

local sports update

Men's lacrosse

The men's lacrosse team, which finished the year with a school-record ten wins and only five defeats, ended its season on a down note with a 16-12 loss to C.W. Post May 2.

The first half of the game was evenly played, and the two teams were tied 9-9 midway through the third quarter. But the Pioneers broke it open with a ten-minute, six-goal barrage that began at the 7:35 mark of the third stanza and gave them a 15-9 cushion.

Goals by Chris Dent, John Hollerbach and Scott McKee made the score 15-9 with 2:37 remaining in the game, but Tim McIntire — the Pioneers' leading scorer — tallied his fourth goal of the day to ice the win for Post.

The Lions opened the game's scoring when McKee fired a shot behind Pioneer goalkeeper Lou Jannette at the 2:22 mark of the first quarter. It was the squad's only lead of the day, but it did manage ties at 2-2, 6-6, 8-8 and 9-9 before Post put the game out of reach.

Hollerbach had four goals on the day, McKee added three and Jeff Connor tallied two. Lion midfielder Chip Robertson made 15 saves.

The Lions were 10-3 heading into their last two contests, but a loss to eight-time Division III champion Hobart and the loss to Post killed any post-season aspirations.

Penn State's leading scorers were Connor (10 goals, 40 assists), McKee (40, 3), Hollerbach (25, 17), Dent (32, 7), Dave King (14) and Bob Quinn (8, 16). Robertson surrendered 9.3 goals per game and compiled a 59.7 saves percentage.

At halftime the traditional blanket ceremony took place. John Carroll, Tony Gerratto, King, McKee, Brian Trapani, Quinn, Marty Coyle and Rich Makover were honored by Head Coach Glenn Hightower during the Senior Appreciation Day activities.

With eight seniors lost to graduation, the team will have to do some rebuilding in the off-season. "This said he can rely on his younger players to do the job."

"I'm very pleased with the way we played and the results were obvious."

—by Robert Williams

Softball

The softball team's season ended earlier than it would have liked at the Atlantic 10 playoffs May 9-9, as the Lady Lions lost a pair of one-run contests in the double-elimination tournament.

Penn State lost its first game to Massachusetts by the score of 4-3 May 8, and Rhode Island knocked the Lady Lions out of the tournament with a 3-2 come-from-behind victory the following afternoon in the consolation round.

In the first game of the tourney, UMass tallied a run in the second inning and three more in the fourth to take a 4-0 lead. But freshman pitcher Cathy Kaminski came in and blanked the Minutewomen the rest of the way, and the Lady Lions started their comeback.

In the bottom of the fourth, doubles by Nan Siehler and Carolyn Withstandeigh got Penn State on the scoreboard. And in the sixth, a Dina Tauriello triple, a UMass error and a double to left by Eileen Roach closed the deficit to 4-3. But the comeback would fall just short, as the Minutewomen shut out the Lady Lions the rest of the way, sending them to the loser's bracket.

It was a different means, but the same end to the squad's second game, in which Penn State once again wound up on the short end of the stick. It was the Lady Lions' opponent that needed to make a late-inning comeback, only this time it was successful.

Rhode Island scored the game's first run in the bottom of the first inning, and Penn State evened the score at 1-1 in the second when Withstandeigh tripled down the right field line and scored on a wild pitch.

The game remained deadlocked until the top of the seventh when Tammy Irvin tripled and Aileen Polaris drove her home with a sacrifice fly. But the Wrams came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning to win the game 3-2 and end the Lady Lions' season.

—by Robert Williams

Baseball

The baseball team took a major step towards contending for the Atlantic 10 crown when it swept a double-header from hapless St. Bonaventure May 2 by the scores of 19-5 and 20-0.

Everything went right for Penn State. The Lions slammed eight round trippers (seven in the second game), collected 42 hits, and got clutch pitching performances from Joel Johnston in game one and Keith Bevenour in game two. It seemed like they were well-tuned and ready for any challenge that would face them in the A-10 Championships at Boyertown.

Unfortunately, though, things never fell into place. Just when it looked like Penn State was ready to leave its tread mark on its foes during the championships, the team went flat.

The pitching and hitting disappeared from Head Coach Shorty Stoner's team as the Lions (29-19) made a quick and unexpected exit from the tournament, losing to Rutgers 8-1 and Massachusetts 10-4. Stoner was disappointed with the losses.

"We didn't get the hitting and pitching we needed," Stoner said. "I felt we had the momentum going in because we played so well against St. Bonaventure, but we didn't play well. Rutgers and UMass) took it to us. They had the good pitching and we were never able to put any pressure on them."

