

Baseball Team Plays First Of Two Game Series With Pitt At Beaver Field Today

By DAVE COLTON

Coach Ralph Mitterling brings his Pitt baseball squad to Beaver Field today for the first of a two-game series with State's diamondmen.

This afternoon's game will start at 3:30 p.m., and tomorrow's contest will start at 2:30 p.m. Bill Everson or Bill Bair will probably pitch for the Lions.

The Panthers got off to a bad start this season, losing six of their first eight games. But they seem to have righted themselves, somewhat, and now have a 7-7 slate for the year. The Lion's 12-5 victory over Villanova Wednesday raised their record to six wins in eight games.

Weak Schedule

Pitt's most recent game was a 7-6 loss to Thiel Wednesday. Although Mitterling's team has a .500 percentage for the season, the Panthers have not played as rough a schedule as the Nittanians. Victories have been scored over such teams as Clarion, Geneva, Allegheny, and Bethany.

Notre Dame swept two games from Pitt, 5-1, and 10-5; West Virginia gained a 7-0 shut-out victory; and Gettysburg downed the Panthers, 6-2.

The Panthers have not been hitting as well as expected, and the team's fielding has been poor. Thirty-seven miscues were committed in the first eight games to ruin Mitterling's pre-season hopes for an NCAA playoff berth.

Panther Infield

Mitterling will probably start Johnny Marhefka, who hit .305 last year, at first; Joe Scalzo, a sophomore at the hot corner; Joe Ross, who has a two-year .287 batting average at third; and Steve Pavlakovic, who has hit .244 for the last two years, at shortstop.

In the outfield the Panthers will have Dick McShannic in leftfield, Bobby Lewis, centerfield, and Pat Murphy, in right. McShannic is a transfer student, while Lewis has been a regular for two years, and posts a .339 average. Murphy is a .361 hold-over batter.

Sophomore Ollie Niemela has been doing the catching since another soph, Chuck Gibson, hurt his arm. Gibson was one of the heaviest hitters on the team, and may see action in the series.

Three Man Staff

Mitterling has been using a three-man pitching staff most of the season. Righthander Bob Russell had a 1-0 record last season. Paul Lomond, another junior right hander, also posted a 1-0 mark last year. Southpaw Ray Hollis is a newcomer to the team.

Bedenk will probably use the same starting line-up. Stan Laganosky will be at first, Bill Malich, second, Harry Little, third base, and Paul Mowry, shortstop. Bill Hopper, right field, Sil Cerchie, center, and Henry Albright, left field, will patrol the outer garden. Clarence Buss will do the receiving.

Frosh Runners Beat Buckeyes

Lion frosh trackmen made it three-for-three in telegraphic meet competition last week by defeating one of the nation's best, Ohio State, 66-65.

The freshmen will close their season this week when they oppose Michigan State, another of the nation's top track teams.

Final trials for the Spartan meet will be run this afternoon with the two-mile, javelin, and 220 events having Red Hollen, Bernie Kelley, Ollie Sax, and Jim Finn featured.

Against the Buckeyes, Sax suffered his first 440 loss against frosh "competition" when Ohio State's McArdle recorded a 50.5 to beat Sax's 50.9.

Colgate Hosts Net Team Sat.

The Nittany Lion tennis team will venture to Colgate tomorrow in an attempt to extend its present winning streak to three straight.

With only three matches remaining, two of which are against the Red Raiders, the Nittanians will have to be at their best for it has been reported that Coach Perry Rockefeller's combine is loaded to the gills with seasoned talent.

Tough Opposition

Since the Red Raiders are perennially one of the most feared net squads in the East, the Fogmen's possibility of improving on their present 8-2 record is in doubt.

Thus far this campaign, the Lions have successfully overpowered Bucknell (twice), Georgetown, Juniata, Pitt, Western Maryland, Syracuse, and Washington and Jefferson, while their two setbacks were inflicted by a twice-beaten Maryland team, and once-beaten Navy.

Split Last Year

Last season the Statesmen recorded a .500 percent against Colgate, winning at home, 6-3, and losing away, 8-1.

Incidentally, last year Colgate was one of the three squads to hold triumphs over State, the others being Navy and Maryland who have also duplicated the feat this year.

In last season's win, the Colgatemen copped every event except one in the singles action. Captain Owen Landon garnered the only Nittany marker when he swept by veteran Bob Milgrim in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2.

Dick Wieland went down to defeat, 8-6, 6-4, at the hands of one of the highest-rated net performers in the country in the person of Bill Lust. Incidentally, Lust, who played No. 1 man last season, has been shifted to the No. 2 post this year.

