

The Sportseer



Pittsburgh Bids For 1st Division

By Lou Prato
Sports Editor

Being a Pittsburgh Pirate fan is no easy task. In fact, some people (mainly Philadelphia Phillie fanatics) would rather root for the Ogasaugi Wisecrackers of the Hiroshima Little League than throw their money towards the Steel City nine. But not us.

We've been a loyal Pirate supporter (and a Bing Crosby fan, too) since the first time we heard the late Rosey Rosewell blast over the airwaves with his famous "Open the window, Aunt Minnie, here she comes" home run cry.

And we've suffered for our patriotism too—suffered as our hapless heroes floundered around in the darkness of the National League basement for almost a decade.

But, alas, the days of the Black Plague are over, for the reconstructed Pirates are now ready to challenge the other senior circuit clubs for the pennant—well, at least for first division.

And that's how Pittsburgh's efficient public relations man, Jack Berger, feels, too. We talked to the Pirate entrepreneur when he was on campus last week to speak before Dr. Sam Wheery's Commerce 30 (public relations) class. The following is our conversation, along with excerpts from his talk to Dr. Wheery's class.

"The Pirate shortcomings are over," Berger said. "This club is finally on its way. We have a solid infield and solid outfield, and if we can come up with a couple more top pitchers, this team will be in the thick of the (NL) race all year.

"Just how high we finish depends entirely on the mound staff. Our big three—Bob Friend, Ron Kline and Vern Law—are all capable of winning 20 games. And if our young pitchers come through, we could even finish in first.

"Both Ron Blackburn and Bernie Daniels have great potential. Blackburn has looked real good so far and is head and shoulders over our other young pitchers. Daniels is an excellent prospect, but he hasn't done too well this spring."

Why haven't you used Don Gross as a starter?

"We feel that he is more valuable to us as a relief pitcher. He might get starting roles later on, but right now we feel he is better in short spurts."

Do you think the Pirates could trade for a left hand starter?

"If we could get Johnny Antonelli or Harvey Haddix, then maybe we would. But trades are hard to make. Both parties have to be satisfied and both have to feel they got the better of the deal. To get a top lefthander, we'd have to give up someone like Bill Virdon, Roberto Clemente or Bob Skinner; and we wonder if giving up a man like that would be worth it."

Was the Gross for Bob Purkey trade a mistake?

"We don't think so. We are much higher on Gross than on Purkey. We feel he has more natural stuff. But of course, the Redlegs feel that way about Purkey."

How will Ted Kluszewski affect the club?

"If Klu hits home runs and continues to hit them, he'll have a big effect on the Pirates. He gives us more power in the lineup and takes much of the burden off Frank Thomas. And with Thomas relaxed, he's more dangerous as a hitter.

"But even if Klu doesn't hit, I'm not too worried, for there's a pretty good boy standing on the sidelines. I mean rookie R. C. Stevens. He's one of the best young players in the league today. He's a real fine defensive first baseman and has a tremendous amount of power."

There's been talk of the Pirates moving to New York. What do you think of this?

"Under its present ownership, the club will never move from Pittsburgh. It would be foolish to move, for I think this area is the greatest sports-minded area in the country. Look how the fans have supported a last-place club. We want to reward them for that."

How does Bob Prince fit into the Pittsburgh organization?

"If we didn't think that Bob was doing a good job, we would get rid of him. I know a lot of people are critical of him, but you can't satisfy everyone. He has a tendency to ramble and get away from the topic, but he deserves much of the credit for getting people out to the park. I feel that a broadcaster has to be for or against the club and not a middle of the roader. And Prince is for the Pirates all the way."

Will the Pirates ever televise home games?

"Never under the present setup. Why give away what you are trying to sell?"

Lion Netters Test Cornell Away Today

Penn State's tennis team, fresh from an impressive win over Syracuse on Saturday, meets Cornell today in the first of five remaining matches—three of which the Lions must win in order to have a winning season.

The net squad scored its 7-2 victory over a young Syracuse team—four juniors and two sophomores—after a week and a half layoff due to rain-outs which followed two straight losses to Colgate and Penn. Most of the Nittany practice sessions were rained out also, and the team was a little rusty against the Orangemen.

Although only two netmen lost at Syracuse, Coach Sherm Fogg says the team must play much better if it expects to win today.

Fogg offered this one reason for the losses suffered by Gene Flick and Mel Royer. The matches were played at the Orange's new Skytop clay courts and the two Lion rookies never played on that type of court before. The ball bounces off differently on clay, and the two Lions, making tactical errors, didn't adjust quickly enough to win their matches. It was Royer's first loss of the Spring.

If keeping busy will keep them hot, the netmen should be burning, for all five matches will be played within the next week-and-a-half.

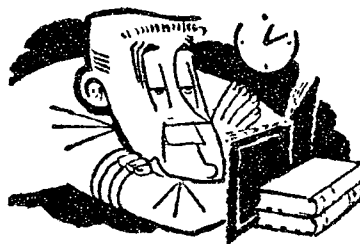
In discussing today's opponent, Fogg said that coaches of past Cornell foes have said that Cornell is not as strong this year as last. Since the Big Red were very strong last year, the Lion mentor terms them still "pretty rugged—at least as good as Penn." Penn beat the Lions 8-1 this year.

