Grandstand Views

What's Behind Lions' 11-2 Record

By Sandy Padwe
Collegian Sports Editor

With only four games remaining on Penn State's baseball schedule, the Lion coaches—Joe Bedenk and Chuck Medlar—are in a happy frame of mind. And well they might be.

Not only do their baseballers have an 11-2 record, but they stand a pretty good chance of landing a birth in the NCAA District II playoffs for the third straight year.

And all this from a team that was labeled the "greenest" in Penn State baseball history.

How did they do it? Well, there seems to be a difference of opinion on the matter.

Some people say it was just luck. They sight the fact that the Lions committed seven errors against Bucknell, but still came out on top. Other people say that the Nittanies don't play such a tough schedule. They say that Gettysburg, Bucknell and Georgetown are pushovers in baseball.

But Bedenk and Medlar have the right answer to the question. "The boys have a lot of hustle and desire out on the field," Bedenk said. Medlar voiced a similar opinion. "They really love to play ball and they play the game hard."

And if you've seen the Lions in action this season, you know what they say is true. Because what other words than hustle and desire could explain one of Dick Landis' headfirst slides, or a diving backhand stop of a sure basehit by Larry Fegley or one of Ed Kikla's clutch strikeouts with men on base.

However, these aren't the only reasons that the Lions are doing so well. There's the little matter of some surprise performances by Kikla, Tom Durbin, Zeke DeLong and Bill Benton.

"If I had to pick out the most surprising thing about the team's showing this year, I would point out the way Kikla, Benton, DeLong and Durbin have played," Bedenk said.

Before the start of the campaign, Bedenk and Medlar didn't really have any of this quartet in line for a starting job. But soon after practice started things began to happen that made them change their minds.

Kikla's fast ball moved past batters without much trouble, DeLong began to hit with authority, and Benton and Durbin impressed with their pitching and hitting.

Still this was only practice and none of the four had any game experience. Then in the opener against Gettysburg, Benton and DeLong proved themselves, Benton by winning the game in relief, and DeLong by getting two important hits.

A week later, Kikla and Durbin showed the Lion coaches that this wasn't going to be such a bad season after all when they beat powerful Ohio State in a doubleheader.

Then last week, Durbin and Benton came through again for the Lions—but this time in different roles.

The Lion coaches had been worried because some of their starters weren't hitting, so they inserted the hard hitting pitchers into the lineup in leftfield and first base respectively, and the result was immediate success.

Durbin got thre hits at Navy and Benton came through with two triples that eventually won the game for Ron Riese and the Lions.

Right now Durbin is the leading hitter on the team with a .631 average in 19 at bats while Benton is hitting .333. But the most consistent hitter is rightfielder DeLong.

Through the first 13 games he has slugged the ball at a .392 pace and has come through with some game winning clutch hits like his triple at Colgate Friday.

There, with the Lions behind by a run in the ninth and a seven game winning streak riding on his shoulders, he smashed a drive deep to left scoring the Lion baserunners and giving the Nittanies the win.

While DeLong is the most consistent hitter, Kikla must rank as the most consistent hurler. The sophomore portsider has a 5-0 record with 41 strikeouts and a 0.76 ERA this year.

He will get a chance for his sixth win when he will start against West Virginia Saturday in one of the four remaining games.

This means that he will probably be able to see action once more before the end of the season, either in the twinbill against Pitt Wednesday or Temple next Friday.

If the Lions can win two of the last four games, there is a good possibility they will get a bid to the NCAA District II playoffs. But they will have to fight it out with Pitt, Lafayette, Rutgers and Delaware.

Temple and St. Johns are two other teams slated for the district tourney, but they will go as representatives of the Middle Atlantic Conference and Metropolitan Conference respectively.

Right now Temple is leading the Middle Atlantic conference with a record of 8-0 and St. Johns is in first place in the Metropolitan collegiate league.

Sword Dancer Favored

BALTIMORE (AP) — Marylanders and other assorted tourists in Baltimore for the 83rd running of the Preakness Stakes at old Pimlico Saturday are taking another look at First Landing and Eddie Arcaro.

The track oddsmaker listed the Brookmeade Stable's Sword Dancer, who was nosed out by Tomy Lee in the Kentucky Derby, as the probable Preakness favorite at 2-1 odds. First Landing—third in the derby—was the second choice here at 3-1.

