

The Sportseer



Pirates Picked By "Tenth Fan"

By Lou Prato
Sports Editor

We received a letter from former Collegian sports writer Les Powell recently and among its contents was a poetic endeavor concerning baseball. It's about the major leagues in general and the Pittsburgh Pirates in particular.

Because today is the opening day of the 1959 major league season, we felt it would be appropriate to print Les' original poem. It's called "The Tenth Fan" and expresses our feeling as well as Les' attitude towards the new diamond campaign.

Ask baseball fans, and nine of ten
Will say, "The Yanks and Braves again."
The latter pick looks bad to me,
And this is why I disagree:

To stay in front in a pennant race
A club needs strength at second base;
And Ted's been knocked out by a germ,
Which has, no doubt, made Haney squirm.

His battery's the circuit's best;
His gardeners have stood the test,
But Bushville's weak 'tween third and first;
And there have pennant bubbles burst.

It's true that pitching runs the show,
And there's no defense for a circuit blow,
But I prefer the club that has
The keystone pair of Groat and Maz.

Watch the Pirates; they're my pick,
If Friend and Haddix don't get sick,
Skinner doesn't break and arm,
Clemente's discharged without harm.

And Stuart hits like he can talk,
And Fate at Ron Kline doesn't balk,
And Donald Hoak comes through at third,
A place or show would be absurd.

Smoky's work with mitt and mask
Should spark the drive and ease the task;
And Witt and Rydon and Vernon Law
Can help make Danny a John McGraw.

Virdon's presence in center field
Will minimize the pitchers' yield;
And don't forget the dugout crew,
Led by a lusty lad called Klu.

The pitching should ne'er disgrace—
Relief is there to save its face;
From grandstand screen to bleacher wall,
The Buccaneers are standing tall.

Take Spahn and Willey, Lew and Jay,
Aaron, Mathews and Frank Torre,
Adcock, Crandal and Covington,
But watch the gonfalon be won

By the team that hails from Smokytown;
The team of Rickey and Joe L. Brown;
A team that cannot miss the boat
With a keystone pair like Maz and Groat.

While still on the subject of major league baseball, we had another letter the other day from our old friend "Joe, the barber." (No. not Moe, the barber.) He's in Havana for a spring vacation and he penned the following note:

"I know you won't have enough guts to predict the outcome of the majors' pennant races so I thought I'd do it for you. In the National League I pick Pittsburgh followed by Milwaukee, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis and Philadelphia. And in the other circuit (how's that for a sports term) I like the Yanks, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Kansas City and Washington.

"Of course, man, I know many of your readers will disagree with my picks. So if there are any complaints tell them to send me the letters at this address: The Havana State Hospital, Havana, Cuba."

So, what else is new?

Reds, Bucs To Open Major Play

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Cincinnati Reds and the Pittsburgh Pirates get the 1959 National League baseball season under way today

A full house crowd of 32,000 is expected.

Except for the results of a deal with the Reds, Pittsburgh will start the season with a lineup used much of last season. Ronnie Kline is slated as the starting hurler.

Only stranger in the lineup will be third baseman Don Hoak, who is no stranger here. He was traded to the Pirates along with catcher Smoky Burgess and Pitcher Harvey Haddix for third baseman Frank Thomas and three other players.

Except for Thomas, the Reds, who expect to start Bob Purkey on the mound, also will look much the same as at the start of the season a year ago.

The Reds will be opening the season with a new manager—Mayo Smith—although he is no newcomer to the league, having previously managed Philadelphia. He succeeded Birdie Tebbetts, who quit several weeks before the end of the 1958 campaign.

The Baltimore Orioles, pace setters in the exhibition game season, play at Washington where 25,000 are expected to see the presidential opener. They won't see President Eisenhower, however, for he is on a golfing vacation. Vice President Nixon will throw out the first ball.

DU, SAE Win In IM V-Ball

Phi Sigma Delta's 15-4 and 15-8 wins over Beaver House and Nittany 27's 15-3 and 15-4 victories over the Battle Wagons held the limelight in last night's IM volleyball action at Rec Hall.

In other action, Delta Upsilon downed Alpha Phi Delta, 15-8 and 15-2; Sigma Alpha Epsilon dropped Theta Kappa Phi, 15-13 and 15-3; Chi Phi eased by Phi Sigma Kappa, 15-3, 14-16, 15-5; and Tau Kappa Epsilon scored a decisive 15-3, 10-15, 15-6 victory over Tau Phi Delta.

