

SportsWeek

Section 2

Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Softball

(continued from page 1)

The White Sox jumped out to an early 6-2 lead in the bottom of the second. They took control of the game from that point on, scoring in every inning, including five runs in the second and fifth innings.

The Sox were led by Lisa Wasser and Molly Guntli. Wasser, who was confident that her team would win going into the game, had a triple, two doubles, and four RBI's.

Pitching for the White Sox, Guntli was nervous prior to the game. "I knew we could win, and I hoped we would show it," she said. Guntli had six strikeouts, three hits (including a triple,) and five RBI's.

Jamie Flack and Kelly Corbett led the Yankees hitters.

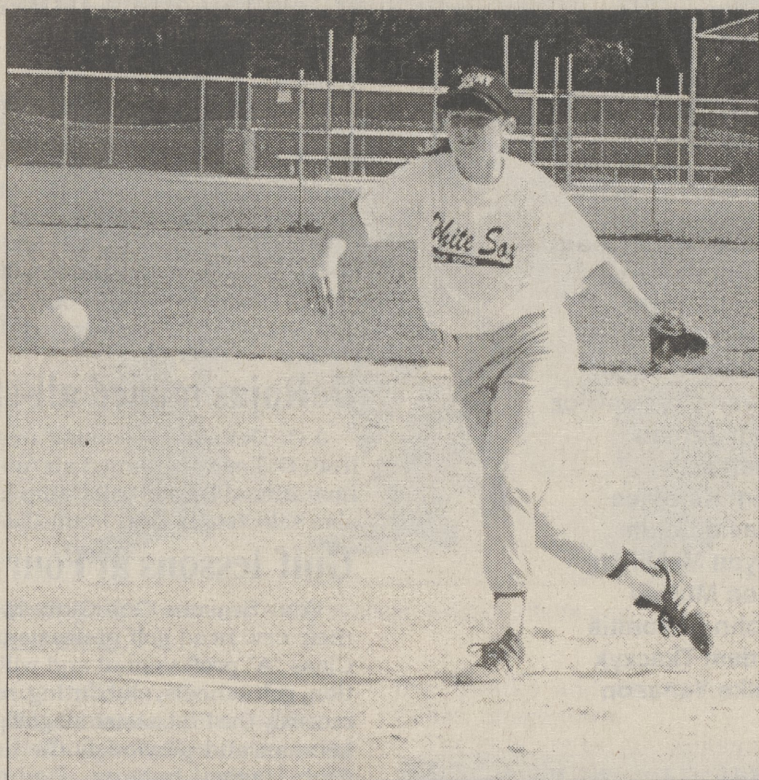
Rick Guntli, the White Sox coach, thought his team played well. "We made good plays, and we ran the bases well," he said. As for Thursday's game, he said, "I'm confident the girls will win if they play their best."

The second game was a closer matchup. The Athletics began the game scoring five runs in the top of the first. The Red Sox then took an 8-7 lead after scoring five runs in the bottom of the second. The Athletics tied it up in the fourth and went on to score two more runs in the remainder of the game.

Crystal Oley pitched what she described as a "nerve-wracking" game for the Athletics. Striking out five, she also contributed with a single and two RBI's. Looking ahead to Thursday's game, she said, "I will be very happy if we win."

The Athletics coach, John Sulewski, was very pleased with his team's victory. "It was a great game," he said. "We lost the first two games we played against them, but we beat them the third time when it counted."

Asked about Thursday's game, Athletics' coach Sulewski said, "We're going to beat them."



Molly Guntli, top photo, was the winning pitcher for the White Sox. Below, Kristen Clay took a throw for the force at home with the bases loaded, as Katie Rhodes tried to beat the ball to the plate.

