8-The Daily Collegian Tuesday, March 25, 1980

Baseball opener not a safe bet

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By WILL PAKUTKA Daily Collegian Sports Writer

What's that? You said Randy Gardner and Tai Babilonia would win the gold medal! You wanted DePaul and Kentucky to meet in the NCAA basketball finals! You were all set to vote for John Connally Too bad. Wanna try again?

This won't be easy though. You have to guess the date the Penn State baseball team will open its season. Cheating is allowed.

According to the schedule, the Lions should open up 3 p.m. today at Juniata. But going by Penn State's baseball schedule is like setting your watch by the clocks in Rec

Hall. Last year the Lions, who finished 20-5, had five of their first six games cancelled or postponed due to the weather. And it doesn't look as though the Lions are going to have much better luck this time either. Juniata's field was said to be in bad shape last week and rains this weekend and vesterday didn't help.

"Our chances of playing are slim but we'll just have to wait and see," Penn State coach Chuck Medlar said. "I really can't remember a worse spring here."

Medlar thinks he has the makings of a pretty good team. He can't be sure though since he's never seen his squad on a baseball field. All but a few practices so far have been in the indoor

athletic facility. The rest have been on the Astroturf, but none have been on anything resembling a baseball field. "Since we started in January, we've been on the

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Astroturf four times," Medlar said. "There's no way we can establish a ballclub until we get out on the field." There were only a few positions that were in doubt before the season. Graduation claimed first baseman and captain Jeff Rumberger and third baseman Joe Urbanovich. But except for those positions, Medlar will have experienced players all around.

some experience behind him, as does Paul Gallagher, who replaces Urbanovich. "We lost two good power hitters and now our offense is a

question mark," Medlar said. But that can't be said for the pitching. The Lions should be even stronger in that department with the acquisition of Larry Kubin and Lock Haven transfer Jim Bennett. They'll be joined by last year's regulars Mark Lambert.

and Keith Lehman, 6-5; who saw some action last year. The rest of the Penn State lineup will be the same as last vear except for one slight change behind the plate. Terry Brush, who did some catching last year, and Tom Cervino, last year's designated hitter, will share the duties. Last year's regular catcher, Terry Brown, has left school. Other than that, everything will be the same. The team will be led, once again, by Dave Simononis, who is back for is third season in center field. Simononis will be flanked by Chris McKnight in left field and either Frank Lewski or Terry Rakowsky in right.

The infield should be solid with captain Bob Orwig returning at shortstop and Bill Benner at second base.

to relax and get caught." Alphin said that the match was closer than the score indicated







