

The Sportseer



# Pirate Official Visits Campus

By Lou Prato  
Sports Editor

Some days it just doesn't pay to be alive—especially the last seven days for die-hard Pittsburgh Pirate fans.

But . . . ah . . . well . . . there are still 149 games to go, you know. And besides—heh! heh!—we're slow starters; we just want to give the other three teams a chance.

All kidding aside, though, we have been quite surprised by the Pirates' early season failure. And the Pirate management has been, too.

For when the Buccos' public relations director Jack Berger visited the campus earlier this week, he was quite optimistic about the Pirates' pennant chances.

"We should be a first division ball club," Berger said. "My own feeling is that we'll finish one, two or three with Milwaukee and San Francisco right in there, too.

"The fans expect a pennant but the ball club has never said that it does," Berger added. "That would be a false advertising. However, we have a very good chance. This is a good ball club with good defense, pitching and hitting. But we can't lose any key men because of injuries."

Berger gave this candid observation while speaking before Professor Ralph Wherry's public relations class Tuesday afternoon. It's an annual appearance for Berger, who spends a good deal of his lecture sessions answering questions about Pirate baseball. And this session was no different.

One of the first questions concerned the waiver purchasing of pitcher Paul Giel from the Giants, which had hit the sports pages just that morning.

"I don't know why the Giants gave up on Giel," Berger said. "We really never expected to get him. A player is usually put on the waiver list for two reasons—to get a sampling of his trading value or to send him to the minors. When we claimed Giel, we thought the Giants would take him off the list; but they didn't.

"We know that he's somewhat of a calculated risk, but we know he has the ability to be a good pitcher. He was a bonus pitcher in 1954 and because of that has not had the benefit of minor league training. But we think he has good stuff.

"He's wild but we think we can settle him down. He's never been more than a .500 pitcher for the Giants, and last year he won four and lost five. But two of these four wins were against us and he looked very good both times. That's one of the reasons we grabbed him. We'll probably use him in long relief roles this year."

Berger also had a defense for the shipping of hurler Curt Raydon to the minors. Raydon, you may recall, was a standout rookie last year.

"Raydon pitched in only a few innings this spring because of an injury to the index finger of his pitching hand. So we sent him down so that he could get into shape. Right now, he is in the shape he should be for entering spring training. He'll get more work at Columbus than if he had stayed with the team, but I'm pretty sure he'll be back up before the season is over."

Are the Pirates satisfied with the Frank Thomas trade?  
"Yes. We were very reluctant to trade Thomas but we had certain weaknesses and we couldn't go to our farm system to remedy them. We had to sacrifice his power, but in order to get something you must give."

Here are some of the other Berger comments:  
On Dick Stuart: "He has a lot of ability but he's very unpredictable. He can look good fielding—I've seen him."

On Rocky Nelson: "Rocky Nelson will very definitely stick with the club this season and he should help us. He's the best defensive first baseman we have."

On Hank Foiles, Smoky Burgess and Danny Kravitz: "I don't see anyone beating out Foiles (as our top catcher) for the next three years. Burgess is not as good a receiver as Foiles but is a better power man. I'm convinced that Foiles is about the best defensive catcher in the National League today. Kravitz has a lot of natural ability and has looked very good this spring."

On the selling of beer at Forbes Field: "Selfishly, we would be for it. After all, it would mean added revenue. But, by selling it in the park, we would cut down the consumption. You know how much beer is brought into the park."

On Dick Schofield: "We're keeping him for a number of reasons. We acquired him to be groomed for the shortstop job in the future. He may replace Dick Groat in three or four years. He's still young and has much promise."

On interleague trading: "It's several years away on a full scale. At present, there is enough opposition by owners for it to be limited."

On a third major league: "The day might come in the near future where we will see a third major league formed."

On future trades: "I doubt that we will make any more this year, but that's only a guess."

# Gardner's Triple Stops Yanks, 7-4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Second baseman Billy Gardner's first hit of the season—a bases-loaded triple—gave the Baltimore Orioles a 7-4 victory over the previously unbeaten New York Yankees yesterday.