POST PHOTOS/RON BARTZIK



1997 Major League Softball All Stars

Carla Chiampì
Kristen Clay
Jonelle Dickson
Molly Guntli
Rachel Kukosky
Meredith Lacey

Samantha Lloyd
Samantha Oschman
Lauren Patton
Elizabeth Samanas
Jamie Sickler
Jamie Sulewski

Erin Sweptson
Lisa Wasser
Manager: Rick Guntli
Coaches: Donna Konopki,
John Sulewski

Track talk



Dave Becarris

I never imagined that I would say this: the best racing series from a competitive view and thus by far the most exciting series to watch in America is CART. This past weekend the first three cars at the finish were separated by .06 of a second. Martin Blundell passed two cars on the last lap on a track still wet from an all-day rain to win at Portland. In CART's last race at Detroit, Blundell lost the race two corners from the finish when his team's gable for fuel mileage was wrong. His teammate, Mauricio Gugelmin, had run out of his fuel supply two corners before that, giving the race to Greg Moore.

Two CART races decided on the last lap involving six cars with the winner doubt until the last corner. CART has come such a long way over the last three years to make their series ultra-competitive and super entertaining. Gone are the days when every winner was driving a Penske, or named Andretti. Now any of 12 drivers can win on any day with a dozen engine, chassis and fire combina-

Look to CART for real racing

tions.

NASCAR is so dull and predictable. There is one tire available, two types of cars, and no more than five drivers in a 40-car field the realistically can win unless a 10-car crash takes out the first five rows. Same drivers winning on the same tracks with the same cars. There are 25 driver-teams in NASCAR that even if they race until 2010, will never ever have a chance to win. These teams are to NASCAR what an opening act is to U2-filler. How people can sit and watch four hours of NASCAR is beyond me. How do they stay awake and not pass out from the case of beer they drank that day. NASCAR is lucky they appeal to group that as a whole, is so easily entertained. How many times can you watch Gordon, Jarrett, or Martin win a race. If you removed the Hendrick, Roush, and Yates cars, what would be left - a competitive race series maybe. NASCAR is the story of the haves, and have-nots. Put Gordon with one of the original owners like Bud Moore and he would have already gone to the IRL.

Speaking of IRL, can there be a bigger joke in racing. Their last event in Texas was a complete fiasco. It was to be a 208 lap race, but USAC let it run 210. This after the last lap at Indy where the green flag was shown while the yellow lights were on at every corner of the track.

A.J. Foyt's driver, Bill Boat, pulled into the winner's area after the race since he did cross the line first after 210 laps. Arie Luyendyk, the actual winner, stops by to tell A.J. that there has been a mistake with USAC's race scoring and that his records show Arie first. A.J. disagrees and takes a swing at Arie on national TV. A.J. connects and then stumbles all over himself. If A.J. the most famous name in American racing, did not look like a big enough ass trying to punch Arie in victory lane, he finished the picture with his extra 100 lbs. of belly hanging out over his belt through his one-size-too-small shirt. Advice to A.J. don't shoot off your mouth and fists until you know the facts and don't even wear grey.. as someone will try to paint Goodyear on your side.

The IRL has since separated itself from USAC and will officiate their own events. But with cars falling apart every other lap, and drivers even other drivers have never heard of, and races running longer than planned because someone lost count of the laps, the IRL will still be third or fourth rate. Who would care if the IRL vanished, if not for the fact they control what used to be the world's greatest race, the Indianapolis 500. It's like the Empire Football league running the the Super Bowl.

T's and A's tournament results

Results of the T's and A's Tournament held recently by the Irem Women's Golf Association:
First flight, Jane Lloyd; second flight, Sheila Yaple; third flight, Doris Parsons; fourth flight, Theresa Ballet.

Oliver sits with hamstringing injury

By CHRIS BELL
Sports Correspondent

DALLAS - In just his second season of professional baseball, Johnny Oliver is learning a valuable lesson in patience. Oliver, the first-round draft choice of the Cincinnati Reds out of Lake-Lehman High School a year ago, is battling an unfamiliar opponent, his health.

Oliver is currently assigned in Billings, Montana, as a member of the Billings Mustangs, a member of the Pioneer League and an affiliate of the Reds.

The Mustangs opened their 72-game schedule June 18. Oliver, however, hasn't played yet due to a hamstring injury he suffered during extended spring training in Plant City, Florida.

"It's really tough learning to cope with the injury," said Oliver. "I've never been injured in baseball before and it's frustrating for me to sit on the bench. But, I believe everything happens for a reason."

Oliver strained his left hamstring while rounding second base in a game in mid-April. He was trying to stretch a double into a triple when the third base coach threw up the stop sign.

