

Rain, snow foes

Lion nine in 'Rut'

By GARY SILVERS
Collegian Sports Writer

The Penn State-Lafayette baseball game may have been postponed last Wednesday, but for once it didn't rain. Instead, the temperatures dipped to 32 degrees and the Lions had to settle for snow.

This Sunday, however, the diamondmen won't have to worry about the weather in Happy Valley, for they'll be off to Rutgers to battle the Scarlet Knights in a doubleheader.

"It was quite a disappointment not playing Wednesday," Lions' second baseman Bill Benner said, "especially since it was our second straight cancellation (including Ithaca last Sunday). We were really up for the game and now I'm just hoping we don't have a letdown."

Especially in the field. "Yes, the weather has definitely hurt us defensively," the freshman added, "because we still haven't been outside enough to work as a unit."

The weather did hold up opening day, but unfortunately for Benner, the same could not be said of his bat (0 for 3). "I'm in a batting slump now," he said, "and all I want to do is

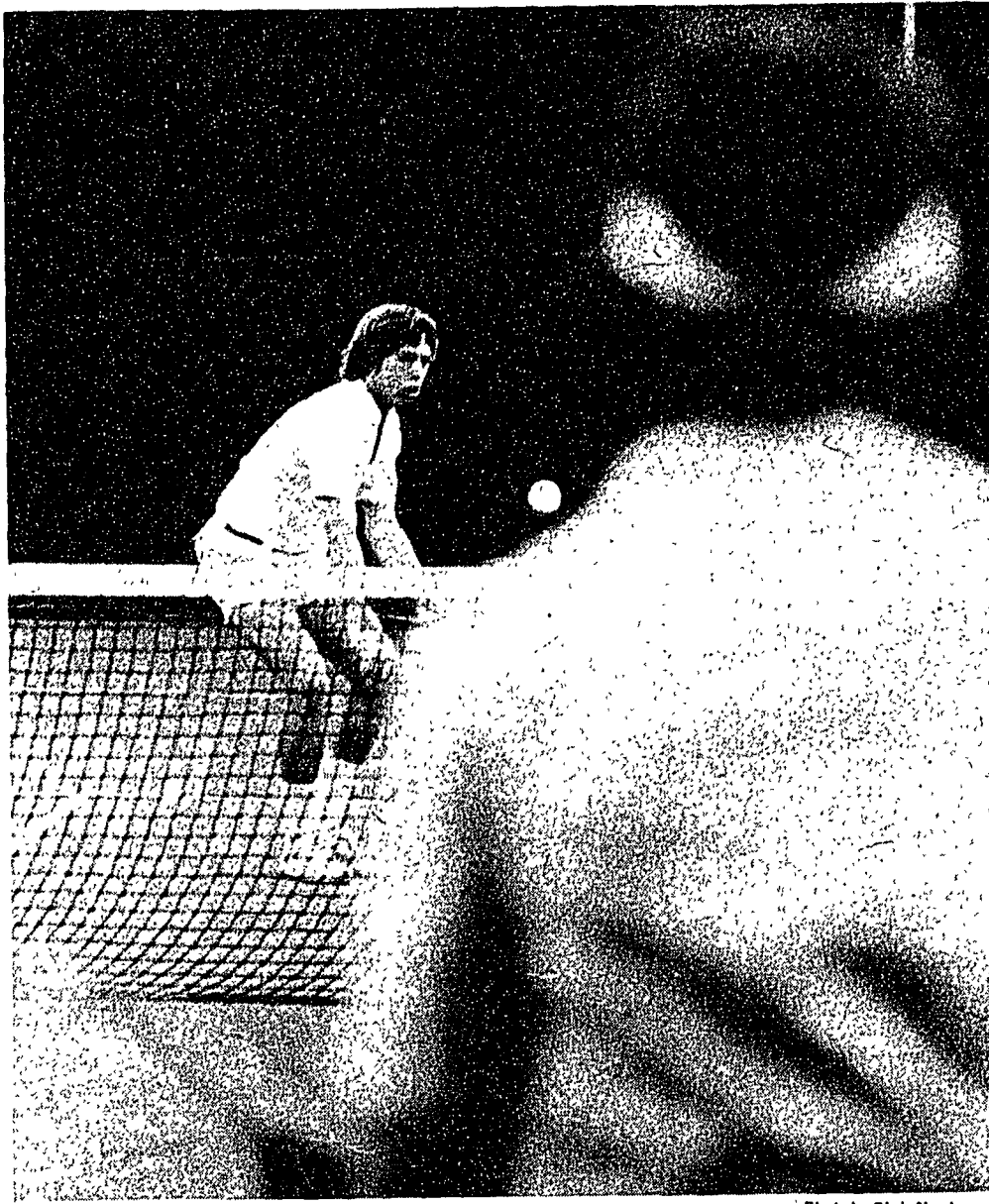
come alive. Defensively I'm very confident." And it's a good thing he is, for it's his glove that probably earned him the starting role.

