

SPORTS

Baseball team keeps playoff hopes alive

Mike Givler
Capital Times Sports

The Penn State Harrisburg baseball team has recently shown some life after their less than impressive season start. The team recently won four of six games in one stretch to keep their playoff hopes alive. Here's a brief recap:

April 10: Alvernia 23 (5 innings), 20 (5 innings) PSH 2,7

In a game marred by wind blown fly balls and sloppy Lion defense, Alvernia pounded out 27 hits in the 10 innings that were played and the Lions made 15 errors that put the games out of reach early. In the first game, the Lions made five errors while surrendering 2 homeruns to Alvernia in the home loss. Derek Slocum (1 for 1), Marshall Walters (1 for 2) and John White (1 for 3, RBI) provided the only offense for the Lions. In the second game of the twin bill, a 12-run second inning for Alvernia spelled doom for the Lions as they committed a total of 10 errors. Buddy Dodson went 1 for 3 with an RBI and Wayne Brizant, Jerry DeBalko and Scott Werkheiser each had a hit in 2 at-bats.

April 12: PSH 9,4 Gallaudet 3,5 (8 innings)

The Lions combined 13 hits with the good pitching of Keith Lapinas (6 strike outs) to beat the Bisons in the first game. Tim Gallagher had 3 hits in 4 at-bats and collected 3 RBI's for the Lions. Dodson also had 3 hits in 5 trips to the plate. The "Killer Ws", Werkheiser (2 for 4 with a triple and 2 RBI's), White (2 for 4, RBI) and Walters (2 for 3, RBI), also had hot bats for the Lions. In the second game, 2 errors in the eighth inning cost the Lions a sweep in D.C., but once again the Lions had hot bats with 9 hits in the game. Slocum went 2 for 3 with one RBI and Dodson had 2 hits in 5 appearances at the dish with an RBI. Both players provided much of the Lion offense.

April 13: PSH 10 Beaver 9

In a game played in steady rain, the Lions narrowly escaped with a one run victory after leading the game at one point by 9 runs. The Lions scored 5 runs in the fifth, only to be out done by Beaver who scored 6 runs in the seventh. But, the tying Beaver run was thrown out at the plate for the final out of the

game, and giving the Lions the win. Dodson had a hit in his only official at-bat but had 4 RBI's to help the Lion cause. Lapinas went 1 for 2 and White also had 4 RBI's for the Lions. In the second game, the Lions held a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first when the rain picked up and the game was cancelled.

April 16: Philadelphia Bible 11 PSH 1

Four costly Lion errors handed Philly Bible a win in Harrisburg as the Lions lost a game they should have easily won. Werkheiser had 2 hits in 4 at-bats while pitching 3 innings and striking out 3 batters in relief. Slocum (2 for 3) and DeBalko (1 for 1, double) were the Lion offensive stars.

April 18: PSH 10,7 Lancaster Bible 3,3

Lapinas pitched a four hitter for his third win of the year while striking out 8 in Lancaster. He also helped his own cause with 2 hits in 4 plate appearances. Ron Morris and Mike Givler each had 3 hits and 3 RBI's for the Lions and Walters went 2 for 3. Gallagher hit the first Lion home run of the year to help the Lions to their fifth win of the year. In the second game, Givler won his second game of the year by striking out 5 batters and going 2 for 4 with an RBI at the plate. DeBalko and Dodson each had 1 hit in 3 at-bats with an RBI for the Lions and Greg Scott provided some long ball hitting by smashing a triple.

