

THE LINEUP SPORTS ON TV

MLB

Philadelphia at Florida
7:10 p.m., CSN
Pittsburgh vs. Colorado
7:05 p.m., FSN

MLS

Philadelphia vs. Columbus
8 p.m., ESPN

QUICK HITS (AP)

A-Rod youngest to get 600 homeruns

Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to hit 600 home runs and did it with style, driving a pitch into Yankee Stadium's Monument Park in center field exactly three years to the day after his 500th homer.

A-Rod reached the milestone Wednesday after a 12-game drought with a first-inning homer off Toronto's Shaun Marcum. Rodriguez connected with a 2-0 pitch over the middle of the plate for his 17th home run of the season, giving the Yankees a 2-0 lead.

By hitting the homer into Monument Park, a stadium worker could retrieve the ball for him.

A-Rod raised a hand slightly in triumph as he rounded first base, then completed his trot to the roar of the crowd.

Lions make cuts to sign top picks

The Detroit Lions have made a roster move to clear space for top draft pick Ndamukong Suh.

Detroit released defensive tackle Leger Douzable on Wednesday to make room for Suh. The Lions also released safety Marquand Manuel on Wednesday and signed safety Randy Phillips.

Pistons re-sign Wallace to deal

The Detroit Pistons have re-signed center Ben Wallace to a two-year contract worth \$1.9 million per season.

The 35-year-old Wallace was one of Detroit's best players last season as it endured a miserable, injury-plagued year and didn't make the playoffs for the first time since 2001. He averaged 5.5 points, a team-high 8.7 rebounds and team-best 1.2 blocks last season.

OUR THOUGHTS

Guillen's comments mask abilities

No question Ozzie Guillen is baseball's most entertaining man.

He'll say anything without second thought, much to the frustration of his bosses in the White Sox organization.

However, for all his rants and cursing, Guillen's true talent as a manager is often overlooked. This year's White Sox campaign should have Ozzie in the running for Manager of the Year.

The beginning of the year, aside from Paul Konerko's early brilliance and the establishment of the "Buerhle Meter" by which all defensive plays are measured, little went right for the South Siders.

However, instead of mailing it in, Guillen got the players to rally and climb back to .500 and eventually take the AL Central Division lead.

There's more to Ozzie than the mouth.

TRIVIA

Q: What pitcher surrendered Alex Rodriguez's first career homerun?

Wednesday's answer: Brett Favre holds the record for most games with an interception thrown.

Spikes victims of errors



Matt Curry (leaping) set a Spikes record with four walks on Wednesday.

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Once Kelson Brown and Gift Ngoepe, two of the best fielders on the State College Spikes roster, committed back-to-back errors in the third inning, the Spikes were in for a rough night.

The Spikes committed five errors, including three in the third inning, en route to a 10-0 loss against the Staten Island Yankees Wednesday night at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

State College (22-24), which managed a franchise record-low one hit Wednesday night, has now lost six of its last eight games and dropped two games below .500 for the first time since June 25. There was a one-hour and 13-minute rain delay before the first pitch, and Spikes first baseman Matt Curry said that may have affected the team's play.

"It just looked like we weren't ready to play," Curry said.

"I think just having that little delay, you know sitting there and having to go out and play we came out flat."

Four of the five errors were costly to the Spikes as they helped put them in an early five-run hole they could not climb out of.

In the third inning, Brown got on one knee and tried to field a hard hit ball at third base. Instead it bounced off his glove and into left field, leaving runners on first and third with no out. It was just his third error of the season and first since July 12.

The next play, another ground ball was hit, this time to Ngoepe. The South African tried to backhand it, but the ball bounced over his mitt, allowing one run to score

and leaving runners on first and second, still with no out.

Three batters later, another ground ball went Ngoepe's way. He fielded it cleanly but his throw ended up passed second baseman Walker Gourley and into the outfield as the third run of the inning crossed the plate.

