

## SPORTS

## Aluminum bats threaten America

Don Walters  
Capital Times Sports Editor

The other evening while hopelessly flipping from one channel to the other (my TV only gets two) I reluctantly decided to subject myself to the morbid slants of the evening news.

So there I was sinking into the comfortable oblivion of my divan patiently anticipating weather and sports when a particularly unsettling piece of news caught my attention.

Are you ready for this? Better have a seat first because this is unthinkable; it's unimaginable - unbelievable!

Professional baseball may soon switch from wooden to aluminum bats. Can you believe it? That would be like altering Grama's apple pie recipe or celebrating the Fourth of July on Pearl Harbor Day.

Allowing aluminum bats into the major leagues would constitute a serious degradation of the game. Heck, it could ruin the sport. A sport that is the symbol of our existence as a country.

First let's consider the aesthetic quality of the game, more precisely baseball's sounds. Because they are important, and none are more evocative than the "CRAACK" of timber striking horsehide amidst the sizzle of a crowded ballpark on a midsummer's day.

Replace that mighty "CRAACK" with a distressing "PIING" and you replace sacred tradition with nouveau-riche mentality - not a wise choice America. There's enough of that going on already.

Another reason for resisting metallurgy in the majors is safety. An aluminum bat is two maybe four ounces lighter than a wooden one of the same length. That means greater bat speed which is the key to power. Put aluminum bats in the hands of major league hitters and the result will be a lot of dead pitchers and third basemen.

Of course you could always move the mound back a few feet or use softer balls, but for what - aluminum bats? No way, that wouldn't be baseball.

You see, baseball's environment is a very complex, fragile creation. Aluminum bats would unbalance the perfect ambiance between defense and offense, pitcher and batter. Their hard texture would exploit pitchers by making hitting too easy, defense too dangerous and homeruns too common.

Let me say this Mr. Vincent. If you allow this debauchery then you're not only mocking our national pastime but contributing to the deterioration of this great nation. Baseball isn't just some game, you know. It's a metaphor - like the American flag. We just can't afford to tamper with something which is so important to our country's identity.

Besides, baseball is one of the few things which remains genuine in such a turbulent world. World War III could break out and the stock market could crash again, but one thing's for damn sure. Somewhere across the land that patriotic "CRAACK" will still ring out to the delight of thousands of baseball fans. Let's be sure to keep it that way.

## Booters kickoff best season in 10 years

### lions outscore Valley Forge, edge Misericordia

Don Walters  
Capital Times Sports

The men's soccer team hasn't kicked-off a season like this in ten years, and suddenly after two winless seasons they're boasting a 2-1 record.

There are several reasons why. Assistant Coach Ed Trunk credits second year Head Coach Mark Ashley as one. "He is a very good soccer player/coach," states Trunk, "the players learn a lot from him."

Fullback Rich Yotter (senior-accounting) supports that statement saying, "Coach Ashley works well with the team, especially inexperienced players. He devotes a lot of time and effort."

Head Coach Ashley reasons that because PSH is a two year college, building a solid cohesive team is difficult but goes on to state, "this year we've managed to recruit some hungry dedicated soccer players."

### Miller's Corner

## Virginia and Notre Dame matchup for NCAA crown

Eddie Miller  
Capital Times Sports

THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON is still young and my prediction may be a bit premature, but a Virginia-Notre Dame match up for the National Championship is looking better every weekend. Especially for Virginia, who plays in the mediocre ACC.

MY APOLOGIES to Pitt fans for boasting their football team to be the third best squad in the nation. I meant to say 33rd.

PENN STATE needs a kicking game as bad as the BOSTON RED SOX need Roger Clemons and as bad as the Pittsburgh Steelers need an offense.

SPEAKING OF OFFENSE, the Steeler offense (oops, I mean defense) is averaging 7pts/game after four games. Their offense has yet to score a touchdown this season.

AMAZING STAT: Steeler kicker Gary Anderson has successfully kicked 76% of his career field goal attempts. Here is a scary thought: Anderson kicking for a team who plays all of its home games in a dome rather than the undomed, weather hazard of Three Rivers Stadium.

BACK IN BLACK is Jerry Glanville and the new Atlanta Falcons. The Falcon general has brought life to a dead and decaying club. Although there isn't much good to say about the guy, he does get the most out of his players (even if it is bad).

AMERICA DOES KNOW SOCCER! The U.S. Women's soccer team recently captured the soccer world's most prestigious honor, the World Cup. Soccer is no longer a secondary sport in America.

HOW IN THE WORLD are the N.Y. Mets the team of the 80's when they only have won one world series? They

