

Bill Easton Takes Only Short While

... As Drake Director

BY E. H. RUBY.

Director of the Drake Relays.

It has taken only two brief years to affix the desired adjective "en-able" to the work of M. E. "Bill" Easton as Drake relays director and Drake track coach.

Look first of all at the 1941 relays, the first under the supervision of Easton. Innovations rose constantly thru the groundwork of the relays.

For instance, Karl Greenlee of Iowa State was appointed as permanent, non-coach starter. High school competition was limited to Iowa schools and all Iowa colleges were allowed to participate in the Iowa division—before limited to members of the Iowa Intercollegiate conference.

In a sort of physical tribute to Easton's able management, eight records were broken and two others tied in the two days' competition. Texans set a world mark of 3:23.2 in the sprint medley relay.

Five of the new standards came in the university section, two in the Iowa open division and one in the College II section. The records that were equaled were in the College II class.

Easton has planned a special freshman mile relay for Iowa colleges and universities for 1942, plus a special, invitational 440-yard event. This will replace the 440-yard hurdles.

As a successor to Franklin (Pitch) Johnson, Easton came from Hammond, Ind., where he built state championship high school squads in 1938 and 1939 and a second place outfit in 1940. He has also coached basketball.

Purdue Relays Replace Butler Annual Affair

LAFAYETTE, Ind., March 27—

The Purdue Relays, to be in the Boilermaker Fieldhouse this Saturday, are designed to replace the traditional Butler Relays which were cancelled when the Bulldogs gave up their fieldhouse to the Navy.

Hoosier thrillers who will compete against the more experienced veterans of Michigan, Notre Dame, and Illinois include the two-mile relay team of Harry Price, Larry Falwell, Clark McClure, and Don Queller.

The University Medley Relay event will be run according to the edley distances: quarter-mile, Bob Nichols; half-mile, Queller; three-quarters, Tom Judge; and the mile, Charlie Labotka. In 1937 the Indiana cinder men set a world's record for this event, with a time of 10:00.4 which has since been broken.

Four Mile Relay.

In the University Four-Mile Relay Indiana will run weak, according to Coach E. C. (Billy) Hayes. A squad of freshmen and sophomore recruits, made up of: Charlie Kelsey, Paul Wibel, John Wade, and Greg McKeon, are to compete against strong odds.

"The speed-up program has caused many of our veteran track men to graduate early," said Coach Hayes. "Other schools, such as Michigan, Notre Dame, and Illinois who have kept their old schedules, still have many of their experienced men left. Makes it pretty tough on our youngsters," he added.

Purdue Opens Baseball Term

... Large Turnout

LAFAYETTE, Ind., March 25.—Coaches Doan and Sanders, who are acting as head baseball coaches until "Dutch" Fehring is relieved of his spring football coaching duties, issued a callout for infield and outfield players yesterday afternoon and the results were more than favorable.

The squad's pitchers and catchers have been working out for the past two weeks and with the appearance of the new group, the squad now totals around 40 men. Graduation and the selective

Sooners May Garner One Blue Ribbon

NORMAN, Okl., March 27.—Oklahoma's lone first place at the 1943 Texas Relays April 3 at Austin, Tex., may be scored by John Jacobs, her veteran track coach and honorary referee of the event.

If that special 20-yards hurdle race between the 49 year old Jacobs and Clyde Littlefield, Texas track coach, director of the Austin carnival and Jacobs' hurdling rival of 30 years ago, is on the level, it will be up to Jacobs to repeat this triumph scored back in 1913 over Littlefield because his 1943 Oklahoma track team is probably too inexperienced to win any blue ribbons.

Composed almost entirely of freshmen and sophomores in the university's various military reserves, the 1943 Sooner thin clads are as green as a bowl of new peas. Minus their freshmen, they scored only five points in the recent Big Six Indoor meet at Kansas City.

Gone from last year's potent Oklahoma relay squad are such lads as Bill Lyda, national collegiate 880 yard champion who motored thru a 1:49.7 half mile to power the Sooners to a new world record in the sprint medley at the Drake Relays; Dick Smethers, Texas Relays 3,000 meters champ who also ran the mile anchor on the championship Sooner distance medley team; John Sharp, Hoyt Burns, Warren Lehman, Bob Hodges and portly little Orville Mathews, Texas and Kansas Relays 100-yard champ.

Ed Weir Back History Told

By Ames Press

Ames, Ia., March 27.—Next big sporting event in Iowa is the Drake Relays and midwest tracksters are eagerly awaiting approach of that nationally-important cinder event.

