

Softball team needs to finish strong

By GWEN FITZGERALD
Collegian Sports Writer

As the softball team heads into the homestretch of its grueling schedule, it is time for the Lady Lions to really turn it on.

The Lady Lions (16-8) will face three Division I teams, including two from their region this weekend as they try to put four more marks in the win column.

Penn State will take on Rutgers (14-5) at 11 a.m. and Ohio State (11-17) at 5 p.m. tomorrow. The Lady Lions will be back in action on Sunday facing Virginia (16-12) at 10 a.m. and Ohio State again at 2 p.m. All games will be played at Lady Lion Field.

Regional bids for the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament will be sent out on May 9 and the first place team in each region has the best chance of getting a bid, providing its schedule was competitive.

With Penn State's upgraded schedule this year and competition in the newly formed Atlantic 10 Conference, Coach Sue Rankin thinks the Lady Lions stand a good chance of being offered a bid if they are first in the region.

The Lady Lions currently are second in the Atlantic 10 region, behind No. 1-ranked Temple. Penn State split a double-header with the Lady Owls last week.

Rankin emphasized the importance of the game against the Buckeyes.

"We need a good win-loss record to be seeded in the region," Rankin said. "The Ohio State game is very important."

However, Penn State cannot overlook Rutgers. The Lady Scarlet Knights are the top team in their region and, according to Rankin, will probably be out to get the Lady Lions.

Last year the Penn State beat Rutgers three times, including a 1-0 win



Penn State's Cheryl Kent (center) is called out on home plate in a game against Princeton last week. The softball team hosts three Division I teams this weekend.

during regional competition on a suicide squeeze play.

Team Captain Mary Ann Cremona said Penn State is in pretty good shape for this weekend's competition.

"Everybody looks like they're hitting pretty well," Cremona said. "We don't have any major injuries on the team. I'm pretty happy. If everybody has had out from the Lock Haven game we should be okay."

"We're hitting the ball much better," Rankin said. "We didn't even hit the ball down there. And we're much more consistent with runners on base."

But the defense is also a sign of improvement, Rankin said.

Third baseman Geri Sava leads the team with .378, followed closely by Captain Michelle Turk with a .377 average, and Carol Fultz who is hitting .375.

Rankin said she is pleased with the progress the team has made at the plate since the tournament in South Carolina (March 10-15).

"We're hitting the ball much better," Rankin said. "We didn't even hit the ball down there. And we're much more consistent with runners on base."

But the defense is also a sign of improvement, Rankin said.

"There's no better outfield than my outfield right now," Rankin said. "They're trying diving and sliding catches and with the speed they have nothing is getting past them."

Second baseman Pam Mowery said practicing in the cold weather is getting a little routine and the team is anxious for the games this weekend.

"We're trying to keep the intensity up," Mowery said. "It gets a little difficult every now and then taking the usual batting and fielding practice. We're tired of practicing — we're ready to play. I just hope it's a little warmer."

Baseball team hopes to rebound from loss

By JOHN WEISS
Collegian Sports Writer

The baseball team has waited almost a week now to rebound from its double-header loss last Sunday at Rider. Starting tomorrow, the Lions will get their chance.

After cold weather wiped out their Tuesday twinnish with Buffalo and Wednesday's game at West Chester, Penn State (12-12) will travel to Rutgers tomorrow for two, and then go out for a conference double-header at George Washington Sunday.

Penn State Head Coach Shorty Stoner said the 43 extra-inning losses to Rider were difficult for the team.

"We played decent ball," Stoner said. "But after having won six-in-a-row, you expect to at least split there, and to lose two is a bit there."

Against Atlantic 10 opponent George Washington Sunday, Stoner plans to go with right-handed pitcher Mike Bellman (4-2) and Tom Bart (0-2).

Bellman has been the most effective Lion pitcher of late, with a team-leading ERA of 2.53, second in the Atlantic 10. He also leads the conference in strikeouts with 43 in 46 1/3 innings.

Bart, on the other hand, has been hampered by arm trouble, and is just on his way back. Currently he is 10th in the conference with a 4.26 ERA in 19 innings pitched.

Stoner has confidence Bart will be able to do the job against George Washington.

"He did look good at West Virginia (last Thursday), except when he couldn't throw strikes," Stoner said. "But they weren't touching him, and we're going to come back with him and give him another opportunity."

LION NOTES: Penn State first baseman Al Warrington was selected Atlantic 10 Player of the Week. The senior had 10 hits, including four doubles in 20 trips to the plate for a sizzling .500 pace. Warrington is now batting .292, while catcher Mark Bernhart leads the Lions in hitting at .356. Penn State is still on top of the Atlantic 10 West with a 6-0 conference record.

The baseball team will return home next Tuesday for a double-header against Maryland and on Thursday the Lions will face Bucknell in a double-header at home.

but a lot depends on the weather.

