

# Athletic department planning changes

Mike Givler  
Capital Times Staff

The Penn State Harrisburg athletic department was kept busy during the 1991 fall semester by offering a variety of intramural events as well as doing some renovations on the playing surfaces and personnel.

The main change, as far as coaches go, will be seen between the foul lines of the baseball team.

Last June, Coach Gary Pritchard resigned to start his own business and felt that he wouldn't have the time to put his whole heart into the team. Since then, Athletic Director Duane Crider has been actively searching for a replacement.

"I am looking for the right person and the right match for students and the institution," Crider said.

Crider has not yet found a replacement,

but is extending his search for the right person to head the 21-game slate scheduled for the spring.

The department is also adding a new look to the racquetball courts. The courts will be resurfaced during the semester break so students can still take out their finals frustrations on the courts, Crider said. The courts will also be relined and safety lines will also be added.

Another change planned involves racquetball court 3, which will be relined to meet the standards of a squash court.

The college recently held a women's recreational volleyball tournament, where teams representing McKeesport, Berks, Central Penn Business School and Penn State Harrisburg competed.

Central Penn and Penn State Harrisburg advanced to the final match, which saw Central Penn take the first game 15-8. The Lions fought back and

won game 2 by a score of 15-13, but Central Penn claimed the championship in the final standings, followed by Penn State Harrisburg and Berks.

The women's club basketball team will start their season on Dec. 8 with a game in the York Women's Basketball League. There are currently nine players on the team, and their goal is to go varsity around the fall of 1993.

The college also crowned five intramural champions in the fall. The flag football title was given to the Rockers (5-1) after their 19-0 domination over the Chili Peppers (3-2).

Other intramural champions were the Ooh Ooh Baby's ("Sixes" Beach Volleyball), Lost Boys (One-Pitch Softball), and Just Do It (Wallyball). Rick Zendt won the men's singles racquetball tournament.

The Schick 3-on-3 tournament will be

completed on Dec. 3 at 9:30 p.m. After the game, a foul shot and hot shot event will be held. The hot shot competition will consist of players shooting from different point spots on the floor in a restricted time period.

The deadline for entering this event is Dec. 2.

Recreation Specialist Denise Keary will also be running a wide variety of men's, women's and coed intramural sports during the 1992 spring semester.

Activities will include 5-on-5 basketball, men's doubles racquetball, women's singles racquetball, coed and men's volleyball, table tennis and triples beach volleyball.

Bowling, as well as additional activities, may be added later in the semester. Anyone interested in competing in any of the events can stop at the Capital Union Building to register.