Yanks Take 4th Straight From Tribe

The New York Yankees whipped the Cleveland Indians for the fourth straight time yesterday to cling to their top-rung American League position.

Joe DiMaggio's clutch single, a dazzling throw to the plate by Hank Bauer and pitching by Allie Reynolds gave the Yankees an old-fashioned 1-0 triumph.

DiMaggio's single came with two out in the first inning and scored Bobby Brown from second.

In the only other American League afternoon contest Conrado Marrero, making an unexpected start, pulled the Washington Senators out of their four-game losing streak by defeating the Detroit Tigers, 11-6.

Fifth Straight

For Marrero it was his fifth straight win. He was pounded for 16 hits but wasn't in trouble after the Senators scored five runs off Freddie Hutchinson in the third inning to grab a 6-1 lead.

In the National League the league-leading Brooklyn Dodgers were again jolted by the Chicago Cubs, 7-0.

Hank Sauer's three-run homer in the fifth inning embroidered a seven-hit shutout job by Frank Hiller as the Cubs won the rubber game of their three-tilt series.

Kiner's Sixth

At Pittsburgh, Ralph Kiner powered out his sixth home run of the season and a booming double to account for five runs as the Pirates trounced the New York Giants, 12-7.

Murry Dickson was the last in the Pirates' mound parade, going in for Bob Friend in the fourth with two out. He lasted out the storm to get credit for the victory.

The Cincinnati Reds were staggering at the finish, but they eked out a 6-5 victory over the Boston Braves to climb a little closer to first place in the neck and neck NL race.

Move Up

The Reds, winning their fifth straight game and their seventh in their last eight outings, moved to within a game and a half of first-place Brooklyn.

The Redlegs did all of their damage to Warren Spahn, Boston's starting pitcher, in just two innings. In the third, a base-clearing double by Johnny Wyrostek produced three runs.

Trackmen Finish Dual Season Tomorrow At Pitt

By JAKE HIGHTON

Penn State's dual meet track season closes tomorrow afternoon in Pitt Stadium when the Lions meet the Panthers with intent to balance the Navy loss of two weeks ago.

Not idle last Saturday by any means, State's cindermen got a tuneup in the Blue-White meet which should give them an added measure of sharpness.

To date, the Panthers have split in two dual meets. Miami of Ohio edged the Panthers 61½-60½ but last week Carl Olson's men defeated Notre Dame 76½-63½.

Olson Praises Kuzma

Possibilities are good for a great race in the mile tomorrow. Pitt's Frank Kuzma did a 4:21 against Miami, but Olson figured he could have done at least 4:17.

To test Pitt's ace are the Lion's best milers, Bill Ashenfelter and Bob Freebairn. Bill did the distance in 4:18.8 last week and Bob did 4:19 but both are more than ready to lower those figures if good weather and competition are present tomorrow.

State half-milers can also expect trouble. Panther Johnny Kountz did 1:54.5 last week against the Irish to break a meet record held by the fabulous Johnny Woodruff.

Freebairn, Parsons In 880

Chief opposition for Kountz will come from Freebairn and Bob Parsons. "Flea" did 1:56.2 against Navy and Parsons is coming around to his old 880 zip. Dave Pierson, who finished with a powerful kick to win the 880 in 2:00.3 last week, may also pull a surprise for the Lions.

Pitt's captain and quarter-miler, Dick Firsching, did not run against Notre Dame last week and is a doubtful starter tomorrow, so the Lion's Bill Lockhart may have his only obstacle to a 440 victory removed. Last year when the Wernermen beat Pitt 72½-67½, Lockie was nipped by the Panther captain in 49.6 440.

Against the Irish, Pitt's Bernie Luteranick tied a meet record with a 9:41.8 two mile. State's Bill Ash, brother Don, and Jack St. Clair can all hit that mark.

The Pimpernel Breaks Record At Widener

NEW YORK, May 17—(AP)—The Pimpernel, two-year-old chestnut colt, established a world record for four and a half furlongs today by traveling down the Widener Chute at Belmont in 49 4/5 seconds.

The former world mark was 50 2/5 seconds, set on the same course on May 27 last year by Black Douglas, another two-year-old.

The Pimpernel set the record in winning today's fourth race at Belmont, a \$4,000 event for colts which had not before won a race. He was driven by Warren Mehrtens and paid off at \$8.20 for each \$2 ticket.

