

Seaver hopes he's not a mistake

By JOHN NELSON
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three-time Cy Young Award winner Tom Seaver walked into Shea Stadium as a member of the New York Mets again yesterday with the realization that his former team might have made a mistake in trading for him.

"It's possible," the 38-year-old Seaver said. "But it's also possible that six months down the road, they'll look like geniuses, too. It's all speculation — that's down the road."

Seaver spent the first 10 1/2 years of his illustrious major league career with the Mets before being traded on June 15, 1977 to the Cincinnati Reds. During the season, Seaver posted the worst record of his career, 5-13, with a 5.50 earned run average, and some observers thought his career had come to a close.

"I think I can pitch," Seaver said at a news conference yesterday to announce the trade. "I think I can do it or I wouldn't be here. I have other things I could be doing. Obviously, I have some numerical goals, but I don't want to suffer to get there."

The trade, worked out between the Mets and Reds last week during the recent baseball winter meetings at Honolulu sends the right-handed pitcher Charlie Puleo, 9-9 this year, and minor leaguers Lloyd McClendon, a catcher-outfielder, and Jason Felice, an outfielder, to Cincinnati.

Seaver, who had one year left on his Reds contract, received a four-year package from the Mets. The first year is guaranteed — at a substantial raise over the \$450,000 he would have gotten from Cincinnati — while the

following three seasons are at the Mets' option.

"It's a simple contract, and, at the same time, a little different," Mets General Manager Frank Cashen said. "It provides one year for certain. It also provides for three additional years with incentives that have mainly to do with innings pitched. With incentives, it will perhaps make him a million dollar pitcher in years to come. It certainly makes him the highest paid pitcher in Mets history, which he certainly deserves to be."

Cashen said he and Seaver agreed mutually on the one-year-at-a-time deal.

"He said, 'I don't want to tie you up and take money for something I might not be able to do,'" Cashen said.

Seaver helped pitch the Mets to two National League pennants and one World Series title. He also set a major league record with nine consecutive seasons with 200 or more strikeouts, beginning in 1968, his second year in the majors.

He won the Cy Young in 1969, 1973 and 1975, and finished second in voting for the award in 1981 after posting a 14-2 record. However, last season, he battled a flu bug and various injuries, losing his first three decisions and never really getting untracked.

Seaver has 264 career victories, 3,201 strikeouts and a lifetime ERA of 2.68, the best among active pitchers.

"Now, it's just starting to dawn on me that I'm a Met again, and I couldn't be happier."

Bucs looking for outfield help

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates are prepared to open the season with veteran Lee Lacy in center field, but are still trying to acquire an experienced outfielder in a trade, General Manager Harding Peterson said yesterday.

The Pirates lost their starting center fielder, free agent Omar Moreno, when he signed a \$3.5 million, five-year contract with the Houston Astros last week.

"We are working on something right now," Peterson said at a press luncheon. "We should know something within a week or so. We had the makings of a deal last week at the winter meetings, involving a front line pitcher ... but the other team didn't make the trade they thought they were going to make."

Reportedly, the Pirates were interested in pitcher Burt Hooton of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who was to be the key to a trade with the Texas Rangers involving catcher Jim Sundberg. But the deal fell through.

"Our needs are still the same; we want another front-line pitcher," Peterson said. "We'd like to get another outfielder. But we like Lee Lacy. He can be our center fielder. He's not going to stay with Moreno defensively, but there aren't too many center fielders in baseball who can."

Tanner said Lacy should help the Pirates at the plate more than Moreno, who hit only .242 last season while striking out 121 times.

"This year, we say to Lacy, 'OK, kid, here it is. You're going to bat against everybody and do the job defensively,' Lee Lacy can play every day for us," Tanner said.

Lacy, who will be 35 in April, hit .312 for the Pirates last season, with 339 at-bats in 121 games. He had five home runs and 31 RBIs and has hit over .300 three times in his major league career, which began in 1972 with the Dodgers. His best season was in 1980, when he hit .335 in 109 games for the Pirates.

Lacy has platooned in left field with Mike Easler the last three years, and also played frequently in right field last season when Dave Parker missed over 80 games because of injuries.

If the Pirates do acquire a center fielder in a trade, Lacy will continue to platoon, Tanner said. He also said he wouldn't hesitate to play a healthy Parker in center field.

"He can do the job out there," Tanner said.

Peterson said the Pirates would like to make a trade or two before spring training, "because we're going to have a numbers problem." Three young players — outfielder-catcher Brian Harper, catcher Junior Ortiz and first baseman Heidi Vargas — are out of options, and the Pirates risk losing them if they are returned to the minor leagues.