In the fifth, Gourley dropped a line drive, and a run scored to make it 5-0 Staten Island. Gourley posted his second error of the inning and ninth of the year on a routine ground ball later in the fifth, but it didn't lead to any more runs.

"Games like this, it's hard to not let it snowball because there's nothing positive going," Brown said. "I guess we were all victims of that today."

State College starting pitcher Tyler Waldron did all he could, forcing the Yankees to hit ten-straight groundballs at one point. His defense just didn't hold up. Waldron threw five innings, and gave up all five of the early runs, though just two of them were earned.

"He did what he needed to," Brown said. "It's tough to be a defensive player and have to watch a guy like that get a loss because he pitched well enough I thought to get a win."

The Yankees added two runs in the eighth off Spikes reliever Brooks Pounders and three more in the ninth against Sandobal Septimo. The State College offense didn't help itself either, as it was quiet all night.

The lone hit of the game was a single to leadoff the third inning by Brown.

State College and Staten Island (21-21) will play the second of their three-game set at 7:05 tonight.

"I think this is a big opportunity for us a team to either go in the right direction or go in the wrong direction," Brown said.

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Bats go quiet for Spikes against Yankees

By James Nicol
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Wednesday night's State College Spikes game was delayed one-hour and 13 minutes, the Spikes offense looked like it thought the game had been cancelled.

The spikes tied a franchise record by recording only one hit against the Staten Island Yankees in a 10-0 loss. Third baseman Kelson Brown was responsible for the lone hit, when he led off the third inning with a single to right field.

"Anytime there's a delay, you lose your rythm", said Brown,

"You lose your routine, but going in I felt good as normal. I didn't really notice any big difference. Once it started going downhill, we let it go downhill."

First baseman Matt Curry came into the game ranked fourth among all New York Penn League hitters in on base percentage (.427). The four walks he was able to draw showed his ability to reach base and they also set the Spikes single-game record, despite the team's struggle to get hits.

"You have to go up there and get your team rallying" Curry said.

Curry led off the fourth inning with a walk, but the Spikes in the

lineup behind him were stagnant and he did not advance beyond first.

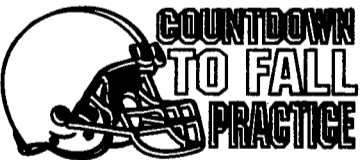
The Spikes combined to go 1-for-30 from the plate with 10 strikeouts. The Yankees offense did not have the same struggles. They scored 10 runs on 14 hits, though the Spikes defensive miscues, including five errors, aided the Yankee's scoring effort.

Shortstop Gift Ngoepe entered the game with a nine-game home hitting streak but was unable to record a hit. Ngoepe led off the game by reaching first base on a fielding error by Yankee's first basemen Kyle Roller. Ngoepe stole

second base with Curry at the plate. It wasn't until the ninth inning that another Spike reached second base.

The Spikes stranded eight men on base and went 0-for-4 with runners in scoring position. It wasn't until the ninth inning that they threatened to score any runs. Curry led off the inning with his fourth walk, before advancing to second on an error by Yankee shortstop Jose Mojica. Spikes designated hitter Chase Lyles grounded into a fielder's choice that advanced Curry to third, before catcher Miguel Mendez popped out to end the game.

Quarterback race remains undecided



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

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For several of the older Penn State football players, the quarterback competition is something they already experienced.

The responses of it being an "open competition" or that "it's too hard to tell" are all answers some of the players found themselves giving two summers ago.

"It's just like Darryl Clark and Pat Devlin all over again," running back Stephfon Green said of the quarterback competition. "We wanna know who the QB is heading into the training camp and who the starter is for the first game. My guess is as good as yours, because they are both two great athletes."

At this point heading into camp, the starting position is likely between sophomore Kevin Newsome and redshirt sophomore Matt McGloin. Certainly the names of both freshmen, Paul Jones and Robert Bolden, have been tossed around as possibilities, but judging by Joe Paterno's history of not playing a freshman unless he's sure he's ready, it's going to be an uphill battle for Jones and Bolden.

