

Lions riding high on roller coaster ride

Mike Givler
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The Penn State Harrisburg baseball team continues to travel on a bumpy, up and down road. Fortunately, the Lions, winners of six of their last eight, look to be heading in the right direction as the playoffs approach. The Lions are currently 8-9, 3-7 in District 19 action, and are still very capable of making the post season.

Lions get no-hit, swept by Wilmington

MAR. 29 - Wilmington, backed by a first game no-hitter, beat the Lions 8-0

and 12-2 in a District 19 doubleheader in Delaware. Here are the opening game highlights for the Lions...there were none. The Lions managed just four baserunners, all coming on walks, and gave up five unearned runs in the losing effort.

In the second game, the Lions managed just one hit after the first inning and gave up nine unearned runs in the thrashing. Darren Rissmiller, who had a double in two trips to the plate, Craig Lisbinski and Tim Gallagher all had hits in the first inning to push across a Lion run. Kory Shope had a hit and a stolen base in one at-bat.

Lions earn split with Misericordia

MAR. 31 - The Lions picked up their first District 19 victory of the year in the second game of the doubleheader played in Middletown. The Cougars notched a victory in the first game, 6-3, as the Lions once again committed five fateful errors that lead to five unearned runs. Offensive stars for the Lions included Keith Lapinas and Rissmiller who both went 2-4.

Game two saw the Lions get revenge, as they scored four runs in the first inning and held on for a 5-2 victory. Pitcher Rissmiller picked up his first victory of the year by going the distance and not

allowing an earned run while striking out five.

Kirk Smith sparked the Lion "O", going 2-3. Buddy Dodson and Lisbinski were also offensive stars, both going 1-2 with a walk.

Lions take two from Neumann

APR. 4 - The Lions recovered in game one after blowing a 9-3 fourth inning lead to beat Neumann 10-9 in eight innings. The Lions also won game two in an easier fashion, 14-3.

Lisbinski (2-3, RBI), Rissmiller (2-2, 2 RBIs), Dodson (2-4, 3 RBIs), Scott Adams (3-3, 2 RBIs) and Harry Helverson (1-2, 2 RBIs) were big producers in the extra inning win. Rissmiller pitched 3 1/3 innings to notch his second victory and also helped his own cause by knocking in the winning run, Lapinas, who had lead off the eighth with a double.

The Lions jumped on Neumann "early and often" in game two, scoring four in the first and five in the fifth to cruise to the win. Lapinas pitched five innings to pick up his third victory of the year. He also was hot at the plate, going 3-5 with 2 RBIs. Adams (2-3, 4 RBIs) smashed a two-run homer in the first inning. The homerun was the Lions first official homer of the year.

Alvernia squeaks past Lions in District 19 sweep

APR. 8 - The Lions continued to play well, but fell twice to last years' district champion. Alvernia beat the Lions 8-5 in game one and 6-2 in the second game.

In game one, the Lions came back from a 5-1 deficit to close the gap to 5-4, but could get no closer. However, the Lion bats weren't to blame, as the defense allowed six runs that were unearned. Offensive standouts were Rissmiller (2-3, 3 RBIs), Lapinas (double, 2 RBIs) and Dodson (2-3, double).

In the second game, Lapinas held Alvernia in check for four innings and clung to a 1-0 lead. However, in the fifth, three Lion errors amounted to four Alvernia runs and spelled death for the team. Offensively, Adams stroked his second homer of the year, this one was of the solo variety, in the seventh inning. Ron Morris, Dodson and Lapinas had the only other hits in the game.

Lions get back on track, sweep Lancaster Bible

APR. 13 - Lancaster Bible was the beneficiary of some Lion frustration as the Lions stroked 18 hits in the doubleheader and won two games, 8-3 and 6-2. In the opener, Bob McDonald got his first victory of the year by pitching six strong innings and sticking out four. Lapinas had a career day at the plate, going 3-4 with three RBIs and three stolen bases. Dodson was another standout, going 2-4 with a double.

In game two, Mike Givler picked up a win in his first start of the year. However, two errors by Givler in the seventh, cost him a shutout. Todd Hall (3-4, double), Dodson (2-4), and Rissmiller (2-3, double) each had multiple hit performances.

Lions win slugfest, 17-15

APR. 14 - The Lions could never put away Philadelphia Bible in a game that saw everything happen. The Lions built a 16-6 lead in the sixth but had to hold on for the win. Adams hit his third homer of the year, a two run shot in the first inning. He ended the day going 4-6.

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Lion first baseman Mike Givler (17) receives a pick-off throw from a Lion hurler during a win against Neumann.

Photo by Mike Starkey

Lady Lions off to slow start

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Penn State Harrisburg said "hello again" to women's fastpitch softball this season as the Lady Lions trod the base paths for the first time in many years. The squad is currently 0-5 with four games remaining. Here's a recap of their games.

Beaver spoils Lady Lions' debut

MAR. 18 - The Lady Lions started off their "come back" season a little shaky by losing to Beaver 11-0 and 9-2. In the first game, Lori Craig was the only highlight, collecting two stolen bases.

In the second game, once again the

main bright spot came from the feet of the Lady Lions as Maria Hepner swiped three bags and Candy Delaney stole two bases.

Lady Lions start to show offense in losses

MAR. 24 - Alvernia "took two" from the Lady Lions, 18-0 and 15-8, but not before the Lions displayed some power in the second game. Tracey Sypeck hit the team's first "tater" and Dianna Dell also showed some power with a triple. Angel Kopp and Delaney each smashed doubles in the second game.

Lady Lions get bronzed by Goldey Beacom

APR. 6 - Goldey Beacom kept the

Lady Lions winless with a 24-4 trouncing. Pitcher Angie Smitz hit the Lions second homer of the year and stole two bases in the losing cause. Delaney also had a pair of steals.

Upcoming schedule

The Lady Lions are scheduled to play two home games against Wilson College on April 20. The opening contest will start at 3 p.m. The Lady Lions have also tentatively scheduled a double header against Neumann on April 21 in Middletown. The double header will start at 3 p.m.