The independent league action was close as the McElwain Men held off Grace's Gladiators for a 15-13, 16-14 win; Nittany Co-op tripped Hanna's Horrors, 15-11, 15-13, and the Inebriates stopped the Goopers, 15-13, 15-10. Rounding out the play, the Push Overs came from behind to whip the Lower Merion Boys, 11-15, 15-12, 16-14, and Nittany 36 surprised the Hi Spikers, 11-15, 15-12, and 16-14.

Holds Booting Record

Ed Czekaj, Penn State's business manager for athletics, holds the University record for most extra points kicked in one season. Czekaj booted 32 (in 46 attempts) as a member of the 1947 Penn State Cotton Bowl team.



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of the more than
34 organizations
which will be here
for the
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Werner Optimistic About Spike Season

By JOHN BLACK

Coach Chick Werner was a tower of confidence yesterday as he spoke of the upcoming spring track season and reviewed the potentialities of his men.

"The selection of men for events is more difficult this year than it has ever been," he said. "In leaner years I could

select the boys without trials." And with a gleam in his eye he added in his own prophetic manner, "This is not a lean year for us."

Depth is the keyword for the Lion varsity this spring. In some events there are as many as 10 or 12 performers competing for the same position. "The worst guy we've got in our group could make any college team in the country," claimed Werner.

The Nittanians boast a running corps strong enough to make them one of the track powers of the East. They are particularly potent in the middle distance events indicated the veteran spike mentor.

The field events do not measure up to the superlative running but they are by no means weak.

Senior John Tullar heads the weight men backed up by Andy Nyce and Wayne Smith. Tullar has thrown the shot over 50 feet in practice and has exceeded the 160-foot mark with the discus. Nyce is number two man in both

the shot and discus and Jon Musser and Jim Wambold are developing in the platter throw.

Nyce and Musser also hurl the javelin along with sophomore Jim Schwab. All three have thrown over 200 feet. Senior letterman Sam Richards, junior Stratton Schaeffer and sophomores Bill Avery, Paul Bohn and Gerald Ruffner will be pushing the top three hurlers.

Numerical-winner Dick Gross and sophs Ron Beard and Dale Peters have all cleared the 13-foot crossbar in the pole vault and high jump hopes rest with junior letterman John Fareira, who is a 6'4" or better jumper.

The biggest weakness on the team is the broad jump. Pole-vaulter Dick Gross doubles as the lone entrant in this event.

The thinnest running event will be the hurdles where the experience is provided by Fareira and Bob Szezyler, who lettered in the lows last year.

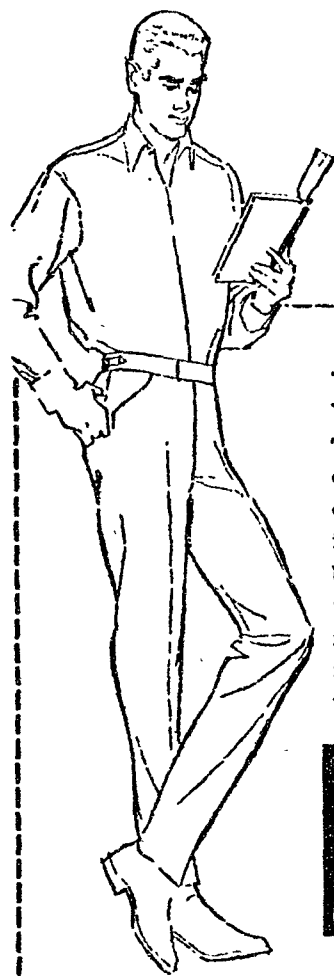
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Defending Champs Triumph In Intramural H-Ball Doubles

Defending champions Don Harney and Bob Campbell of Tau Kappa Epsilon advanced in the fraternity handball doubles tournament last evening by trouncing Platta, Sigma Tau Gamma, 21-5, Brinton Haddock and Dick Olson of Phi Sigma Kappa, 21-8 and 21-7.

In the evening's closest contest, former soccer captain Howie Maierhofer and partner Don Pratt, Phi Kappa Psi, were edged by Bob Gross and Vern Zeitz of Phi Epsilon Pi, 21-10, 15-21, 21-20.

But other soccer players fared better as 1959 captain Bill Fiedler, Sigma Nu, and Pete Wadsworth, Sigma Pi, teamed with Ron Griffith and footballer John Miller, 21-7, 21-13.



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MEL DURDAN, Camp Director, will interview male students on Monday and Tuesday, April 13 and 14, 1959. Call Student Employment Office for appointment.