Gardner's blow to deep right center was smacked off rocket thrower Ryne Duren, who had relieved Art Ditmar in the eighth.

It was the first setback in their first four games for the Yanks, who had taken a 4-3 lead in the seventh inning on Elston Howard's homer and the third run driven in by Norm Siebern.

Duren went in with the Yanks leading 4-3 and two Orioles on base, Willie Tasby by a single and Bob Nieman by a walk.

Al Pilarcik rifled a Duren fireball right back at him. It bounced off the pitcher's glove for single to fill the bases. Pinch hitter Gene Woodling sent a bouncer to second which Gil McDougald was unable to make a play and Tasby scored the tying run.

Gardner then sent his long jackpot hit to deep right center field. New York ----- 000 002 200-4 11 1  
Baltimore ----- 100 101 04x-7 9 1  
Ditmar, Duren 8 and Howard, Rambarger, Portocarrero 7, O'Dell 1.—Ditmar.  
Home runs—New York, Howard 1. Baltimore, Tasby 1, Nieman 1.

# ATO Keglers Win; Remain Undefeated

Alpha Tau Omega made it 32 straight yesterday by beating Kappa Sigma, 4-0. The league B leaders were paced by the twin 500 series of Richard Bohner and John Neifert. Second place Delta Sigma Phi, headed by Gary Hale, Ronald Moore and Robert Sterner held their spot by shutting out Phi Kappa Sigma, 4-0.

Other league B action saw Alpha Phi Delta, led by Gene Gereasi's high game of 220, down Theta Delta Chi 4-0. Dave Downing's high game of 183 failed to save Tau Phi Delta from losing to Delta Chi, 4-0, in another match.

Also in league B, Zeta Beta Tau defeated Alpha Gamma Rho, 3-1, and Lambda Chi Alpha downed Delta Theta Sigma, 3-1.

# KC Beats White Sox On House, Cerv HR's

CHICAGO (AP)—Kansas City's 34-year-old Ned Garver scattered five hits and was backed by a pair of 2-run homers for a 6-0 victory over the Chicago White Sox yesterday.

Chicago's Early Wynn, who last weekend won his 250th major league victory, was chased in the seventh inning after yielding a 2-run homer to Frank House in the second and another 2-run homer to Bob Cerv in the seventh.

Wynn, 39, also was nicked for two runs in the sixth inning on four singles as he suffered his first defeat against one victory.

# Search for 2nd QB Looms as Problem

The search for a quarterback to play behind Richie Lucas still looms as the main problem to be solved before Penn State winds up spring football drills, May 2.

Right now Penn State football coach Rip Engle and his assistants have six candidates fighting for positions on the alternate and third units. Among these are Galen Hall, Pete Brewster and Bill Peters who all quarterbacked the freshman squad last fall.

Also on hand are John Black, Bob Jennings and Bob Kramer.

"It's a little too early to make any decisions," said Engle. The boys need more time to show us what they can do." But both Engle and quarterback coach Joe Paterno said if none of the newcomers came through, halfback Dick Hoak would have to move back to quarterback.

Hoak was an all-WPIAL quarterback during his high school days at Jeanette, but was switched to halfback last year. He turned in a good showing there last fall and it would be better for the Lions if he could stay at half.

But Engle has been working with Sam Sobczak at halfback for insurance. Sobczak was a fullback last season, but played a little bit at left half.

Another Lion switch which is working out well, according to Engle, involves Stu Barber. Barber played end last year but is working at tackle now.

"He's been doing real well there," Engle said. "If that switch works out it will help us a lot."

Last night's practice marked the sixth workout since spring drills began two weeks ago. The Lions still have 14 days more left because the NCAA allows a school twenty days for practice. Right now the drills will end May 2 with the annual Blue-White game played on Beaver Field.



Sam Sobczak  
... now at halfback

# Title Fight Scheduled

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The twice-postponed welterweight title fight between champion Don Jordan and dethroned Virgil Akins became official yesterday with the signing of a contract.

Athletic Commissioner Charles W. Pian watched as both fighters affixed their signatures. The fight is April 24.

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