

Should honest Joe get involved in the underhanded dealings?

Joe likes to go down to the local club to play poker on Saturday afternoons. They play for high stakes in this game, and there is a lot of underhanded fooling around.

Joe plays it straight. Everybody in the game knows Joe doesn't cheat. "Good old Joe," they say, "honest as the day is long. I wish I could be like him."

They notice that Joe wins more hands than anyone. This they attribute to clean living.

But they notice something else: Joe never has walked away with the kitty at the end of the game. This makes them think.



Eric Yoder

In a game where the stakes are so high, they think, you have to have high principles not to cheat. Joe Paterno has those principles. He has a dream to make Penn State No. 1 academically and athletically. He is succeeding in the first — no one can call Penn State a football factory — but has come up short again in the second.

Everybody and his brother can tell you why Penn State isn't going to be No. 1 this year: the loss to Kentucky, the decision to move the Pitt game back a week. But there is something deeper, something that shows why, when the chips are down, Paterno and Penn State end up with the soggy ones.

This year's Lion football team exceeded almost everyone's expectations. It was not supposed to do as well as it did. It was a helluva team, a great one. But Paterno would never say that.

Arkansas has a helluva team, too. At bowl bid time, it had the same

record as Penn State, its only loss coming to No. 1 Texas. The Orange Bowl had been leaning toward the Lions, however.

But unlike Penn State, Arkansas came out and said they have a great team. They drummed up publicity, even got the state governor to put in a few good words. They played up their geographic advantage: they're closer to Miami than is Penn State, which is equidistant from nowhere. State College is where you end up when you get lost on a full tank of gas.

In Little Rock, people outnumber cows, unlike here. Arkansas promised to bring them along. Penn State could have brought as many along, though. The Lions have produced big crowds for major bowls before. So why are the Lions going to the Fiesta Bowl (that's a football game, remember, not a Mexican salad) instead of the Orange? Why will they get sunbats with cacti instead of beach bunnies?

That's simple, right? Just like an Anthony 1 question: the Lions refuse to play politics. That makes the Lions and Paterno somehow better than all those crooked card-players in the game, right?

Maybe. You see, just like the guys in the card game, one has to stop and think. A textbook definition of politics is "who gets what?" Paterno and Penn State have never been the "who" when the "what" was the national championship.

In this racket we call "big-time" college football, few have played it as straight as Paterno and Penn State's Athletic Department. But they're not racing their ultimate goal under this system. Surely they see this.

Should they keep playing it straight, hoping that some year they won't be left holding the bag at the end of the season, hoping that justice will eventually prevail? Should they continue to try to reach the top this way?

Or should they change? Has the situation reached the point where things will have to be done differently

from now on? There are signs this is happening: ever-increasing ticket prices, expansion of Beaver Stadium, bowing down to ABC's megabucks in the Pitt affair.

And who could blame them? After all, if it weren't for the football program's profit, the varsity and intramural programs here would be dead.

It's easy to say, "change the system." Paterno has been a voice for change. He should be. He's the one the system is shafting. But change is slow, and may very well never come at all. What to do in the meantime, or the long run?

What it all boils down to is this: at some point the desire to reach the very top and the benefits — including monetary — with it will catch up with the desire to keep up high principles. Most of the big-time football teams have reached the point. It is now the rule, rather than the exception.

