

Spring sports scrapped

Have you ever wondered why there are no intercollegiate spring sports here at Capitol Campus? The main reasons for the present state of affairs are student apathy and a lack of facilities, according to Bud Smitley, athletic director. Up until this year, three intercollegiate sports have been offered during spring term at Capitol. They were baseball, golf, and tennis. However, due to a lack of facilities for baseball and a lack of enthusiasm for golf and the tennis teams, no varsity sports were scheduled this term.

The baseball team was hampered in the past by the lack of a suitable playing field. Last season, for example, the

field used for practice and league games was located five miles away from campus. This field was also used by Middletown High School, which had priority over Capitol Campus for scheduling games and practices. Mr. Smitley stated that because of rain-outs of high school games and other conflicts, it became increasingly difficult for Capitol to schedule home ball games with its opponents. He also added that, more than one time, the team arrived at the field for a regularly scheduled practice, only to find out that the high school team was making up an earlier rain-out. Capitol was then forced to practice anywhere it could find space on campus.

Mr. Smitley declared that by the end of the season, players became so demoralized that many of them stopped showing up for games. Adding to the troubles plaguing the team was the fact that most of the games were scheduled away because Capitol was unable to reserve its field on reasonable dates and times. Scheduling problems led to bad feelings on the part of other schools. Smitley emphasized that he never again wants to field a team that will lose by 25 runs due mainly to the absence of practice because of no field.

There is a bright side to this story, however. Plans are being made for the construction of a baseball diamond on campus. The civil engineers of the Air

National Guard are being asked to survey the site as one of their community projects. It is anticipated that the \$20,000 required for construction will be raised in the community. This will be possible because area leagues will be permitted to use the field during summer term.

Upon interrogation as to why there is no intercollegiate golf team, Smitley blamed student indifference. He stated that in the past while a great number of students came out for the team in the early spring, many matches had to be forfeited because of a lack of players. Players were only willing to play away matches.

The same thing was true of the tennis team. Many players

were unwilling to attend matches that caused them any inconvenience. Smitley remarked that until he sees indications that this indifference is gone, there will probably be no intercollegiate competition in these sports.

He does anticipate, however, that a baseball team will be fielded next year if the field is completed on time. It seems there is enough enthusiasm for this sport, considering the fact that there are 23 intra-mural softball teams this term.

Although there are no varsity sports to compete in this spring, more time and attention is being devoted to intra-murals by the athletic staff. Next spring, hopefully, we will have at least one varsity sport here at Capitol Campus.

Lion's warm up

The Penn State Nittany Lions conclude their spring training drills with their annual blue-white game at 12:30 p.m. this Saturday in University Park. Last year's fourth ranked Nittany Lions have a returning veteran defensive team. The offensive, although without ace quarterback Chuck Fusina, has a number of promising new quarterbacks in Frank Rocco, Terry Rakowski, and Jon Lebo.

This game means more to the players than an ordinary scrimmage because they will be trying to win starting berths for the upcoming season. The stars of the blue-white game will doubtless form the core of next year's starting 22. Satur-

day's game will be especially interesting in that the quarterback who does the best job will probably attain a starting berth for at least the season opener.

The 1979 Lions will face one of their stiffest schedules in years. Along with the traditional rivals of Pitt and North Carolina State, this year's schedule will feature Texas A&M and Nebraska.

Because of the good percentage of returning veterans, students can look forward to another successful season as the Lions resume their quest for the elusive number 1 ranking. At the very least, Penn State should improve its number 4 ranking of last year.

Nittany Lions 1979 Schedule

September
15 Rutgers
22 Texas A&M
29 at Nebraska

October
6 at Maryland
13 Army
20 at Syracuse
27 West Virginia

November
3 Miami (Fla.)
10 at N.C.State
17 Temple
24 Pittsburgh

Sports shorts

Joining NAIA

Beginning in the 1979-80 academic year, Capitol Campus will become a member of the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Membership in this organization will enable students at Capitol Campus who are outstanding at an individual sport to qualify for NAIA district, regional, and national competition. Among the sports an

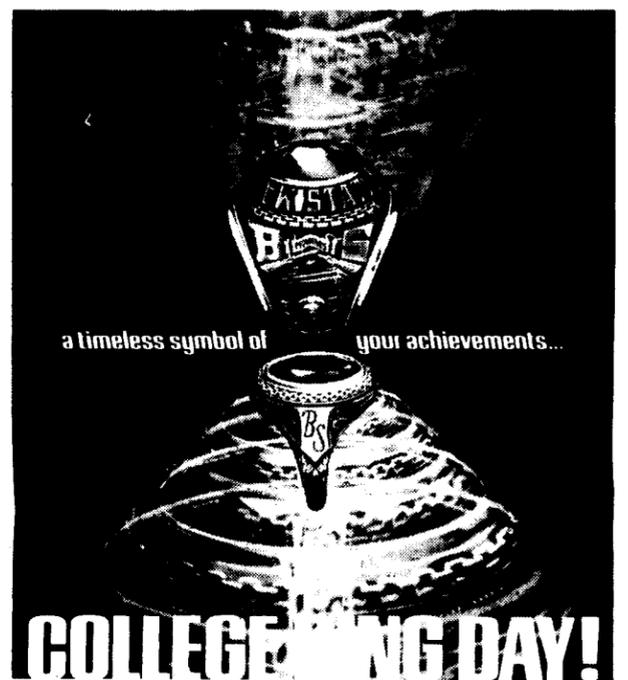
individual student could compete in are golf, tennis, cross-country, and wrestling. More information will be available next fall.

Racquetball hours

Racquetball courts close at 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday evenings and at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Bike Hike For Retarded Citizens

A bike hike will be held on Sunday, May 6, for the benefit of the Association for Retarded Citizens. It will begin at 1:00 p.m. in front of the Multi-Purpose Building, covering 10 miles, and end back at the Multi-Purpose Building. Sponsor sheets are available in the Athletic Office. Please support this worthy cause.



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