

Punchless Lions split

Last year Penn State's centerfielder Dave Siminonis was sitting on top of the world, or at least University Park. As a freshman, he stroked a record 17 home runs and shattered numerous other Lion records.

This year, due to an early season eye injury, his hitting has been something less than sensational. In fact, all the Lion bats have been relatively quiet this season as was quite evident in yesterday's doubleheader split with Indiana, Pa.

Penn State could only manage a total of four runs for the two games, winning the first 2-1 and then losing the second 7-2.

"We're just not hitting," Siminonis said. "We're not even hitting the ball hard. Even when we get men on second and third we just can't drive them in." Siminonis thinks he knows one of the reasons for the Lions' impotent hitting attack.

"We don't practice every day," he said. "We're not going through a nice crisp practice every day like we do in the spring. It takes a lot of fun out of the game."

However, if anyone has got a good excuse for sub-par hitting, it has to be Siminonis. After being struck in the eye with a baseball during an early practice session, he has yet to fully recover.

"I'm not picking the ball up as well as I did and I still have a blur in my eye," Siminonis said. "I'm just trying to get my swing and timing down right now."



Lion first baseman Jeff Rumberger applies tag on a pick-off attempt during Penn State's doubleheader split with Indiana, Pa.

Photo by Mary Barager

While Siminonis said the coach, Chuck Medlar, has not been pleased with the hitting this spring, the pitching has remained superb. Dave June turned in another gem performance yesterday as he allowed only a single run in the first inning of the first game. Mark Lambert

and Frank Deutch have also been consistent hurlers.

The lone hitting highlight of the afternoon for Penn State came in the first game when Joe Urbanovich cracked a solo home run in the fifth inning.

—by Ron Wenig

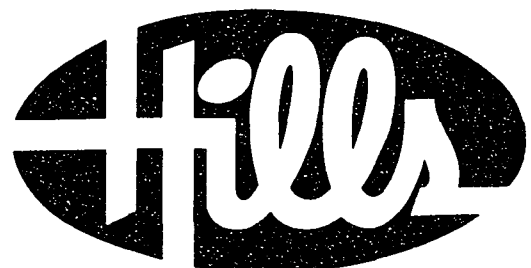
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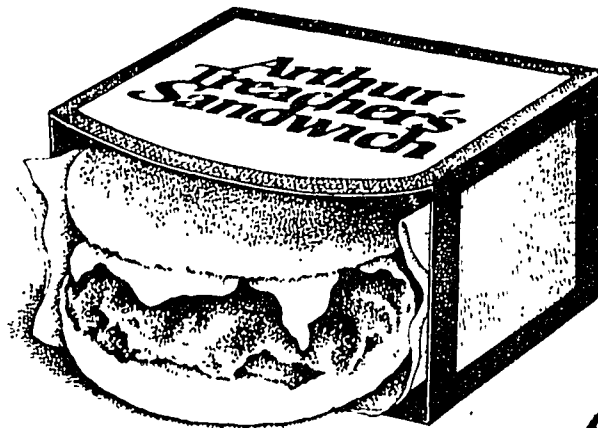
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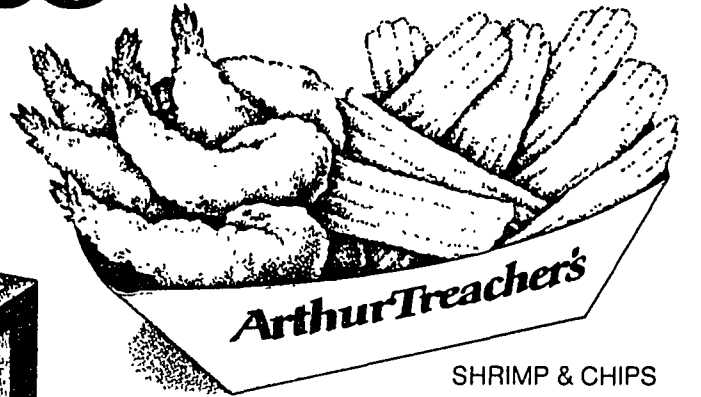
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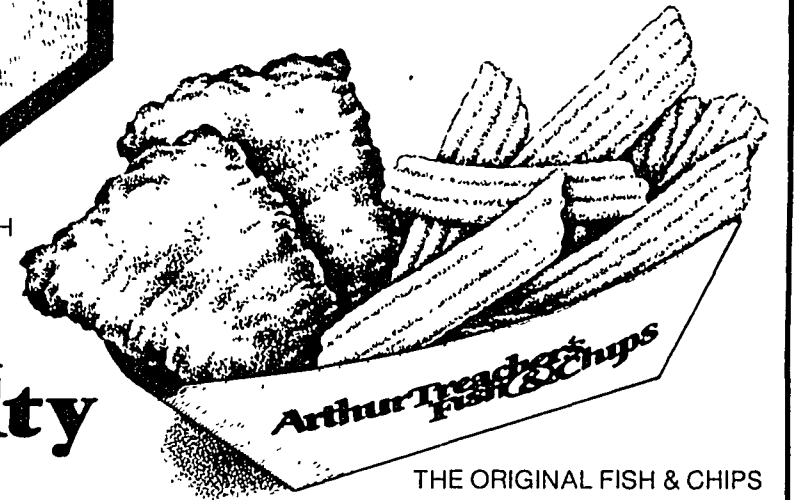
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