

Spikes, Pirates continue affiliation through 2012

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The State College Spikes' slogan "The Bucs Start Here" will not be changing any time soon.

The Spikes and their parent club, the Pittsburgh Pirates, announced Friday night they will continue their affiliation for at least two more years, something both parties are excited about.

"We are very pleased to continue our affiliation with the Pittsburgh Pirates," State College General Manager Jason Dambach said in a press release, "and we remain firm in our commitment to provide their players, coaches and other player development staff with Major League-quality facilities and a healthy

environment in which the young players can develop their skills as professionals both at the ballpark and in the community."

The Spikes have been the short-season Class A affiliate of the Pirates since 2007. The inaugural season for State College was 2006, as a St. Louis Cardinals affiliate.

"We are pleased to be able to extend what has been a highly productive partnership with the Spikes and to have our young players continue to play in front of the passionate baseball fans of Central Pennsylvania," Pirates President Frank Coonelly said in the press release.

Coonelly said during Friday night's game that despite the new contract lasting only two

years, the Pirates hope to have a long relationship with the Spikes. Though the current contract was poised to end after this season, Coonelly said he was not worried the Pirates and Spikes would come to an agreement.

"We work very hard at all of our affiliations, making sure that we're available, we're here," Coonelly said. "They know where to find us and that we have a good open repoire with each of our affiliates. That's really easy to do with the folks here in State College."

Dambach said the new agreement, which will run through the 2012 season, has been agreed on for awhile.

The Spikes general manager said he felt it was important to

make the announcement when he did — prior to Friday night's Spikes game against the Jamestown Jammers at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park — to quell any speculation of the Spikes joining another major league team's farm system.

"I think the last thing that we wanted was for this to drag on after the season and particularly into the period where we could have other clubs approach us or approach other clubs," Dambach said in an interview.

"That was never in the plans at all."

Though no Spikes have risen through the ranks and made the major leagues since they have been a Pirates' affiliate, six players from the 2006 Cardinals-affili-

ated Spikes are currently playing in the major leagues.

Dambach said it is only a matter of time before a former State College player is playing at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, something that will further strengthen the relationship between the Spikes and the Pirates.

"If you look at the period from the time they're in short-season baseball to the major leagues, it's generally going to be four-to-five years," Dambach said.

"So we're just now getting to that point where we've been an affiliate of the Pirates that long. It's just going to be a matter of time and the floodgates will open."

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu.

Volleyball

From Page 17.

Stanford coach John Dunning said he wouldn't mind seeing the streak continue. Dunning said Penn State's success has put a national spotlight on women's volleyball, "which is definitely not a bad thing."

"But if anyone's going to beat them," Dunning said. "We'd like it to be us."

The Cardinal, who could play the Lions if both teams make the finals of next month's Nike Big

Four Classic in Florida, already have a role in Penn State's historic run: they were the last team to beat the Lions.

Since that defeat — a five-set decision — Penn State has rattled off a stretch of dominance that Dunning describes as "truly remarkable."

"What we've seen is something that can happen once in the history of the sport," Dunning said. "They're a new team with new players. So anything can happen."

To e-mail reporter: exk5049@psu.edu

Rugby

From Page 17.

good thing to do," said Don Ferrell, head coach of the Ruggers.

Circled around the tree dedication were countless Ruggers wearing custom shirts made to honor Schweppe. Each shirt had a picture of Schweppe hurdling an opposing player that read, "Schweppe happens."

As Schweppe's father spoke to the crowd, his mother began to cry. Ferrell embraced her while Pullara recited the moving speech Schweppe used to give before every game. During the speech, members of the team became nostalgic of their fallen friend.

"He was an outstanding young man," Ferrell said. "He was really funny and a good friend to everybody, it is just a shame his life was cut short."

After the dedication ceremony, it was back to business as usual for the Ruggers. The men's team

has many new players to showcase, and each one has their coaches raving.

"We have high expectations with a lot of good freshmen coming in," Pullara said. "They are really big, athletic kids."

These new freshmen will have to step their games up, as two of last year's All-Americans, Chris Saint and Kevin Kimble, will be out for the fall season. Saint is currently recovering from a torn anterior crucial ligament (ACL), and Kimble is currently playing overseas.

"It will be interesting to see how the young players step up," Ferrell said. "Everybody will be looking for a spot on the spring team."

Ferrell said the fall season will be geared toward developing his young players.

He would welcome having all of his player's turn out like Schweppe.

"He played with tenacity," said Ferrell. "He will be missed."

To e-mail reporter: bmg5094@psu.edu

Soccer

From Page 17.

After former head coach Barry Gorman resigned last April, Jacob served as the interim head coach and the players rallied behind him, finishing their spring season undefeated. Casais echoed Fetrow's appreciation of Warming's vast knowledge of the game.

"He brings another perspective again and he's a wise guy. The three of them are wise guys and we've seen things that we haven't seen before," Casais said of his coaches.

"On the video, when we analyze the game, he gives some insights that we've never seen before and hopefully that's going

to make us better players."