Ed Weir, University of Nebraska track coach, has been named referee of the 1943 Drake Relays. The Relays will be held in Des Moines at the Drake Stadium, April 23 and 24.

In the past, Weir has brought some of the Relays' most colorful performers to Des Moines. In 1939, two Cornhuskers copped first places. Bob Simmons won the 440-yard hurdles in :53.5, just .3 over the Relays record. Edsel Wibbels was the other Nebraska winner when he tossed the discus 158 feet.

Weir's 1941 team won both the indoor and outdoor titles in the Big Six and was the victor in dual meets with Kansas State, Oklahoma and Oklahoma Aggies, the Missouri Valley titleholders. The galaxy of stars that he brought to the Relays included Gene Littler, William Smutz, Robert Kahler, Herbert Grote, Harold Hunt and Wibbels. The bewhiskered Grote won the javelin throw with a toss of 211 feet and Hunt tied for first in the pole vault event with a 13 foot 8 inch leap.

The Relays referee was an all-American tackle at the University of Nebraska in 1924 and 1925. He played on the Cornhusker team that won the Big Six championship and defeated an Illinois team that was led by Red Grange, 14-0. Drake fans also remember that that same Nebraska team dropped a 14-0 decision to the Bulldogs in a howling blizzard.

He joined the Nebraska staff in 1929 as an assistant and took over the head track coaching duties in 1936.

Weir is the second Cornhusker coach to serve as the Drake Relays official. Henry Schulte, his predecessor at Lincoln, was the supervisor of the 1928 event.

service, Army, Navy, etc., has taken its toll this season, but Coach Doan believes that the squad will do fairly well this season. The Boilermaker team is made up of a burly group of men and heavy hitters should be at a maximum in the lineup.

As soon as the Indiana weather beams out in its new spring attire, the diamond squad will move out to its field behind the Fieldhouse, to get in some valuable practice sessions. Until then, the lads will continue to toss the sphere around in the Fieldhouse amidst the confusion of track men, wall scalers, and others.

Horse Sense

By Norris Anderson
(Sports Editor)



On "Grid Nuts" ...

This column is going to be a hit-and-run job, negotiated on the eve of our departure for Kansas City and the N. C. A. A. playoffs. Answer from the athletic board has yet to be released for press use on the pending Missouri-Husker spring grid question, so we'll retaliate here with our explanation for the drive.

We belong to that curious knot of harmless saps called "grid nuts." You see them for three months only—September, October and November. They crawl back in their cocoon at event of the seasonal finale, lend a weather ear to spring football proceedings and otherwise hibernate until fall.

A grid nut in some instances in an out-and-out lunatic. Often he's a hen-pecked husband who vents his spleen on rivals and umpires. Sometimes he is a hero worshiper. He can be blanketed from sight by a crowd of 60 thousand, but his identity is never lost. We quote one grid nut:

"I began booing football players about 1925, but I think I probably reached my peak in Omaha during 1930 when I booed an opponent of Tech when they carried him off the field with a broken leg." He is what is known as a "major grid nut." We belong to the "minor" sect of the species.

Since grade school days, we've chucked aside textbooks to follow the Cornhuskers—hook, line and sinker. LaNou, Sauer, Cardwell, Dodd, Masterson, all those Scarlet heroes were our pride and joy. We grew up therefore with a damned-near-sacred regard for University of Nebraska football.

We noted with chagrin that spring grid turnouts needed a shot in the arm. Thought of a spring match with Missouri struck us and we sounded out Mentor Pressnell on the issue. We jointly reached two conclusions: 1. That we had nothing to lose and everything to gain. 2. That a campaign for a spring game, whether successful or not, would be bound to bring out more candidates. Our campaign moved swiftly toward the petition stage. A written request by the grid club to the athletic board brought a meeting to decide the enigma.

Time required to stir enthusiasm necessary for an athletic board meeting may have cost all chances for the game. Many of Pressnell's main guns put off reporting until definite word on the spring game was heard. Fact that the contest date looms in two weeks made clear the fact that Pressnell might have to perform the task of readying an unconditioned squad for performance in two short weeks.

An outstate track prospect cockily accused us of using the promotion for "personal glory" and wants us to campaign instead for a track squad trip to California.

"Why not play football in its own season?" was his argument. Of course, he knew full well that none of Nebraska's present grid squad would have any chance for competition next fall or maybe forever. He also certainly realized that Ed Weir's track candidates still have a full spring schedule to enjoy.

Four Vets Spark I-S Track Team

AMES, Ia., March 27.—Four lettermen will form the veteran unit when Coach George Bretnall sands the Iowa State College outdoor track team into action next month.