"It was slippery and when the coach held me up, I felt it pop," explained Oliver, who was hitting over .350 at the time. "It was really disappointing because I was playing pretty well."

Oliver reinjured the leg 12 days later while jogging around the bases in a routine workout. "I tried to come back too soon and the leg just wasn't ready," he said. "We took a more cautious approach the second time and I didn't

"We want to make sure that I'm ready to come back this time."

Johnny Oliver

Playing with Billings Mustangs

play for three weeks."

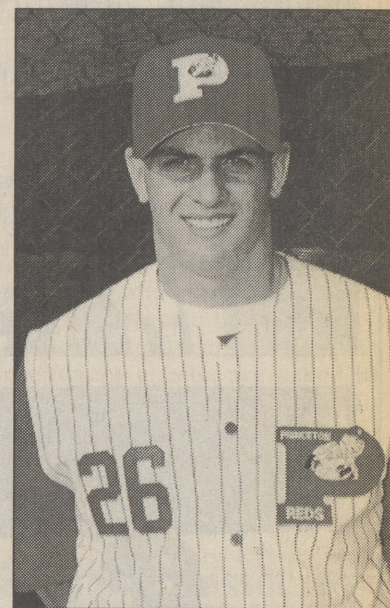
Apparently, they weren't cautious enough. After arriving in Billings June 8, Oliver aggravated the injury the third time just two days before the season opener.

"Right now, my status is day-to-day," explained Oliver. "I'll be out at least another week. We want to make sure that I'm ready to come back this time."

Oliver is trying to make the best of the situation by making the most of his time on the sidelines. "I watch the other guys and see what they do in certain situations," he said. "I pay special attention to the pitchers to try to pick up any tendencies."

Although he isn't in the lineup, Oliver is still putting in a hard day's work. "I'm at the park by 1 o'clock every day for therapy," he said. "I'm working hard on my rehab. I'm doing a lot of stretching along with ice and stimulation. I throw every day and hit off a tee. My leg is still a little too tender to take live batting practice. I'm starting to jog a little and am doing a lot of work on the bike."

When he becomes healthy, Oliver is looking forward to playing in front of the enthusiastic Billings' fans. "It is really a great baseball atmosphere," he said. "Our stadium is old, but is very nice and overlooks the Rimrock Mountains. We draw about 5,000



JOHNNY OLIVER

In uniform last year with Princeton Reds

fans a night."

"I'm also looking forward to playing for our manager, Donnie Scott," said Oliver. "He is a great guy and has an aggressive approach to the game."

Oliver says the Mustangs have a talented team and will be very competitive in the eight-team Pioneer League, which is an Advanced Rookie league. "We've got a lot of good players on this team," he said. "We are very young, but we are very talented. I think we can be very good."

After playing center field and right in extended spring training, Oliver expects to patrol right for the Mustangs. "I'm hoping to have a big year," said Oliver. "I want to get to the point where I can go out and play every day. For now, my first priority is to get healthy."

U-18 Dragons develop ties that bind

The Wyoming Valley West stadium was the setting for the girls soccer District II playoffs. The competition had been intense, both teams had good seasons and wanted to advance to the finals. At the end of 80 minutes, however, Coughlin had beaten Dallas. The winning goal was scored by Emily Triebel and victory was sweet for the Crusaders.

As the cheering died down, Emily walked over to the Dallas keeper and hugged her for a long time. The Dallas goalie, Adrienne Camp and Coughlin's Emily Triebel are good friends. The same thing is true about many of the outstanding players in this league. Perhaps never again will there be such a prominent group of girls soccer players who are so talented, competitive and yet, so close to each other. The catalyst, the tie that binds girls from Lehman, Bishop O'Reilly, Bishop Hoban, Dallas, Wyoming Seminary and Coughlin is the Dragons travel team.

For the past eight years, 15 girls have played soccer year round. This premier travel team has won tournament after tournament. They were the U-15 state finalist in the Challenge Cup. The Dragons are the only girls soccer team from Northeastern Pennsylvania to win the U-17 Philadelphia Premier League. They also won the Maryland McDonald's Classic and the New Jersey JAGS to name only a few of their many victories. Their record spanning U-12 to U-18 Divisions is 108 wins, 20 losses and 12 ties.



Back Mountain Dragons

Dragon Soccer Team, first row, from left, Carissa Stauffer, Benton; Christy Callahan, Dallas; Gussie Malpass, Shavertown; Adrienne Miroslaw, Lehman; Kiki Miller, Bear Creek; Emily Triebel, Wilkes-Barre; second row, from left, Adrienne Camp, Dallas; Holly Shiber, Dallas; Nicki Bouthot, Lehman; Jen Marchakitus, Lehman; Kiki Spencer, Lehman, Mary Brislin, Lehman; Liz Keating, Dallas; Coach Paul Callahan; Bianca Brdaric, Trucksville; Laura Polacheck, Wilkes-Barre. Not pictured Erin Stair, Trucksville.

A review of the top Wyoming Valley Conference Division I players include Erin Stair, Adrienne Miroslaw, Kelly Spencer, Christy Callahan and Emily Triebel. This powerful offense is defended by a powerhouse defense and mid-field by Nicki Bouthot, Gussie Malpass, Jen Marchakitus, Liz Keating, Kiki Miller, Holly Shiber, Laura Polacheck, Robin Holeman, Mary Brislin, Bianca Brdaric and keeper Adrienne Camp.

Coaching this unique and talented group of athletic dynamos is Paul Callahan. He has worked

hard with all the girls to hone their skills. Indoor soccer, special clinics, and soccer camps have helped maintain and sharpen their abilities. Self-confidence, discipline, and team work have come to the girls as a result of Callahan's leadership.

In addition to being superb athletes, these girls are also academically gifted. Many of the Dragons are high school seniors and will be moving on to leading colleges and universities including Ivy League schools and the United States Military Academy.

Travel soccer tryouts

All at Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman
• Back Mountain Predators U-13 Boys: Sat., June 28, Noon-1:30 p.m. Open tryouts for boys born 8/1/84 to 7/31/85. Call Dave Katyl at 675-7445 for more information.
• New Back Mountain U-9 boys travel soccer team is forming. Open tryouts for boys born 8/1/88 to 7/31/89 Sun., June 29 from Noon-1:30 p.m. Call Bill Tooley at 675-9515 for more information.
• New Back Mountain U-10 girls travel soccer team is forming. Open tryouts for girls born 8/1/87 to 7/31/89 Sun., June 29 from 1:30-3 p.m. Call Bill Tooley at 675-9515 for more information.
• Back Mountain Freedom U-11 Girls: Sun., June 29, 3-5 p.m. Open tryouts for girls born 8/1/86 to 7/31/87. Call Janet Tooley at 675-9515 for more information.
• Back Mountain Arsenal U-12 Boys: Sun., June 29, 5-6:30 p.m. Open tryouts for boys born 8/1/85 to 7/31/86. Call Joe Kerestes at 675-2803 for more information.
• Back Mountain Blues U-10 Boys: Sun., June 29, 6:30-8 p.m. Final tryout for boys born 8/1/87 to 7/31/88. Call Bill Tooley at 675-9515 for more information.

Dallas High School sports physicals

Physicals will be done at the Dallas Middle School Nurses Office, July 10, High School football, golf, 11-12:30; cheerleading, volleyball, 1:15-2 p.m.; July 24, field hockey, girls cross country, 7:45-10 a.m.; boys cross country, soccer, 11-12:30 p.m.

Coaches must be present with their team for the school physical. Students must bring their completed medical history physical form with them. For students using a private doctor, the physical must be done after July 1.

Irem Temple tournament results

A Member-Member Tournament was recently held at Irem Temple Country Club with the following winners:
1st place: Betsy Thomas, Nancy McAndrew, Joyce Shaw, None Libenson.
2nd place: Anne Nicholson, Sun Hee Koo, Joan Moran, Kate Ichter.
3rd place: Jane Kopp, Young Chang, Jane Boltz, Esther Saba.
Putting prizes were awarded to:
2nd flight: Anne Nicholson
3rd flight: Nancy McAndrew
4th flight: Janet Miller
Shirley Evans and Young Chang had chip-ins.