

# SPORTS

## PSU Sports @ a Glance

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The arrival of Spring on Penn State Harrisburg's campus signals the beginning of the PSH softball season and the second half of the baseball season. The Lady Lions softball team enters their second season of PSUAC competition following a remarkable 2006 season in which they went 13-1 in the regular season, winning the Western Division and ultimately bowing out in the postseason tournament. The baseball team finished the Fall portion of their season with an 8-1 PSUAC record (9-5 overall) and heads into the spring season sitting in first place in the South division, two games ahead of 2-time defending champion Penn State Delaware.

When asked about her goals for this season, head softball coach Tonya Dengler said, "I take the approach of 'one-game-at-a-time' but ultimately our goal is to qualify for the PSUAC Final Four and win the Championship series." Dengler outlined the key returning players, to whom she will look for experience and leadership, as: senior Amanda Pearson - 1st Team PSUAC All-Star, senior Nicole Adams, graduate student Amanda Mentzer, sophomore Krystal Miranda - Honorable Mention PSUAC All-Star, sophomore Melissa Yingling, and junior Janessa Byard. Dengler is also looking forward to the addition of these talented newcomers: graduate students Michelle Baugh and Amanda Dowhower, senior Julie VanBuskirk, and freshmen Desiree Hipple, Abby Benedict, Amanda Sullivan, Michelle Herb, Marilyn Brink, and Candace Binkley. Dengler and her assistant coaches, Nicole Petrovich and Adam Welker, are excited about the versatility of this year's team.

Head Coach Bob Maschmeyer provided a good deal of information about the men's baseball team. He said, "Last fall, we added 8 new faces to the team. Of the 17 on the roster during the fall, 13 return. The returning starters include: Kris Aumiller (catcher), Sean Frailey (1st base), Kevin Bowman/Drew McGuire (2nd base), Garrett Piper (Shortstop), Adam Wright (3rd base/Pitcher), Kevin Kreider (Left field), Austin Kulp (Center field). Designated hitter Matt Carroll returns and 3 of our 4 starting pitchers return—Wright, Matt Berfield and Wes Erdman." Maschmeyer continues by saying, "we picked up three players between the fall/spring semesters. Brandon Bennett, an infielder/outfielder from Middletown, transferred from Millersville University. Ryan Smith, a right-handed pitcher from Boiling Springs, transferred from HACC. Corey Daniel, an infielder/outfielder/rhp from Fanett-Metal, has rejoined the team after playing soccer/basketball for PSH. All three will have an immediate impact on the team and provide much needed depth. Bennett, Ryan Dinger and Daniel are battling for the opportunity to play right field. Either Andrew Haden and Smith will be the 4th starter. Daniel, Kulp and Piper will close out the PSH hardballer games when called upon."

When asked about his goals for the team's Spring season, Maschmeyer said "We head into the spring season with very high team aspirations. The team set three goals during the off-season: win the south division, win our non-conference games and win the PSUAC conference. My expectations are for me to position the kids to allow them as a team to focus on what they set their goals on. If we focus on winning each inning and play mentally smart—we will accomplish our goals."

Full schedules for both teams can be found by clicking on the Intercollegiate Athletics link on the Penn State Harrisburg home page.

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The crack of the bat. The warmth of summer as it mingles with the scent of freshly cut grass. Cold beer as it blends with the aroma of stadium hot dogs. It can only mean one thing: baseball season is here again!

No question about it, the pre-season of America's pastime is an unparalleled mixture of optimism, excitement, and magical moments. Watching unproven but eager twenty-somethings playing along side the milestone-chasing heroes they grew up idolizing never gets old. There is no other sport that means so much before the first regular season game is played. Spring Training is a time

where anything can happen; every player has a chance to make the team, and every team has a chance for this to be "their year."

Come April 1 all the questions will begin to be answered: Which chemistry experiments will create a new division winner, and which ones will doom a team's success? Is it possible for A-Rod to go the whole season and make

fewer errors than the number he dons on the back of his jersey? Will Dice-K be worth \$103.1 million? What about Alfonso Soriano? Barry Zito? Vernon Wells?

Before these answers unfold during the dog days of August and the excitement of September, we're going to give it our best to predict what will happen. Below are the opinions of our expert panel (of two)

for each team and some players who are worth the price of admission. Only one thing is for sure, this year more than most in recent history - we are in for a heck of a ride.

Listed below are previews for each team in the National League and American League East. Teams are listed in order of their finish from last season, with their records from 2006 under the team logo.

## MLB 2007 Preview

### NL East



97-55

**Three to See**  
David Wright  
Billy Wagner  
Tom Glavine

Nobody in the NL will compete with their offense, especially with the addition of the ageless Moises Alou. Although their pitching staff is long in the tooth, Tom Glavine is seeking for 300

wins and Billy Wagner still has fire in his arm to close out games. David Wright will be right in the thick of the MVP race, and Jose Reyes will steal 60 bags. Pedro comes back in August.

