

Bearbusters may still rule Eastern football

By **HERSCHEL NISSENSON**
NEW YORK — Is this the year someone dethrones Penn State as the king of Eastern college football? The Nittany Lions have ruled the East, it seems, since Joe Paterno was playing stickball on the streets

of Brooklyn. But at least six challengers are ready, willing and — perhaps — able to claim the mythical championship. They are Boston College, Pitt, Navy, Temple, West Virginia and Rutgers.

Penn State gets a chance to take care of one of them right off the bat with an opening-game contest against up-and-coming Temple in Philadelphia the night of Sept. 6. That's followed by games against Stanford, Ohio State in — gulp! — Columbus, Iowa and Kentucky before the Lions return to the Eastern wars.

Back in the spring, Paterno, who has a brilliant 85-15-1 record in nine seasons as head coach, called it "the toughest schedule we have had." Now he's not so sure, recalling that "one year people said we had a patsy schedule and five teams on it wound up going to bowls, so who knows?"

What seems certain is that Penn State will have another in its long line of solid teams that haven't known a losing season since 1938. "This is a young squad that probably will have to struggle," Paterno says, "but it is a squad that should get to be pretty good before the season is over."

The interior line, flanker and tailback appear to be the offensive strong points. John Andress, a 6-foot-2 junior who backed up Tom Shuman last fall, appeared to have a slight edge over 6-5½ John Carroll at quarterback after the first week of practice.

"Our problem is inexperience; there is no question about the potential," Paterno says.

Defensively, there is more experience available, led by linebacker Greg Buttle and tackle John Quinn, but Paterno is concerned "about our inexperience and lack of size on the defensive line." Quinn, a tri-captain, scales only 226.

Boston College returns its entire backfield, featuring Mike Kruczek, a 68.8 per cent passer, and fullback Keith Barnette, national scoring

leader in 1974. The defense, led by cornerback Dave Almeida, will be strong while the kicking game — placekicker Fred Steinfort, punter Jim Walton — is one of the best in the country.

Pitt Coach Johnny Majors has switched from the I to the Veer to take advantage of super-quick running backs like Tony Dorsett — an All-American as a freshman in 1973 — and Elliott Walker plus quarterback Robert Haygood. But the Panthers have problems on the offensive line and in the secondary.

Navy, which upset Penn State and led Notre Dame for three quarters last season, hopes to enter the winner's circle for the first time since 1967 if Coach George Welsh can shore up the offense to go with a veteran defense. Eight defensive starters return, topped by rover

Chet Moeller, tackle Dave Papak and linebacker Andy Bushak.

Temple has gone 17-3 in the past two seasons and the defense, led by 260-pound middle guard Joe Klecko, hopes to improve on last year's 12th place finish nationally. The problem is finding a replacement for quarterback Steve Joachim, the nation's total offense leader a year ago.

West Virginia has size and speed in the offensive line and in the backfield with quality runners in Artie Owens, Ron Lee, Heywood Smith and Dwayne Woods. The passing game and the defense are question marks.

The offensive line and the secondary are concerns at Rutgers, which returns its top two rushers — Curt Edwards and Mike Fisher — and quarterback Bert Kosup.

The other independents have

problems of one sort or another, although Holy Cross has a solid defense featuring Lou Kobza, Frank Matasavage and John Trimbach on the forward wall. Wide receiver Dave Quehl caught 62 passes last year, a New England record.

But Syracuse is still sorely lacking in team speed, Army's defense must play over its head while the two-pronged offense shifts between a ground attack led by Scott Gilgoly and the passing arm of Leamon Hall. Villanova looks to new coach Dick Bedesem to improve on last year's 3-8 mark and Colgate must bolster a defense that surrendered 31.8 points a game in '74.

In the well-balanced Ivy League, everyone is given at least an outside shot at the title except Cornell and Columbia.

Yale will rely on a defense led by

linebackers John Smoot, Brent Kirk and John Cahill while the offense catches up. Harvard lost record-breaking receiver Pat McNally but the main concern is at quarterback where no one has ever completed a pass in varsity competition.

Brown has quarterback Bob Bateman, who completed a lot of passes . . . for Vermont. He transferred when the Catamounts dropped football and joins 18 returning starters at Brown. Dartmouth will be strong defensively with the likes of linebackers Reggie Williams and Skip Cummins.

