



Alston's Death Stuns Campus



Football Star Succumbs After Tonsilectomy Saturday Morning

Stunned by the tragic death of Dave Alston '45, 20-year-old Negro football star and pre-medical student, Penn State's student body prepared today to pay respects to the potential All-American who died as a result of a tonsilectomy in the Centre County Hospital, Bellefonte, late Saturday morning. Funeral services will be conducted in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church at Midland at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow.

Alston's unexpected death followed a tonsil operation which was performed at the Centre County Hospital at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. About an hour after the operation was completed, a blood clot formed which cut off the circulation to his lungs and caused them to collapse.

At 11:45 a. m. he was pronounced dead, the cause of his death

being described as pulmonary embolism and respiratory paralysis.

Formation of a blood clot following a tonsilectomy is described by medical men as being extremely rare in children and youths, but increases slightly with advanced age.

Prexy To Meet Heads Tomorrow

Approximately 125 student leaders representing every campus activity will meet in 121 Sparks at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow to hear President Ralph D. Hetzel discuss problems the administration is facing at the present time.

All student leaders are urged to be present at the meeting by Donald W. Davis Jr. '43, chairman of the planning committee. Persons who should be present are members of All-College Cabinet, representatives of every fraternity, sorority, independent men's and women's unit, WSGA Senate, Tribunal, presidents of hat societies and womens active honoraries, presidents of Penn State Club and Philotes, members of senior and junior boards of The Daily Collegian, and editors of other student publications.

The convocation will be held in the place of an All-College one which Cabinet deemed inadvisable at this time because of the nearness to the end of the semester. The All-College meeting will probably be held at the beginning of next semester.

Because the convocation was originally a student idea, it is thought by members of the planning committee that many prob-

Tagged as one of the nation's "top sophomore football prospects" for the coming season, Alston had appeared in football scrimmage as late as Thursday evening. According to members of the coaching staff, Alston had had no trouble with his tonsils but had been considering having them removed for some time. He was taken to the hospital by End Coach Earl Edwards who was the first to be notified of his death.

When approached yesterday, Coach Robert Higgins was reluctant to speak of what he termed "a tragic death." Higgins stated, "The death of Dave Alston was an unspeakable loss to his parents and to his race. Penn State has been deprived of a student of whom it was very proud."

Son of Reverend and Mrs. Sandy Alston, Dave had been, before his matriculation to Penn State, a football and basketball star at Midland High School. During his high school years, Alston was a brilliant scholar, earned 12 athletic letters, was president of his class during his senior year,

(Continued on Page Three)

Campus News Briefs

STAR SUCCUMBS—Dave Alston, sophomore pre-medical student and potential All-American halfback, met a tragic death Saturday morning as a result of complications from a tonsilectomy performed in the Centre County Hospital, Bellefonte. Alston had taken part in football scrimmages as late as Thursday evening and was in perfect physical condition.

Housing Group To Query Landladies

"Questionnaires concerning available rooms will be mailed to all local rooming houses during the early part of next week," declared representatives of the PSCA and Student Housing Board last night.

"We are waiting until then," stated a PSCA spokesman, "so that our list will be complete. By that time local landladies will know rather definitely how many rooms they will have vacant on September 7."

At the present time the PSCA has listed enough available rooms to take care of those who were evacuated from the dormitories. The new list that will be compiled

Sugar Board Fixes September Deadline

Fraternities, boarding houses, industrial and institutional sugar users should register with the local rationing board for the next two months allotment of sugar before September 1, a release from the Office of Price Administration emphasized today.

Groups which wait until after that date to register will have a ration deduction made for the time lapsed between September 1 and the late registration.

4 Coeds To Participate In Last Speech Hour; Mrs. Nesbitt Will Preside

Between The Lions

With DON DAVIS

Tribute To Dave Alston

Penn State has been touched by a great tragedy. In hushed tones, news of Dave Alston's sudden death Saturday morning spread rapidly over the campus. Everywhere the reaction was the same. "It can't be true; not Dave Alston."

During the short time that Dave has been on the Penn State campus he had made himself known as a friendly, intelligent young American with a fun-loving nature, yet with a serious purpose in life. Enrolled in the pre-med curriculum, he intended to be a doctor, and, as he put it modestly but with confidence, "a good doctor."

On hearing of Dave's death, Football Coach Bob Higgins said: "The passing of Dave Alston was an unspeakable loss to his parents, relatives, and to his race. Penn State has been deprived of a student of whom it was very proud."

Higgins went on to draw a parallel between the promising career Dave might have had and the career of Paul Robeson. Robeson was an All-American football star at Rutgers and then went on to a musical career which has brought great credit to his race. Dave also showed great likelihood of attaining All-American honors and of then going on to become a credit to his race in the field of medicine.

Knowing Dave to be the son of a Baptist minister in Midland, Ross Kauffman, Philadelphia sports writer, queried him one day at last Fall's practice on the subject of religion. Kauffman was more impressed than ever with Dave when he came back with the retort, "I guess it doesn't matter much what our religion is as long as it comes from the heart."

Despite Dave's almost unbelievable ability on the gridiron, his attitude was unassuming and in daily practice he was always one of the hardest workers on the field. Cliff St. Clair, backfield teammate and one of his closest friends, summarized Dave's qualities in these words, "He was one of the cleanest-living boys I have ever known. He would go out of his way to help anyone."

Dave Alston's sincerity and sportsmanship both on and off the gridiron have made their mark and will live on in the heart of Penn State.



DRAFTED — Johnny Potsklan, star end on Bob Higgins' football squad, yesterday became the 17th member of the Nittany Lion grid squad to be drafted into the armed forces. Higgins and staff were relying on "Potsy" to be the mainstay of the line during the forthcoming season.

Johnny Potsklan Drafted; Becomes 20th Lion Star To Enter Armed Forces

Johnny Potsklan, who Football Coach Bob Higgins simply describes as a "great player—an All-American possibility," will do his playing, if any, with the United States Army this Fall.

The Hig received word yesterday that "Potsy" is being inducted today. He becomes the 20th man to be lost to the squad since last season—the 17th to enter the armed forces.

According to End Coach Earl Edwards, "We regarded 'Potsy' as one of the best defensive ends in recent years. I am sure that he would have been at least honorable mention on a couple of All-American squads this year. He ranked right up there with Tom Vargo, 1940 squad star."

Potsklan will be remembered for his great performances in the West Virginia and Syracuse games of last year when his fast, vicious tackles threw opposing backs for constant losses.

Pro Golfers Beat Lions In Exhibition Match, 3-2

Penn State's golfing captains, Dick Stephens and Ducky Swan, were beaten by the professional golfers, Ken Rutherford of the Centre Hills Country Club, and Johnny Musser of the College course, 3 and 2, on the College eighteen Sunday.