"I think we're ready," he said. "It just depends on how the weather is, because if it's cold it's going to be very hard on our arms and it's tough to throw when it's really cold out."

"But I think we have enough pitchers that I feel confident we'll be ready," Ferringer said. "I think we have a good pitching staff, it's just a matter of proving it."

Though Ferringer is now primarily a starter, he said with the heavy work load ahead, he'd be ready to take on a relief role.

"He (Stoner) told me that he wants me just as a starter," Ferringer said, "and I told him that if he needs help in relief I'd go in."

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Stoner said the staff is ready,

Ryan aims for record against Phils

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Astros pitcher Nolan Ryan, only eight strikeouts away from breaking Walter Johnson's career strikeout record, says the feat would rank only third on his all-time list of accomplishments.

Ryan, who goes for the record tonight against Philadelphia, rates his five career no-hitters and his major league record 383 strikeouts in one season ahead of cracking Johnson's 3,508 career whiffs.

"I'd say (career strikeout record) third behind the fifth no-hitter because it stands alone and the 383 strikeouts because that one stands by itself," Ryan said. "That year took a lot of consistency. There were no pitchers involved in that which makes it even more credible."

Ryan got his 383 strikeouts in one season pitching for the 1973 California Angels in the American League, which replaced the pitcher with a designated hitter. Ryan's fifth no-hitter came Sept. 26, 1981 in the Astrodome against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

But don't be fooled by Ryan's casual approach to today's chance to grab another piece of baseball history, he wants to be the first to break the 55-year-old record.

"I think it will draw some attention to me that hasn't been given before," Ryan said. "I think it will make people realize after they study this record and see that I did in 16 years what it took Johnson 21 years, that I have been durable and I have pitched a lot of innings and I have been consistent."

"I think that's probably the thing I feel best about because it will give a little more respect that hasn't been around previously."

A comparative study by Rick Rivers, Astros assistant publicity director, shows that Ryan reached his 3,000th strikeout in his 44th major league game, far ahead of Johnson and other pitchers who attained 3,000 career strikeouts.

Johnson didn't get No. 3,000 until his 64th major league game. The Phillies' Steve Carlton, who also likely will surpass Johnson's record this season, got No. 3,000 in his 53rd game.

Ryan also is the major league record holder with an average of 9.45 strikeouts per nine innings pitched. Johnson doesn't rate in the top 10.

Ryan came off the 21-day disabled list last week after recovering from a kidney infection to win his first game of the season, beating Montreal and striking out seven batters.

Although the 36-year-old Ryan expects to be the first to break Johnson's record, he doesn't expect to keep it long.

"I don't see myself as the all-time strikeout leader because I don't see myself pitching into the (age) 40s," Ryan said. "I've got to be realistic. If he's going to chalk up 250 innings to my 230 or 240, there's no way I can stay on the same level with him."

He was tied for the lead in home runs and tied for second in hits (19 in 40 at-bats) and RBI.

Actually, discounting spring training, the seven-time All-Star has been on a hot streak since last fall, when he finished with a six-game hitting streak.

And Wednesday night's performance in Detroit's Tiger Stadium likely will be one game Brett remembers years from now when he thinks back to April 1983.

He smashed three home runs, including a game-winning two-run shot in the ninth inning, and finished with seven RBI to carry the Royals to an 8-7 victory over the Tigers.

"If all nights were like this, I'd play for free," said Brett. "That was wonderful."

Brett gave Kansas City a 1-0 lead in the first with a solo home off Detroit starter Jack Morris, then followed that with an RBI single in the third and a three-run blast in the seventh.

That gave the Royals a 6-1 cushion, but the Tigers responded by following Kansas City starter Larry Gura and relief ace Dan Quisenberry for six runs in the bottom of the inning to make it 7-6.

Wilbur Wilson led off the ninth with a single and U.L. Washington struck out to set the stage for Brett's final dramatics.



Houston Astros pitcher Nolan Ryan steps into a fastball against the Montreal Expos in a game Sunday at the Astrodome. Ryan, who is eight strikeouts away from Walter "Big Train" Johnson's career strikeout record of 3,508, will try to break the record against the Philadelphia Phillies tonight.

Kotar gaining ground; happy at home

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press Writer

CANONSBURG, Washington County — Former New York Giants running back Doug Kotar, back home after being hospitalized for eight months for a malignant brain tumor, slowly is gaining ground in his fight for life, according to his wife.

"He's relieved to be back home. He's allowed to do whatever he can," his wife, Donna, said yesterday.

"His beard is back, his hair is in. His color is really good. He's obviously well enough to come home," she said following a physical therapist's visit to the family's Canonsburg home, about 20 miles southwest of Pittsburgh.

