

Harriers off to Centrals; Michigan favored again

By BILL KLINE
Collegian Sports Writer

Although undefeated in five meets, the Penn State cross country team takes the underdog role tomorrow at Kent State for the Central Collegiate Conference championships.

Penn State and 13 other schools, including Big Ten, Big Eight, and Mid-American conference members, will be out to dethrone defending champion Michigan.

But it won't be easy. The Wolverines return every runner from last year when they edged Penn State for the title.

"When you rank them on paper, they're pretty tough," Penn State coach Harry Groves said about Michigan. According to Groves, Greg Myer is the Wolves' top runner, but their depth won the title for them last year.

In last year's race, George Malley and Paul Stemmer took one and two for Penn State, but all five Michigan runners finished before the next Lion harrier.

Groves will run Malley, Bruce Baden, Walt Majak, John Ziegler, Greg Stremmel, Ray Krombel, and Bob Snyder on the five-mile course, a contingent that has also displayed depth.

"We've been able to put a pretty good grouping close to Malley," Groves said concerning the success of his squad. Indeed, Malley has won medalist honors every meet, but four or five Lions bunched near the top have clinched every win.

Snyder, a junior, has finished second three

times to Malley, while Baden, another junior, has finished in the top five every meet, including a third in last week's tri-meet with Georgetown and William and Mary.

Sophomore Ziegler and freshman Krombel have provided additional balance, never finishing below tenth.

Defending medalist Malley will be challenged by Myer and Michigan State's Herb Lindsay, according to Groves.

Myer is undefeated, having set several course records in the process. Malley has lowered the record time at three courses this season, including the same course for tomorrow's championships.

Malley ran 29:01 for 10,000 meters, a little over six miles, on Oct. 8 as the Lions destroyed Kent State, 18-43.

For Malley and Majak, the Lion co-captains, tomorrow marks the fourth time they've run the Kent State course. A runner gets a feel for a course, Groves said, and "it's an advantage" that his harriers have run there before.

Other team contenders include Indiana and Eastern Michigan, according to Groves. Also entered are Air Force, Notre Dame, and Pittsburgh.

The Panthers need a strong showing at Centrals or against Penn State next weekend, Groves said, to obtain an NCAA bid.

A good Penn State performance tomorrow, added Groves, will keep the Lions in strong contention for a bid also.



Photo by Mike Mullen
Cross-country coach Harry Groves checks the time on one of his runners in a recent meet. If Groves looks worried it's because his runners will need their best times to beat defending champ Michigan in the Central Collegiate at Kent State this weekend.

Seek 7th straight win Ruggers face Allentown

Penn State's rugby team will be tested tomorrow on the road as it goes after win number seven against a tough, organized side from Allentown.

Fly half Terry Ryland expects Allentown to be a tough opponent since it has a well-established organization. He said he also remembers the size of the forwards from last spring when the Lions beat the Allentown Ruggers 20-10.

Ryland heard that Allentown lost several of its players to Bethlehem, but he said it shouldn't weaken them too much due to the depth of the club.

A good way to compare

teams is by common opponents, and both Allentown and Penn State have played the Light Horse Cavalry this year.

Allentown just got by Light Horse, 6-6, while Penn State clobbered the ruggers in the rain, 39-4.

However, that game was probably Penn State's best of the year, Ryland said, and the Allentown game should be closer than the point spread over Light Horse may indicate.

The Lion ruggers are looking ahead already to the season finale against Bethlehem, which will be played at University Park on Nov. 13.

Bethlehem should be extra

strong with the addition of the ex-Allentown players.

Fullback Chris Mather said, "We expect to beat everybody, but we have our biggest reservations against Bethlehem."

If Bethlehem gets by its next two opponents, and Penn State beats Allentown this week and Pittsburgh next week, the two teams would be going into the last game of the year undefeated.

The "A" and "B" sides will be making tomorrow's trip to Allentown. Next Saturday the "A" teamers will travel to Pittsburgh while the "B" and "C" teams will remain at home to take on Delaware.

—George Weigel

Kick-blocking becoming art in National Football League

By the AP

The kicking this year in the National Football League seems to be lower... and that might be the explanation as well as the problem.

There has been a plethora of blocked or missed placekicks, both extra points and field goals, thus far this season. The reason seems to be twofold—increasing proficiency on the part of the blockers and decreasing proficiency by the so-called "sidewinders," the soccer-style kickers.

The increase in blocks, Denver Coach John Ralston believes, is due "almost entirely to teams spending more time on that part of the game."