Princeton quarterback Ron Beible and receivers Neil Chamberlin and Kevin Gropp form a potent aerial combination and Bob Casciola has the Tigers on the way back. Graduation left a large offensive hole at Penn despite the return of

running back Jack Wixted, but the Quakers could be solid on defense.

George Seifert, Cornell's new coach, is searching for a passer to go with running back Don Fanelli and some fine receivers. Columbia, which can't get much worse, looks to some promising sophomores for improvement.

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A&M is tops in SWC experience

DALLAS — If you can take any stock in the Southwest Conference experience formula, then the Rice Owls can look forward to their highest finish since 1961 in the not-too-distant 1975 SWC football chase.

But as high a point total as the Owls have amassed, it still takes a back seat to Texas A&M which, for the second consecutive season, leads the pack on the experience form chart.

The formula allows one point for each returning letterman at the nine SWC schools, another point if he's a returning starter and still a third point if he is going into his senior campaign. Points are subtracted, though, for each letterman and each starter lost.

Under the formula, the Aggies top the heap with 59 points on the basis of 41 returning lettermen, 16 returning starters and 21 seniors. Subtract from that the 13 lettermen and six starters who aren't back and the result is the 59 total points.

Rice is a close second with 57 points, followed by Arkansas with 50. Rounding out the list, Baylor has 46, Texas 25, TCU 23, SMU 21, Texas Tech 16 and Houston 6.

Texas A&M has had a history for high scores in the experience formula testing field. Last season, the Ags scored 68 points under the formula, the second highest score ever. In 1971, A&M amassed 75 points to lead the chart.

Borg retains U.S. Pro Tennis title

By **DAVE O'HARA**
BROOKLINE, Mass. — Young Bjorn Borg of Sweden retained the U.S. Pro Tennis Championship with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Guillermo Vilas of Argentina Tuesday night in the windup of the \$100,000 tourney at Longwood.

Borg, 19, broke Vilas in the third game of the match and had no trouble afterward from the 1974 Grand Prix champion.

The victory was a virtual repeat of Borg's triumph over Vilas in the French Open earlier this year, when he defeated the 23-year-old South American 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Vilas, who appeared to have radar with his shots in winning five earlier matches, double-faulted to start the match. In a 10-minute opening game, he saved four break points before holding his service with an ace.

In the third game, Vilas double faulted again and finally was broken at love. His forehand and backhand both failed him at critical times in

the duel of top-spin players on the clay courts.

Borg ended the 46-minute first set by breaking Vilas again with a forehand cross-court placement.

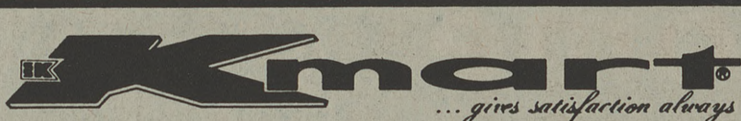
In the second set, Vilas was broken in the second and fourth games but remained alive by breaking Borg in the seventh and ninth games. However, Borg game back to break Vilas in the tenth game for a 2-0 lead.

In the final set, Borg saved two break points in the fifth game and then broke Vilas with a nifty drop shot in the sixth game. The 2 hours-and-15 minutes match ended with Vilas being broken again in the final game.

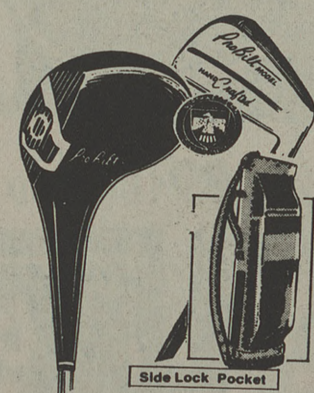
The victory added \$16,000 to Borg's earnings.

Vilas, who had won 25 of 26 matches in a hot streak, had to settle for runner-up money of \$8,000. He is seeded second behind Jimmy Connors in the U.S. Open starting Wednesday. Borg is seeded fifth.