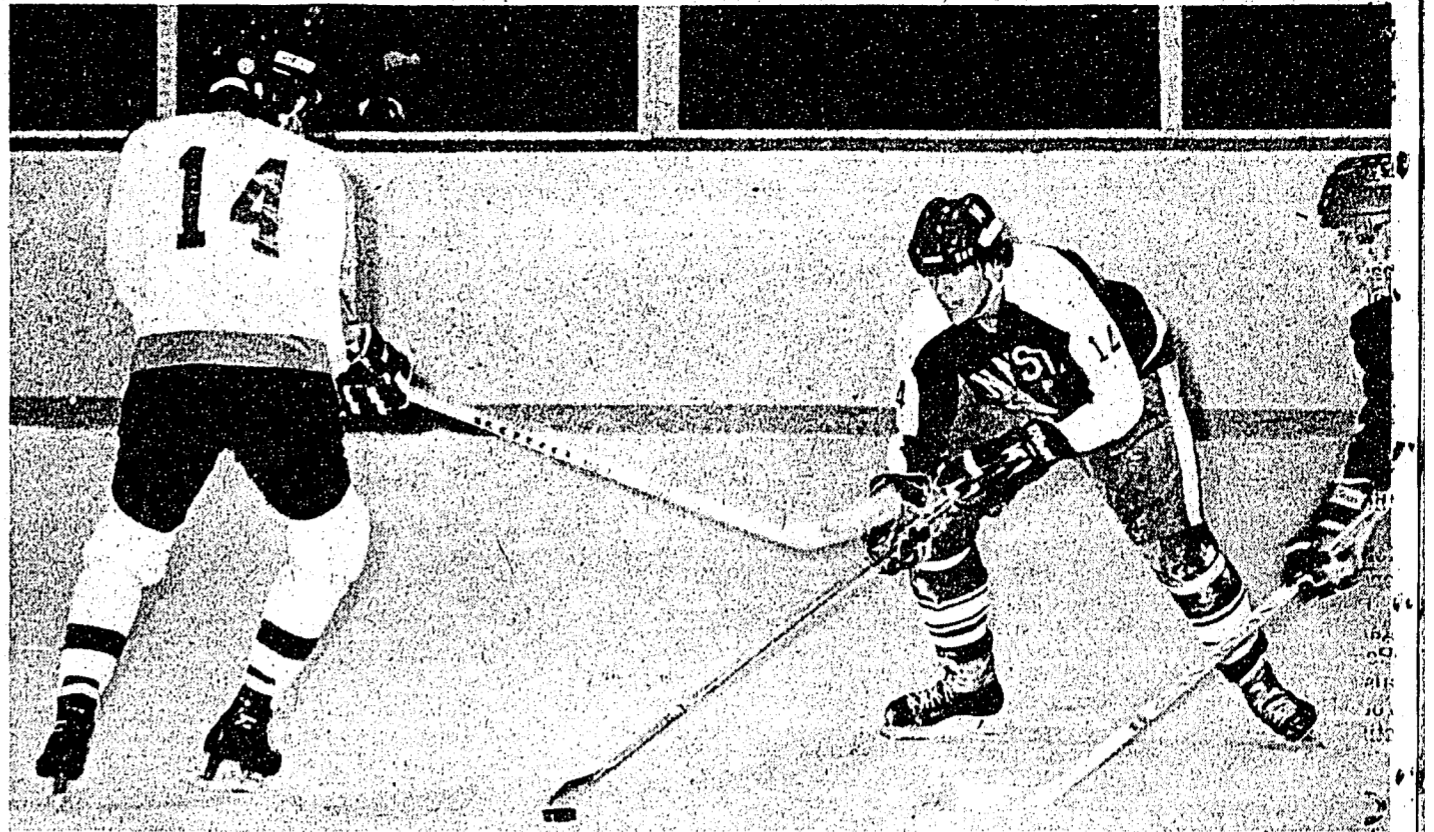
Is Penn State foolish for not adapting to the system? Or can it continue to be an exception, continue to play it straight? Is the hope to reach the top this way a blind one? Is winning regular-season and bowl games (but not the championship), enough?

These questions do not come up every day, and it is easy to go along with the status quo and ignore them. But they are important questions for Penn State. Somebody is going to have to start answering them.

Maybe the decision already has been made, and frustrations like this season are the result. Maybe Penn State eventually will succeed under this system. Or maybe the desire to be a bride, rather than a bridesmaid, will drive Penn State to marry the same kind of bums other big-time teams do. And let's not forget the monetary issue.

And if change comes, will it be good in the reaching of an ultimate goal or bad in compromising oneself to reach that goal?

I don't have the answers. I only have the questions.



Penn State's Tom Horgas (14, dark jersey) completes a line that ice hockey coach Clayton John says may be the best in the league. Horgas and his mates will be on the

road this weekend, meeting Rutgers, the Philadelphia Junior Flyers, and Lehigh.

Three road games this weekend

Icers meet tough slate, costs

By RON WENIG
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State Hockey Club is a team in search of an identity.

Team president Bill Tracy says the team is two years away from varsity recognition. That's when a new hockey rink is scheduled to be constructed.

Coach Clayton John thinks the team can probably compete in Division III company, but as of now they must settle for playing one of the toughest schedules a club hockey team could ask for.

The Penn State Hockey club cannot rely on recruiting top notch players because they simply have nothing to offer them. In fact, the players must pay to play for the team, and it's no small sum. Sixty-five dollars is the basic fee and that does not include equipment or traveling expenses.

What the Penn State Hockey Club does have is about as talented a group of players to compose a club team that you will find anywhere.

