

Fielding, Hitting Collapse Kills Lions' Playoff Hopes

By JOHN MORRIS

Selection time for the NCAA District 2 baseball playoffs is nearing, but Penn State (4-5) doesn't have to worry about getting a bid.

Just last week the Lions were rated as a dark horse candidate for an invitation with a 4-1 record, their only loss coming at the hands of highly touted Villanova.

Then the Lions traveled to Navy to meet the undefeated Middies in a game that could have put the Nittanians in the baseball spotlight.

Joe Bedenk's baseballers had several chances to win at Navy, but they couldn't get the big hit with men on base.

In that game the Middies stopped a ninth inning rally to extend their unbeaten skein to 18 games. Chuck Davis went the route to win his tenth game against no losses, 4-3.

The Nittanians still were under consideration for a bid before their weekend trip into New York.

But a 7-0 loss to Colgate Friday and a doubleheader win by Syracuse Saturday killed State's hopes for a regional berth.

"I don't know what happened to us," Bedenk said. "I guess a bad winter makes a bad spring."

The Lions have been hit hard by weather difficulties and the pitchers haven't been able to get



JOE BEDENK

all the work that Bedenk would like.

But it was the hitting and fielding that ruined State on the New York trip.

"We just fell apart," Bedenk said. "We would have a bad play to start an inning and then we would collapse and give them a big inning."

The hitting was as faulty as the fielding. The Lions consistently got men on base against the slants of Colgate's Ed Abel (5-1), Syracuse's Dave Giusti (6-0) and Davis — three of the best pitchers in the nation — but couldn't come through in the clutch.

The Nittanians went 22 innings without scoring a run over their lost weekend. They finally tallied twice in the second half of Saturday's twin bill, but it was a case of too little too late as the Orange won, 3-2, on an unearned run in the last inning.

"We just can't buy a base hit with men on base," Bedenk said. "We were getting a lot of runners on against those good pitchers, but we couldn't get them around."

Colgate, Villanova, Syracuse and Navy are all among the top-ranked teams in the East.

The Lions resume action against Bucknell in a Beaver Field doubleheader tomorrow.

Thomas Ahead Of Schedule For Russians

BOSTON (P)—John Thomas, resuming his role as America's astronaut athlete, is ahead of schedule in his preparation for a visit to Moscow this summer and a continuation of his duel with Russian high jumpers.

Thomas sailed over the bar at 7 feet, 2 inches Saturday in a Boston University-Tufts duel meet which the Boston Terriers lost despite three firsts by Thomas. It was the 61st time he had cleared seven feet or better but the first time since March 3 at the New York Knights of Columbus indoor meet.

"He's ahead of our timetable," said Coach Ed Flanagan. "A year ago he didn't clear 7-1 1/2 before the third weekend in May."

"Ever since the indoor season, John has been lacking the bounce and kick a high jumper must have for those 7-foot jumps. Then about two weeks ago during a practice, he cleared 6-6 by five or six inches but the important thing was that his kick was back."

Thomas has been brought along slowly all spring in hopes that he will be at his peak for the United States - Russia dual meet in Moscow July 14-15 where he again will compete against Robert Shalvakhadze and Valery Brumel.



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Lion Golfers Meet Bisons In Home Tilt

By DAVE LEONARD

The Penn State golf team may be in for a rough afternoon when they take on a rugged Bucknell team at 1:30 on the University course.

The Bisons have won the Middle Atlantic Conference championship four of the last five years and have another powerhouse this season.

Two outstanding seniors spark the Bucknell team.

Bob Etzweiler, a two-year veteran, who won the MAC individual title in 1959, and Bob Schad, who compiled an 8-0-1 record in dual matches last year are the Bison bellweathers.

Curt Mull, a junior, is the only other letterwinner on the Bucknell team, but coach Harold Evans counts heavily on Pete Sang and Jerry Singer to give the Bisons a well-rounded attack.

If records are any indication of strength, the Lion linksmen have about an even chance to pick up their sixth win against four losses.

Bucknell lost a close 4-3 decision to Navy while State dropped a 6-1 verdict to the Middies in their second match of the season.

But the Lion linksmen have come a long way since losing the first two matches.

"Our boys are playing much better now than they were in the beginning of the year," Lion coach Joe Boyle said.

John Morton, Bob Rutherford, Tom Balling, Bob Swahn, Rich Gilson, Dave Miller, and Jack Meredith form the Lion lineup.

After today's match the golfers are idle until they travel to Lehigh Friday. They return home Saturday for the final match of the year with Cornell.