Despite the disappointing end to the season, the team achieved many new heights. The Lions' 49 home runs established a new team high (Mike Sheehy and Steve Fedrick had seven each to lead the team), and Penn State tied the school record for shutouts (7) and most games played (48).

The team batting average stood at .304, with freshman Keith Ripka leading the way at .378. Individual honors were awarded to team captain Tim Hurlay, who was elected the team MVP by his teammates, and Bevenour, who was voted in as the team's most valuable pitcher with a record of 7-2 and a 2.09 ERA.

—by Lew Bosco

Men's golf

Following a late-season surge that culminated with the men's golf team winning the Eastern Championship May 3, the Lions begin play in the NCAA Championships at Ohio State today.

And if they play as well as they have of late, they have a good chance of placing well when the tourney ends Saturday.

The spring season began on a low note for the Lions, as they finished no better than 12th place in their first three tournaments. But the end of the season was a different story. Penn State placed first in its last five tournaments, including the Eastern Championships. That victory qualified the squad for the NCAAs.

Penn State tallied an 867 score at Easterns, topping second-place Temple by four strokes. Individually, Lions Terry Hertzog and Chris Keim finished in the top 10, placing second and sixth, respectively.

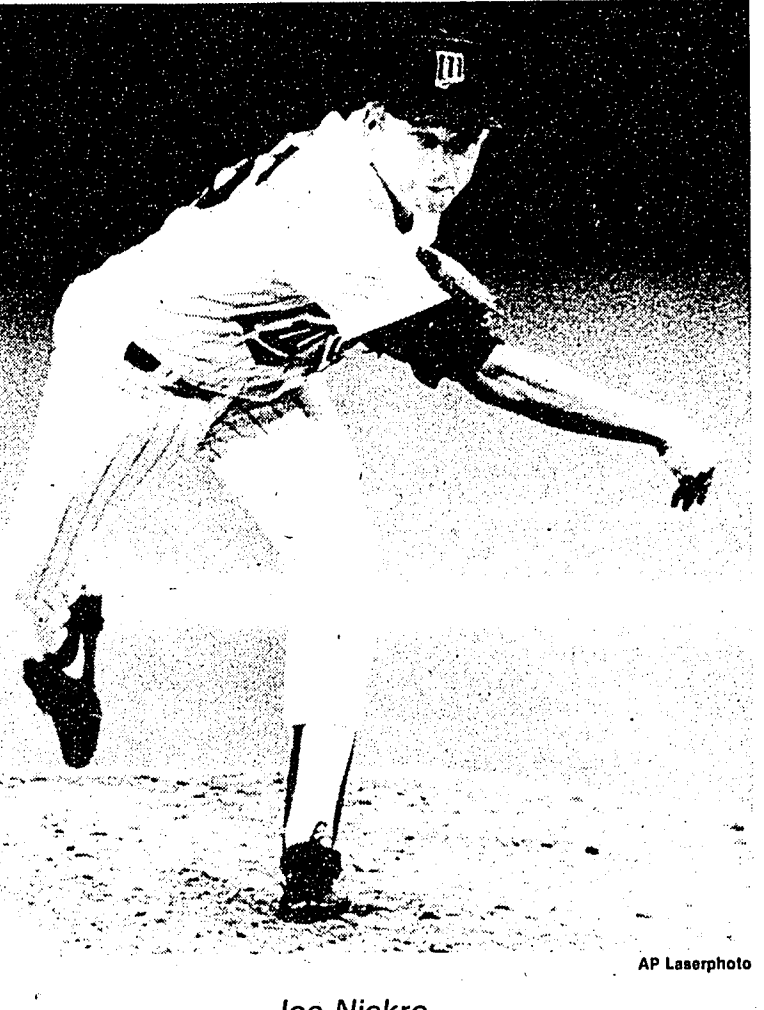
Following the strong showing at the end of the season, which earned Head Coach Mary Kennedy Division II Coach of the Year honors, the team is optimistic about Penn State's chances of winning the tournament.

The 72-hole tournament at the Scarlet Golf Course features a field of 30 teams and over 120 individuals. One of those individuals bidding for No. 1 will be Hertzog, the team's only senior. Hertzog is a second-year Academic All-American who averaged 75.5 during the regular season.

The rest of the team is composed of sophomores. Chris Keim (78.2 average), Mark Treese (78.2), Dan Braun (76.5) and Darrin Helrick (78.8). Treese placed first in the Rutherford Intercollegiate and Keim finished second in both the Rutherford and the IUP Invitational. Kennedy said that Treese, a Hollidaysburg native, is the team's most consistent golfer.

The teams to watch according to Kennedy are top-ranked Oklahoma State and Wake Forest, Arizona, Fresno State, Georgia Tech, Brigham Young and Ohio State could also be tough.