Freshman forward Jordan Tyler, who scored Penn State's first goal Friday night, had signed with Penn State under Gorman but said there was no doubt he would play for the Lions even after Gorman left.

Warming's reputation also caught Tyler's eye.

"I like his title a lot that he was men's national coach of the year in 2008, so I mean how bad can the guy be? That's kinda how I look at it," Tyler said. "In practice he helps out the whole team, but I also like how he'll pull guys aside and tell them things they need to do."

Goalkeeper Warren Gross has noticed a change in training and how he plays his position. Warming is a former goalkeeper

and Gross said the coaches have helped him better utilize his 6-foot-3 frame.

The redshirt sophomore said he has a tendency to play small, but the coaches have been encouraging him to play bigger in the net. Though the season hasn't officially started yet, the players are encouraged by what they've seen from their new coaching staff.

"Everyone's been happy with the preseason and the way it's been run," Gross said. "The coaching staff has been a huge improvement. We feel like we're a professional outlet and it's been really amazing. They make us excited to show up everyday and give it our all."

To e-mail reporter: adr5079@psu.edu

Spikes

From Page 17.

Waldron has been sharp on the mound lately.

In his latest start, a road outing against the Aberdeen IronBirds, Waldron threw five no-hit innings in State College's combined one-hitter.

The Oregon State alum extended his no-hit streak to 8.2 innings Sunday night before a Carlos Moncrief chopper got past Spikes' shortstop Drew Maggi in the third inning.

Waldron said he carried a 'ton' of momentum from his last start into Sunday night's strong performance.

"It's always nice to dominate through a start and then come out again and have that same momentum pushing your back

"It's always nice to dominate through a start and then come out again and have that same momentum pushing your back and pushing your arm," Waldron said.

Tyler Waldron
Spikes pitcher

"It's just nice to stack up a couple good ones."

Third baseman Kelson Brown, who went 2-for-3 with a run scored, said he always looks forward to when Waldron pitches because it makes for quick innings and keeps the fielders more focused throughout the game.

"He's the guy you look forward to because you know he's going to throw strikes," Brown said.

"You know he's going to be smart."

The Scrappers (26-36) and the Spikes, who sit in fourth in the Pinckney Division with just 14 games remaining, will play the rubber match of their three-game home set at 7:05 tonight.

Following the game, the Spikes will travel to Mahoning Valley to play three more with the Scrappers and attempt to move up in the standings.

To e-mail reporter: jyk5142@psu.edu

BigWords.com
We don't sell textbooks. We find the cheapest ones for you.

(actual e-mail)
"Thank you for helping me save massive amounts of money on textbooks. Every little bit helps when you're in college!"
- Stacilyn from Pennsylvania State University, University Park

BE SMARTER

35%-45% cheaper than other online stores on average
Saves \$225 on average multi-item textbook orders
50% cheaper than bookstores on average

* BIGWORDS: lowest price vs. average lowest price from each online store
BIGWORDS: lowest price with shipping vs. retail without shipping

BW83

Michaels
Where Creativity Happens™

We've got everything your art desires.

All the brands you know and trust under one roof.

go to michaels.com to find a store near you and sign up to receive special offers and coupons

The ENDZONE
SPORTS/SHOW CLUB

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE
Call for pickups 814 692 8867

WELCOME BACK STUDENT DISCOUNT
TUES THRU THURS NIGHTS THIS WEEK ONLY!
FROM 6PM TILL 10PM
1/2 OFF WITH VALID STUDENT ID

\$5 OFF ADMISSION
THIS FRI & SAT NIGHTS!
FROM 4PM TILL 4AM
WITH VALID STUDENT ID

FREE BEER
out back of the End Zone is available for anyone 21 and over with proper ID regardless of cover charge.

EVERY night is 18 and over night!!!

www.theendzoneshowclub.com
100 Lion Lane Rt 322 W State College FOR INFO Call 814 692 8877

MAKE YOUR OWN SALE
MONDAY, AUGUST 23 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

40% OFF ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM
Michael's

10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE
Includes sale items
Michael's

50% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE ARTIST CANVAS
REGULAR PRICE
EXCLUDES CLEARANCE, BUY & GET ITEMS, SPECIAL ORDER, CUSTOM FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, SPECIAL ORDER CUSTOM FRAMES AND MATERIALS, BRUSHSTROKES PORTRAITS AT MICHAELS, BOOKS AND MAGAZINES, GYPSY BRAND, YODU MACHINE, STICKS AND STORES, BROTHER, AND ALL CREDIT AND SLICE PRODUCTS.

50% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE PAPER PADS, SKETCHBOOKS & OPEN STOCK PAPER
REGULAR PRICE
EXCLUDES scrapbook paper.
EXCLUDES CLEARANCE, BUY & GET ITEMS, CRAFT ACRYLIC & TEMPERA PAINTS, PAINT PENS, CRAFT STAINS & FINISHES AND ALL CRAVOLA AND CREATOLOGY PRODUCTS.

Sale Prices Good Monday, August 23 - Sunday, September 5, 2010 only.

2010 Michaels Stores, Inc.

The Paper Plate