Both Newsome and McGloin have certain labels attached to their names. Newsome is known as the highly recruited, mobile quarterback while McGloin is the former walk on, pocket passer.

But it's going to take a lot of convincing to tell McGloin he isn't deserving of being named the starter.

"Maybe some people don't think I have the speed or the arm strength, which I kind of disagree with," McGloin said. "But I can control the game and guys rally around me and show that I can be a leader in and out of the huddle."

With both players receiving the same amount of repetitions throughout their summer workouts, McGloin said he expects it will be the same way when camp

opens. However, he was quick to add that whoever does more with the repetitions will be the one under center come Sept. 4, when the season open against Youngstown State.

Even though camp is more important than it has been in the past for both quarterbacks, McGloin isn't worried ill feelings could surface throughout the competition.

"It's a very healthy relationship," McGloin said. "We each bring out the best in each other. This is Penn State football and we will not have guys that have problems in the locker room, we don't do that. We support each other and correct each other's mistakes. ... And the best man is going to get the job."

Quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno echoed McGloin's sentiments. He said though he hasn't been able to watch the quarterbacks this summer, per NCAA rules, he was surprised when he pulled up to the practice facility one Saturday morning and saw all of his quarterbacks throwing the ball around in the 90 degree heat.

Paterno added he's pleased with the progress Jones and Bolden are making with the playbook and can tell McGloin and Newsome have been helping out.

Since the players arrange most of the workouts on their own during the summer, McGloin said it gives both him and Newsome a chance to work on their leadership skills. Working on correcting the other players' mistakes and leading by example are all things McGloin said he tries to show his teammates.

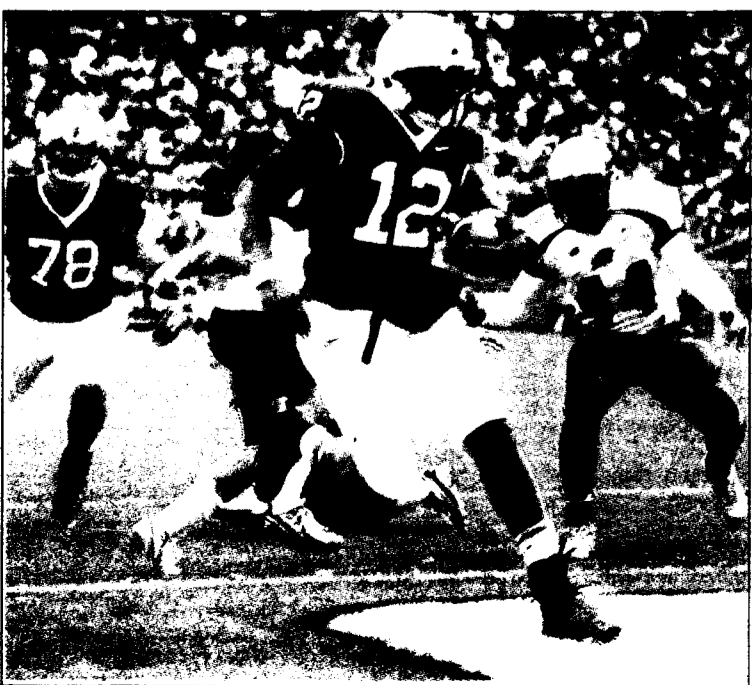
During the workouts, both quarterbacks are also working on establishing timing with the wide receivers.

While McGloin was quick to point out the depth the Lions have at receiver, he knows it's on either him or Newsome to ensure the wide outs are in a position to make plays.

But until Sept. 4, when either McGloin or Newsome comes running out onto the Beaver Stadium field with the first-team offense, all their teammates can do is try and prepare for playing with either quarterback.

"It's at the point where anybody could play," running back Evan Royster said. "Just the competition keeps making everybody better. They all want to get that spot to separate themselves from everybody else."

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Kevin Newsome (12) scores a touchdown against Eastern Illinois.