

LINEUP

IS ON TV

MLB
Philadelphia at Washington
 7:05 p.m., CSN
Pittsburgh at St. Louis
 8:15 p.m., FSN

TOP HITS (AP)

Odrick signs with Dolphins

Former Penn State defensive tackle Jared Odrick signed a five-year deal with the Miami Dolphins Thursday.

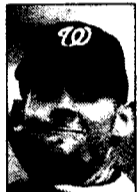
The deal is worth a reported \$13 million with \$7.1 million of that guaranteed.

Odrick was selected in the first round, 28th overall, in this year's NFL Draft.

LEAGUE

Nats' Strasburg goes to DL

Rookie right-hander Stephen Strasburg went on the 15-day disabled list Thursday with inflammation in his throwing shoulder, the latest indication of how careful the Washington Nationals are being with their prized pitcher.



Strasburg

"They're taking every precaution with me, obviously," Strasburg said.

It's the first trip to the DL for Strasburg, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft and signed a record \$15.1 million contract.

Ohlendorf OK after taking liner to head

Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Ross Ohlendorf says he feels fine a day after being hit in the head by a line drive and expects to make his next start.

Ohlendorf says he anticipates being cleared to work out sometime Thursday. He says he feels a little sore.

Ohlendorf was hit on the right side of the face by Troy Tulowitzki's line drive in the first inning Wednesday night at Colorado. He was checked at a local hospital and returned to Coors Field before the Pirates finished their 6-2 win over Colorado.

THOUGHTS

Giants not utilizing best outfield lineup

You don't sign Pat Burrell to not hit him consistently. You don't leave a gritty, hard-nosed player like Aaron Rowand to rot on the bench.

The San Francisco Giants, current NL wildcard leaders and NL West title-seekers aren't using their outfield properly. While the only constant, Andres Torres, has provided the desired mix of hitting, speed and defense, the rest of the outfield is a daily question mark.

Clearly, the Giants strength is pitching. No argument there. But when you're a team in need of some hitting, Burrell should be an everyday player. Aubrey Huff is no better defensively in left.

Admittedly, Rowand is no longer in his prime, but he has something a lot of baseball players lack — heart.

Watch Rowand and you know he's going to give everything he's got every single game. That counts for something in baseball.

If the Giants want in to the postseason, they need to get their outfield in order.

TRIVIA

Q: Who is the longest tenured coach in the NFL?

Thursday's Answer: The winning pitcher in the Pittsburgh Pirates' last playoff victory was Tim Wakefield.

Spikes shutout on road

By Jake Kaplan
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

WILLIAMSPORT — In a game that saw no hits until the seventh inning, two muffed groundballs turned out to be extra crucial.

Both State College middle infielders committed costly errors on back-to-back ground balls in the bottom of the seventh, and the Williamsport Crosscutters blanked the Spikes 1-0 Thursday night at Historic Bowman Field. Both teams tallied just two hits apiece in the pitcher's duel.

"It was a well pitched game by both clubs," State College manager Gary Robinson said.

"It's just a hell of a game to have to lose. We just won a game 1-0 [Sunday] and you know that type of feeling. Dog gone it, our guys pitched well. They just pitched a little better."

After Williamsport catcher Jeff Lanning led off the seventh frame with a walk and was sacrificed to second base, State College (20-20) shortstop Gift Ngoepe uncharacteristically booted a ball that allowed Lanning to reach third. He would score when second baseman Walker Gourley misplayed another groundball the very next at-bat.

"The leadoff walk, it just put us in a situation to have bad stuff happen," Spikes pitcher Mitch Fienemann said. "You throw things up to the tide and bad things happen and you're down one run."

At that point in the contest, the Cutters (24-16) had yet to notch a hit. They would break up the Spikes' no-hitter with two hits in the eighth.

The two seventh inning errors proved costly to the Spikes, as they couldn't even manage a base runner in the eighth or ninth frames.

The first hit in the game for either team didn't come until the top of the seventh, when State College left fielder Pat Irvine hit a two-out line drive single to center field. Designated hitter Cole White followed it up with an infield single, but that would be it in terms of hits for the Spikes.