April 19: Mount Alto 7,5 PSH 6,2

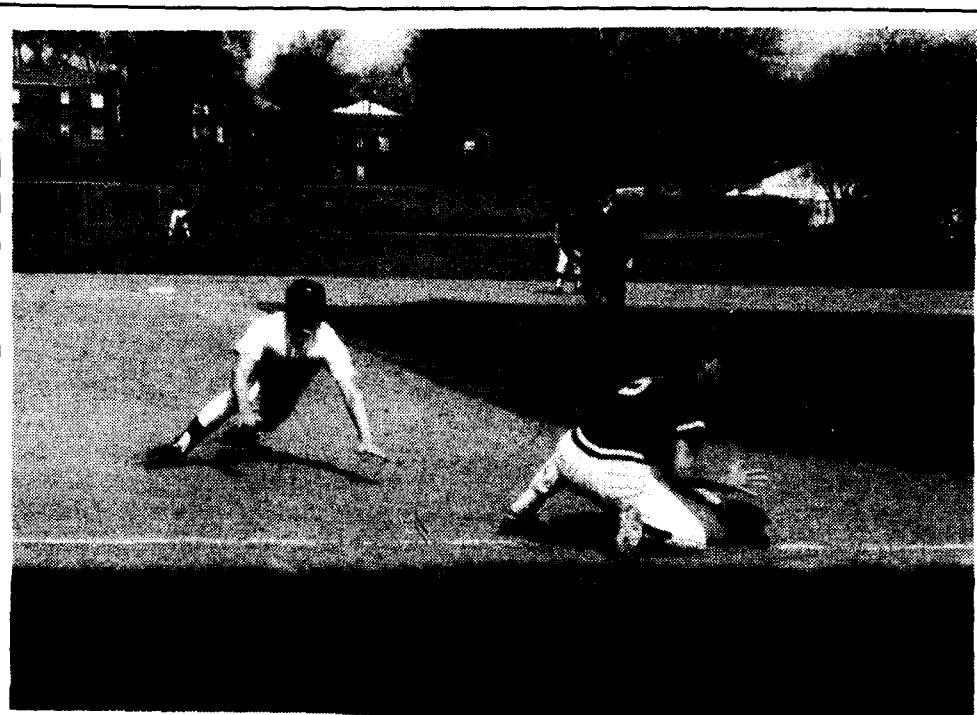


Photo by Karen Putt
Third baseman Scott Werkheiser awaits the throw as an Alvernia runner attempts to steal third.

In a scrimmage game for the Lions, White and Gallagher slammed round trippers and Jeff Baughman and Lapinas each had 2 hits. In the second game, White pitched 4 2/3 innings of shut-out ball for the Lions and Gallagher had the Lion RBI's. Bob McDonald, Slocum and Walters (double) each had a hit in 3 trips to the plate.

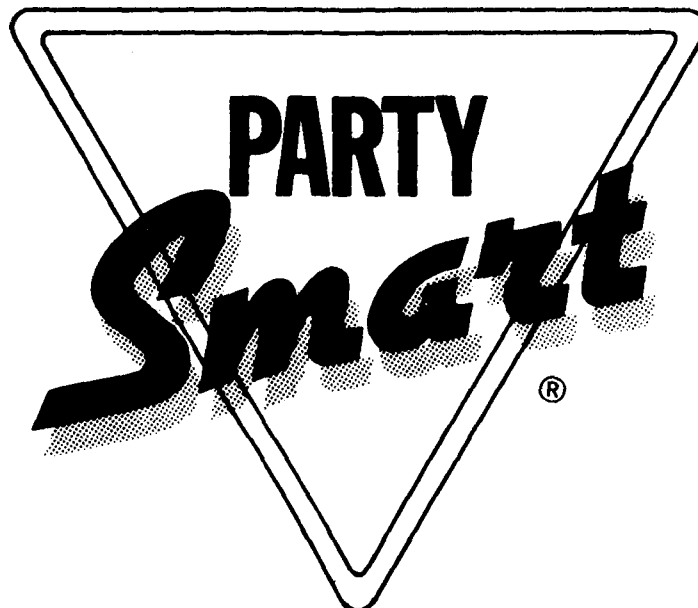
April 25: Washington Bible 9 (10 innings) PSH 8

In a game that saw the Lions overcome a 5-run deficit in Maryland, Washington Bible scored 3 runs in the bottom of the tenth to pull out the win. The Lions had scored 2 runs in the top of the tenth, but some clutch hitting by Washington Bible proved costly for the Lions. DeBalko had a pinch hit double that scored two Lions and made the score

6-6 after the Lions had trailed by 5 runs early. Slocum pitched 9 2/3 strong innings and also went 3 for 5. Walters also had 3 hits in 5 trips and Gallagher was the defensive star as he picked off 5 opposing runners from behind the plate and he also had 2 RBI's.

From statistics compiled through the Philadelphia Bible game, here are some of the Lion leaders in batting and pitching: Buddy Dodson leads the team with a .371 average and also leads the team with 3 doubles. Scott Werkheiser is second in average at .367 and leads the team in triples with 2. John White leads the team with 9 RBI's and Ron Morris leads the team with 4 stolen bases. Keith Lapinas leads the team in victories (2) and saves (1), and Mike Givler leads the team with a 4.61 ERA.

When you party
remember to...



Don't get wrecked. If you're not sober—
or you're not sure—
let someone else do the driving.

A message provided by this newspaper
and Beer Drinkers of America



National Headquarters
150 Paularino Ave., Suite 190
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714/557-2337
1-800-441-2337