

12 Lettermen Bolster Nittany Baseball Hopes

By SANDY PADWE

Spring hath sprung and as far as baseball coach Joe Bedenk is concerned it couldn't have come at a better time because the 1960 opener against Gettysburg is just one week away.

With 12 lettermen returning, Bedenk has sweet hope of improving Penn State's fourth place finish in last year's College World Series.

But it won't be as easy as everyone thinks. Only three men are missing from last year's squad and two of them, Bob Hoover and Ron Riese aren't the type that can be replaced right away.

Hoover captained the Lions last spring and was the top slugger with 28 RBI and a .370 batting average while Riese was the number two pitcher with a 5-2 record.

Bedenk is hoping that Bob Luff or Bob Hlobak, a pair of varsity holdovers, can fill Hoover's shoes at shortstop. If not, sophomore Bill Burkhardt could get the nod.

Another sophomore, John Phillips, is high on the list at third base, but whether he starts or not depends where Dick Landis plays.

Landis, State's pepper-pot captain, split last season at third base and left-field and Bedenk hasn't decided where he'll play this year.

The rest of the infield is pretty well set with hard-hitting Larry Fegley at second base and Larry Beighey and Bill Benton splitting the first base chores.

In the outfield, Bedenk has steady Zeke DeLong set for duty in right, but the other two slots are up for grabs between letterman Ron Rinker, footballer Roger Kochman, Brad Davis, Jack Mel-



PENN STATE

DICK LANDIS
Lion captain

chior and Spencer McGraw. State has plenty of depth behind the plate with last year's starters Harry Beans and John Adams still around. Transfer Jim Suplizio and holdover John McSparran round out the catching corps.

Southpaw Eddie Kikla, one of the nation's top college hurlers last season with a 9-1 record, heads the Lion pitching staff.

Two other lefties, Benton and Tom Durbin will see plenty of ac-

tion in addition to their other duties.

Because Benton and Durbin are such good hitters, Bedenk often uses them at first base and left field, respectively, but with Riese gone Bedenk feels he might have to count on them more as pitchers.

Lettermen Bob Arner and Larry Freedman, both righties, are back and they'll be pushed by a group of talented sophomores including Dave Bergey, Marlin Bie-secker, and Ken Bruni.

Lee Rentzel, a 24-year-old left-hander from York, Pa., and sophomores Gary Chapula and Dave Luongo also could help with the mound chores.

Frosh Baseball

All freshmen interested in playing freshman baseball should report to Room 241, Rec Hall at 5 p.m. today.

Netmen Prep for Penn Meet

Penn State's tennis team, loaded with experienced hands and aiming for an impressive season, stepped up training yesterday in preparation for its season's opener against Penn on the Jordan courts Saturday.

Under the sharp eye of Coach Sherm Fogg, the Lions are rounding into shape quickly despite the poor weather that has hampered all Penn State teams this spring.

Saturday's match will be the initial test on a rough schedule which finds the Lions splitting 12 meets at home and on the road.

Captain Gerry Carp will probably be the number one man for Penn State and junior Dick Lud-

wig is a top candidate for the number two spot. Both men have varsity experience and are entering their last year of competition.

Other possible starters are Jim Baker, John Blanck, John Krall and Vance Rea.

Baker is a soph who starred for last year's frosh and Blanck is a junior letterman. Krall is another returning letterman and Rea, a junior, is last year's IM champ.

Carp and Baker probably will combine to form the number one doubles team, while the duo of Blanck and veteran Don MacCartney are after the second spot. Letter-winner Garry Moore and Rea may team up in the other doubles match.

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