—by Stacey Jacobson



Joe Niekro

AP Laserphoto

Niekro's knucklers give Twins new life

By MIKE NADEL AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Joe Niekro says when he recovered from the surprise of being traded from the New York Yankees he set two goals to accomplish with the Minnesota Twins.

"I told Kent Hrbek there were two things I want to do: help the Twins with the division and teach these guys how to fish," said Niekro. "When he first learned of the trade, he thought 'I'm at the point in my career where I'm saying, 'Hey, do I need another move?' But I talked to my brother, Phil, and he said, 'Hey, go get 'em. I'll be up there in a couple of weeks. Go get us a good fishing spot.'"

Niekro hasn't been here long enough to even dip his big toe — let alone a fishing line — into one of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. But he already has started toward accomplishing his goal.

Early Sunday morning, the Twins announced that they had acquired the 42-year-old knuckler for catcher Mark Salas. He had a couple of days to get his belongings together, and within a few hours after his plane landed, he was starting against the Kansas City Royals.

The Twins won 5-2.



AP Laserphoto

Montreal's Huble Brooks' attempt to get to second base wasn't successful as Pittsburgh's Johnny Ray tagged him during the fourth inning of last night's game. Brooks did, however, succeed in breaking up a double play as the Expos edged the Pirates 4-3.

Coleman's hits, stolen bases lead Cards past Phillies 3-1

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Vince Coleman had two hits and three stolen bases last night, leading the St. Louis Cardinals past the Philadelphia Phillies 3-1.

Greg Mathews, 4-4, allowed six hits in 7 1/3 innings, striking out seven and walking three. One of the top rookie pitchers with a 11-8 record last season, Mathews already has been demoted to the minors and recalled this spring.

He was replaced by Todd Worrel after Juan Samuel hit his 10th homer with one out in the eighth. Worrel got his 14th save.

Phillies starter Kevin Gross, 4-5, allowed six hits, struck out four and walked four in going the distance. The Cardinals took a 2-0 lead in the third with the help of a hit batsman and a balk.

Gross hit John Morris to start the inning and Morris recited third on Steve Lake's single. Mathews hit into a double play, scoring Morris, and Coleman beat out a bunt single. Coleman advanced to second on a balk and scored on Orzelle Smith's single.

Expos 4, Pirates 3

MONTREAL — Herm Wingham singled home Tim Lincecum with two outs in the 11th inning last night, giving the Montreal Expos a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Raines, who also had a homer and a two-run double, started the 11th with a base hit off Don Robinson, 4-4, and went to second on Tim Wallach's infield out. Raines advanced to third on a passed ball before Wingham lined his game-winning hit.

Bob McChesney, 3-1, pitched one inning to get the victory. Raines' two-run double and solo home run gave Montreal a 3-2 lead. Raines got Montreal going when he led off the fourth with his sixth homer of the year. The Expos took the lead in the fifth as Casey Candletts singled with two outs and Mitch Webster walked before Raines doubled to left-center to score both runners.

But the Pirates tied it with two outs in the eighth on Barry Bonds' seventh homer off Tim Burke. Raines' two-run double and solo home run gave Montreal a 3-2 lead. Raines got Montreal going when he led off the fourth with his sixth homer of the year. The Expos took the lead in the fifth as Casey Candletts singled with two outs and Mitch Webster walked before Raines doubled to left-center to score both runners.

Twins 4, Royals 3

MINNEAPOLIS — Gene Larkin's one-out, 10th-inning single scored Greg Gagne from second last night, lifting the Minnesota Twins to a 4-3 victory over Kansas City and moving them into first place ahead of the Royals.

Gagne began the winning rally with a single off Jerry Don Gleaton, 1-2. Gagne stole second as Kirby Puckett struck out. After Gary Gattet was intentionally walked, Larkin grounded Gagne's first pitch to left, and Gagne's side left fielder Bo Jackson's throw home.

Jeff Reardon, 3-4, pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the victory.

The three-game series sweep gave Minnesota a five-game winning streak for the first time in two years.

A bases-loaded error by Royals first baseman Steve Balboni in the eighth inning allowed the Twins to rally from a three-run deficit and tie the game.

Charlie Leibrandt took a two-hitter into the eighth before getting into trouble. Leibrandt allowed a one-out single by Mark Davidson and two-out walks to Dan Gladden and pinch-hitter Tim Lincecum to load the bases.

Reliever Dan Quisenberry entered and got Kirby Puckett to ground to first, but the ball hit Balboni in the midsection and caromed into short right field. Davidson and Gladden scored easily and pinch-runner Gagne beat right fielder Danny Tartabull's throw to the plate.