Lady cagers cannot find lineup to beat Cheyney

By GREG LODER
Collegian Sports Writer

Women's Basketball Coach Rene Portland has been shuffling players in and out every game, desperately searching for that right combination.

Last night, the desperation continued for Portland.

The Lady Lions (4-2) were defeated by No. 10 Cheyney State in West Chester by the score of 61-70.

For Penn State it was the second loss in three games, but winning at Cheyney has never been easy for any team to accomplish.

Cheyney has yet to be defeated in its own building the last four years, and Penn State was no exception to the Lady Wolves' law.

But again, like last year, Penn State was not out of the game until one bad spurt in the second half. In the contest last year between the two teams, Penn State led by as many as nine points at halftime when the course struck in the second half. The Lady Lions went cold and lost to Cheyney 78-70.

This year Penn State was again hurt in one small portion of the second half. Trailing by only four points at halftime 38-34, the Lady Lions may have wished they had taken more time in the locker room.

In the first half, Penn State had even held a lead with 6:36 left in the first half.

At the beginning of the final 50 minutes, Penn State was out-scored by the Lady Wolves immediately 10-2 to give Cheyney a commanding lead it would never relinquish.

Even though Cheyney's Rosetta Guilford scored 20 points and Penn State "killer" Yolanda Laney tossed in 19 points, it was the Lady Wolves' point guard Sandra Giddins who made the difference.

Giddins sparked her team and the capacity crowd of 2,500 by dribbling around, through, over and under any Penn State pressure to get the ball to Guilford and Laney. In the game, Giddins scored 12 points but her role in the backcourt was more important.

Another facet of the Cheyney offense was its ability to grab offensive rebounds over the larger Penn State frontcourt. Every time on offense Cheyney repeated had more than one or two shots at the basket, while Penn State had to rely on 49 percent shooting from the floor to score its baskets.

Even though Portland could not find five players to gel together, the Lady Lions still had a balanced scoring attack. Senior guard Carol Waldeman scored 18 points, while co-captain Louise Leinckuhler, in a rare role coming off the bench, had her best game of the season with 17 points. Center Kahadejah Herbert was also in double figures with 11 points.

Wrestlers face difficult challenge at Syracuse

By ANDRIJA SILICH
Collegian Sports Writer

Making pulp out of the Orange, that's what the wrestling team will be trying to do this weekend as it travels to Syracuse at 1 tomorrow afternoon to wrestle the Orangemen at Manley Field House.

The task will not be an easy one, however. Last year in a match that wasn't decided until the heavyweight bout, the Orangemen defeated the Lions 21-20.

Penn State Coach Rich Lorenzo said Syracuse is strong once again, and he expects another dogfight.

"You would probably have to favor us on paper in four or five of the matches," Lorenzo said, "but you have to favor them in the other four or five matches."

Lorenzo said the teams are about as equally matched talent-wise as two teams could be, and as a result the match will be decided by which team is the most intense and consistent.

"Whoever wins it will have to earn it," he said, "there are no give-me weight classes. We're going to have to earn each match from them, and they will have to earn them from us. It's going to come down to which team wants it the most."

Lorenzo feels his team is capable of defeating the Orangemen but said it will take a 100 percent effort from all his wrestlers.

"We're going to need a lot of hard wrestling out of all the guys," he said.

One obstacle the Lions will have to overcome is the injury list, which seems to grow longer every day.

Co-captain Bob Bury is very doubtful for the match against Syracuse. The injury he sustained at the Mat-Town USA tournament last weekend turned out to be a strained rotator cuff, and Lorenzo said it will take a miracle for Bury to wrestle this weekend.

Bury's backup at 142 pounds is promising freshman Glenn Koser, but he, too, will not be in action this weekend.

due to a severe ankle twist he suffered in practice this week.

At 158 pounds, Greg Elinsky is still sidelined, but his backup Jim Clauss will return to action against the Orangemen this weekend.

The key to winning a close match like this one, Lorenzo said, is having wrestlers that can fill in at times like these give you an unexpected victory.

"With the match this close, that fourth or fifth match, which I said could go either way, will be crucial," Lorenzo said. "As a coach you hope some of your so-called underdogs rise to the occasion and give you a victory."

One of the key matchups will be at 125 pounds where Lion Scott Lynch will go against Dale Mills of Syracuse. Lorenzo said Mills is a tough wrestler and he expects a close match.

Although the teams seem equal, there is one contrasting characteristic — Penn State is extremely strong in the lower weight classes, while Syracuse seems to be more talented in their heavyweights.

