Rooker: Defense key to Pirate fortunes

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — It's clear to Pittsburgh Pirate Jim Rooker what is needed to nose out Philadelphia in the National League East this season.

"Defense. If we don't have defense, we might as well pack up and go home," he said at the Pirates' training camp here earlier this week.

Mistakes and bobbles hindered the Pirates in their quest for a pennant last year and the club finished 11/2 games behind the Phillies.

"We had quite a few disappointments last year. We can't wait until July or August to start playing ball. This year, we've got to come out smoking right away, quit fooling around, develop the right attitude," the 36-year-old lefthander said.

It is a widely held view that the Phillies will leave Pittsburgh in a cloud of dust this year unless the Pirates get off to a solid start. "The Phils can put eight better

players out there every day than we can, no question. "We can't afford to play defense like

we have. Not with a team like Philadelphia. We simply can't do that anymore." Rooker said, adding that he doesn't think Montreal is that far behind.

"It takes balance to keep one team running away with it and we have to stay close to have a shot," he said.

Philadelphia's acquisition of Pete Rose and Manny Trillo may make the pursuit a little harder.

"The only thing that's going to help us is if their pitching doesn't hold up. That's their biggest weakness," Rooker said.

"Our bench is stronger than it's been in four or five years, but myself and a couple of other guys have to do the job we're expected to do," he said.

Rooker is in his ninth season as a major leaguer and his sixth with Pittsburgh. Last year, he turned in his fewest wins since becoming a Pirate, pitching nine wins and 11 losses.

The previous season, however, he was the club's second leading winner with a 14-9 record. He missed a chance for a 15th win when his right arm was fractured in a September auto accident.

Jacobson paces keglers

The men's bowling team rolled over 28 teams to place second behind St. Johns College in the AMF Intercollegiate Championship at Paramus Lanes in New Jersey.

Queens College, University of Pennsylvania and Bloomsburg rounded out the top five.

The tournament's format had all 30 teams bowling three games with the top six teams qualifying for the finals. Penn State's team of Ted Long, Jacques Jacobson, Art Mahnken and Bob Brown bowled 680, 811 and 823 to place third at the end of qualifications.

Jacobson rolled the high game, high series and high average in the qualifying round with a 733 series, a 244 average and a 280 high game.

"If it wasn't for Jacques' 280 game we never would have qualified," Long said. In the final round, Penn State scored an 819. 668. and a 757. Long had the high series, average and game with a 634, 211 and 266, respectively.

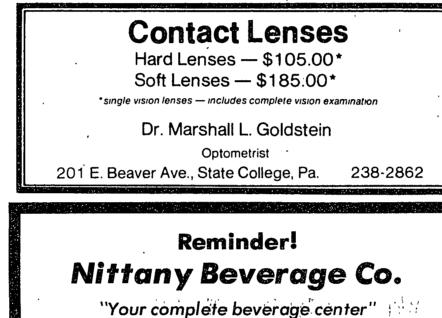
Penn State also sent a women's doubles team to the tournament. Lady Lions' April Long and Liz Baudy placed second behind a team from William and Patterson. Long bowled a 488 for three games while Baudy rolled a 480.

The women's team bowls this weekend at the Robin Lanes Classic at Marshall University. April Long, Heidi Derk, Valerie Bright, Paula Richley and Tina Clark will represent the Lady Lions.

-by Caryl Kaufman



Wayne Levi displays his emotions after a putt on the final hole of first-round play in the Inverrary Golf Classic held in Lauderhill, Fla. yesterday. The Herkimer, N.Y. native shot a blistering six-under-par 66 to grab a share of the first-round lead.



Levi's 6-under ties for Inverrary lead

LAUDERHILL, Fla. (AP) - Wayne Levi fired a 6-under-par 66 and tied veteran Tommy Aaron for the firstround lead yesterday in the \$300,000 Jackie Gleason Inverrary Classic.

Aaron, a former Masters champ who has endured a long, dismal slump, birdied four holes in a row over one stretch and played his back nine in 31.

"It was a tough day to play," Aaron said of the gusty, whipping winds that kicked up in the afternoon. "I'm extremely pleased with my score."

Aaron, who celebrated his 42nd birthday on the same date - Feb. 23 - that Levi celebrated his 26th, said he's "playing better than any times since '73. I'm swinging better, but mostly it's a matter of confidence and having patience with myself. And, when you shoot a few good scores, that tends to build confidence."

Larry Nelson was 1 shot back at 67. The group at 68, 4 under par on the 7,127yard Inverrary Country Club course, included British Ryder Cup player Mark James, Australian veteran Bruce Devlin and former Masters winner Charles Coody.

At 69 were Ray Floyd, Tom Purtzer, Mark Hayes, Jim Simons and U.S. Open champ Andy North.

Jack Nicklaus, winner of the last three tournaments on this course, shot a disappointing 74 that left him 8 strokes off the pace.

"Just nothing happened," Nicklaus

said. "I didn't play all that badlume iust that every time I made a mistarer cost me a bogey and everytime I in 21 close to the hole I missed the putt. Aajc His score was matched by 65-yel be Sam Snead. outs

Nicklaus, however, wasn't alone woes. **]e**ć

Jerry Pate, for example, shot a Lon Hinkle, the season's leading mefc winner, took a 76 and withdrew. idua Bean, who has challenged for a thin dozen titles this year, had a 78. jves Weiskopf withdrew.

Lee Trevino had a 73. Levi, who is sponsored by a clohe l company of the same name and A carries his clubs in a blue-deniminar bag, hit a 4-iron second shot five from the cup and made eagle-3 of second hole. He played the first si 32, then reeled off a string of he birdies, beginning on his 11th. One ard on a 10-foot putt and the other idua resulted from 6-iron approaches the yom him putts of about four feet.

That put him in the lead alone, ichs windblown long-iron shot caugiKay bunker on his 16th hole and he bogev bunker on his 16th hole and he bogeying fall back into a tie with Aaron. Aaron's big move came on a strinist

four birds — and five in seven hol beginning with a 25-foot putt on his r

"Up to that point there hadn't any hint I was going to have a p good score, but that's the kind of ga is," he said.

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TENNIS DOUBLES	Sing. Elim.	March 26	March 29
SOFTBALL (Slow pitch)	Round Robin	March 26	March 29
GOLF MEDAL	Med. Pl. 36 holes	April 23	April 26
TRACK	Meet	April 30	May 3

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