The chestnut colt, owned by William Goadby Loew, is a son of Pavot out of Chalara, by Challenger II. He was bred by A. S. Hewitt and is trained by D. J. Byers. He finished second in his only previous start on April 3.

Aiken, Pickett To Defend Title

Bill Aiken and Jack Pickett of Phi Delta Theta will defend their intramural horseshoe crown tonight when they meet Don Hazlett and Eusebio Lavin, the opposing finalists from Alpha Chi Rho.

These two duos survived a field of forty-six entries to reach the final round.

The Aiken-Pickett twosome won a hard three-set match from Sam Lemon and Len Shephard, Sigma Nu, in the quarterfinals and then won easily, 21-11 and 21-0, from John Pisano and John Krupa, Theta Xi, in the semifinals.

Hazlett and Lavin defeated Charles Harding and John Williams, Alpha Zeta, 21-5 and 21-20 in the quarterfinals, and then won a three set victory from Al Kovar and Paul Eckert, Phi Kappa, in the semi's, 16-21, 21-3 and 21-4.

Baseball, football, basketball and track were the first four sports established on an intercollegiate basis at Penn State.

College Economic Experts Cast Cold Eye On Baseball Situation

Members of the College's Bureau of Business Research recently made a study of professional baseball in the State, and agreed that the outlook isn't too bright for minor league clubs, the Associated Press reported yesterday.

"Several developments within the last year are almost unmistakable signs of trouble for the baseball industry with conditions likely to get worse before they get better," said the Penn State pundits.

Pessimistic

Penn State's Bureau of Business Research pointed a pessimistic finger specifically at the military draft, the effect of television on minor league attendance and a consolidation of farm system operations.

"At best, baseball, is a precarious business, but in 1951 the uncertainties faced are far greater than in the last five seasons," said Dr. Roger B. Saylor, Penn State associate professor of economics, who wrote the bureau's report.

Baseball in general, but Pennsylvania teams in particular, came under the bureau's research microscope.

26 Pa. Clubs

Of the 26 baseball clubs that operated in the Keystone State last year, only 15 started out the 1951 season, Saylor said. Included are the state's three major league clubs—the Philadelphia Phillies, Philadelphia Athletics, and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"Attendance declines and player shortages have discouraged the continued operating of the other clubs," said the economics expert. Dr. Saylor went on to say that baseball magazines "wish they knew the true importance" of television as a factor in cutting down attendance.

Cost of Living

But besides television, he said, minor leagues also must face the fact the rising cost of living is forcing fans to curtail recreational expenditures. Dr. Saylor said the military

draft is creating "a considerable fear" of a shortage of playing talent in minor leagues which draw their manpower from draft-prime youths.

"Many minor league clubs cannot possibly operate without this assistance from the majors," he said.

But businessmen in minor league communities, said the Penn State professor, are doing everything they can to hang on to their teams.

Asset to Community

"These actions indicate that businessmen consider the presence of a professional baseball an asset to a community and of direct or indirect benefit to business," said the expert.

The report summed up the report on his final not of gloom: "Recent developments, generally beyond the control of local people, may make it difficult for many cities to avoid joining the list of communities which formerly had professional baseball."

Gavilan Made 2 To 1 Favorite

NEW YORK, May 17—(AP)—A flood of money on the challenger boosted flashy Kid Gavilan to a 2 to 1 favorite today to whip NBA welterweight champion Johnny Bratton in their 15-round title bout in Madison Square Garden tomorrow night.

The odds rose a point and a half from the 3½ to 5 odds favoring the Cuban yesterday. Interest in the bout has zoomed up with the weather and this may turn out to be the biggest betting fight of the year.

Although the 9 p.m. (EST) bout is being broadcast (A.B.C.) and telecast (N.B.C.), the promoting International Boxing Club expects its largest crowd and gross of the Garden season.

Stewart Forced Out Of Action

PITTSBURGH, May 17—(AP)—For the first time in his 19 years as a National League umpire, Bill Stewart was forced to quit in the middle of a game today. He was hit on the right knee by a foul tip off the bat of Eddie Stanky in the fourth inning of the New York Giants-Pittsburgh game at Forbes Field.

After Stewart left, two umpires—Jocko Conlan and Art Gore—handled the game. Conlan replacing Stewart behind the plate.

The injured umpire was examined immediately by Dr. Joseph Finegold, who diagnosed it as a bad bruise and ordered whirlpool and heat treatments. Stewart will be out for at least three days.

His Fifth Season

This is Sherm Fogg's fifth year at the helm of the Penn State tennis team. Last year, his team won 8, lost 3, tied 1.