#### Guilty of 'Gullibility and Greed'

## McLain Suspended Until July 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Denny McLain, cited for being gullible and greedy, was suspended until July 1 by Commissioner Bowie Kuhn yesterday after investigation disclosed the Detroit Tigers' pitcher had attempted to become a partner of gamb ers allegedly involved in bookmaking operations.

The action by Kuhn, who some six weeks ago suspended McLain while investigating his off-the-field activities, also prohibits the ace of Detroit staff from appearing at the Tigers' care or in the relubhouse until the suspension is lifted.

I addition, McLain was placed on probation with the proviso that he be required to provide the commissioner's office with such data on his financial affairs as may be requested so that jurther such difficulties do not again lead him into a sint or situation.

Lie cost to McLain, already deep in myriad financial dif-

sin' in situation.

Lie cost to McLain, already deep in myriad financial difficulties, is estimated at about \$45,00—half of his yearly salary—plus the \$5,700 Kuhn said the pitcher was duped out of by the gambiers with whom he was associating.

Kuhn handed down his decision at a formal press conference he'd in a midtown hotel, ending speculation about McLain's fate that has existed since Feb. 19 when he independently suspended the pitcher because of his "involvement in 1967 bookmaking activities and associations."

In the six weeks since, Kuhn revealed his investigation had disclosed that McLain became involved "with cortain gamblers said to be involved in a bookmaking operation" after playing an engagement at a bar in Flint, Mich., in January of 1967.

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"McLain at that time commenced placing basketball bets with this operation," Kuhn said in reading his two-page prepared statement before a battery of cameras and kleig lights, "and subsequently he was persuaded to make financial contributions totaling approximately \$5,700.

"While McLain believed he had become a partner in this operation and has so admitted to me. . .it would appear that in fact he was the victim of a confidence scheme. I would thus conclude that McLain was never a partner and had no proprietory interest in the bookmaking operation.

"The fair inference is that his own gullibility and avarice had permitted him to become a dupe of the gamblers with whom he associated."

Kuhn went on to say that his investigation had not shown any other material facts beyond those—that no evidence exists that McLain "has been guilty of any misconduct involving baseball or the playing of baseball games."

Kuhn, however, concluded that his association with

Inclemency Has Baseballers Stranded

# Ey JAY FINEGAN Collegian Sports Writer the better hitters on the club," admitted Mcdlar, "so we're talking about putting him in the outfield when he's not on the cle. Hitting Talent

Word is out that the art of throwing a ball past a man with a bat was conceived by some bored Russians on the steppes several centuries ago. History in this area is unreliable but one source correlates the advent of the beanball with the beginning of the Crimean War. The art has taken on finesse and intrigue over the years until today it is the most gentlemanly position in a national pastime.

pastime.

Pitchers are hustled in from the bullpen in tiny jittines. Batboys greet them with rubbing ointment and a jacket. They "chaw on" tobacco, get plenty of rest, appear on late night talk shows, and when they retire, sell their life stories to Sport magazine.

Mound Important

If the men on the mound are important to the pros, they are vital in college. It is one of the areas of deepest concern to Penn State coach Chuck Medlar. "I hope that the type of pitching we got in Florida will continue," he said. "Otherwise we're in trouble." The Lions came home from the Sunshine State with a 5-4 record in the Miami Hurricane's exhibition tournament.

The ace of the staff is junior Poy

The ace of the staff is junior Roy Swanson, 6-5 last year with a 2.05 ERA. He is respected for his control, as well as his fielding ability. And Swanson can swing with the best of them. "He's one of

mound."

Bill Micsky threw a no-hitter two years ago, but as a junior was only 1-1, with a 3.65 ERA last season. The senior had trouble !inding the plate in Florida, and was behind the batter almost as much as the catcher. Teammates slept soundly in the tropical air, but Micsky awoke often in a cold sweat with a 3-0 count on his mind. Now, according to the coach, he has found himself and altered his delivery.

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Yearick Returns

A third starter, Terry Yearick, has memories from last season that are about as pleasant as bad beer in the grandstand. His first start fell on his 21st birthday, but his first pitch sent him tumbling from the mount, a loss of balance that broke his leg. He missed the rest of the season. "The knee is okay now," Medlar said, "and Terry looked like a veteran in Florida."