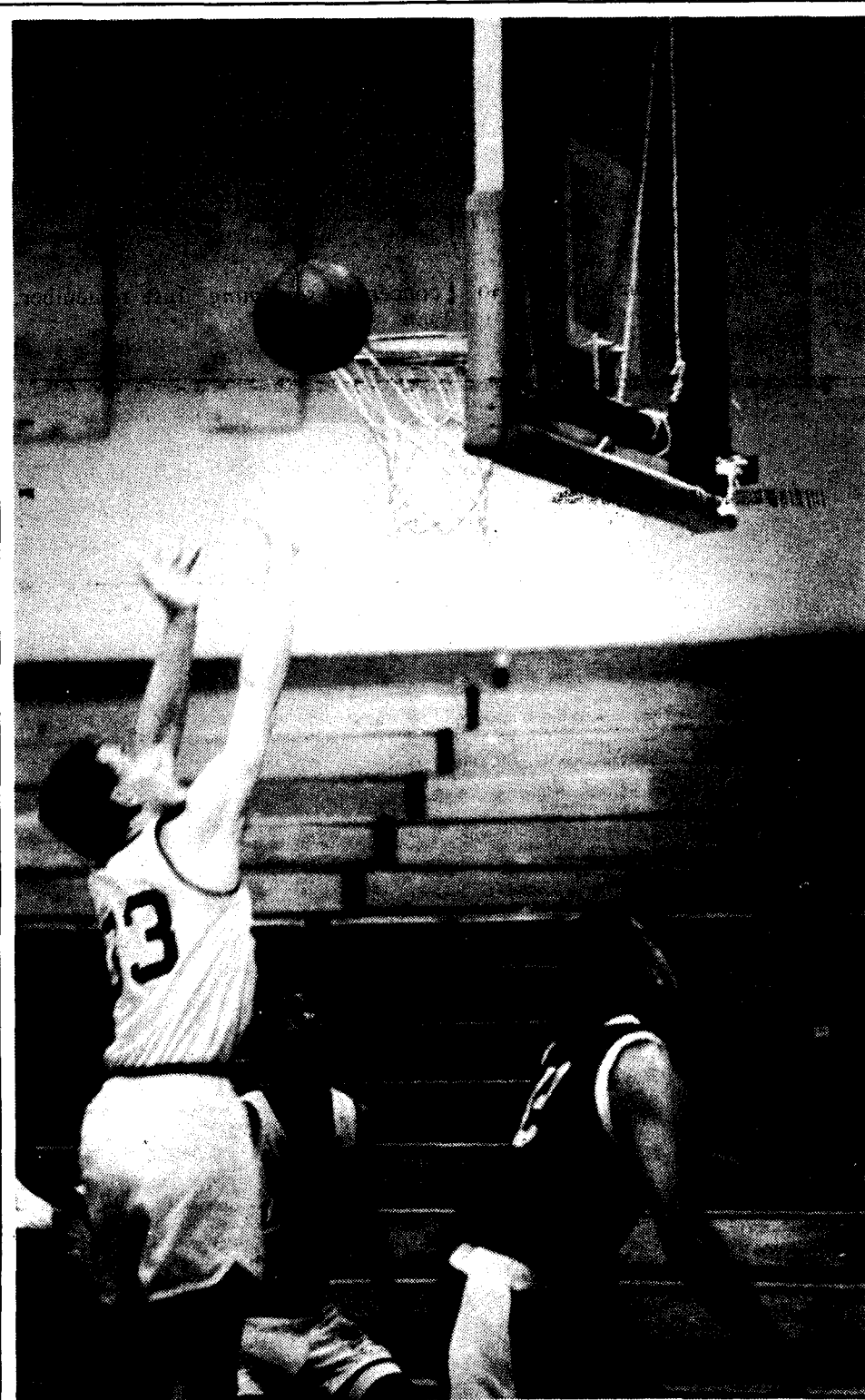


Photo by Mike Starkey

Penn State Harrisburg's Tony Calo (33) drives for a lay-up as teammate Henry Polee awaits the possible rebound. The Lions defeated Wilmington College in the game by a score of 104-98 in overtime. Athletic Director Duane Crider said this was the most exciting game he's seen at the college.

## Ex-PSH pitcher ends successful season

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Pitcher Rob Mitchell, the only Penn State Harrisburg athlete to ever sign a professional contract, recently completed his first pro year in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, a year that ended on a very high note.

Mitchell was awarded most improved and hardest worker at Clearwater in the Florida Instructional League by ex-Phillie Del Unser, a promotion Mitchell received after posting average numbers at single-A Martinsville, Va.

The 6' 4", 165-pound Mitchell had 19 strike outs in 17 1/3 innings and had a 2.60 ERA in Clearwater while facing many different levels of batters. However, his wildness did follow him to the sunny state, but he didn't allow a walk in his last 3 innings of work after he had averaged a walk an inning in his previous outings. Mitchell was glad just to be there.

"It was a great boost to be invited to the FIL," the Kimberton, Pa. native said. The opportunity showed him the Phillies believed in him, he said.

Mitchell, who needs 15 credits to graduate from Penn State Harrisburg with an accounting degree, also picked up some new pitches during his stay in Florida. He had been relying on a 4-seam fastball, curve and a change-up, but the coaches at the camp taught him a 2-seam fastball and a slider.

The 2-seamer moves sharply to the right, which made it hard to control at times. He added that the coaches recommended that he move to the left side of the rubber so the pitch will tail into the right-handed batter. Mitchell said this lack of control often hurt him during the season.

"Most of the runs I gave up were from walks," Mitchell said. "The runs should have never happened."

Mitchell, who was signed as a free agent after he was clocked at almost 90 mph in a Phillie tryout camp, still has the blazing fastball. Mitchell said he was timed once throwing 92 mph on the RAY gun, which is a gun that is said to be close to 6 mph slower than the JUGS gun that the majors use. However, he added that this was not his normal speed.

"I averaged around 87-88 mph on the RAY gun for a full outing," Mitchell said.

The 22-year-old Mitchell spent the first part of his season at extended spring training in Clearwater. In June he was sent to Martinsville, Va., the Phillies single-A rookie team in the Appalachian League. There he posted a 5.54 ERA and had 44 K's and 24 walks in 52 innings. He also participated in the Young-Timers Game at Veterans Stadium where he got to pitch in front of 30,000 fans.

Although the outing wasn't his best, he did learn a lot.

"It was all I could do to be there," Mitchell said. "I am more relaxed now when I pitch, thanks to that opportunity."

After the conclusion of the Appalachian League where Martinsville finished third and slightly under .500, Mitchell came home for 10 days and then went to Clearwater.

Mitchell's goal for next season is to spend some time in Spartanburg, S.C. where the Phillies have their long-season A-ball team. Mitchell said he may start out in Batavia, N.Y., which is a league for older rookies, but it all depends on his spring.

"I have to show the consistency to move up," Mitchell said. "This is something I haven't been able to do."