Doctors told Mrs. Kotar a few weeks ago that her husband could go home. He had been hospitalized

since last August, when physicians discovered the cancerous tumor.

Kotar briefly went home at Easter, then returned to a Pittsburgh hospital for chemotherapy. He went home again on April 10, greeted by his two children, Doug Jr., 10, and Christie, 7, and other family.

"They figured he'd do better at home," Mrs. Kotar, 30, said. "He was just getting in time there (the hospital). I can do the same thing here that they were doing there."

Kotar, 31, a University of Kentucky standout, joined the Pittsburgh Steelers as a free agent in 1974. He was traded to the Giants four days later and went on to become the team's all-time leading rusher with 3,380 yards.

Kotar retired from the Giants last July because a separated shoulder he suffered the previous season hadn't healed. The next month, he sought treat-

ment for headaches which began after he was kicked in the head in a swimming pool.

Physicians discovered the tumor, the size of a golf ball, and Kotar underwent eight hours of surgery at a New Jersey hospital in late August. Doctors decided against removing the tumor from the center of his brain, however, fearing it could endanger his life. His left side was left partially paralyzed.

Kotar was transferred to Pittsburgh in mid-October to be closer to his home. His right lung collapsed soon afterward, forcing a tracheotomy to be performed, and a water sac in his head was drained.

Physicians moved Kotar from the hospital's intensive care unit into his own room late last year. He began undergoing chemotherapy treatments in January.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS Friday-Sunday, April 22-24

Friday, April 22
Fifth Annual Penn State Slavic Folk Festival, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., HUB Ballroom. Also Apr. 23, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Apr. 24, 1-6 p.m. Geography Dept. Coffee Hour, 3-4 p.m., Room 319 Walker. W. Zelinsky, Geography, on "The Roving Palate: Ethnic Cuisines in North American Restaurants."

Sports: men's volleyball, ECVL Championships, 5 p.m., Also April 23, International Council film, 6 p.m., Room 111 Bouckee. P.S. Wargamers' Club meeting, 6 p.m., Room 107 Sackett. Theatre and Film, Walkout, 7 and 9 p.m., HUB Assembly Room.

Saturday, April 23
Sports: women's tennis vs. James Madison, 8:30 a.m.; softball vs. Rutgers, 11 a.m.; women's tennis vs. William & Mary, 2:30 p.m.; softball vs. Ohio State, 5 p.m.; men's volleyball, ECVL Championships, 5 p.m.; men's golf, Nittany Lion Invitational, 10 a.m., Room 107 Sackett. Also April 24, P.S. Wargamers' Club meeting, noon, Room 107 Sackett. Also April 24, France-Cinema, Fasshinder, Veronica Voss, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern. Also April 25.

Sunday, April 24
Sports: softball vs. Virginia, 10 a.m.; softball vs. Ohio State, 2 p.m.; women's tennis vs. West Virginia, 2:30 p.m.; men's golf, Nittany Lion Invitational. HUB Enterprises, Founder's Room, Brunch, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Alliance Christian Fellowship church services, 10:45 a.m., HUB Ballroom. P.S. Aikido Club demonstration, 1 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.

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Keller Conference Center

The conference's topic is the role that the social sciences have played, are playing, and could play in shaping and evaluating social policy about social justice issues.

Conference Schedule

12:30-1:30	FRIDAY, APRIL 22	Registration in lobby of Keller Building (No fee)	8:30-9:30	SATURDAY, APRIL 23
1:30-1:40	Welcome	Dean Stanley Paulson	9:40-10:40	Affirmative Action Marylee Taylor The Pennsylvania State University
1:40-2:00	Caroline Wood Sherif: A Memorial	Leigh Shaffer West Chester State College	10:50-11:50	Comparable Worth of Occupations Pamela Cain Hunter College
2:00-2:10	Conference Overview	M. Mark/R. L. Shotland The Pennsylvania State University	11:50-1:30	Employment Policy Henry Levin Stanford University
2:10-3:10	School Desegregation	Robert Crain The John Hopkins University	1:30-2:30	Lunch Deterrence Charles Title Florida Atlantic University
3:20-4:20	Compensatory Education	Robert St. Pierre ABT Associates, Inc.	2:40-3:40	Rape Legislation Jeanne C. Marsh University of Chicago
			4:00-5:00	Guns and Violent Crime Peter Rossi & James D. Wright University of Massachusetts

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

8:30-9:30	Methodology Thomas D. Cook Northwestern University
9:40-10:40	Measurement Les Sechrest University of Michigan
10:50-11:50	Social Scientists in the Political Arena Thomas Pettigrew University of California, Santa Cruz
12:00-12:30	Concluding Remarks M. Mark/R. L. Shotland

Cartoon

Tuesday April 26th
In The Train Station
Palm Room
9:30 p.m. \$1.00 Cover