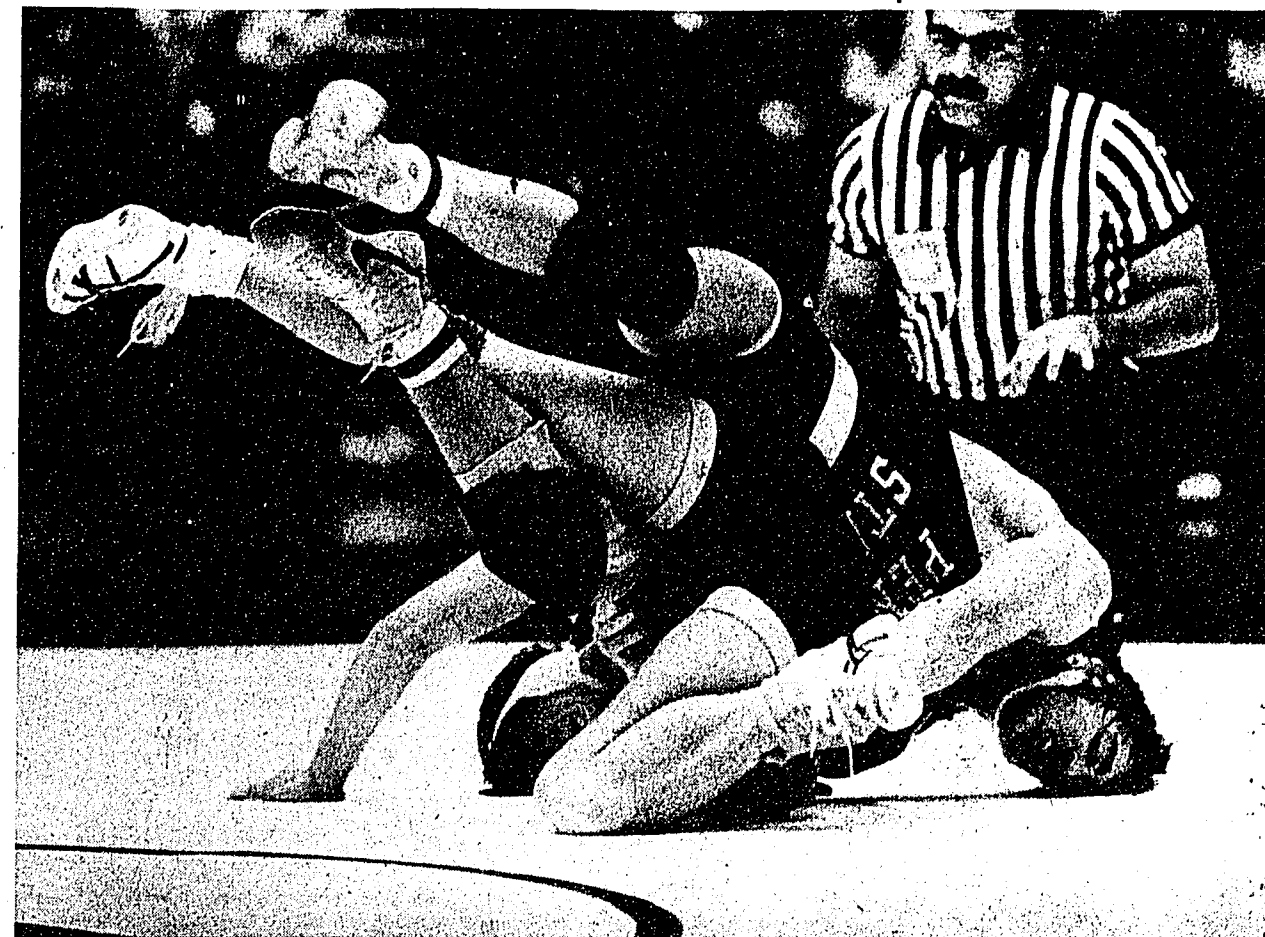
But Lorenzo feels Penn State can win some of the matches in the upper-weight classes. Eric Brugel is in one of these upper classes and Lorenzo feels good about his chances.

"Eric is starting to get his confidence back and I can see the mental improvement in his game," Lorenzo said. "He's always worked hard, and he will continue to do so."

Lorenzo said Brugel has gone against some tough competition recently and as a result, has been losing some matches. But he feels that these losses will help Brugel improve in the long run.

"I'd rather see him get his bumps now in December and early January than in March at the finals," Lorenzo said. "He's learning a lot of valuable lessons early in his career, and we have confidence in his ability to deal with the setbacks."

"He is a quality young man, and we are sure he will rise to the occasion."



Penn State's Eric Childs (right) tries to flip an opponent onto his back in action against Michigan earlier this season. The wrestling team travels to Syracuse for an important match at 1 tomorrow afternoon.

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