

Leads Lion Surge With .390 Ave.

# Kanaski—Red Hot Hitter

By DON MCKEE

Collegian Sports Writer

Call it a break out, a surge, a hot streak or whatever you please, the important fact is that Penn State's baseball team is now playing good ball. After losing three in a row to Villanova and Rider the Lions bounced back and took a single game from Indiana last Thursday, sweeping a doubleheader from Rutgers on Saturday.

The new look was prolific hitting and the power surge was led largely by one man. That man is left fielder Gary Kanaskie whose booming bat contributed heavily to all three victories.

**7-11 Hot Streak**

In the last three games Kanaskie has chalked up seven hits in eleven trips to the plate. Against Indiana he rapped a pair of doubles and scored twice. In the first game with Rutgers his hot hitting brought in five runs, four of them on a grand slam home run. In the second game he ripped three straight base hits.

What caused the sudden turn about in the quiet outfielder's play? Although his potential was recognized he was not a heavy hitter in the early going.

"We made Kanaskie an offensive hitter," said coach Chuck Medlar. "We told him to go up to the plate swinging every time, and not to take too many pitches."

The junior from Enola has apparently taken the coach's instructions to heart. "I haven't walked once this year," said Kanaskie. This is good news for Penn State. Since the outfielder's readiness to hit has driven in seven runs.

"The thing that has made the most difference for me," said Kanaskie, "is being a regular and getting more hitting. Now, at

the end of practice I can get a few more swings."

The recent winning streak coincides with a new batting order. Kanaskie started the season hitting in the eighth position. He was moved up to fifth in the lineup for the Indiana game and the hot hitting binge started then. Kanaskie went two for four and both of his hits were doubles.

"I've been lucky," Kanaskie said. "Everything has been dropping in lately."

A more accurate description could be "sailing out." There was never any doubt about the biggest hit of the year—the grand slam. When Kanaskie swung, the ball took off towards left center and ended up beyond the fence on the way to Chambers building.

Despite the fact that seven of his 16 hits have been for extra bases, Kanaskie plays down any talk of his being a big slugger. "I swing for the gaps," he said. "When I'm going well I hit the ball up the middle."

**Top Fielder, Too**

With all the discussion about Kanaskie's recent hitting explosion it might be easy to overlook his other talents. The fact is that as an outfielder Kanaskie is first rate. He starts in left but when the occasion demands can easily make the transition to center.

Earlier this season an opposing base runner tried to score from second on a single to left. Kanaskie scooped up the bounding ball, hesitated momentarily and then threw a strike to the plate. The runner never had a chance.

It takes combinations of different talents to build an "all-around ballplayer." Gary Kanaskie comes a long way in assembling the many pieces in this baseball jig saw puzzle.



GARY KANASKIE . . . grand slam hitter

## Lion Baseball Nine Hosts West Virginia In Afternoon Action

Penn State's baseball team will be seeking to extend its winning streak to four in a row today when it meets West Virginia at home at 3:30 p.m.

Since the team broke out of a hitting slump and beat Indiana on Thursday and Rutgers twice on Saturday, the outlook for the rest of the season has greatly improved.

However, one thing still worries coach Chuck Medlar—the weather. "We didn't have practice on Monday," said Medlar. "We need to get this game in and the forecast is rain."

The Penn State attack will be led by Gary Kanaskie and Shorty Stoner who have both started hitting hard lately. Kanaskie leads the team in batting with a .390 mark, and in hits with 16. Stoner is hitting .324 and eight of his 12 safeties have been doubles.

The starting pitcher today will be either Phil Williams or Dick Foster. Williams is 2-0, picking up a win in relief over Juniata, and getting the victory in a starting assignment against Indiana.

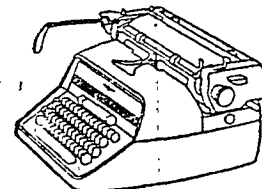
Foster has no decisions as yet. His only appearance was in the 4-3 loss to Villanova. West Virginia is always tough to beat in baseball. Second place is the lowest the Mountaineers have finished in the Southern Conference in the last six years and they are just as

tough this season. Sophomore third baseman Bob Beam, a converted pitcher, leads the Mountaineer attack, batting over .400 most of the season. Two other sophomores, Tom Tomechko and Chuck

Guth are over .300. Top pitchers for the visitors are lefty Mike Moschel and Jerry Meadows, a right hander. The Mountaineer duo were both 4-1 going into last weekend's action.

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## Ruggers Lose To Cornell 11-8

By DAVID LABOVITZ

Collegian Sports Writer

Cornell University has long been a dangerous place for the Penn State rugby football team. For the last couple of years the E.B. Red have proved awesome at home. State's last visit to Ithaca was in September of 1965 when the Lions were crushed 36-5. This past Saturday the score was a lot closer, but the result was the same as State's Blues fell 11-8 in a fiercely fought match.

It was a long ride to Ithaca on Saturday morning, but it did not seem to affect the Blues as they controlled the first half, building an eight point lead. Constant pressure from the forwards led to the Lions' first score.

**Stoeckel Wins**

Hooker Dale Landis and Prop Chuck Terrible managed to break through the Cornell forwards to rush a kick from the Ivy back line. With such a hard

charge on the way, the Cornell fullback momentarily bobbed the kick and missed the ball. State club captain Dave Stoeckel, coming in on the second wave, grabbed the ball and scored for the Lions.

Rich Bair kicked the conversion and State led 5-0.

Larry Kuhns punched across another try for the Lions before the close of the half. It was but the third try from the Blue back line this season, and gave State an 8-0 lead after the kick failed.

**Cornell Comes Back**

Cornell opened the second half with a completely new lineup and gradually caught up to the Lions, finally making it 8-8. Despite a lack of fresh players the Blues displayed a tough defense.

With but two minutes left in the game the score was still deadlocked. It was then that the Big Red managed to pull the match out of the fire. State fullback Roger Alm-

quist took a high kick deep in his own territory while Cornell pun on a hard charge. The wind had supplied extra time to close in, and, as Almquist tried to gain some room to boot, his kick was blocked. Cornell grabbed the ball and forced the tie-breaking try.

This week there are three games for the ruggers against Fordham University.

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