Dick Bliss, holder of the school shot put record; George Gast, javelin thrower and discus man; Burt Eberlein, jumper, and Jack Gibson, middle distance runner, are the only award winners on hand for the 1943 season.

Bretnall indicated that the squad would probably have its first taste of competition in the annual Iowa State Teachers college Relays which are scheduled for April 17. The Drake Relays and the Big Six meet are other probable scenes of action for the Cyclones. In addition several dual meets will probably be added to the schedule.

The track squad includes the following men:

- Bill Sayre, Ackworth; Max Harry, Adair; Dan Watkins, Albia; Dick Bliss, Jack Gibson, Bob Green, Bob Tague, all of Ames; Michael Deane, Buenos Aires, Arg.; Jay Clitheroe, Cedar Rapids; Herb Mendelson, Chicago, Ill.; Selmer Hodne, Coon Rapids; Don Deere, Corning; Lee Richardson, Council Bluffs; Hugo Brandtlich, Paul Koprucki, both of Davenport; John Ford, Des Moines; John Staley, Frederick, Md.; Roger DeWolf, Gilmore City; Duane Dankel, Glidden; Alvin Weber, Hartford, Wis.; Ray Wehde, Roy Wehde, both of Holstein; Ellis

Indiana Team Matches Reds

... Spring Drills

Bloomington, Ind., March 27—One sign that spring has peeped around the corner is the turning of the Crimson diamond squad to Jordan Field. Yesterday the team was busy in the first practice game of the season, trying hard to compete with the Cincinnati Reds.

Spectators thronged along the sidewalk at the edge of Jordan Field, and leisurely watched the teamwork of the Crimson baseballers. Practice is becoming more settled and intense now as the opening game of the season, with DePauw on April 1, is just a little more than a week away.

The Hoosier team was issued its new uniforms yesterday, so that the practice game took on the aspect of a regular game. Stray spectators were heard to ask "Who are we playing?"

I-State Ball

Season Opens

... April 9-10

AMES, Iowa, March 27.—Iowa State will open its baseball season April 9 and 10 with a 2-game series against either the Simpson Redskins or the University of Minnesota, Coach Chick Sutherland announced yesterday. A 14-game schedule has been lined up for the Cyclones but the dates are still in the tentative stage.

Only one big Six school will meet Iowa State on the diamond this spring. The Cyclones will travel to Columbia for a 2-game series with the Missouri Tigers. Nebraska, Kansas and Kansas State are not supporting teams this year while transportation difficulties make competition with the traditionally strong Oklahoma Sooners an impossibility.

Big Ten Team.

The remainder of the card is filled by a Big Ten team, three Iowa schools and a service team. Minnesota's Golden Gophers of the Western Conference and Iowa State will meet four times, twice at Minneapolis and twice on the local diamond.

Gridsters In Offence Drill

Husker spring footballers drilled on passing and running formations with brief contact work Saturday in an outdoor drill.

Maestro Glen Pressnell whipped up two backfield combines from among his Scarlet tutorleges. One outfit had Reichel, Metheny, and Long doing the ball toting with McKee, Hazen and Thompson forming the pigskin carrying corps of the other.

Lacking enough men for two full squads to carry out his planned scrimmage, Pressnell concentrated on offensive formations. Schleich and Debus Toss.

Over on the UN cinder oval weightmen Schleich and Debus were geared to action under the watchful eye of Ed Weir.

Debus unleashed the discus—in several fine efforts and propelled the iron ball out around the 47 foot mark.

Schleich unloosed his wing with the shot flying to the 49 foot mark and beyond.

The two Huskers are prepping for the first UN meet, the Drake relays on tab for April 23 and 24.

Butcher, Joplin, Mo.; Russell Helms, Madrid, ...
Bob Lary, Marion; Burton Eberlein, Mankato, Minn.; Dick Watson, Marshalltown; Gerald Secor, Milbourne; Joe Matthews, Mount Pleasant, Ill.; Harold Matejka, Omaha, Neb.; George Gast, Osage and Ken Tharp.

Of thirty-one Reds on the spring roster, twenty-eight are classified 3A, two are 4F, and one is 1A. ... Al Lakeman, a reserve catcher, is the lone native of Cincinnati now with the Crosley Crew. ... All thirty-one of the Reds are married and only seven have no children. ...

Of the last 23 all-America quintets Purdue has placed a man on 13 of them.

THE HAND IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE

And Blackledge the Magician Proves It

IN HIS BAFFLING AMAZING SHOW

8:00 p. m., Tonite, March 28

Union Ballroom Ident. Cards Please