

Hostetler caps comeback in grand style

By MARK ASHENFELTER
Collegian Sports Writer

For the baseball team's Todd Hostetler, the long road back ended with one swing of the bat yesterday afternoon against Lock Haven.

The senior third baseman launched a delivery from Tom Sepala over the fence in right-center for a grand slam, the first of his three hits. The home run accounted for four of his seven RBI on the afternoon as the Lions swept a double-header from the Bald Eagles.

Over the past few seasons, three hits in two games would have been considered a bad afternoon for Hostetler, who hit .356 as a sophomore and was hitting .310 after 12 games last year when disaster struck.

While crossing Shortlidge Road last spring, Hostetler was hit in the leg by a car, which had gone through a red light. Two bones in his lower right leg were broken and his season was over, before it had

really begun. The only bright spot for Hostetler was that he was able to be red-shirted and has another year's eligibility left.

Until yesterday, 1984 had been a bit of a struggle for Hostetler, who came into the day hitting just .256, a figure well below his averages of past seasons. Although he wasn't posting his normal numbers on the board, Lion Head Coach Shorty Stoner knew it was only a matter of time until his bat came around.

"The only thing that was wrong with Todd was that he hadn't played ball in a full year," Stoner said. "He's the type of guy that wants to jump right back in there, but it's always a struggle when you first come back. We knew what he could do and we were just going to leave him in there until he got it back together."

Hostetler knew he couldn't rush his recovery, but admitted that he couldn't stand to stay away from the game.

"I'm just trying to be patient and Coach Stoner has been very patient with me and that's been a help," Hostetler said. "When you like something so much you just want to get back to it as fast as you can. It takes time to recover, though, I'm just really lucky to be out there playing."

Hostetler, whose brother Jeff was the starting quarterback for West Virginia this year, said he really doesn't feel any competition from his brother because they play different sports at different times of the year. He also receives encouragement from another brother and sister who live in the area and make it to as many games as possible.

Stoner said Hostetler's performance was exactly what he needed to break out of his slump and to begin hitting the ball with authority.

"Todd's been struggling up there, but he really broke out of it today," he said. "That grand slam was the best possible medicine for his bat. It looked like he was swinging like the Hostetler of old out there today."

Caps rally past weary Isles

By BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Washington's Craig Laughlin fired in a wrist shot as he fell to the ice with just 1:02 remaining last night, giving the Capitals a 3-2 triumph over the first New York Islanders in the first game of their NHL playoff series.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven Patrick Division final will be played here tonight.

The Capitals, who had not played since finishing off a sweep of Philadelphia last Saturday, look advantage of the Islanders' weariness in the third period. The Islanders played a physical, emo-

tional five-game series with the New York Rangers that was won by Ken Morrow's overtime goal Tuesday night.

With Islanders defenseman Dennis Potvin draped all over him, Laughlin fanned on a shot and, as he fell to the ice with Potvin still holding him, managed to flick the puck over goalie Billy Smith's right shoulder.

Rookie Pat Flatley earned the only goal of the first period when he put in a rebound of Dave Langevin's blocked shot at 4:34. Then Mike Bossy woke up the Islander power play at 7:46 of the second period to make it 2-1.

The Islanders had failed on 23 consecutive power plays.

Dapper Classic still loaded with talent

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Dapper Dan Roundball Classic was not only the only game in town, it was the only high school all-star basketball game of its kind in the country.

That was 20 years ago, when the first Roundball Classic, the forerunner of such games as the Capital Classic and the McDonald's All-America games, was played.

The Roundball Classic, which will be played again today, no longer has its choice of the nation's top high school players. Other all-star games often filter off the players that game sponsors would most like to see playing in Pittsburgh.

Neither 6-11 Chris Washburn of Virginia or 6-10 Danny Manning of Kansas, for example, is playing this

year.

But Sonny Vaccaro, the talent procurer for every Roundball Classic, says there are a lot more players to choose from than there were two decades ago.

"There are so many talented high school basketball players any more that it is silly to say these are the Top 25 or this is the All-America team," Vaccaro said.

"We've got kids on the U.S. team who are playing in their first all-star games. Does that mean they aren't All-Americans?"

Vaccaro said Keith James, a 6-6 swingman from Dunbar High School in Baltimore is an example. James averaged 18 points and eight rebounds a game this season, but two of

his former Dunbar High teammates — Reggie Williams and David Wingate, both of NCAA champion Georgetown — received more publicity.

Another such player is Cedric Henderson, a man without a team this season.

The 6-9 forward from Marietta, Ga., averaged 23 points and 14 rebounds a game on Georgia's 4A championship team in 1983, but dropped out of school this season after playing just nine games.

After making a verbal commitment to the University of Louisville, he signed a letter of intent to attend Georgia, but there has been speculation he might end up at Carson-Newman, an NIAA school, after finishing high school classes this year.

Defense concerns Maulers' Pendry

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Maulers' defense has been resting, and that bothers coach Joe Pendry and his assistants.

"We need to be more physical than we are," said defensive coordinator Joe Haering. "This week we play the Denver Gold and they are going to come and try to knock you off the ball. We have to show they can't do that."

"We've been physical most of the season, and overall, everybody in the league describes our defense as physical."

Pendry said the Maulers have been too intent on sacking quarterbacks, thus helping opponents' running games.

"We are trying to get to the passer maybe too much," Pendry said. "We have been vulnerable to draws because we don't get away from the blocks quick enough."

The Maulers' 43 defense was designed to put pressure on quarterbacks, so some United States Football League teams have been content to run the ball on them. The Maulers have been giving up an average of 153 yards a game on the ground.

"Denver has big, strong linemen and big backs who weigh 220 pounds," Haering said. "They will line up to try to knock us off the ball."

The Maulers are 2-5 in their first USFL season and play a pair of teams with 6-1 records — the Gold and the New Jersey Generals — in their next two games.

The Denver game will be played at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Three Rivers Stadium after originally being scheduled for Sunday. The move was made to allow an extra day for the conversion of the stadium from football to baseball for the Pirates' opener next Tuesday.

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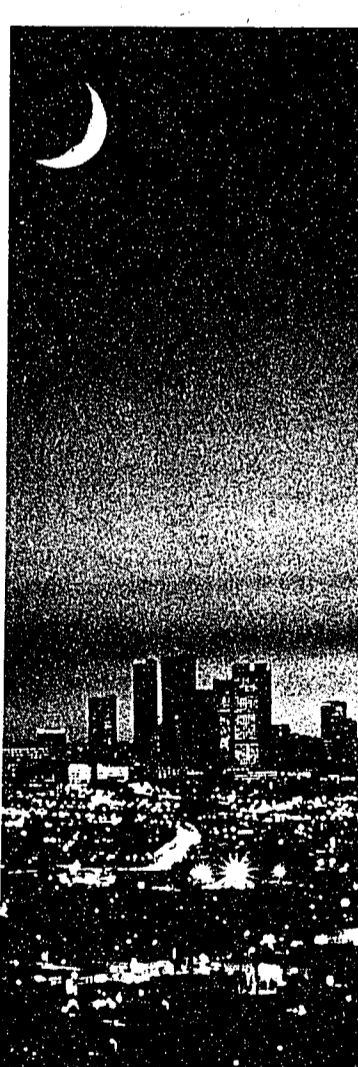
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