

# Skurko efforts behind winning season

By Rob Rejmaniak

One Capitol Campus student has been showing that high grades and athletic achievement can go together.

Last season Mike Skurko led his team both in homeruns with 4 and in runs batted in with 23. He also placed third on the team in hits with 27, and finished the season with a .320 batting average.

Skurko, a senior from Brackenridge, Pa., did all of this, even though his class schedule didn't permit him to attend baseball practice. "It's going to be tougher to keep my grades up this season," says Skurko, who maintains a 3.9 cumulative grade-point average in the Electrical Design Engineering Technology curriculum. "I'll be attending two hours of baseball practice every day, in addition to classes."

The 6'3 senior started his Penn State baseball career at the New Kensington campus, where he led his team in homeruns with 4. He also was among the team leaders with his .345 batting average.

Skurko came to Capitol to pursue his bachelor's degree in engineering technology. "I com-

pleted an associate degree program at New Kensington," says Skurko. "Capitol is one of the few campuses which enable me to build on that degree."

As an upper division campus Capitol offers undergraduates coursework only on the junior and senior levels. This structure enables students like Skurko to work toward a baccalaureate degree after receiving an associate degree at another campus. Capitol's athletic programs are structured to give such students the opportunity to play sports, according to the athletic director Bud Smitley.

"A student holding an associate degree who goes on to a traditional four-year college often finds it impossible to participate in sports. Sports preparation at such schools usually is begun in the freshman year, and teams are built on a four-year plan," he said. "This is not the case at Capitol, where students arrive on campus as juniors. Our program is built around such students."

Head baseball coach Ron Melchiorre feels that Skurko was a major contributor to Capitol's baseball program, which completed its best season ever last year.

"If Mike duplicates last season



Mike Skurko tries to beat out throw to first base.

Photo by Joe Hart

at the plate and works on his fielding, he has the potential to be the All District third baseman," says Melchiorre. Skurko is confident that his fielding will improve. "I know I'll do better in the field this year," says Skurko, "last year

was a sub-par season."

Skurko is a key contributor to the success of this year's team. Through the first seven games of the season Skurko's average stood at a sturdy .400, with 2 homeruns and 10 runs batted in.

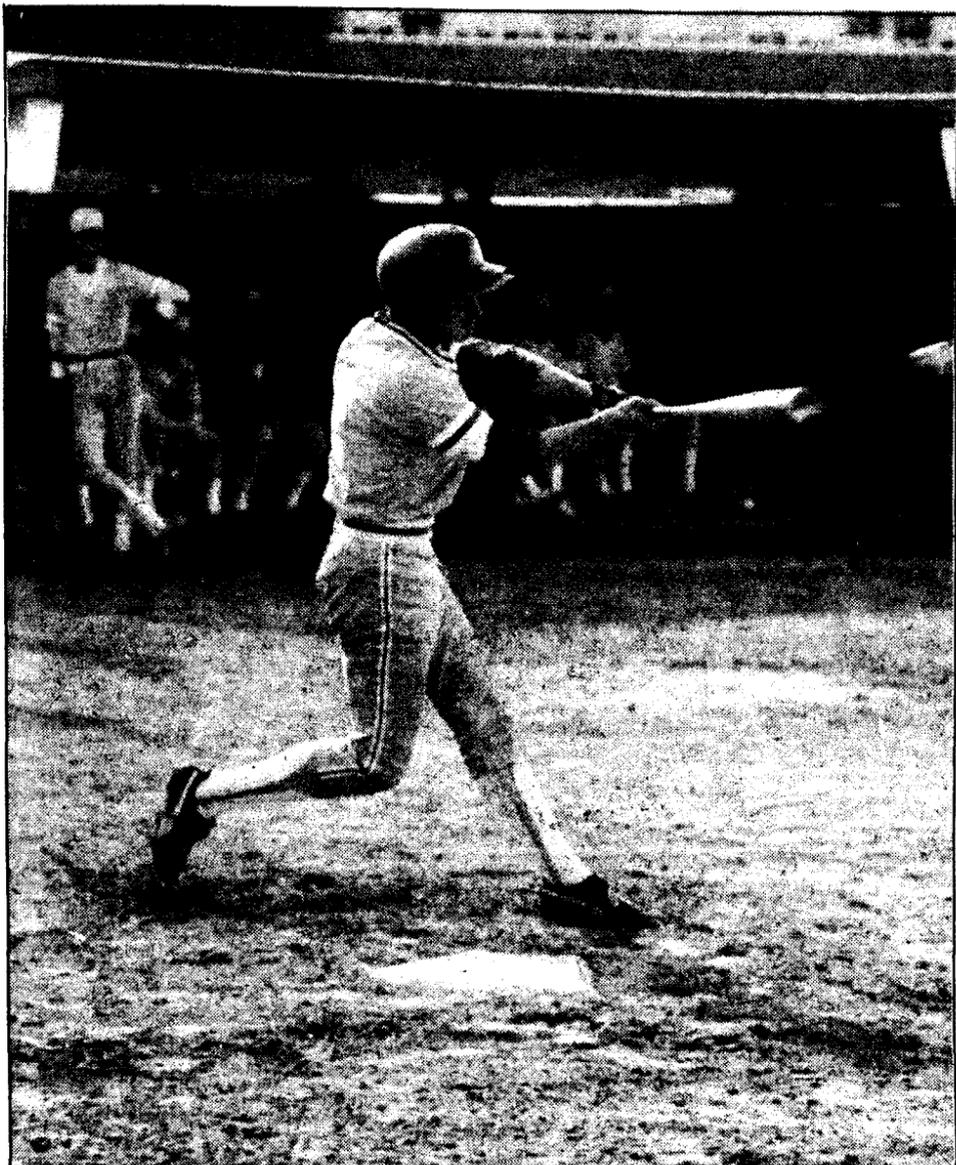


Photo by Joe Hart

## Lions continue winning as season progresses

By La-Verna Fountain

The double header between Capitol Campus and Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on April 23 ended with both teams walking away with a victory.

Coach Ron Melchiorre said "The second game was a tough one to lose, but we grabbed the first one." Indeed, the first game was grabbed out of Pharmacy's hands.

Trailing Pharmacy by a score of 3-0, the sixth inning saw Capitol rally together and score 8 runs. With superb pitching by Greg Livingston and great defense, Pharmacy was unable to score in the 7th inning. This gave Capitol its eleventh win of the season.

Pharmacy's coach, Bob Bunnell, said "They (Capitol) got the base hits when they needed them. The second game was ours basically because of all of the walks. I believe we had about a dozen walks. It was a big comeback for us, we needed it."

That statement about sums up the second game. Capitol came out strong in the first three inn-

ings scoring 3 of their 5 points, but experienced some pitching difficulties in the last four innings. The sixth inning saw 3 different pitchers, Bob Hulsizer, Gary Torasco, and Scott Johnson.

Appearing to tire, Capitol held their lead until the seventh inning. Pharmacy was able to squeeze ahead with a final score of Pharmacy 6, Capitol 5.

The other two losses experienced by the Lions occurred on April 11 against Messiah College and on April 1 against Juniata College.

The Lions will play a double header against Alvernia College at home on April 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Penn State Capitol's baseball team remains in top position for team pitching according to the April report of National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Gary Torasco, a junior at Capitol, is among nine players vying for first place in individual pitching, and in the same category, Bob Hulsizer, a senior, ranks 11. Also ranking 4th in the national statistics for runs-batted-in is Ben Danilowicz, a junior.