CBS to Carry PGA

NEW YORK (AP)—Portions of the play on the two closing days of the annual Professional Golfers' Assn. tournament will be covered by network (CBS) television.

The network will carry a one-hour telecast Saturday, Aug. 1 and a 90-minute telecast Sunday, Aug. 2, both from the Minneapolis golf club. The tournament, won by Dow Finsterwald last year, once more will be decided by medal play.

Cubs Smash Reds, 10-0

CHICAGO (AP) — Ernie Banks' grand slam homer in a 7-run third backed Glen Hobbie's 3-hit pitching for a 10-0 Chicago Cub victory over the Cincinnati Reds yesterday.

'S' Club To Give Award At Banquet

Penn State's Varsity 'S' Club will hold its annual banquet tonight at 6:30 in dining room C of the Hetzel Union Building.

Highlighting the evening will be the naming of Penn State's Most Outstanding Athlete and Personality for 1958-59. This is the first year such an award has been presented.

Those previously named as the most valuable player in their sport for this year were Herb Hertner, soccer; Steve Garban, football; Mark DuMars, basketball; Armando Vega, gymnastics; and Sam Minor, wrestling.

Spring sport athletes elected as most valuable by their teammates were Ed Moran, track; Zeke DeLong, baseball; Bill Davidson, golf; and John Behne, lacrosse.

The initial recipient of this outstanding varsity athlete award will be selected from this array of stars. A trophy will be presented to the winner at a later date.

Ralph Wherry, head of the Commerce Department, will be Master of Ceremonies while Cy Morgan, longtime scout for the Philadelphia Phillies and prominent banquet personality, will be guest speaker.

MAJOR LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
Cleveland	16	9	.640	—
Chicago	16	11	.593	1
x-Baltimore	15	12	.556	2
Washington	15	14	.517	3
Boston	12	14	.462	4½
x-Kansas City	11	14	.440	5
New York	11	14	.440	5
Detroit	9	17	.346	7½

x—Play night game

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W.	L.	Pct.	G.B.
x-Los Angeles	18	12	.600	—
x-Milwaukee	15	10	.600	½
San Francisco	15	13	.536	2
Cincinnati	14	13	.519	2½
Chicago	15	15	.516	2½
x-Pittsburgh	12	14	.462	4
Philadelphia	11	16	.407	5½
x-St. Louis	10	18	.357	7

x—Play night games

Probable Pitchers
American League

Chicago at Boston—Wynn (4-2) vs. Hoeft (1-2)

Detroit at Washington (N)—Bunning (2-3) vs. Kemmerer (4-1)

Kansas City at Baltimore (N)—Herbert (1-3) vs. O'Dell (1-1)

Only games scheduled

National League

Milwaukee at St. Louis (N)—Pizarro (0-1) vs. Jackson (1-4) or McDaniel (2-4)

Pittsburgh at Los Angeles (N)—Friend (0-6) vs. Podres (4-2)

Philadelphia at San Farncisco—Semproch (2-1) vs. McCormick (0-2)

Cincinnati at Chicago—Nuxhall (1-2) vs. Hillman (2-1)

Warriors Sign 'Stilt' For NBA's Top Salary

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain yesterday became the highest paid player in the history of the National Basketball Association, signing a 1-year contract for more than $30,000 with the Philadelphia Warriors.

Warriors' owner Eddie Gottlieb said signing of the 22-year-old 7-foot Negro ace meant prosperity for the entire league. He predicted a $100,000 gate increase for his Warriors and said Chamberlain's appearances would pack houses all over the circuit.

Jones Beats Phils; Chisox Top Boston

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Fireball pitcher Sam Jones shut out Philadelphia on 2 hits yesterday and fanned 12, the most for a National League hurler this season, as San Francisco whipped the Phillies 6-0.

Third baseman Willie Jones ruined Sam's bid for a no-hitter with an infield single down the third base line after two were out in the seventh.

The Giants wrapped up the victory in the opening inning as they ripped ex-teammate Ruben Gomez for 5 runs on 5 hits, including a 3-run homer by Willie Mays.

Jones fanned Wally Post three times and struck out each member of the Phillies' opening batting order at least once except Gomez who left the game after the first inning. Jones walked five.