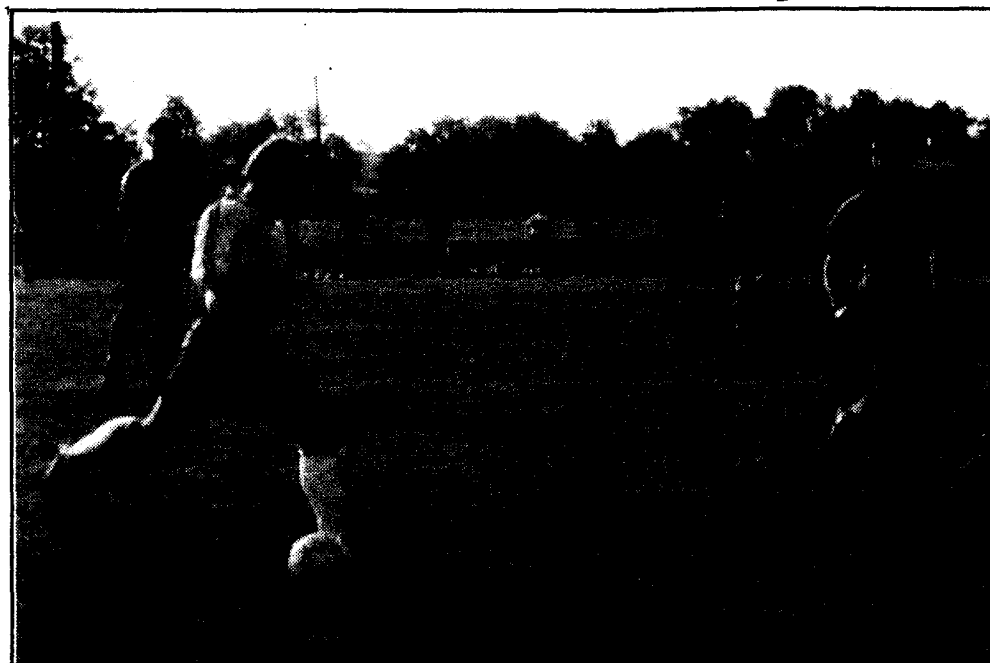


Photo by Don Walters  
Stopper Paul Gundersen (junior-secondary education) prepares to score the first goal of a 2-1 victory over Misericordia. The lion booters now boast a 2-1 record in NAIA competition.

Two Saturdays ago against a solid Misericordia team Penn State showed their appetite by scoring first and never looking back, winning the match 2-1.

Last week the team traveled to Valley

Forge where senior forward Jeff Berrigan's hat trick led the lions to a 4-3 victory.

Finally, this past Saturday PSH lost to a superior Goldey Beacom team 4-1.

are always the best team on paper, just ask any Met's fan Unfortunately, the Met's have to play a 162 game schedule.

HOLY LATE HITS AND PILE ONS! How long are referees going to allow N.D. players to tackle, hit, trip, kick, punch and pile on after the ball is blown dead?

THE RAIDERS HEAD COACH Art Shell is undefeated in the L.A. Coliseum. He now sports a record of 9-0 after the recent decapitation of the

Chicago Bears.

DID YOU SEE THE EAGLES snatch defeat from the Colts jaws of victory?

IN CASE YOU DID NOT KNOW, the Penn State-Harrisburg men's soccer team and women's volleyball seasons are underway. The teams would appreciate any support. Both teams are looking to make noise in the Keystone Athletic Conference.

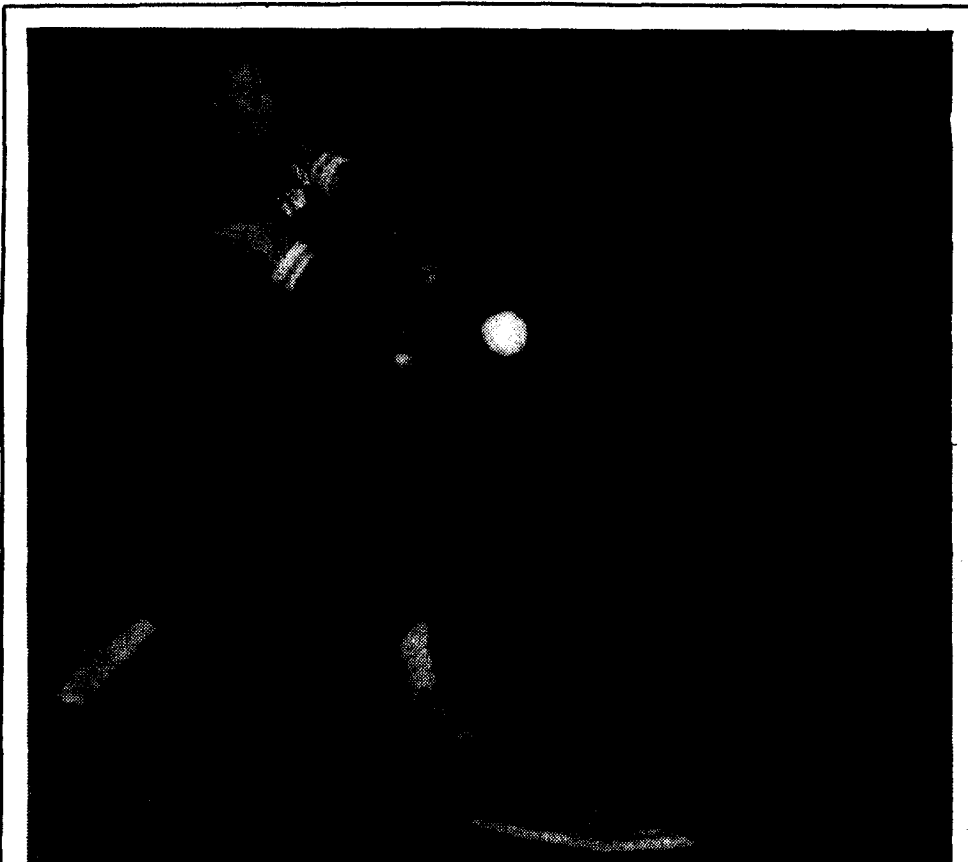


Photo by Marshall Walters

### Intramural softball

XGI David Boak (junior-EET) "connects" during a game against the Slammers. The XGI's won 12-10. Playoffs began last night and will continue next week to determine the IM softball champion.