

THE SPORTS SCENE

by
Jack E. McCutcheon

My crystal ball saw some light as the Bucks completed the first year of their dynasty. In the ABA, I received a little fog as the Kentucky Colonels upset the Virginia Squires in semifinal action. Life goes on and the crystal ball has been working over time. We have decided to let you all in on the results of the present major league baseball season. This is a very difficult and dangerous task but we can handle it.

Beginning with the American League's Eastern Division, the team to beat is Baltimore. There is no doubt that the Orioles have the best pitching rotation in baseball, to go along with the best defense and adequate hitting. However, the Orioles could receive threats from Boston and Detroit. The Tigers made a fantastic deal in ridding themselves of Denny McLain and Boston made so many trades, they must have done something worthwhile. The Bronx Bombers had their cinderella year last year and should stay at .500 ball through the season. In the west there should be a tight race and a lot of excitement. The pick from here is Oakland. The Athletics possess the players who have the ability to get the job done. The A's manager Dick Williams, can finally jell all the individuals and mold a winner. The only question mark is Reggie Jackson. If he can finally put himself together he should lead the team on, if not, the A's are captainless and sulen and another season goes down the drain. It should be a sec-saw battle for the A's along with the

California Angels and Minnesota Twins. The angels finally aquired the big bat they had always needed, in Tony Conigliaro. California has a fine defense and fair pitching. On the other side of the coin the Minnesota Twins are power gifted with Harmon Killebrew and Tony Oliva leading the way. The Twins major problem is pitching and staying healthy. Injuries hurt every team but Minnesota always seems to get away with it. After Jim Perry their pitching is kaput. The rest of the division will fight it out for fourth place money.

The National League shapes up to two upsets. In the Western division it will be a four team race with the Los Angeles Dodgers finishing on top. The Dodgers, Reds, Giants, and Braves should plug it out to the very end. Slugging it out are the exact words, three of the four teams possess at least three long ball hitters. The Dodgers will still play their game of good pitching and good defense with the happy addition of hard hitting Rich Allen. The Cincinnati story seems to have the Reds down and out before they stepped into the ring. With half of their starting pitchers out and Lee Maye and Bobby Tolun injured the Reds do not pose a threat. Even with the great Johnny Bench, the Reds will have to fight uphill the entire season. Both the Braves and Giants have the same type of teams, powerful and porous. Strong with the bat but weak fielding (Giants) or pitching (Braves). In the Eastern division every team appears to have a shot at the title, which no one seemed to want last year. The crystal ball says New York. With the pitching, defense, and Gil Hodges the Mets should pick up the money. From there we have the Cubs, who should have

HIGHACRES SPORTS

by Tom Caccese
Sports Editor

The Hazleton Campus Golf and Tennis teams will participate in the annual Commonwealth Campus State-wide Tournament on May 29 at University Park.

To correct an error in my previous column, Mr. Biggers will coach the golf and tennis teams.

The bowling team, still unbeaten this year as the Pocono Region Champions, is not going to Utah, California, or Ohio due to financial difficulties.--Sorry Larry!

Mr. Bobby has announced that there will be a volleyball skill test for all students in his Physical Education classes in the near future.

The gameroom in the S.U.B. will be temporarily closed while the sorority prepares for the May Ball.

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won the division the last two years, but decided not to and gave it to New York and Pittsburgh respectively. The Pirates surprised everyone last year but won't do it again, not enough pitching. The Cardinals are a funny team, they win two National League pennants in a row, then trade everybody away. At the moment they have the tools but simply can't put it together. If St. Lou doesn't take the flag within the next two years, it must be the manager and old Red will be out looking for a job. The Phillies, who will win everything in 1974, need some starting pitchers that aren't collecting social security benefits.

Finally the Montreal Expo's under my god buddy Gene Mauch (Philadelphia, '64). The Expos could surprise everyone, including me, and walk off with the flag. If they could, it would be on a mixture of young and old, American and Canadian and DESIRE, in which they lead both leagues.

Don't write me in September to praise my accurate predictions just remember I told you so.

'Big Mouth'

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. -- Just about anybody who has been to a football game knows that there is always a big mouth in the crowd.

Penn State has decided to take the big mouth out of the crowd and move him out front where he can perform to his fullest potential.

"We were looking for someone to be out 'mike man' at games, a guy who could get on the microphone in front of the student section and generate some enthusiasm," explains Richie Lucas, assistant business manager at Penn State. "We were looking for somebody with a big mouth, so we decided to call him 'The Big Mouth.'"

The Big Mouth will be Brian Sarris, a junior from Johnstown, N.Y.

Sarris was selected at recent cheerleader tryouts that also produced a new Nittany Lion, the popular Penn State mascot, and nine new cheerleaders.