"There weren't too many balls hit hard by either club until the seventh," Robinson said. "I can think of two balls that we hit halfway hard in the first six innings. And I can think of two and questionably a third that they hit hard in the first six."

Zac Fuesser started the game for State College. The left-hander threw the first four no-hit innings, striking out four but also walking four. Fienemann relieved Fuesser in the fifth and threw three more innings of no-hit baseball. Fienemann was tagged with the loss, though, despite his solid performance. Jhonathan Ramos pitched the final inning, giving up

both Williamsport base knocks.

Mario Hollands threw five innings of no-hit ball for the Cutters, striking out five and walking two. Bradley Blanks earned the win after throwing two shutout innings before Chase Johnson hurled the eighth and ninth for his 10th save, tied for first in the league.

Though Thursday night's loss

was a difficult one for the Spikes, they hope to salvage the final game of their series at 7:05 tonight at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

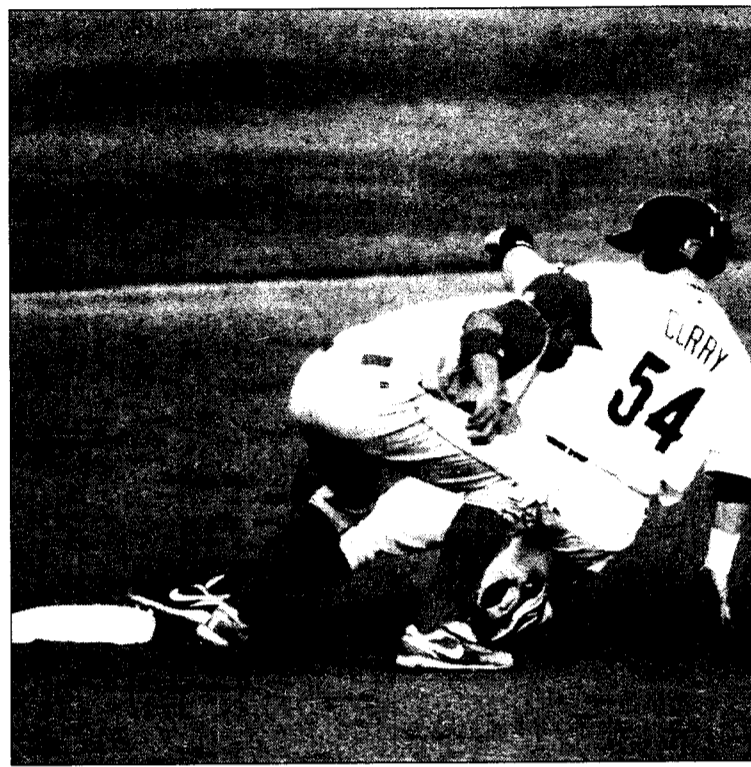
"It is a little bit mentally tough, but I guess what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," Fienemann said. "Let's beat 'em tomorrow night."

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SPIKES

1
 Williamsport

0
 State College



Steph Witt/Collegian

Matt Curry (54) slides into second base Wednesday night.

Phillies complete deal for Oswalt

Rob Maddi
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA -- Three-time All-Star Roy Oswalt gave his OK to a trade from Houston to Philadelphia on Thursday, becoming the latest ace to join the hard-charging Phillies.

The Astros dealt Oswalt and a sizable amount of cash to the two-time NL champions for pitcher J.A. Happ and two speedy prospects, outfielder Anthony Gose and shortstop Jonathan Villar. Houston then traded Gose to Toronto.

Oswalt joins a rotation that includes star Roy Halladay, acquired from Toronto in the off-season, and Cole Hamels, the 2008 World Series MVP. Oswalt is scheduled to make debut for the Phillies on Friday night, starting at Washington.

"We're trying to do what we can to get back to the World Series and win it," Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said.

