

# Follow the rules and scoop up the baseball gravy

The Lion nine currently is trying to scoop up a little gravy. And after Sunday's split with classy Temple, coach Chuck Medlar has his foot in the kitchen door and perhaps even a ladle in the pot.

But just try and pin down Medlar about his team's chances for a little post-season "gravy," and the best you're likely to get is a glimpse of the Lion boss as he scoots his way out the pantry door.

"The first thing we're looking for is a good season," Medlar said after Sunday's games. "The playoffs are just extra gravy."

The only thing you can do after getting an explanation like that is to smile, roll your eyes upward and say to yourself, "Sure coach. Only extra gravy? Sure."

But then again, you have to remember that baseball is just a game, and getting a team into some playoff action is probably the most interesting and difficult game of all.

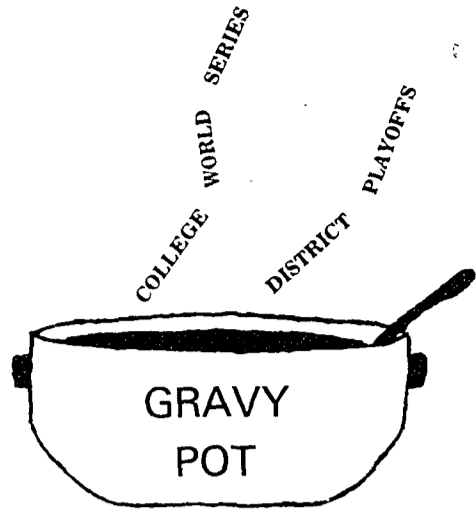
And let's not forget that every game has a certain set of rules which must be followed faithfully. So here, then, is a list of the rules for guiding a team into the districts. Follow them carefully, as all college coaches do, and you too may be capable of getting your team a little overtime.

**RULE NUMBER ONE**—This is a must if you are to keep the local baseball writers in a fog and deny them any possibility of a reasonable quote. Always use cliches. Also, it is good to keep in mind that the simpler the statements, the better the chances of putting the writer to sleep. Try these. "They're a fine ball club. They have a fine pitcher, and fine hitting, and a fine defense. Yes, they're a fine, fine team."

Just on the outside chance that someone corners you, pull out the old standby: "Well, that's baseball."

**RULE NUMBER TWO**—This rule requires you to keep on your toes a little more, as one slip can be near-fatal. Never let on that you have even the slightest notion that post-season competition even exists. Treat it as an ugly rumor if that helps.

Memorizing a few quickies like "only play 'em one at a



time" and "way too early for that kind of talk," will be an aid here. In desperation, you might even try, "Playoffs? Why, I hadn't even thought about it yet," although that is a bit obvious.

**RULE NUMBER THREE**—This rule applies best when you have your opposition so hopelessly outclassed that all of your fans show up. Never intimidate the other team. A rule that Joe Paterno uses quite often, this means that no matter how pathetic or comical the other team is, never let on that you even suspect. (See rule number one for some help with cliches).

Then, after you get done shelling them 22-3, you might try a few like, "Gee, we sure played aggressively out there today," or else, "Well, they just had a few pitching problems out there," when you know all along that their only real problem is having you on their schedule.

If, by a stroke of bad luck, you happen to be stricken by an attack of honesty and say something like, "Man, these guys

are so bad they have to slide to keep from tripping over the bag," then misfortune is surely up ahead.

**RULE NUMBER FOUR**—This is a definite must for any playoff hopeful. Whenever you have an overwhelming advantage over your opponent and he's down—kick him. This not only looks good in the papers the next day, it also goes over big with the tournament selection committee at the end of the season. A real dynamite trick is to turn your lineup over in one inning so many times that the enemy's fans start to recognize your players and the scorekeeper commits suicide.

A few more suggestions in this realm include shooting for the magic 100 mark and sending so many people to the plate that you wear out a path in their field.