Twins starter Bert Blyleven struck out nine over eight innings but was victimized by speedy Willie Wilson and by his own propensity for giving up homers.

Wilson led off the game with a single, stole second, went to third on catcher Sal Butera's throwing error and scored on Jorge Orta's two-out double.

In the third, Wilson singled, stole second and scored when Blyleven's pickoff attempt sailed into center field. Jackson made it 3-0 in the fifth inning with his 12th homer of the year, a drive to straightaway center estimated at 400 feet.

Blyleven, who has allowed 24 homers this year and is ahead of last year's pace when he set a major-league record by surrendering 50, has yielded at least one homer in 20 straight games.

CINCINNATI — Candy Maldonado hit three doubles, including one that drove in the winning run in the eighth inning, as the San Francisco Giants beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-2 yesterday.

The victory moved the Giants to within one game of the first place in the National League West. The teams split the first two games of the three-game series.

The Giants trailed 4-3 entering the eighth, but rallied for four runs to take a 7-4 lead.

Keith Comstock, 2-0, pitched a perfect seventh inning to pick up the win. Scott Garrels finished the game for his seventh save.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 1

NEW YORK — George Bell connected for his major league-leading 21st home run and Jimmy Key combined with Tom Henke on a seven-hit last night as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 4-1 for their eighth straight victory.

Please see BASEBALL, Page 22.

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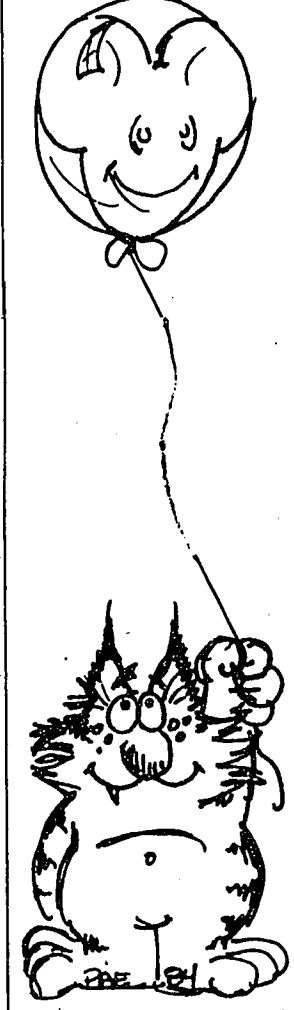
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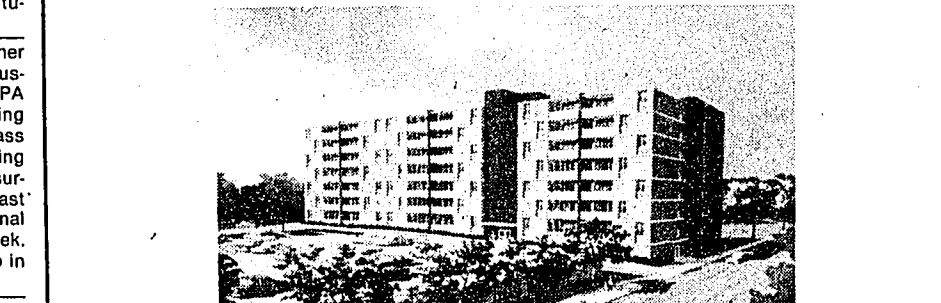
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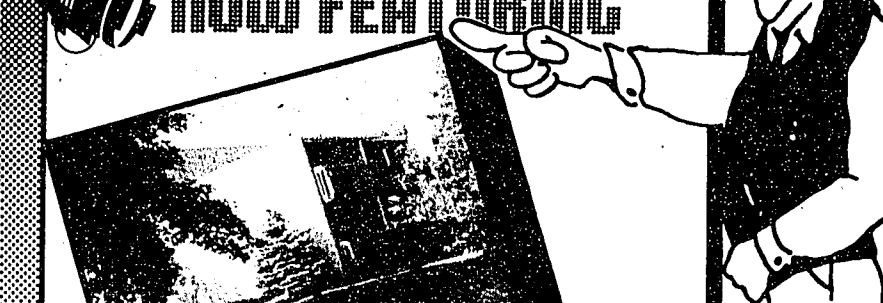
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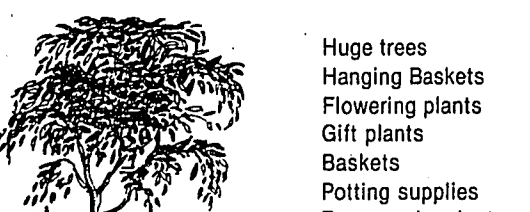
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