Walt Majak, Bob Snyder, Greg Stremmel, John Ziegler, Fred Cooper, and Ray Kromel.

Against Villanova, Baden, Stremmel, and Snyder broke from a pack of five Wildcats at about the three-mile mark of the Lions' five-mile course.

"We had to make a move because they had five guys with us," says Baden. "Even more importantly, only one Wildcat went with them, and Penn State clinched its season opener."

West Virginia, meanwhile, "lost a couple of its top runners from last year," says Baden, and may not be as good as then.

Obviously, the Mountaineers could see a strong dose of grouping. If they don't receive it, they may get lonely.

After all, you can't talk to passing cars, falling leaves and sidewalk cracks.




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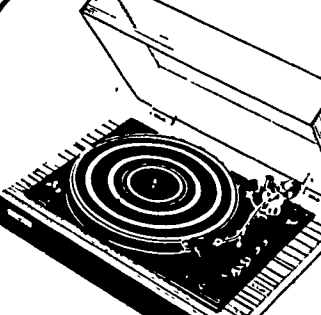
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