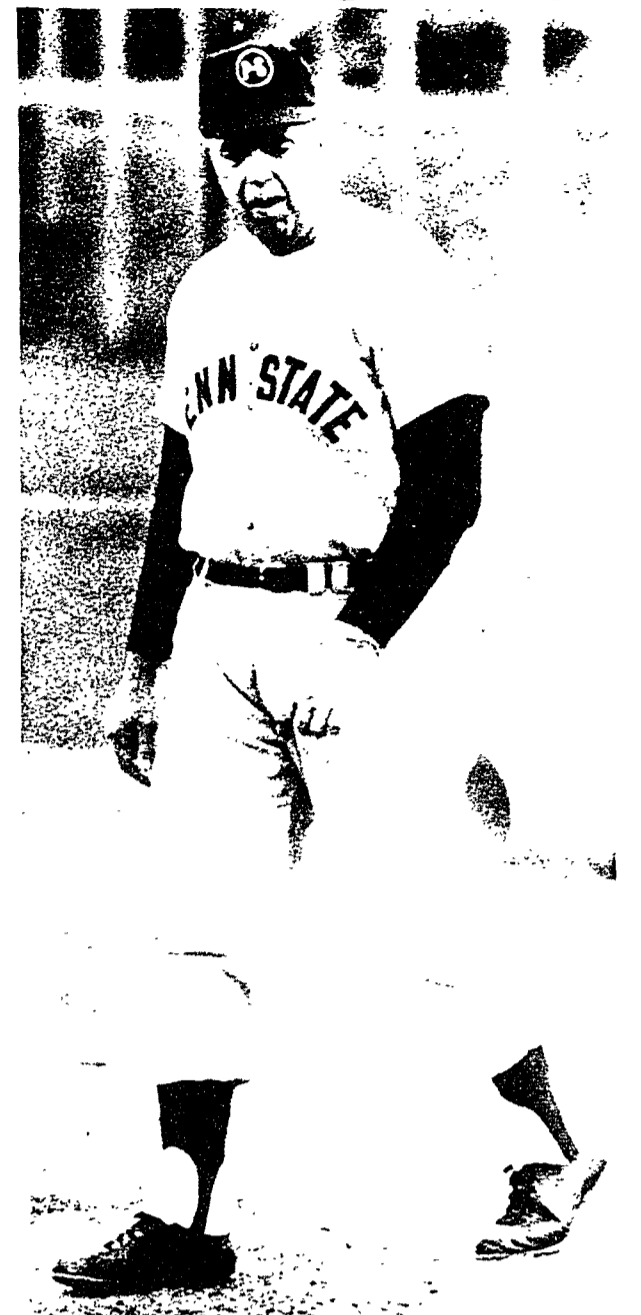
**RULE NUMBER FIVE**—This is the final axiom and perhaps the most important when playing in this area. If you can't beat the weather, use it to your advantage. Building a heated dugout for yourself and forgetting to add heat to the visitors' shelter is one variation on this theme. Also, building the opponents' dugout facing the wind while you can only hear it beating at your back will also serve this purpose.

Then after you've fixed up your field in this manner, play your games in 30-40 degree weather and in mild hurricanes. This also gets you in well with the local writers because they



rick starr

assistant sports editor



Photos by Kandy J. Woodbury

Medlar is searching for the gravy

must seek shelter in your dugout to avoid freezing and then forced to write patronizing stories to avoid being kicked out during the next game.

Unfortunately, playing the tournament game isn't all gravy, so to speak. You have to learn to accept small disappointments occasionally, like finding out that some of those other teams are pretty fine after all. But once you get used to the rules, this will occur less and less.

And please be advised of one danger in all of this. Once you start playing the playoff game, you quickly will lose interest in all others.

Just ask Chuck Medlar when he comes back into the pantry and tries sneaking into the kitchen. Once you get used to putting gravy on your potatoes, they just don't taste right with butter any more.

**STOLEN BASES**—Lion righthander Mitch Lukevics is scheduled to start this afternoon's 3:30 p.m. contest at Beaver Field. Lukevics is Medlar's hottest pitcher at the moment with his 4-1 record and 0.29 ERA.

He should get a tough test from Juniata. The Indians have a team batting average of .307 and are 10-5 on the season.

Third baseman Mike McNeal leads all Indian batsmen with his .396 average.

## Parking for Camera Day

Parking for Saturday's "Football Family-Camera Day" at Beaver Stadium will be available in the lot adjacent to Curtin Road between University Drive and Porter Road.

The hour-long photo and autograph session with the Penn State football team will start at 1 p.m., followed by an intrasquad scrimmage at 2 p.m.

Penn State's 1973

cheerleading squad, including the Nittany Lion, will be on hand for the event. All of the players out for spring football practice will be in uniform and the entire Penn State football coaching staff will be on hand.

Last year's Family-Camera Day attracted 3,000 fans to the stadium for the picture-taking and scrimmage.

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## Women lacrossers win big; netwomen fall 4-1 to Rams

Even the weather couldn't stop the Penn State women lacrossers yesterday. Playing in a steady downpour at Chambersburg, Penn State upped its record to 3-4 with a 14-6 trouncing of Wilson.

Lion Gwen Kranzley was the game's top scorer, tallying eight goals, including three in the first half when State jumped out to a 7-2 lead. Teammate Robin Beierle scored twice during the surge and finished with three goals.

Bonnie Barner led the Wilson attack with four goals, all in the second half after Penn State had taken com-

mand. Sandy Walker, a member of the women's national team, was held to only two goals by the Lions' tough defense. State coach Ellen Perry gave credit to Helen Chang for hindering Walker, and also noted that Peg Barto played "super defense."

Penn State's tennis teams are fortunate to have indoor courts to shield them from bad weather but the women netters probably wished that they had been rained out yesterday. Forced indoors, the Lion women dropped their

first two singles matches and lost a 4-1 decision to West Chester.

Carol Backenstose, the Lions' best player and previously undefeated in regular season play, lost 7-5, 6-4 to Mindy Williams. Williams is currently higher ranked than Backenstose. Penn State's Anne Morton dropped the number two singles 6-2, 6-2 to Wendy Talbot.

"I was really proud of Carol's play," coach Nessler said. "She played exactly the kind of game she had to play to beat Mindy."

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