

Baseballers Host Gettysburg in Opener

By JOHN MORRIS
Sports Co-Editor

Southpaw Bob Fenton has drawn the starting assignment as the Penn State baseball team opens its 87th season against Gettysburg on Beaver Field this afternoon at 3:30.

Lion coach Joe Bedenk gave the nod to the stocky junior, but righthander Marlin Biesecker will be ready in the wings if Fenton should run into trouble against the Bullets.

"Fenton needs the work to sharpen his control," State pitching coach Chuck Medlar explained, "but we'll bring Biesecker in fast if we need him."

The Lions have been pounding the ball all over the lot in batting practice this spring, but today is the day, as Bedenk put it, "we find out just how good we are."

State will throw an impressive array of batting power at the Bullets, but Gettysburg has a veteran team that will provide a stiff test for the Lions.

GETTYSBURG COACH Gene Hummel, starting his first season at the Bullet helm, will probably start either Ted Koerner or south-

paw Bob Hinds against the Nittanias.

Koerner was the losing pitcher as the Lions edged the Bullets, 3-2, at Gettysburg last year. Koerner was supposed to pitch against Lafayette in the Bullets' season opener Saturday, but the game was rained out.

State's lineup this afternoon includes five starters from last year's 9-6 squad.

Dick Pae will start in center field for the Nittanias and Al Gursky returns to his left field duties. Pae and Gursky both batted .333 to lead the Lions last year.

Don Jonas is back as the Lions' number one catcher and captain John Phillips and Don Robinson return for duty in the Lion infield. Phillips is the regular shortstop, while Robinson makes the switch from third to second base.

SOPHOMORE Fred Light has won the third base job. The fleet-footed infielder is a good fielder and strong hitter.

Pete Liske at first base and Dick Anderson in right field fill out the State lineup. Both are football players making their diamond debuts for the Lions.

Hummel will probably go with an infield of Bill Kirchoff at first base, Tom Perkins at second, Rick Taylor at third base and Bill Jacobson at shortstop. Sophomore

Bob Furney will handle the catching chores for the Bullets.

Frank Martin and Bruce Sutcliffe will start in the Bullet outfield, but the third pasture post is up for grabs between King Gore, Jerry Robertson and Paul Folkemer.

The game will mark the start of Bedenk's 32nd year as Lion coach, and this could be one of the veteran mentor's best teams if a couple of "ifs" are solved.

One of the biggest question marks hovers around the pitching staff. Graduation took star lefthanders Ed Kikla and Tom Durbin and sophomore Walt Bloom is on scholastic probation.

BIESECKER, FENTON and righthander Dave Bergey are the only experienced pitchers on the roster, but Bergey just reported to the team yesterday and won't be ready to pitch for at least ten days.

Fenton also was a late starter for the Lions this spring, but Bedenk and Medlar decided to start him today to get him ready for the Nittanias' important trip to Lehigh and Villanova this weekend.

If he pitches well today, Fenton will get the starting assignment against always-tough Villanova on Saturday. If not, he will face Lehigh Friday and Biesecker will pitch against the Wildcats.

STRATEGY SESSION



CAPTAIN JOHN PHILLIPS confers with COACH JOE BEDENK

Injury Ends Career

As a freshman at Penn State, soccer coach Ken Hosterman lettered in baseball and soccer (he led the varsity in scoring in his frosh year) but had to forego all sports for the remainder of his college career when he suffered a broken leg in the third soccer game of his sophomore year.

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