As for the other four matches this season, the opponents are generally rated this way by Fogg: Bucknell, the neighbor from Lewisburg, is always tough against State. Tuesday's foe, Georgetown, is possibly the top team in the East. Navy is in Cornell's class and Pitt on the same level as Bucknell.

Lion Tryouts Scheduled

Any interested male with a 2.0 All-University average who would like to try out for the position of the Nittany Lion—prankster at the football games—may apply by calling John Collier, AD 8-1157, before noon Friday.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

Yesterday's Results

San Francisco	16	Los Angeles	9
St. Louis	5	Chicago	5

W	L	Pct.	G.B.	
Milwaukee	15	7	.682	—
San Francisco	17	9	.654	—
Pittsburgh	15	9	.625	1
Chicago	13	11	.491	4½
Cincinnati	9	11	.450	5
Philadelphia	9	15	.375	7
St. Louis	9	14	.381	7½
Los Angeles	9	17	.346	8

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yesterday's Results (All night games)

New York	13	5	.722	—
Washington	11	9	.591	2
Baltimore	11	9	.550	3
Detroit	12	12	.500	4
Kansas City	9	10	.474	4½
Cleveland	11	13	.455	5
Boston	10	13	.430	5½
Chicago	7	13	.350	7

Today's Games
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, night
San Francisco at St. Louis, night
Los Angeles at Chicago

Today's Games
Chicago at Kansas City, night
Cleveland at Detroit
Boston at Washington, night
Baltimore at New York

Musial Blasts 3000th Hit

CHICAGO (AP)—Stan "The Man" Musial, hastily summoned as a pinch-hitter despite a well-advertised day off, joined a handful of baseball immortals yesterday by smashing a game-turning double for his 3000th major league hit and a 5-3 victory for his St. Louis Cardinals over the Chicago Cubs.

Only seven others have collected 3000 or more big league hits.

Musial, was supposed to have been benched Tuesday so he could hit No. 3000 in St. Louis Wednesday night. He was yanked from a sunny perch in the Card bull-pen in the sixth inning and belted his epic two-bagger which started a four-run Card rally.

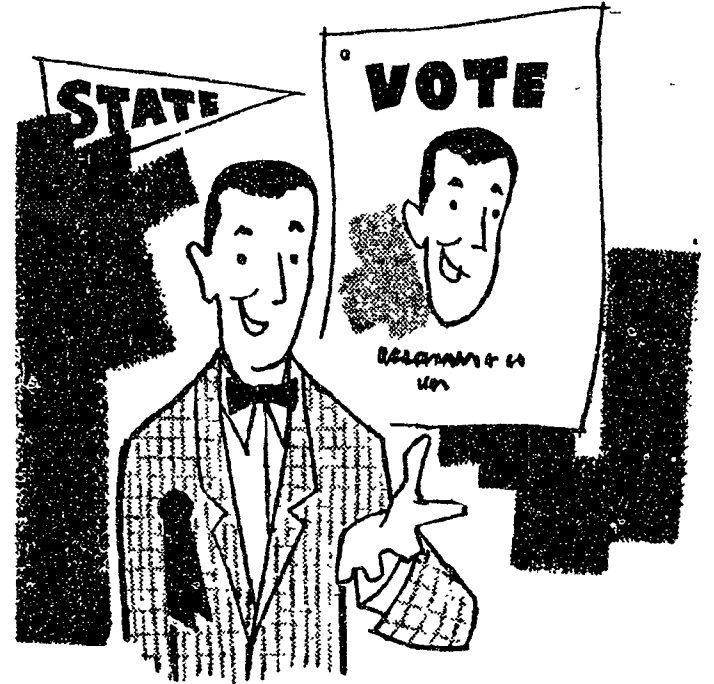
It was the sixth win in a row

for St. Louis over the error-plagued Cubs, who lost their seventh straight.

Musial had a 2-2 count, fouling off three pitches, before he tagged Chicago's Moe Drabowsky for a long double into deep left field. After a swarm of photographers besieged Stan on second base, he left for pinch-runner Frank Banres.

Musial batted for Card starter Sam Jones after Gene Green led off the St. Louis sixth with a double and Hal Smith grounded out. Green scored on Musial's hit and before the inning ended, a walk, Don Blasingame's single, an infield out and Wally Moon's double scored three more runs.

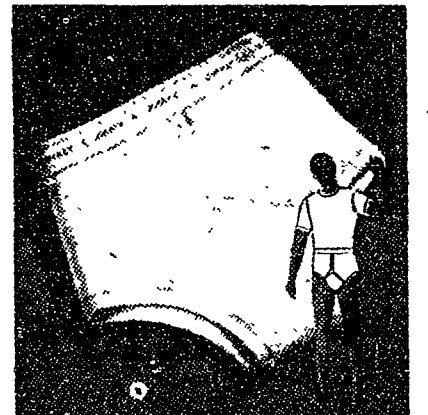
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