

More than 90% of the male members of the college were in the services. Girls held most of the offices. Girl cheerleaders were introduced.

Football — Two V-12 teams played each other on Homecoming Day

Navy teams in soccer, basketball, track and baseball

Navy coaches for wrestling and swimming

1944-45 — Navy Ways: Reveille 6:00 A.M. "Hit the deck"

Taps 10:00 P.M.

"Liberty" and "restrictions"

Commando obstacle course in the Grove

Cleaning up for inspection

Navy Hall headquarters with bell outside and flags flying across the road

Drills on the athletic field

"Trainee" and other dog mascots

College handbook published Navy time schedule

Navy cheerleaders

Obiter financed in part by profits from college canteen run by girls

1945-46 — A few returning veterans, more the second semester

Football and soccer, mostly Navy men

V-12 unit left November 1 (about 500 trained here)

Social Room and College Lounge opened

1946-47 — Many veterans here — Dames Club for Wives

Penn State (Liberal Arts) freshmen, 72 women and men

Extra-curriculars begin to function again

Men's Glee Club, Wings Club, College Dance Band

BSTC joined National Student Association

1947-48 — BSTC awarded a Navy commendation bronze plaque signed by Secretary Forrestal for our three Navy training programs

The first veterans graduated under the accelerated program

1948-49 — OLYMPIAN (college magazine) founded

Penn State (Liberal Arts) freshmen again

1949-50 — The last Penn State group here

Most of the pre-war student activities now revived

ATHLETICS

E. H. NELSON AND JOHN A. HOCH

In the first Alumni Quarterly, printed over fifty years ago, appears this item of interest:

"The latest addition to the faculty is Professor A. K. Aldinger, of Oil City, Penna., who is director of the new gymnasium. The trustees searched the country very carefully, desirous of securing for this position the best possible available man. They believe that in Professor Aldinger they have the right man, and his popularity among the students, his enthusiasm in his work, and his excellent results, seem to bear out this opinion."

The coming of Mr. Aldinger to Bloomsburg 56 years ago ushered in a program of organized athletic endeavor that has continued through the years. He organized athletics on a permanent basis and made the activities program a part of the over-all picture in teacher training. Many years after he left Bloomsburg, Mr. Aldinger told friends here that his deepest satisfaction in his work at "Old Normal" was not so much the victories of the teams he coached, but the part that athletics played in the training of good teachers.

Bloomsburg had a basketball team as early as 1894. Oddly enough it was composed of nine men — three home, three centers, and three goals. It was a far cry from the present-day lineup! It is interesting to note that one game was played in Williamsport where only five men could participate on a side because of the smallness of the floor.

ONE OF THE FIRST COLLEGE GRID TEAMS



First row, left to right — Burns, Keefer, Butts, Welsh (mascot), Pealer, Johnson. Second row — Hoke, McGuffie, Aldinger, Smethers (captain), Fox, Morgan, Derr. Third row — Snyder, Laubach, Detwiler (manager), Jones, Bray, Aldinger (coach), Wildoner.

In those early years, few schools had athletic teams, and the Normal School was forced to compete with teams representing Y.M.C.A.'s and various industries and factories. This was true in almost every branch of competitive athletics, but some efforts were made to schedule games with collegiate rivals. The success of this scheduling can be noted in the schedules of the '90's when names like Bucknell, Lafayette, University of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg, and Susquehanna appear frequently.

The football schedule for 1901, for example, had an even dozen games — three with neighboring high schools, four with area athletic clubs, two with "town" teams, and the remaining three with Susquehanna University, Wyoming Seminary, and Dickinson Seminary. It was the rivalry with Wyoming Seminary over a period of forty years that featured athletics on College Hill.

Some of these early teams were rated among the strongest in the state, and there were many outstanding players. One early squad featured a player with a wooden leg who was later featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" column.

During these pioneer days, the problem of integrating the athletic program with the school curriculum presented its difficulties. Gradually, however, the school's athletic teams began to assume a place in the "order of the day" that was as important as any in turning out worthy graduates.

By 1915 there were intercollegiate teams in football, basketball, and baseball. A track team participated in several meets in 1925-26, and a cross country team was organized in 1930-1931.

Tennis began as an intercollegiate sport in 1927-1929 coached by the Dean of Men, John C. Koch. The team made a good record until the war forced its discontinuance.

There were wrestling teams from 1930 to 1937 coached by off-campus men.

Soccer began at B. S. T. C. in the fall of 1937 through the efforts of Fred Houck, who acted as player, captain, and coach. The team played high school teams for practice, lost the first intercollegiate game to Susquehanna University, but defeated them in the first game played on the home field. In 1938-39 Coach Peter Wisher took charge. The team scored 16 points to 3 scored against it by the 6 opposing teams of the season. Winning teams represented B. S. T. C. in the succeeding years. In 1942-43 the war made football impossible and soccer was the fall sport. It was even the main attraction at the Homecoming.

Outstanding intercollegiate baseball teams were coached in the period from 1934 to 1941 by Dr. E. H. Nelson, now president of the Alumni Association. His undefeated team of 1935 banged out an even dozen victories without loss, a record not duplicated until 1949 when another Husky squad posted a perfect slate. One of

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the players on that club was Danny Litwhiler, National league player on Phillies, Cardinals, Braves, and Reds, now coach of the Cincinnati Reds, and one of the college's distinguished alumni.

Under the direction of George C. Buchheit, state championship track teams were produced in 1937, 1938, 1939, and 1940, and a number of state meet records were established that have not yet been seriously challenged. In fact, Bloomsburg athletes still hold five state records — more than are held by any one school in the Teachers College Conference.