And the Broncos' kicker, Jim Turner, who approaches the ball in the more traditional head-on style rather than from the soccer-kicking angle, says, "Absolutely the trend is to the conventional football kicker as we have known him in the past."

The problem with the soccer-style kicker, says Turner, is a lack of trajectory. The ball just doesn't get that high that fast as when a straight-ahead kicker kicks it.

His view is confirmed by someone who views the ball from the opposite side, namely Pittsburgh defensive end L.C. Greenwood,

one of the more proficient kick-blockers around.

"If you want to say one type of kicker is easier to block, it would be the soccer-style kicker because of the way he kicks," says the 6-foot-6½ Greenwood. "The conventional-style kicker gets the ball up much higher much quicker."

But Pittsburgh's expert in that department, sidewinding place kicker Roy Gerela, disagrees. "I believe we get our ball up in the air just as quickly as anybody else," he insists.

"I don't think there is any reason to change or get excited about it because, if they block your kick, it's not your fault." Then whose fault is it?

"The line," Gerela says of the men who block in front of him. "They just have to cut down the penetration, that's all."

That penetration, Steelers special teams coach Paul Uram says, is the result of hard work. "People are spending more time on it," he notes, "finding out maybe this is a weakness. There is nothing new to blocking kicks and punts. Other than just spending time on it. This is what I think people are finding out."

Air-hockey club looking for participants

By NEIL RUDEL
Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State Air Hockey Club wants you. Nothing to sign, no gimmicks. No proof of age or initiations. Just more people to strengthen the organization and make its tournaments a bit more competitive.

Through three tournaments, there has been a meesley total of 16 people. People—normal, everyday people.

"Most people that I've seen playing just for fun are as good or better than many that compete in the air hockey club," says club founder Mike Dickstein.

"There are a few dominating

people but most of the players are equal," he said.

Keith Sapanski has been one of those dominating figures thus far. The defending champion from State College has won all three tournaments and sits atop the standings.

In Simmons Hall Wednesday night, Sapanski breezed to the finals by taking his first three matches in straight sets. He met Dickstein in the spotlight and after dropping the first two games, he charged back to sweep the final three games to keep his title.

"Keith has a way of coming back," Dickstein admitted. "A lot of people

are improving; competition is getting tougher."

The top eight players stack up this way through three matches:

Keith Sapanski	750
Mike Dickstein	635
Steve Schmidt	575
Renice Jones	480
Ken Fohringer	465
Jim Groshans	445
Vince Schappell	310
Bill Rishel	310

After the ten scheduled events, a final tournament will be held. Dickstein said cash prizes and competition will be intensified. In

addition, the three top finalists will represent Penn State in the air hockey regionals at the University of Maryland on Jan. 27-29.

If the club can attract more than 32 people by the season's end, then 16 will vie for the finals honors. If less than 32 come out, the top eight will battle it out.

The next tournament is Monday night at 6:30 in North Halls' Warnock Hall. All ordinary people are welcome to come out and bolster the staggering Penn State Air Hockey Club.

As Dickstein said, "I've never seen anyone who didn't improve rapidly, come out and see for yourself."

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hello! I'm an anonymous phone call to say that readers from Williamsport, PA. should...
take a special interest in a certain ad in Monday's Collegian!
uncle eli's

Are you concerned about the outdoor environment — being able to hike, fish, hunt, canoe, backpack — and come away, glad you went? Well, we are. Who are we? Two environmentalist organizations — your campus ECO-ACTION and another group you probably haven't heard of called the NORTH-CENTRAL HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATION, which is concerned about that part of Pennsylvania to the North of us. So why are we paying for this ad? Because we have taken the time and trouble to interview our two Congressional candidates, and we want you to know the results.

On the one hand you have Albert Johnson, the "Dirty Dozen" man, whose answer to any environmental question seems to hinge on claiming credit for various Federal grants for sewage treatment plants. Does he deserve the credit? You don't know and we don't know. We do know that thinking about overall policy on the environment is not his bag; he'll support whatever his national party leader tells him, and that leadership has been disappointing.

OK, what has Joseph Ammerman done for you? He produced Pennsylvania's strip mine law, the best in the country, and it would have been the basis for Federal control also, if Ford had not vetoed it: Do you want more information? Call 863-0038.

Anyway, do something significant on November 2. Get yourself to the polls and vote for Joseph Ammerman.

This ad paid for by ECO-ACTION and NORTH-CENTRAL HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATION.