

SPORTS

6 | TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

LINEUP

MLB

2010 All-Star Game
8 p.m., FOX

QUICK HITS (AP)

MAJOR LEAGUE

Jimenez, Price to start All-Star game

Colorado ace Ubaldo Jimenez will start for the National League in the All-Star game while the AL will counter with Tampa Bay's David Price.

In this year of the pitcher, Jimenez was a fitting pick by Phillies manager Charlie Manuel on Monday.

"One of the great talents in baseball and he's a treat to watch pitch," Manuel said of choosing Jimenez over Florida's Josh Johnson. "This guy's 15-1. His record speaks for itself."

Cleveland removes James mural

LeBron James has left the building.

Workers have finished removing a gigantic Nike banner featuring James, a sign that hung on the side of a downtown office building for years and served as a background for the Cleveland Cavaliers' success during the seven years he played for them.

The mural was taken down after James announced he was leaving Cleveland as a free agent to play with fellow superstars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami. In the hours after James' announcement, some angry Cavaliers fans hurled rocks at the 10-foot-story sign that featured James with his arms outstretched after tossing powder into the air under the heading: "We Are All Witnesses."

Ex-Cowboy seeks damages

A former Dallas Cowboys player who was inside the team's indoor practice facility when it collapsed last year is seeking damages and says he suffered a career-ending injury.

Jamar Hunt says in a court filing that he suffered "serious, disabling and permanent injuries" when the tentlike structure fell in May 2009. At the time, Hunt was a rookie free agent from Texas-El Paso trying to make the team as a tight end and deep snapper.

THOUGHTS

ALL-STAR GAME

Game should be for entertainment only

It's mid-July, that means it's time for what has become the annual "change the All-Star game rules" rant.

In 2003, Bud Selig, in his infinite wisdom, decided to further leave his mark (or blemish) on baseball by giving home field to the World Series to the league that wins the All-Star game.

While a cute idea, home field in baseball is far too important to rest on the outcome of what is nothing more than an exhibition game.

The team with the better record come October is the team that should have the advantage of the extra game at home.

Dear Mr. Selig,
Please Stop.

TRIVIA

MAJOR LEAGUE

Q: What was the score to the first MLB All-Star game?

Monday's Answer: Dave Parker of the Cincinnati Reds won the first Home Run Derby with 6 in 1985

Spikes offense erupts in win

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Entering Monday night, Vermont Lake Monsters starting pitcher Matt Swynenberg had given up just one run in 2010, and had the best ERA in the New York-Penn League. His team had yet to lose two games in a row all season.

If it looked as if the odds were against the State College Spikes Monday night at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, no one told them.

Behind a franchise record tying 20 hits, the Spikes beat the Lake Monsters 13-2. The win was their second in as many nights against

Vermont, who holds the best record in the league.

State College (13-11) pounded Swynenberg for six runs on nine hits, and the 6-foot-5 right-hander, who had given up just 11 hits in 22 innings coming in, lasted just two

innings. It was his shortest outing of the year, as he hadn't gone less than five innings in any of his four starts. The Spikes raised his ERA from 0.41 to 2.63 and handed him his first loss of 2010.

"He left a few balls over the plate

and let us get our bats rolling," first baseman Matt Curry said.

Down 1-0 after the top of the first, the Spikes didn't waste any time. Second baseman Gift Ngoepe scored on a sacrifice fly to tie the game, and third baseman Kelson Brown singled home shortstop Walker Gourley to give the Spikes the lead, which they would never give up.

Left fielder Pat Irvine, a 2009 Spike who is back with the team after being demoted from the West Virginia Power on Sunday, smacked a two-run double down the right field line to give State College a 4-1 lead after one stanza.

The Spikes added two runs in the second off Swynenberg and

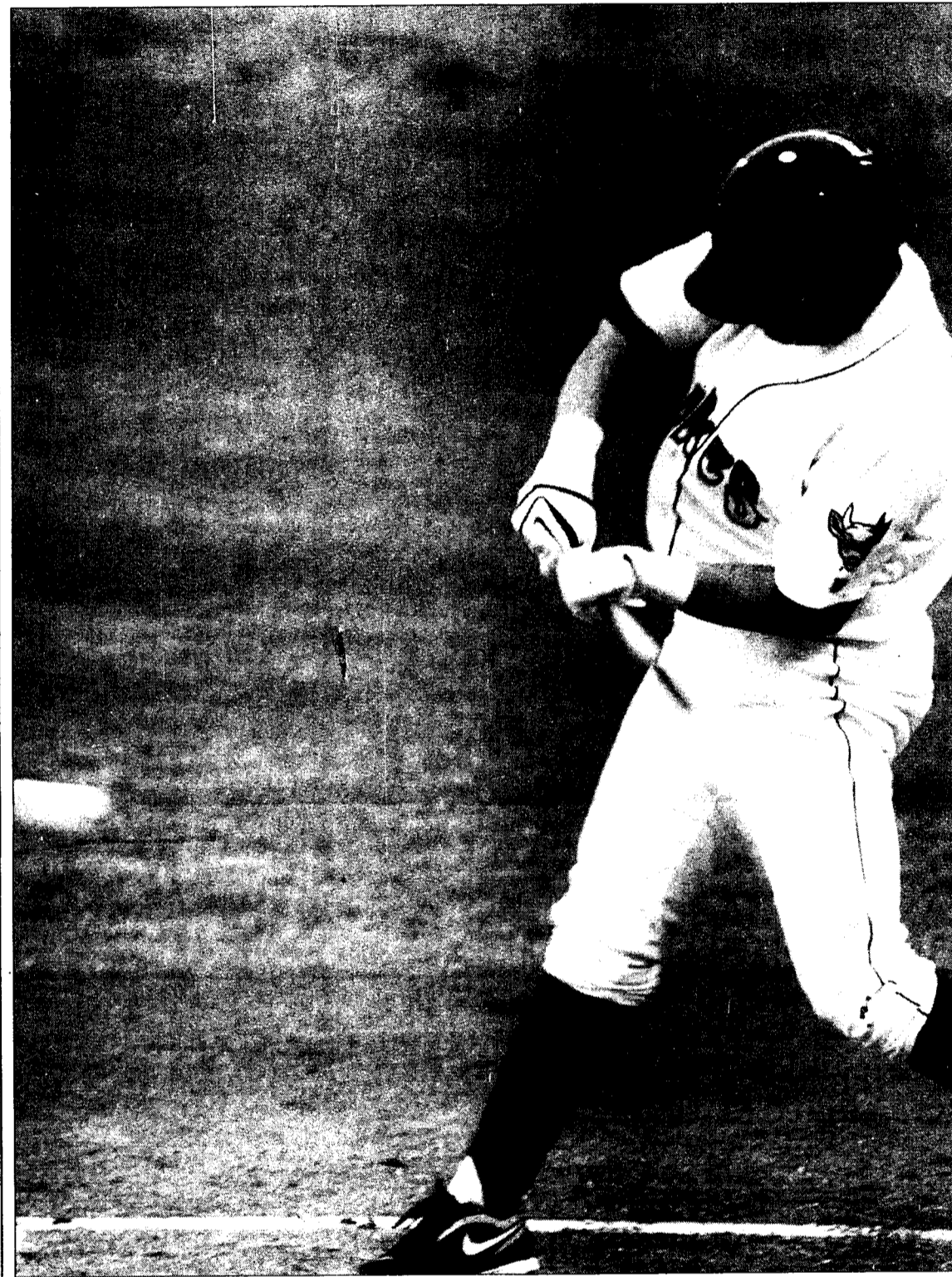
then three more off Vermont (17-7) reliever Cameron Selik in the third, making it 9-1 after three. The Spikes kept piling on the runs, adding one in the fifth and seventh innings, and two in the eighth.

Eight of the nine players in the State College starting lineup hit safely and seven of them tallied at least two hits. Curry led the Spikes with four hits, including his first professional home run, and four RBI. Brown added four hits and an RBI, raising his average to .333.

Hitting wasn't the only aspect of the game the Spikes excelled at. Just one day removed from shutting out Vermont, five different State College pitchers combined to

See SPIKES, Page 8.

13
State College
2
Vermont



Matt Curry swings at a pitch Monday night. Curry went 4-for-5 with a homerun and four RBI in the Spikes win.

Curry drives scoring

By Zach Fleagle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Matt Curry admitted after Monday night's game that his hitting success had been overshadowed by a goose egg on his stat-sheet - home runs.

The State College Spikes first baseman went deep tonight for the first time as a professional, capping a night where he went 4-for-5 with four RBI and a walk as the Spikes routed the Vermont Lake Monsters 13-2.

Spikes outfielder Adalberto Santos said that he's known Curry since they both played against each other in Junior College and again in Division 1 where Curry was at TCU and Santos played for Oregon State. Santos said its fun to play with a friend he's played against for that long and the home run jokes are a fun way to stay loose.

"You know, he's so big we call him the doubles hitter," Santos said. "It's actually fun to see him hit one long and prove that he can because that's what he needs to do and he's been doing a great job."

If there is one thing that is for sure, home runs aside, Curry has had a smooth transition switching horns.

The former Horned Frog and burly 16th-round pick in 2010 by the Pittsburgh Pirates has hit the New York-Penn League in stride, recording at least one hit in each of the nine games he's played for the Spikes so far. Last night Curry kept the streak alive and started to re-build his clubhouse reputation

See CURRY, Page 8.

Offensive line adjusting to change

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Both Quinn Barham and Stefan Wisniewski agree the offensive line isn't ready yet.

But by the time Penn State starts the 2010 season Sept. 4 against Youngstown State, the two linemen know they'll have to be almost flawless to stop the defenses of defending national champion Alabama, Big Ten champion Ohio State, and perennial thorn-in-the-side Iowa - all on the road.

Barham, who is preparing at left tackle, has a picture of Iowa all-conference defensive end Adrian Clayborn as the background on his phone, just to make sure he's aware of him at all times.

Last year, Clayborn swung the game and season with his blocked punt and touchdown

return in the Big Ten opener.

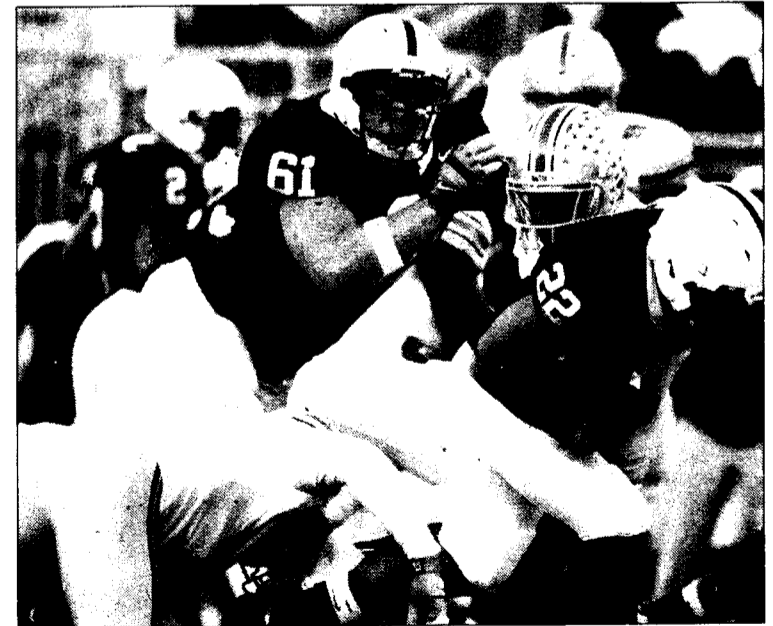
Stopping Clayborn and the defensive fronts of what figure to be the Nittany Lions' toughest opponents may be a complicated task, however, as Penn State has reshuffled its entire line this off-season, leading to questions about positions and a poor showing in the Blue-White game.

"We've certainly got some work to do still," Wisniewski said. "But we've got a month here until camp, and then we've got all of camp to get better. I think we can be where we need to be by the time the season starts."

Wisniewski, an all-conference center last season, said he will make the switch back to right guard, where he played in 2008 and 2007. He is still taking snaps in drills but said he feels more comfortable at guard.

Senior Doug Klopacz is at

See O-LINE, Page 8.



Stephen Wisniewski (61) blocks in a game against Ohio State last season.

Favre impresses with speed at workout

By The Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. -- Brett Favre had finished throwing to the youngsters at Oak Grove High School and poked his head out of the field house to see a few reporters standing near his truck, waiting to ask him about his future plans.

Favre ducked back inside and, moments later, someone else jumped into Favre's truck and drove it around to the front of the

building Monday morning. With a grin on his face, the 40-year-old quarterback ran out of the building, hopped in and drove off with nothing more than a playful wave to the waiting reporters.

Whether it's throwing passes to high school receivers or dodging members of the media, Favre looks like he's getting along just fine on that surgically repaired ankle.

Favre has yet to tell the Minnesota Vikings if he will return for a 20th season in the NFL, but most people with the team and

around the NFL would be stunned if he did not come back. He had arthroscopic surgery on his left ankle in May and has been throwing to receivers at the high school for a few weeks, lending an air of inevitability to yet another sequel to the summer blockbuster "Favre-a-palooza," as Vikings tight end Visanthe Shiancoe likes to call it.

"He ain't working out for no reason," Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson said recently.

"I welcome him back. There's nothing I can do about it so I'm

going to welcome him back and hopefully get to the Super Bowl."

The Vikings have made it clear to Favre that they would be fine with a similar timeline to last season, when he joined the team after it broke training camp in Mankato, Minn., in time for the second game of the preseason.

Favre had one of the best seasons of his career, with career bests in completion percentage (68.4), quarterback rating (107.2) and fewest interceptions (7), while throwing for 33 TDs and 4,202 yards to lead the Vikings.