This was the second straight year the Phillies made a major trade for a pitcher in the days leading up to the July 31 deadline. Last season, they got Cliff Lee and he boosted them to another NL pennant — Lee was then sent to Seattle in a separate deal on the

same day the Phillies acquired Halladay.

The Phillies took a seven-game winning streak into Thursday night's game against Arizona. Philadelphia began the day 3½ games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

St. Louis also had been bargaining for Oswalt. He had a no-trade clause in his contract and could decide whether to accept any deal.

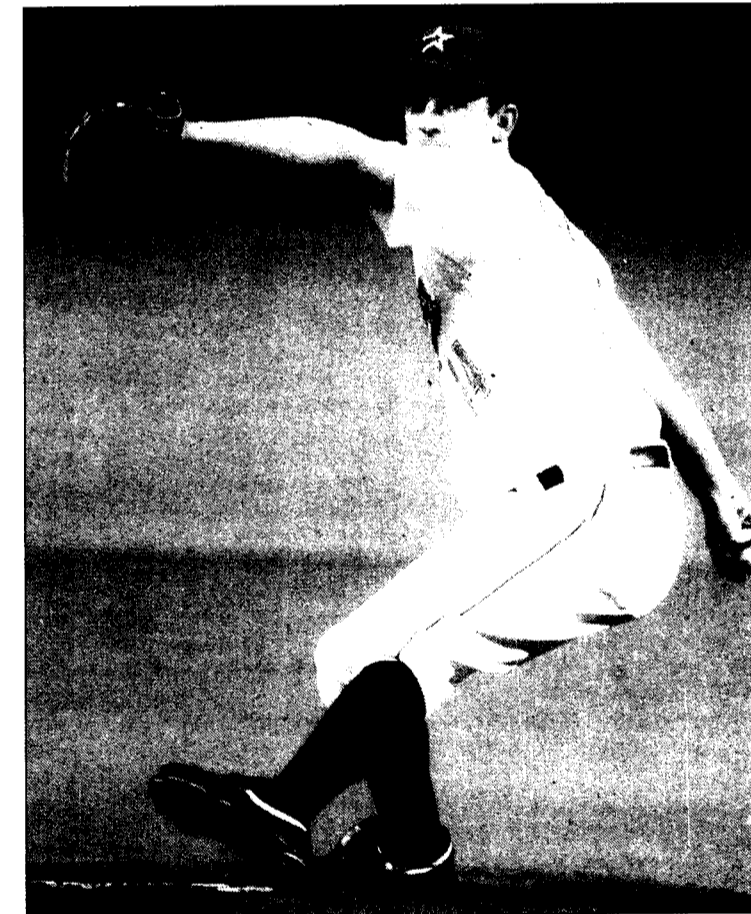
"He's pretty excited about coming here," Amaro said.

The 32-year-old Oswalt was 6-12 despite a 3.24 ERA for Houston. The Astros were shut out in five of his 20 starts.

The righty helped the Astros get to the 2005 World Series, but they are far out of playoff contention this year. Oswalt is 4-0 in the postseason.

Oswalt is 143-82 with a 3.24 ERA in 10 seasons with the Astros. He is due about \$5.33 million the rest of this season from his \$15 million salary and is owed \$16 million in 2011. Oswalt's contract has a \$16 million mutual option for 2012 with a \$2 million buyout. Amaro said the team sweetened the buyout, but wouldn't consider it a "significant" amount.