The Giants' big right-hander, obtained from the St. Louis Cardinals in a trade this spring, pitched a no-hitter May 12, 1955.

The second Philly hit came off the bat of pinch hitter Gene Freese, a sharp single to left in the eighth.

BOSTON (AP) — Bob Shaw, getting a starting job after 14 relief assignments for Chicago, shut out Boston on 5 hits for a sparkling 4-0 victory yesterday.

The triumph was the fifth in a row for the White Sox and moved them to within one game of American League leading Cleveland, idled by rain.

All the blows off the 25-year-old right-hander were singles including Ted Williams' first of the season—a poke to left.

Shaw did not allow a walk while lowering his shiny earned run average to 0.81. He was acquired by Chicago in a trade with Detroit last June and in 40 games had a 4.74 ERA.

The Chicago control artist got all the support he needed when his teammates combed Boston starter Frank Sullivan for four straight singles and two runs in the first inning.

Al Smith doubled off the left field wall in the third after two singles to make it 3-0.

Jim Landis singled, stole second and rode home on a Sherm Lollar safety in the fourth.

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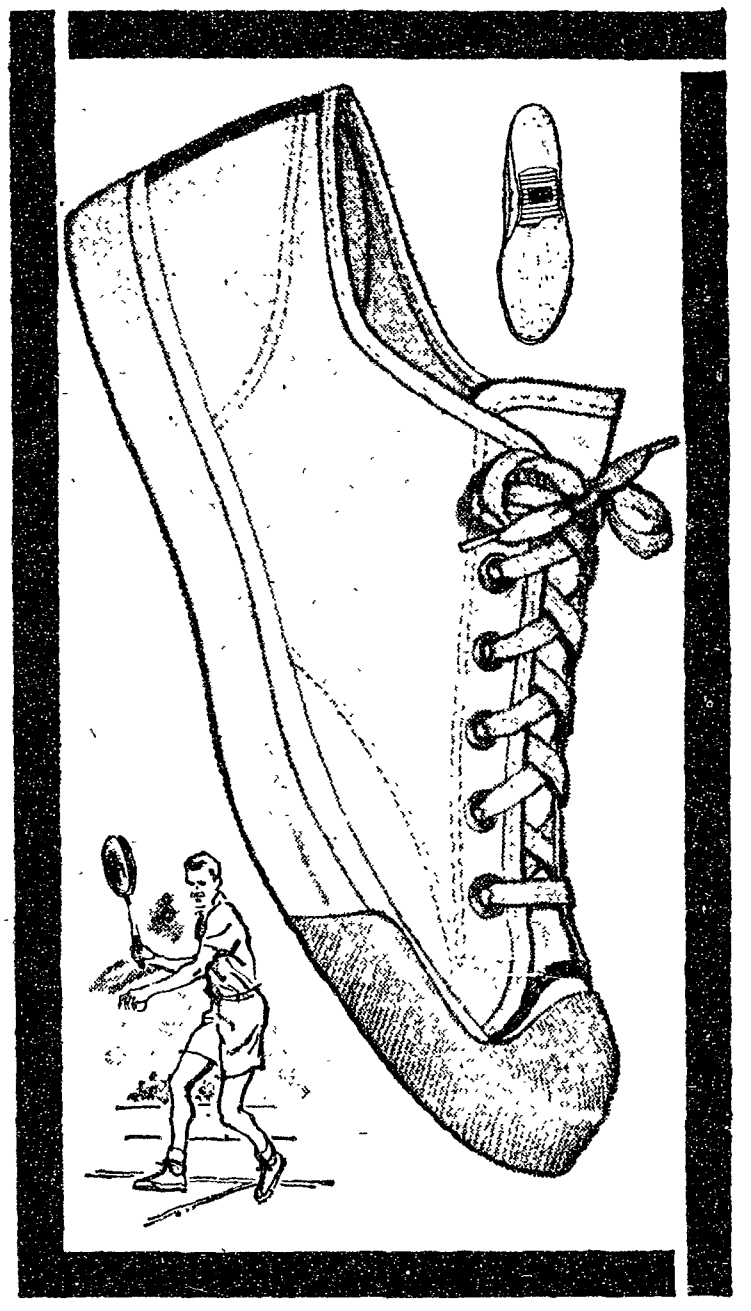

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