"There were five of us at the outset," Benner said, "and then it got down to myself and Mike Missanelli. He's a good ball player and I don't want to take anything away from him. I'm just happy to have the job."

Benner started his career at Penns Valley High School near his hometown of Rebersburg. Last summer he went on to play for the State College legion, where his bat led the team to a third place finish in the state. His next move was to University Park to play for the Nittany Lions.

"The main reason I chose Penn State," Benner said, "was because I was offered more here as far as tuition went. The coach gave me a real good deal and I was convinced that this was the place to go."

But on Sunday, Rutgers is the place to go and Benner will experience further the difference between high school and college ball. "So far I've found the pitching and defense a lot tougher," Benner said, "but aside from that there's also a lot more class here."



Freshman Tom Cuming will be the Penn State tennis team's second-seeded player in tomorrow's home match against Colgate.

Photo by Chris Newkumet

Colgate in town, netmen pray for sun

By NEIL RUDEL
Collegian Sports Writer

Earlier this week Penn State men's tennis coach, Holmes Cathrall, led his netmen to Washington D.C. for matches with George Washington and Georgetown. However, both events were rained out, thereby leaving the Lions rusty.

Tomorrow, State (2-1) will entertain Colgate University at 2 p.m. at the indoor courts and Cathrall hopes his netters won't react to the recent rain like the tinman in the Wizard of Oz.

"We'll probably be a little tight and our timing will be off a bit," Cathrall said. "Our home court advantage could be neutralized by the fact that we haven't been able to play lately."

Cathrall said the home court advantage includes the players' familiarity with the surface, lighting and background plus local fan support.

The Lions' coach said he will start the same team that garnered two wins in three starts at the Cherry Blossom Tournament in Maryland two weeks ago. Those starters are Mark Darby, Tom Cuming, Alex Davidson, Jim Howell, Tim McAvoy and Bill Schmucker.

Cathrall noted that Howell, Darby and Cuming could be affected by the layoff, perhaps more than the other Penn State players. "These guys are the kind of players who need to keep playing to maintain their consistency," he said.

Colgate will bring virtually the same team that gave last year's Penn State team all it could handle. The visitors' lineup includes Bruce Horowitz, Rich Finn, Dave Dubin, Steve Gallagher, Mike Jenkins, Steve Heath and Peter Ogilvy.

Last year's match was deadlocked at three heading into the doubles competition. But Penn State gathered its composure and pulled out all three matches in three sets each to set the 6-3 final score.

"We'll have to put forth a super team effort to beat Penn State," Colgate coach Joe Abramson said. "We'll have to play very well and they'll have to play — well, not so well."

Upon hearing what his opposing coach had to offer, Cathrall said, "Don't let him kid you. It'll be all we can do to beat that team. He's just trying to psych me out."

Nevertheless, Cathrall, in his fourteenth year, will be pitted against his alma mater. A graduate of Colgate in 1946, Cathrall said, "Our kids know how much I want to beat them. Need I say more?"

LaXwomen win opener behind Morett, Duffey

Fifteen seconds into Penn State's opening women's lacrosse match at Millersville yesterday, Lady Lion Sharon Duffey fired a home pass from teammate Karen Schnellenbach — and the carnage was underway.

By the end of the 25-minute first half, Duffey and Charlene Morett, the Lady Lions' swift left attack wing, had connected for four goals each, and the Nits commanded an 11-0 lead.

