

Florida Trip Benefits Baseball Team

By Josette M. Kloker

The recent spurt of inclement weather may have been beneficial for farmers' crops, but not for Penn State Harrisburg's baseball team.

According to Coach Gary Pritchard, the team has had to postpone six of their last nine scheduled games so far this season.

He said the weather has had some benefits. Since the team began practicing in January, by the end of February they were ready to practice outside. To accommodate this request, Pritchard took his players to Cocoa Beach, Florida from February 24 to March 5. The team was joined by three other Penn State campuses--Berks, Ogontz, and Shenango Valley. "This was great opportunity for them to practice outside," said Pritchard.

He said the trip was also a chance for him to meet players at the three Commonwealth campuses. He said, "As a result of the trip, I have four players who have made commitments to come here next year."

As far as this season is concerned, he said the schedule is upgraded in comparison to last year. "I added more competitive teams like Albright College and Wilkes College to our schedule," said Pritchard. He added, "My goal for the year is to win 20 out of our 34 scheduled games."

In order to reach his goal, he said he is relying on a number of talented players. "I don't have one outstanding player, but a few really good ones. They include Andy Armstrong, Jim Cusick, Kevin Finkbiner, Curt Helman, Rob Nye, Ron Nye and Steve Wyld."

He continued, "Even more important than being good athletes, my players are fine young men. Baseball has always been an important part of my life, but my overall objective is to contribute something positive to their lives, whether it be about baseball or life."

One aspect he really stresses about life is obtaining an education. He realizes his players are missing a lot of classes because the majority of their games are during the day. One player, Andy Armstrong said, "Personally, I never had a problem keeping up with my work. I just don't allow it to pile up. Even if something does interfere with practice, coach is flexible enough to work with me."

Another player, Curt Helman, said, "He is a really good coach. He is very knowledgeable and fair. He's a great person to play ball for. Whenever I go out on the field, I want to do the best I possibly can for my team. One thing that really helps me is to have fans cheering--I've been amazed at the amount of support we have received from the students."

The baseball team's next home game is a double header on Saturday, April 1, at 1:00 p.m., against Spring Garden.

Here are the remaining Penn State Harrisburg home baseball games:

Sat. April 1, Spring Garden -- 1:00 p.m. (double header)

Tues. April 4, Philadelphia Bible College -- 3:30 p.m.

Sun. April 9, West Virginia Wesleyan -- 12:00 p.m. (double header)

Wed. April 12, Alvernia College -- 1:00 p.m.

Sat. April 15, Wilmington College -- 1:00 p.m.

Sat. April 29, Misericordia College, 12:00 p.m.

Sun. April 30, Wilkes College, 12:00 p.m.

Mason Says Paintings Will Last

By Lisa Ridley

Dorothy Masom says her paintings will last a thousand years. This is not entirely improbable because she uses the ancient art of encaustic painting to create her works.

Encaustic painting has been traced back to ancient times when artists used colored wax instead of paint. The wax leaves a smooth surface of deep colors that will endure longer than conventional oils or watercolors.

Masom started using the encaustic technique because she did not like the long drying time of oils. She says watercolors did not give her the deep

colors she wanted.

One of Masom's paintings on display in the Gallery Lounge is titled "At the Beach." The picture shows two children standing on a beach, in beach attire. The calm pastel colors make this a pleasant picture.

On the other hand, "Stations of the Cross," a series of paintings depicting Jesus' path to the cross is quite poignant, but beautiful at the same time. The smoothness of the surface of the painting gives the scenes a delicate look.

Masom's other works are landscapes and a series involving fish. Her works are easily accessible to anyone, and the exhibit is well worth seeing.

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