The team will attempt to win the title in the Mid Atlantic Hockey Conference. They have already played four games and are off to a fine start with a 3-1 mark. The high point of their young season thus far has to be the team's 8-4 victory over New Hampshire College, the first varsity opponent in their history.

The following is a look at what to expect for the rest of the season:

The Defense:
"We have a mix of old and new faces on defense," John said. "It takes awhile for them to learn to play together, but last weekend they played well."

Scott Wohlford and Jim Rock are two of the new faces on defense for Penn State. But, captain Jim Lynch remains the main man on the back line. Lynch is not extremely offensive minded, however, John says he is a good puck handler and one of the best at skating it out of the defensive zone.

The Forwards:
Coach John thinks his top line has the potential to be the best line in the league. The line he was referring to is that of Dennis Herr, Eric Putsch, and Tom Horgas. That line had their hands in 7 out of the 13 goals Penn State scored during their three-game weekend.

"On our line anyone can score," Horgas said. "But, I'm not that worried about scoring goals this year. I'd rather work on the team aspects of the game such as penalty killing."

Jamie Hetteima, Jim Granda and Fred Berns are three newcomers who may add to Penn State's potent scoring punch.

"It's not that they have such pure skill," said John in regards to his talented forwards. "It's just that they work extremely well together."

The Goalies:
Two MVP's man the nets for Penn State. Pete Lambert was the league MVP last year while Bill Richardson was MVP in a Flyer Invitational game played at the Spectrum.

It's a tough decision for the coach of which player he should choose to start. "You have to go with whomever you think is the hot goalie," John said. "Sometimes one of them has played well against an upcoming team in the past and I'll go with him."

But, whoever plays, Penn State isn't going to be losing much.

Depth:
Coach John thinks the primary strength in this year's team is the depth.

"The major difference between this year's team and last year's is the bench," Tracy said. "Clayton (John) can go to the bench and get as much as he needs."

Penn State will get a good chance to see how good they really are this weekend when they will play three games against Rutgers, the Junior Flyers, and Lehigh. All the games will be played away.

Lions politicked out of picture

(continued from page 11)

Then again, the parking lots at Adult Book Stores are usually full. I'll never know.

I can't figure how the NCAA expects to determine a champion accurately. With all of these conference tieups and the public caucusing for opponents, how can it even call its rating and bowl system legitimate?

Of the eight major bowl teams, only Texas has a better record than the Lions and two teams — Washington and Ohio State — have worse marks.

One remedy would be to wait until the season is over, which is only a week after the bids are dished out now, to make the offers. The bowls wait for the Big Eight's champ, why can't they wait for the Lambert Trophy winner?

In some defense of Eastern football: Pitt, if it hadn't lost Matt Cavanaugh against Notre Dame — it was the first game of the year with Pitt leading 7-0 — many experts say, would be ranked No. 1.

If that's true, a win over Kentucky would have put the Lions in the No. 2 slot and Saturday's game would have been for the national title.

If is the biggest word in the dictionary, however.

There are factors that hinder the Lions. They have lost the big games lately. Excluding the Pitt Bowl, the Lions have recently lost both biggies to Ohio State (1975-76), one to Oklahoma ('72 Sugar), one to Alabama ('75 Sugar), and one to the Irish (last year's Gator).

But that's history and even though it's hard to forget, each year is supposed to start with a clean slate. Reputations weigh a ton come rating and bowl time.

For example, it's odd how Michigan is understood to be ahead of the Lions — before the Ohio State win. The Wolves lost to Minnesota — certainly not as good as Kentucky, which was ranked seventh by the Associated Press.

The Irish lost to unranked Mississippi but rebounded to smear Southern Cal. But people forget — USC lost three games. They had an off year.

Penn State this year has a more varied attack than ever. People are calling Chuck Fusina perhaps the best quarterback in school history; he has most of the records, anyway. And Paterno says Mickey Shuler is as good as any tight end he's ever had. That says something.

Still the Lions are overlooked. It's difficult to accept. Just call the whole ordeal a slap in the face for Eastern football.

But it's something Penn State will have to swallow and pocket for future reference.

Looking ahead, the Lions might as well set their sights on the big, slow Buckeyes because Paterno will lead his by then hungry troops to Columbus for what will be next year's second game.

A win there should bolster the Lions as one of the teams in line for the national title.

And unless the Lions have an "off" year like this one, and unless they get politicked right out of contention for a major Bowl bid, they will have the chance at what was pulled out from under their noses this year.

It's roads to national championships that are paved with seasons like this one.

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