There are many false assumptions that are made about the raccoon. In fact, one of these false assumptions is a part of his given latin name, Procyon Lotor. It was once believed that a raccoon, due to some lack of proper salivary glands, "washed" his food before attempting consumption. This was proven false by the intensive study of the raccoon by Dr. Leon F. Whitney, a noted veterinarian. He proved that the raccoon's salivary glands were sufficient for its needs and that the washing of food was totally and completely unnecessary.

The size and color of a raccoon may vary according to its respective habitat. Mainly, the features that mark them as raccoons are the black "masks" across their faces, and the black rings around their tails. Related to the raccoon through the distinguishing rings around their tails are the coati, and the

Usually, a raccoon will reach a maximum length of about thirty-four inches being about nine or twelve inches high at the shoulder. (It may be noted that about ten inches of the length

Outdoors...with Braskie

may be taken up by the tail along.) The weight of a normal raccoon will range from twelve to sixteen pounds, with the larger fatter females getting up to about twenty-five pounds. The weight of the heaviest raccoon recorded was found in Orano, Maine. The giant furbearer there tipped the scales at a remarkable forty pounds!

The main body of the raccoon is shaded gray, yellow, red, brown, or black guard hairs covering a heavy, reddish-brown undercoat. The belly and insides of the legs are either very pale yellow or gray. A sharp contrast is met with the white face and the black nose and mask.

Although seemingly harmless, the raccoon can inflict serious impressive teeth. Found are four canines, twelve incisors, sixteen premolars and eight molars, totaling thirty teeth, less than in a human.

Raccoons are found in most parts of continental United States and Southern Canada. In Canada, they are found northward to Saskatchewan, and in the United States, southward to the Mexican border.

Migration is not natural for the raccoon. The furthest distance recorded that a single raccoon traveled was five miles. Females limit their range to within a half mile of their chosen den site.

About the best description of a raccoon's habits would be adaptable. Most choose to make their dens in the trees. But due to the lack of available timber, their dens can and will be found in old woodchuck burrows, rocky crevices, mine shafts, barns, garages, and even rain gutters!

Although their tooth formation indicates that they are carnivores, research has proven different and has since classified them as omnivores. Their diet consists of fish, frogs, mussels, crayfish, eggs, baby birds, snakes, baby mice, rabbits, acorns, grapes, apples, berries, and corn. The liking for corn and unmannerly eating habits make for much crop damage every year. A raccoon in a corn patch will start one ear then leave it unfinished and go to another. A whole field of corn may become damaged in a week by a single family of raccoons.

Being nocturnal hunters, raccoons feed very late at night. They will, however, feed earlier when it is very

dark, overcast, and threatening rain. During the daytime, they can be found asleep in the limbs of trees or rocky overhangs.

Of all the senses, a raccoon's sense of touch is the most highly developed. Being a nocturnal animal, it must rely on touch while hunting and eating its prey. Hearing and sight are the next most developed senses in the manner that the raccoon is alert to the slightest movement or sound that is foreign to him.

There are only three main methods by which raccoons communicate. In time of content, a squirrel-like churring is heard. In time of anger, a hiss, growl, or rasping bark is given, and in time of mating, a loud, shrill whine is predominant.

The breeding season for raccoons is in January, February, and March. The male is polygamous while the female will choose only one male for a mate. The females usually remain in the winter dens while the males roam in search of a receptive mate. Mating usually occurs for the female at the age of nine or ten months, while the male, still incapable of reproduction as a yearling, waits until about the age of two years.

The male may remain with his chosen mate for as long as a week in which copulation takes place many times over a five day period. After copulation, the female becomes somewhat dormant and dozes off in a drowsy sleep awaiting the birth of

her young. The normal gestation period for the raccoon is sixty-three to sixty-six days after which the young two and one half ounce young are born, fully furred and eyes closed. A minimum of two and a maximum of seven young are born to each female with the norm at four. The female takes full responsibility for the rearing of the young and often has to chase the male away. If she did not do this, the male would kill the young.

Young raccoons have a strange habit of sleeping on a heap. When the top one gets cold, he moves to the bottom, and when the bottom one becomes squashed, he climbs to the top. By the time they are seven weeks old, they have reached a weight of about one and one half pounds. Their eyes are fully open now and focusing, usually difficult is attained. At the age of three months, the young accompany their mother on the nocturnal hunts and soon afterwards they get their own food through the skills developed from watching their mother.

Normal consumption of food is about one and one half to two pounds daily. When cold weather arrives, the consumption will rise to about five pounds daily. The life span of these animals is seven to ten years with the record at fourteen.

Intensive research is being conducted on this animal and it is hoped that the mysteries of his strange habits will take on a new meaning for better understanding.

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