

## Sherkel gives fast, fast relief

# State sweeps Rider twin bill, 3-2

By RAY McALLISTER  
Assistant Sports Editor  
Some unexpected hitting from the bottom of the lineup brought Penn State a sweep of its Saturday doubleheader with Rider. The Lions (10-1) took each game from the Broncs (9-5) by a 3-2 score. Rick Sherkel finished off both games in relief retiring each of the seven batters he faced during the afternoon. Ironically, Sherkel, who won the second game and stands 4-0, ended both contests by retiring Rider shortstop Rich Bender.

Penn State's hitting may not have been frequent but it was timely. It was also long as six of the Lions' safeties went for two or three bases. Several came out of the bottom portion of the batting order.

Lefthander Jim Conroy (5-0) started the opening contest but was shaky in a couple of frames. He escaped from trouble in the third but was nicked for two runs in the fifth on a single, a free pass and a triple to deep center by shortstop Bender.

State, meanwhile, had been doing some scoring of its own. Leadoff hitter Cliff Steffy hit the first pitch in the first inning to the fence in right-center and wound up on third. He later scored on Gerry Micsky's ground out. It was Micsky's 11th RBI of the season, tops on the club.

George Coval tripled to left field in the second, then scored on Denny DeWitt's single. The Lions made it 3-0 in the third inning on Harry Rogers' walk, Micsky's sacrifice and Don Stine's double down the right field line.

Conroy, trying to protect the 3-2 lead, seemed to tire late in the game. When he gave up a single with one gone in the seventh Medlar called upon Sherkel. The righthander got the first batter on a fly to center, then fanned Bender to end the game.

State coach Chuck Medlar's search to find a third starter behind Conroy and Sherkel gave John Maier a chance at

his second start of the season. Though never really hit, Maier gave up a run in the first inning of the second game.

With two out and a runner on second, Rider catcher Bill Adams dumped one down the third base line which third baseman Stine made a play for at the last moment. Stine couldn't pick it up and Adams had a single.

The hit was Adams' only one in six trips to the plate Saturday afternoon. He'd entered with a .406 average as the Broncs' leading hitter.

Adams then broke for second, drawing a throw from catcher Gary Hager. Adams slid in safely and a moment later, Rider's Kermit Piggott slid safely into home on the second half of the double steal.

The Lions moved ahead on two runs in the fourth. Mark Tanner led that frame off with a walk and was sacrificed to second. Hager then grounded to Rider pitcher Lee Jackson who whirled and picked Tanner off second.

DeWitt followed with a triple to right-center, scoring Hager, and scored himself a moment later on Pete Warchal's single.

The visitors tied it up at 2-2 on a double and a single in the sixth but State jumped in front again in the bottom half of that inning. Warchal, who entered the game hitting .107, singled in the go-ahead run for the second time.

This one proved enough as Sherkel had come on, relieving Tom Kirsch. Kirsch had given up one run in the three and two-thirds innings he worked.

Warchal and DeWitt each finished the afternoon with two RBIs. State's extra base hits came in the form of doubles by Stine, Rogers and Micsky, and triples by Steffy, Coval and DeWitt.

"The bottom of the order won the second game for us," Medlar said, underscoring the importance of the men low in the lineup. That second game made it seven in a row for the team, which travels to Pittsburgh on Thursday.



'I got it'

CHARGING OVER from his left field post, Cliff Steffy (right) cuts in front of centerfielder Denny DeWitt to make the catch. Action came in the fifth inning of the first game, just before Rider scored its only two runs. State swept both ends of Saturday's doubleheader by identical 3-2 scores.

## Golfers capture 2nd Big Four title; Conn medalist with 1-over 72

Senior Jim Conn fired a one-over-par 72 in leading defending champion Penn State to a two-stroke victory in the second annual Big Four Golf Championships.

The Lions 383 total edged West Virginia's 385, while Pitt and Syracuse brought up the rear with 403s. The tourney was held at Green Oaks Country Club, Pitt's home course in Verona.

Though coach Joe Boyle "thought as a team we would play better," he was impressed with Conn's round.

"Conn played super — just super," Boyle said. "He was two under par (34) on the front nine and that's a tough course."

"We were down six strokes at the end of nine but we

would've been hurting a lot worse without his score," the coach said.

A few of State's top men had rough days on both nines which tightened up the competition considerably. Penn State had been a heavy favorite.

Harry Hamilton, whose average is the lowest on the team for the undefeated Lions, slipped to an 80. His nines of 40-40 were too high to be counted, as only the top five scores of each seven-man team are recorded.

Usually steady Dan O'Neill also had problems, finally coming in with a 79 which was just good enough to be counted.

"O'Neill," Boyle said, "had

one of the worst days he's ever had for us."

"There's a real tough par three on the back nine," Boyle said, "and O'Neill went all out on it. He hooked it into a hedge and took a triple bogey six."

In addition to the scores of O'Neill and Conn, Gary Bethune's 75, John Krumrine's 78 and Fred Von Bargen's 79 were tabulated for the Lions. Jim Borrell's 80 was not.

Host Pitt had been expected to supply most of the competition for the Lions but fell far short. Not one of the Panthers broke 80 as they fell 18 strokes behind West Virginia. A week earlier Pitt had taken the measure of the Mountaineers by four strokes

on the same course.

Boyle feels that one of the reasons the Lions — and the other teams, for that matter — did not play up to par (so to speak) was the conditions under which the tourney was staged.

"We had to play the ball down for the first time (summer rules) and the course played real tight," he said. "I've been trying to get them to play it down before but when they're trying to qualify against everyone they want the advantage everyone else has."

"You couldn't get much roll on the ball either. When it hit, it'd take one short bounce and then stop," he said. "But the weather was beautiful. It was an ideal day." —RMc

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### Women golfers win

Andrea Dutcher fired an 84 Saturday to lead the Penn State women's golf team to a 379-413 victory over Cornell on the University White course.

Other scores by the Lady Lions were: Kris Wittaker (99), Ruth Ferguson (100), and Anne Kerwick (94).

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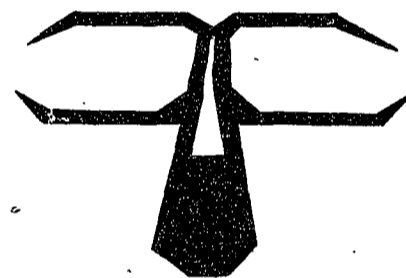
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