Penn State's rifle team compiled a 5-5 record this season, with wins over Lehigh, Maryland, Carnegie Tech, Duquesne, and Villanova.

Devine Denies Visit Connected to Feud

PITTSBURGH (P) — General Manager Bing Devine of the St. Louis Cardinals flew into Pittsburgh yesterday but said his visit "has absolutely nothing to do" with the rhubarb between his field manager, Solly Hemus, and National League Umpire Frank Dascoli.

Hemus and Dascoli blasted each other on radio shows Monday night preceding the scheduled game between the Cards and Pirates. Hemus was irate over being tossed out of a game at Philadelphia Sunday. He disputed a decision by Umpire Frank Secory, a member of the umpiring crew headed by Dascoli.

In their radio appearances, Dascoli and Hemus minced no words. Among other things, Hemus said Dascoli and Secory were "arrogant." Dascoli described Hemus as a "real bush-

er—a busher as a player and a busher as a manager."

Devine said Hemus has been fined \$150 by National League President Warren Giles as the result of Sunday's argument.

Devine said he came to Pittsburgh on a "routine trip—nothing special except to go over our personnel and try to figure out how to win some ball games.

"My visit here has nothing to do with what those fellows said. Both have strong personalities and expressed themselves—maybe a little more than I would have done perhaps. But I don't think it is the end of the world."

Meanwhile, in New York, Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick said he has asked a Pittsburgh radio station for a transcript of remarks made by Hemus and Dascoli.

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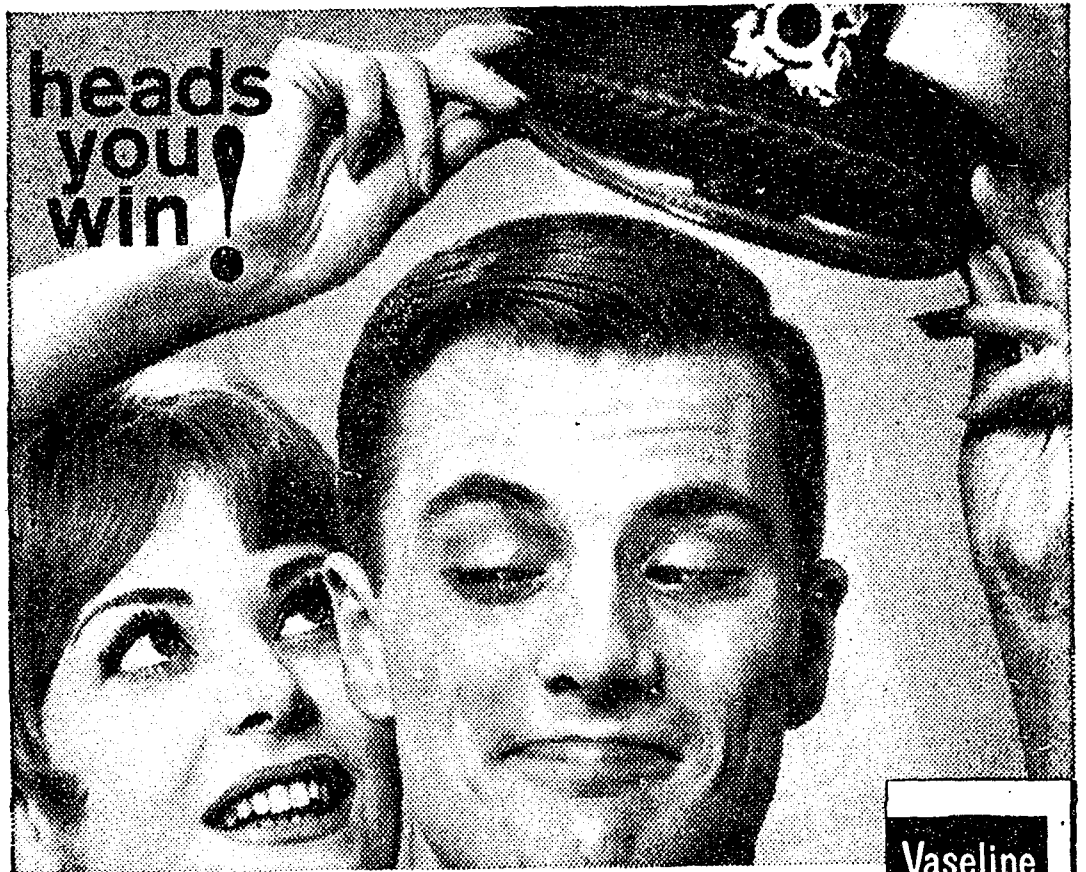
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