And by game's end, Morett amassed eight tallies while Duffey collected seven, and Penn State stood on the long end of a 21-0 count with the Division III Marauders.

"They weren't playing man-to-man too closely," Morett said about the Marauders' defense. "They were giving us a couple feet."

That facilitated a Lady Lion attack that sent 41 shots toward the Millersville net.

Morett, who scored 30 goals in nine games last year as a freshman, was also helped by an offense-conscious Millersville defense.

"My girls left me open a lot," Morett said. "She was going up to get the attack going and I was free."

"Consequently," Morett added, "there was always a free girl to pass to." The staunch Lady Lions

defense held Millersville to only three shots per half, while Nit Goalie Jody Field was forced to save only half of them.

"Our defense was continually intercepting because Millersville wasn't passing very accurately," Morett said. The Marauders threw "high looping passes and it was easy to intercept them," she said.

For the record, Morett added four assists, while Duffey had three. Schnellenbach chipped in with three goals and two assists, while Chris Larson scored twice and added an assist. —Bill Kline

Pens, Flames tie series; N.Y., Buffalo advance

TORONTO (AP) — Rookie Greg Malone scored a tie-breaking goal at 13:57 of the third period yesterday and the Pittsburgh Penguins held on for a 6-4 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs, tying the teams at one game each in their National Hockey League first-round playoff series.

With the game tied at 4-4, Malone cruised in front of

Toronto goalie Wayne Thomas and deflected a pass from Blair Chapman.

Before the Pittsburgh goal, the Leafs had rallied from a three-goal deficit as defenseman Borje Salming scored the tying goal at 7:52 of the final period.

Pittsburgh took a 3-0 lead in the first period on goals by Ron Stackhouse, Syl Apps and

Jan Pronovost. Darryl Sittler broke through in the second period for Toronto, banging in his own rebound on a power play at 6:10 of the session. Lowell MacDonald then scored for the Penguins on a pass from Ron Schock behind the Toronto net.

The Leafs scored again when Stan Weir moved in on

the left wing for a cross-ice pass from Bob Neely beating Pittsburgh goalie Denis Herron from 20 feet.

round series in the National Hockey League playoffs.

In other NHL playoff games last night, The Atlanta Flames beat the Los Angeles Kings, 3-2 to tie their best-of-three series at one game apiece. Also, the New York Islanders beat the Chicago Black Hawks, 2-1 to sweep their best-of-three series.

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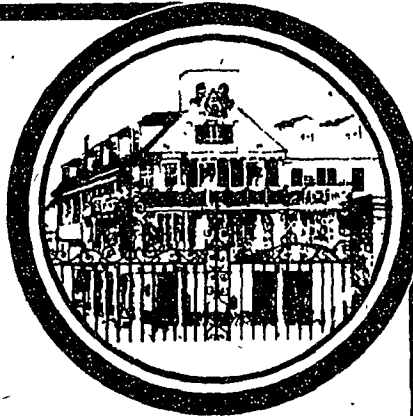
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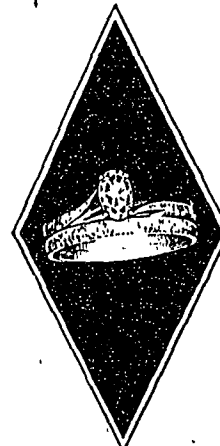
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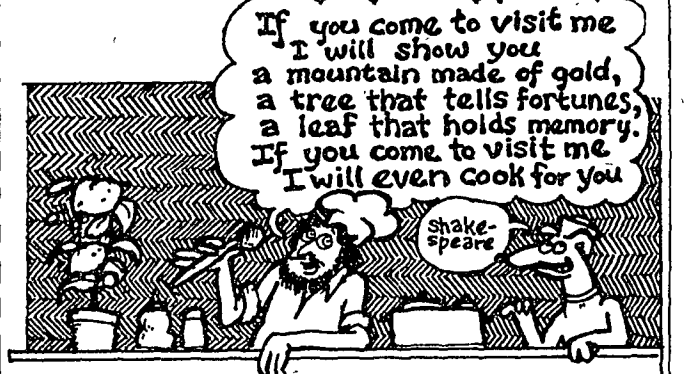
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