

Comfortable in outfield

Sherkel likes new home

By RICH MUKA
Collegian Sports Writer
Former ace pitcher Rich Sherkel has found a new home in left field this year and his pitching and batting credentials should keep him there.

After compiling a 6-2 won-lost record and a 1.50 ERA on the mound last year, Sherkel slipped to 0-2 with a fat 4.86 ERA this season. But he managed to hit .281 with 2 homers and 19 RBIs.

"You can't concentrate on your hitting when you have to pitch," Sherkel said. "I've always wanted to play the outfield anyway."

"Pitching is a 50-50 proposition," he added. "Sometimes you have it, and sometimes you don't."

"Last year they were hitting the ball right at someone. But this year my luck seemed to run out and the balls started falling in."

Despite Sherkel's shaky mound performances, Coach Chuck Medlar managed to find the necessary pitching to guide the Lions to a berth in the District 2 double-elimination playoffs in Trenton, N.J. Metropolitan champ Seton Hall (22-6)



yesterday earned the right to meet Penn State in the Lions' playoff opener at 8 p.m. tomorrow night.

Medlar said, "Sherkel has helped us a lot offensively, providing some added batting punch. But he's still available to pitch if we need him."

But Sherkel said, "I haven't pitched since the Georgetown game a month or a month and a half ago." He said he seemed to find something in that game that he had lost in the Rutgers game long ago.

"I stayed up until 4 o'clock one morning trying to remember what I was doing wrong," Sherkel said. "I wasn't falling off the mound, when I do, my fast ball becomes a natural slider." Sherkel said he was doing okay for awhile in the

Georgetown game before he threw three or four high pitches which were hit pretty hard.

"Then the coach took me out, and I was glad that he did," Sherkel said.

Although he has not encountered many problems in the outfield, Sherkel may have some trouble with the lights tomorrow night. This is the first night game for the Lions in several years.

"In the daytime," Sherkel said, "the initial move is to run to the spot where you think the ball was hit, and then you can turn around and pick up the ball without any trouble."

"But at night, you have to keep your eyes on the ball the whole time. So once you have lost it, you're in trouble."



Phils Bob Boone (left) won't get sliding Gene Alley

Pirates blasted

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Greg Luzinski drove in three runs with a double and single last night, leading the Philadelphia Phillies to a 7-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Luzinski gave winning pitcher Wayne Twitchell a 2-0 first inning lead with a two-run double.

After Pittsburgh made it 2-1 in the third on Dave Cash's RBI single, the Phillies added two unearned runs in the fifth, one on Luzinski's single and another on a double by Bill Robinson.

Willie Montanez delivered the Phillies' final runs with a two-run homer in the eighth.

Pittsburgh added a run in the sixth on Al Oliver's single and two in the ninth on a double by Milt May and single by Rennie Stennett.

Luzinski has been in a season-long slump, his average dipping to the low .200s. He struck out 36 times in 140 at bats. He was swinging at bad pitches, hitting almost everything to the right side. The Phillies were worried. Luzinski was losing his confidence.

So, after Sunday's game was rained out after 1 2-3 innings, Luzinski and Phillies' Manager Danny Ozark went to the batting cage under the stands. They talked and Luzinski kept changing his hands, changing the position of the bat.

"Finally, I felt comfortable," Luzinski recalled. "I could see the ball better. I was swinging quicker. It was just a slight adjustment, but it seemed to do the trick."

Rentzel penalized

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lance Rentzel, already on probation in Texas for indecent exposure, was sentenced yesterday to 90 days in jail, a \$2,000 fine and three years' probation on charges of possessing marijuana.

But Superior Court Judge William Caldecott stayed the sentence of the 29-year-old wide receiver for the Los Angeles Rams pending appeal.

Rentzel contends that police illegally searched his Hollywood apartment last January when they reported finding drugs.

Despite his legal problems, Rentzel says he hopes to continue his pro football career.

Robert R. Lee, Rentzel's attorney, said Rentzel could have been sentenced up to 10 years in prison and fined \$5,000 for the charge, a felony to which he pleaded guilty April 24.

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