**Bottom Line:** *The Amazins look good on paper, but are 1 starting pitcher from being a sure thing.*



85-77

**Three to See**  
Ryan Howard  
Chase Utley  
Cole Hamels

Shortshop Jimmy Rollins boldly predicted a division title for the Fightin' Phils this season. With MVP Howard and Utley leading a potent offense, and new staff ace Freddy Garcia heading up the

rotation, the only thing from making a Nostradamus out of Rollins is their questionable bullpen. Hamels is poised to make a difference after getting some great experience his rookie year.

**Bottom Line:** *The only weakness on this team is depth, barring injury, they should be fun to watch.*



79-83

**Three to See**  
John Smoltz  
Andruw Jones  
Mike Hampton

This team starts with John Smoltz and ends with question marks: Can Mike Hampton stay healthy? Can Tim Hudson pitch like the 20 game winner he once was? Will Andruw

Jones be traded? And to quote Abbott and Costello, "Who's on 1st?" This could be another ugly year for Bobby Cox and the once mighty Atlanta Braves

**Bottom Line:** *The Braves start a new streak: two years in a row without a division title.*



78-84

**Three to See**  
Anibal Sanchez  
Miguel Cabrera  
Hanley Ramirez

Last year, a bunch of rookies stayed in the playoff hunt until the summer heat fried the Fish's chances. In response, they fired the NL Manager of the Year. Go figure. Sanchez threw a no-

hitter last year and could be poised to take over as the ace, Cabrera is a top 3B every year, and Ramirez was the Rookie of the Year. Florida's youth will make them competitive.

**Bottom Line:** *Will the kids experience a sophomore slump or turn their potential into playoffs?*



71-91

**Three to See**  
Ryan Zimmerman  
Brian Schneider  
Chad Cordero

It will not be pretty in our nation's capitol this season. The Nats top three starting pitchers had a combined 1 win last year; and the rest of the pitching staff is undecided. They still

don't know who the other pitchers will be. Ryan Zimmerman is a stud at 3B, but 1B Nick Johnson is hurt, Chad Cordero is likely to be traded, and the rest resemble a AAA squad.

**Bottom Line:** *Unless some diamonds emerge from the rough, the Nats will define futility in 2007.*

### AL East



97-65

**Three to See**  
Andy Pettite  
Jason Giambi  
Doug Mientkiewicz

It will not be pretty in our nation's capitol this season. The Nats top three starting pitchers had a combined 1 win last year; and the rest of the pitching staff is undecided. They still

don't know who the other pitchers will be. Ryan Zimmerman is a stud at 3B, but 1B Nick Johnson is hurt, Chad Cordero is likely to be traded, and the rest resemble a AAA squad.

**Bottom Line:** *Unless some diamonds emerge from the rough, the Nats will define futility in 2007.*



87-75

**Three to See**  
Frank Thomas  
Roy Halladay  
B.J. Ryan

The only remaining Canadian team left in the MLB has made some marked improvements towards being a contender in arguably the hardest division in the major leagues. The aging Big Hurt

will add a strong bat to a talented lineup featuring Venon Wells. B.J. Ryan is tough against lefties, and can close the deal. Halladay is one heck of an ace. A serious darkhorse team.

**Bottom Line:** *Canada has something to root for other than hockey in October, finally.*



86-76

**Three to See**  
Daisuke Matsuzaka  
Jonathon Papelbon  
Manny Ramirez

The BoSox gambled over \$100 million on Dice-K. Will he turn out to be Beantown's heralded new hero, or just another Hideki Iribu? Papelbon has made the move to the starting rotation,

leaving a gaping hole at closer. Will the backbone of team, Captain Jason Varitek, and powerhouse Big Papi remain healthy? And can anyone figure out Manny being Manny?

**Bottom Line:** *After injuries ruined 2006, can this talented club stay healthy and win the division?*



70-92

**Three to See**  
Miguel Tejada  
Nick Markakis  
Jaret Wright

Welcome again to the Miguel Tejada show. The dead birds don't have a lot going for them this season. Tejada is the only reason people visit Camden Yards when the Yankees or the Sox aren't in

town. Benson is out for the season, and leaves big shoes for Wright to fill. Markakis, who batted .311 the second half of the season, will provide a strong 1-2 punch with Tejada.

**Bottom Line:** *Baltimore fans face a long summer, waiting for the Ravens season to start.*



61-101

**Three to See**  
Rocco Baldelli  
Carl Crawford  
Delmon Young

Year 11 of the rebuilding plan for Tampa Bay is finally showing some promise. Crawford could steal 50 bags and win the batting title, Baldelli needs to stay healthy, but has All-Star

Talent. Young is the most talented rookie in the bigs. Ace Scott Kazmir has looked incredible in the spring; unfortunately, the Rays are still in the best division in baseball, the AL East.

**Bottom Line:** *The franchise record for wins is 70, so the bar isn't set that high, but go Rays!*