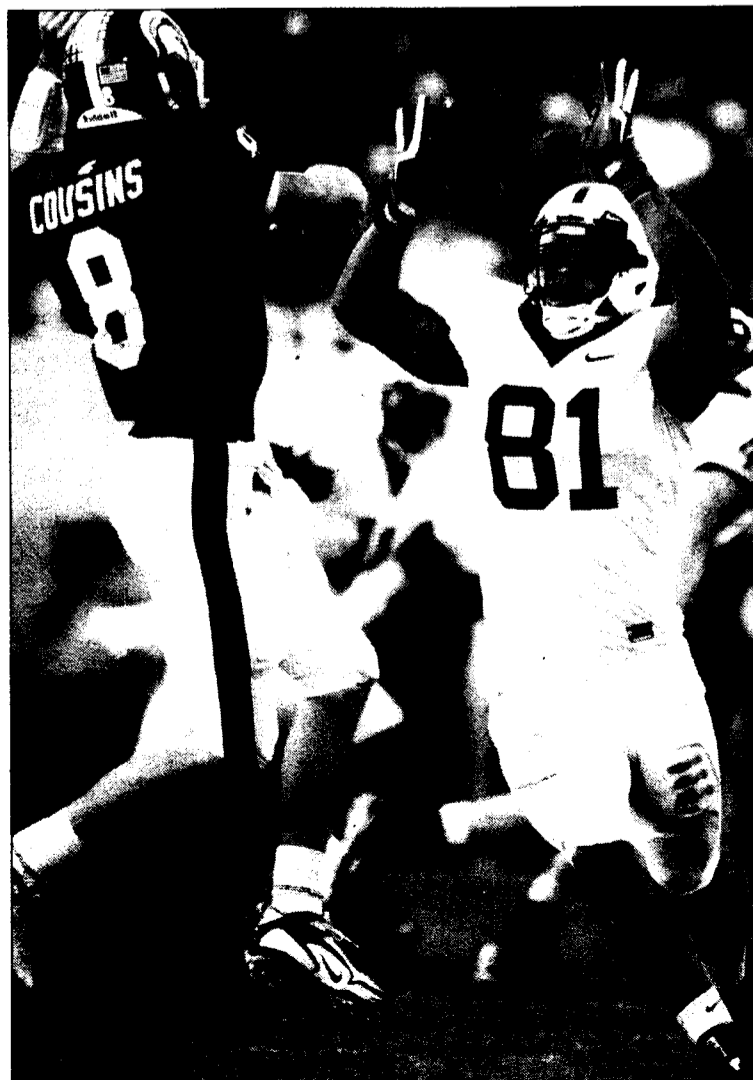
The Astros seemed set to send about \$11 million to the Phillies as part of the deal.



Pat Sullivan/AP

Roy Oswalt delivers a pitch in a game against Pittsburgh earlier this year.

D-Line should be strong point for Lions



Collegian File Photo

Jack Crawford (81) attempts to block a pass in a game last season.



Series Note: This is the fourth in an eight-part series taking a look at each position heading into fall camp, which starts Aug. 5.

By Brendan Monahan
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jack Crawford has seen the game film from last year, and he has come to a conclusion.

The defensive line missed out on a lot of potential sacks, a result of the line not shedding blocks quick enough.

"We missed about half the opportunities we had," Crawford said earlier this month at Lift for Life.

The emphasis now is getting stronger and more aggressive at the snap. This upcoming season, strength shouldn't be an obstacle for Crawford and his counterparts. With Eric Latimore expected to start at left end, the defensive line adds weight. Latimore weighed 30 pounds more than Jerome Hayes, who started seven of the 13 games last season. Latimore started the other six.

The Nittany Lions' 2009 leader in

sacks, Jared Odrick, must be replaced, and Devon Still is being pegged to do so. Much of the defensive line's success hinges on how Still fills the void left by the 2009 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and if he can come occupy two, sometimes three, blocks.

Crawford's liked how Still has stepped into his new role thus far.

"He's been someone I've been learning from too," Crawford said. "We're at the same point now where we're both juniors on the field, and we're learning together."

Like Crawford, Ollie Ogbu is an experienced defensive lineman back for another season. In the past two years, the senior has started 22 games. Defensive ends Kevion Latham and Sean Stanley and defensive tackles James Terry and Jordan Hill are other linemen to watch.

All four experienced game time last season, meaning defensive line coach Larry Johnson will have another deep rotation to work with.

It's unknown where defensive tackle Brandon Ware fits in on the defensive line heading into preseason practice.

Ware didn't appear in the preseason media guide and has previously spent time in Joe Paterno's doghouse (weight and academics).

Despite Ware's status, the defensive line will be one of the most experienced and fixed areas heading into the 2010 season.

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