BIG BUYS

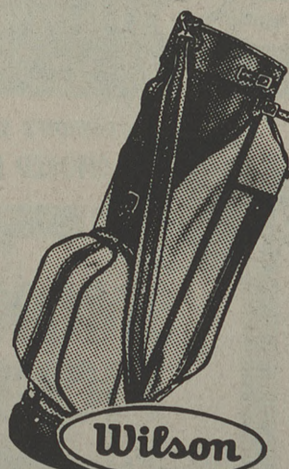


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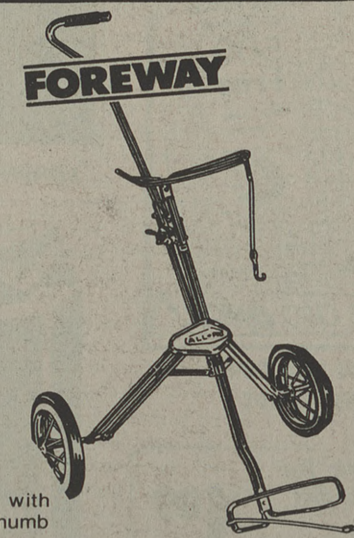


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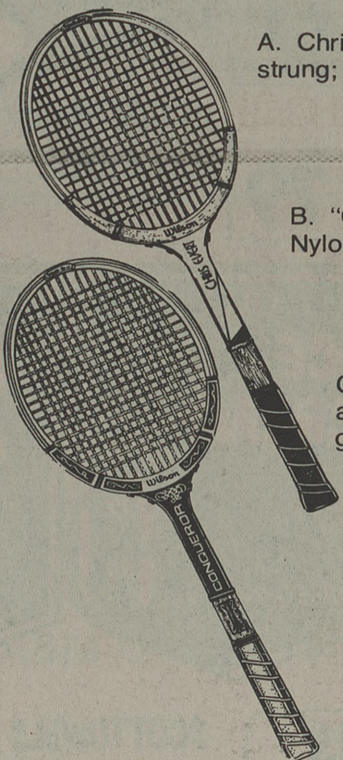
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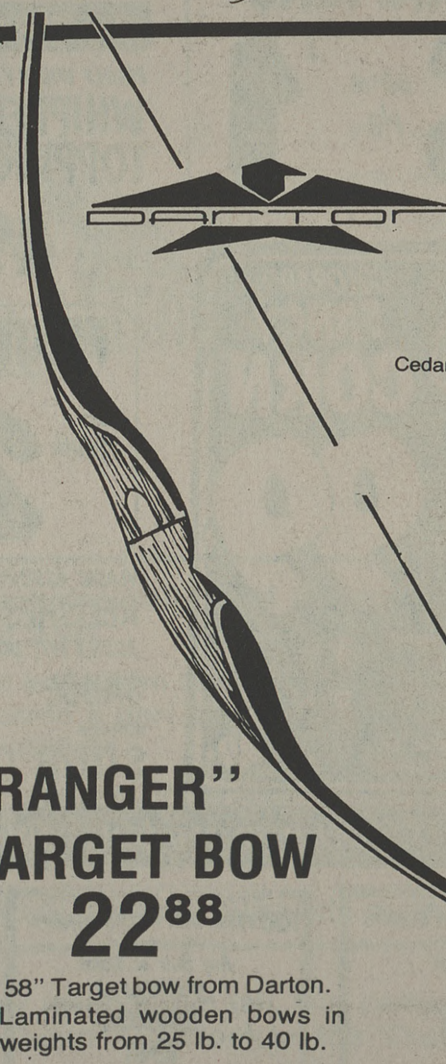
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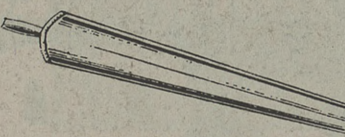
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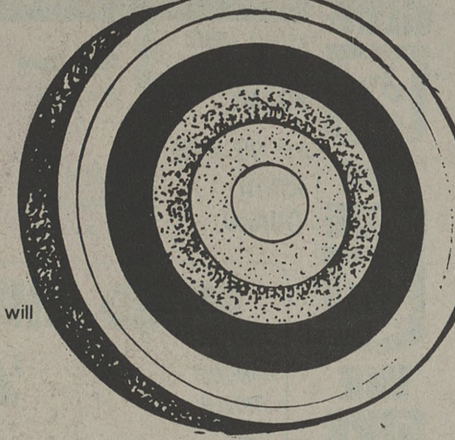
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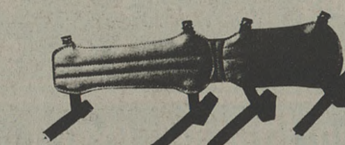
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