Coach Buchheit also tutored outstanding basketball teams during his tenure, the cage squads of the late '30's being considered among the top Teachers College clubs in the state.

As during World War I, competition in intercollegiate athletics slowed down during World War II. Limited schedules were played by teams manned largely by Navy V-5 and V-12 personnel. Football, soccer, basketball, track, and baseball were carried on. The 1944 baseball team made up of Navy Pre-Flight men included star athletes in various sports from nine universities. Navy coaches developed wrestling and swimming teams.

The end of World War II brought with it a full-scale resumption of intercollegiate athletic activities curtailed or terminated by the pressure of war-time programs on the campus. The reactivation of the intercollegiate sports program began in the fall of 1946 with the appointment of the late Alden J. Danks, one of Pennsylvania's most successful high school coaches, as head football coach. Under his direction a sound beginning was made, and a number of outstanding athletes were encouraged to continue their education at Bloomsburg. His sudden death, however, just one week before the opening football game cast a pall of gloom over the athletic picture.

John A. Hoch, Dank's assistant coach, took over the coaching reins and with the help of William E. Landis, Dean of Men, led the Huskies to a record of four wins, three losses, and one tie in an eight-game schedule. The season slate was the best since 1935 and is considered rather remarkable in that the four victories were registered after three successive losses. Outstanding conquest was a 7 to 6 win over a highly-touted East Stroudsburg club in the season finals.

While the Husky gridders were reviving football, Coach Pete Wisner's soccer team played a four-game schedule. Although the Husky booters failed to dent the win column, a firm foundation was laid for the 1947 season when they wrote an enviable record into the books — five victories, two ties, and only one loss.

Varsity basketball also made its postwar appearance under the direction of Coach Wisner, and the 1946-47 record shows seven victories and ten losses. A pair of victories over always-tough Shippensburg and single verdicts over Millersville and Kutztown highlighted a rough 17-game card. Coach Wisner also tutored the 1947 track team which turned in a surprise win over Lock Haven in a three-meet schedule. The Huskies placed fourth in the annual state meet. New records were written into the books by Pat Rooney, Philadelphia hurdler, who ran the 100-yard high hurdles in 15.1 seconds, and George Thomas, Forty Fort sprinter, who cleared 11 feet in the pole vault.

The 1947 baseball team was tutored by Thomas E. Lewis, a student coach, and the Husky diamond crew won three, lost five, and tied one in a topsy-turvy season. The overall record for intercollegiate athletics in the first postwar year shows 15 victories, 24 losses, and two ties.

With this program launched, the college community was pleased to learn of the appointment of Robert B. Redman, an outstanding coach of successful schoolboy teams at Sayre, Penna., and North High School, Binghamton, N. Y., as head football coach. Mr. Redman's appointment was announced by President Andruss during the 1947 summer session. Dr. Andruss also announced that Mr. Redman would coach the varsity baseball team.



First row, left to right — Aldinger (coach), Oplinger, Ronemus, Sutliff (manager), Byron, Lewis, Killmer. Second row — Reighard, Gernert, Hayes (captain), Newton, Williams.

Under Redman's direction, football at Bloomsburg has had an amazing revival. In fact, the Huskies have enjoyed almost phenomenal success on the striped turf. His 1947 club started slowly, but by the end of the campaign had turned in an enviable record of six wins and two losses. Despite these two setbacks, the Redman crew rated second place in the Teachers College Conference.

It remained for the 1948 gridders to compile the best record in the history of the college — a perfect season. The Huskies steam-rollered nine straight rivals and was the only undefeated and untied college football team in Pennsylvania. Several individual Huskies were honored by being named to the All-Pennsylvania team, and at least one player — Tom Donan — was named on the 1948 Little All-American squad.

The 1949 and 1950 teams also rated among the leaders in Pennsylvania college football and high in the final standings of the Teachers College Conference. Coach Redman's 1949 team lost one game in nine starts, while the 1950 gridders banged out seven wins in eight tries. Until they ran afoul of West Chester late in the 1950 season, the Huskies had won nineteen straight victories against Teachers College rivals.

Baseball, too, under Coach Redman has fared well, and his 1949 Huskies equalled the mark set by the 1935 team in romping to twelve wins in a thrill-packed season. Twin triumphs over high-powered Second Army featured the campaign that launched a nineteen-game winning streak that was finally broken during the 1950 season by Shippensburg.

Basketball has had a slow revival, but increasingly tough schedules have made it difficult for Husky cagers to do little better than break even. Under Coach Pete Wisner, the 1948-49 cagers broke even in 16 games for the best record in the post-war era, although last year's Maroon and Gold dribblers posted a slate of 12 victories and only seven defeats. The 1949-50 team was directed by Coach Harold Shelly, formerly coach and athletic director at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio. Mr. Shelly replaced Mr. Wisner at the conclusion of the 1948-49 season.

Track fortunes, however, have declined, but the scarcity of material and the comparative inexperience of the squads have been contributing factors. A building up of strength is now taking place, and the results of the new program should be evident in years to come.

What the future holds for intercollegiate athletics at Bloomsburg is a moot question. Greater stress will likely be laid on individual sports, such as tennis, swimming, and golf, and intercollegiate schedules will probably be set up to provide Bloomsburg men with an opportunity to play sports with a carry-over value. Regardless of what sports are played and what success the over-all program has, one thing is certain: Husky opponents will always know they have been in a real scrap.