As much a part of baseball as the hot

like a veteran in Florida."

As much a part of baseball as the hot dog and peanut is the home run ball. These are sacrificial offerings from the pitcher to the hitter, and arrive at the plate as inviting as big pizza pies. Two of these were served up down south by sophomore Jim Conroy. Medlar is optimistic about the soph.

Many hurlers tone their throwing arms for the season's onset by putting away Budweiser drafts: others prefer pinochle dealing or guitar strumming.

Hitting Talent

With talent at the plate like Mike Egleston. Tom Daley and Mike Smith, the sophomore envisions no trouble gathering support. "As soon as these guys play up to par," Conroy said, "there'll be no problem about getting runs."

runs."

A familiar sight in the bullpen should ge Ken Schmell loosening up. "He's our number one reliever," Medlar said. "He throws underhand and his pitches sink."

number one reliever," Mediar said. "He throws underhand and his pitches sink." Schmell specialized in getting batsmen to hit into the dirt. Last year, men facing him decapitated more worms than most lawn mowers. His partner in the bullpen, Rick Fidler, also plays right field.

A promising mound prospect for State is a guy who last spring couldn't even throw a baseball. An injured elbow was so painful it hurt Don Grim just to think about a curve ball. But physical therapy and old fashioned rest have put the buzz back in his fast ball, and so far he has looked impressive.

The Lions are staying trim in the Ice Pavilion while waiting for the season's opener Sunday, as the recent snows have transformed the outdoor basepaths into muddy canals. The turf around the backstop is a quagmire, fit for turtles, not cleats: But the pitching staff is eager to dust off a few hitters, and for the hurlers, Sunday cannot come soon enough.

gamblers "was not in the best interests of baseball" and "therefore must be made the subject of discipline." Kuhn pointed out, at the same time, that the suspension was not based on McLain's "irresponsibility."

Kuhn also said, in answer to questions, that had McLain actually become a partner in a bookmaking operation it would have been a fact he would have had to consider "but he was neither a bookmaker nor a partner in the book. He thought he was, but he wasn't. He didn't get a penny out of the entire thing."

Pressed as to what the difference is in attempting to become a bookmaker and actually being one, Kuhn said:

"I think you have to consider the difference is the same as between murder and attempted murder." Asked if McLain wasn't being left off easy, Kuhn answered sharply:

Asked if McLain wasn't being left off easy, Kuhn answered sharply:

"I do not think it—the suspension—is a slap on the wrist. I think a suspension for half a year is a very serious matter."

Kuhn said McLain had been notified of the decision by a member of the commissioner's staff prior to the press conference, He also revealed that he had disclosed the action he was going to take to President Nixon when they met at the White House Tuesday.

"In the President's judgment," said Kuhn, "the decision was a fair one."

Detroit pitcher Denny McLain said Wednesday night that "all things being equal," that Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn "did what he had to do" in suspending him from professional baseball until July 1.

"I can't say I agreed with the decision, because I want to play baseball right now, but he (Kuhn) made the decision and we'll live by it," McLain said in his first public statement.

Jim Campbell, the Tigers' general manager, said he thought Kuhn had done a "thorough job and I think he did what is right. I think it's very fair. I'm certainly pleased that the suspension isn't any longer."

"I think we're all relieved that it's over with." said catcher Jim Price, the Tigers' player representative. "The commissioner must have checked into it awi'ully carefully."

Kuhn said that McLain's attempt to become a partner in a book in 1967 came about because he "felt pressured to increase his sources of income." Kuhn said Tiger authorities had become aware of some of McLain's activities during the 1967 spring training season.

Kuhn also revealed that federal agents had asked the Tigers in November of 1968 to arrange a meeting with McLain and that such was done. McLain also appeared voluntarily a day prior to Kuhn's original decision before a federal grand jury in Detroit that is investigating organized crime and gambling.



#### Aces of the Staff

DUSTING OFF HITTERS will be a hobby of Bill Micsky and Roy Swanson this spring, the two anchor men of the State pitching staff. Swanson was 6-5 last year, and is also a fine hitter. Micsky will experiment with a new delivery.

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nament. Meet events include 50 yard free style, 50 yard



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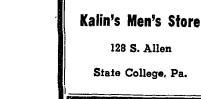


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