

Sporting View

Lockout? Fans still show up to games

by John Musser
Collegian Sports Editor

There was plenty of good news for the Penn State athletic department last week.

The Atlantic 10 conference announced that they would allow State to play for one more year while the university awaits its entrance into the Big Ten. This assures sports teams other than the football squad, such as the improving men's basketball program, that they will have a schedule to play next year.

Since the decision to move to the Big Ten was made and the A-10 wasn't sure if they wanted Penn State around, these "other" programs have been in limbo. Because the Big Ten's schedule for next year was already set,

pitcher.

Well, Mark Langston and Mike Witt must have done some extra workouts (or they've been eating their Wheaties) during the lockout by the owners. The two California Angels' hurlers weaved some mound magic last Wednesday when they combined to no-hit the Seattle Mariners, the first in 30 years for the Angels. Langston handled the pitching chores for the first seven innings, then Witt came on to close the final two frames.

The closest Langston has ever come to a no-hitter by himself was against Texas in 1988 when he tossed a one-hitter while with Seattle. Witt has pitched a perfect game, against Texas in 1984.

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State would have been left in a very difficult position.

Then there was the announcement by Joe Paterno that he will hang around to coach the football team until he is 70, which would mean he would hang up his clipboard after the 1996 season. Of course, if you believe everything JoePa says, you probably believed him ten years ago when he started his spring ritual of announcing that he would retire in four or five years.

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A quick glance at last Monday's slate of games showed that of the games that were played, at least 38,000 fans attended each game. This after all of the hootin' and hollerin' done by some fans about the money made by players and owners, and how they were going to boycott baseball after the ridiculous lockout by the owners.

Say, according to baseball experts, wasn't the pitching supposed to be weeks behind the hitting? Sure, there were quite a few high scores last week, which most attributed to the lack of preparation time for the

The Angels were also stagnant on offense, unable to score until the seventh inning, on one of baseball's more thrilling plays, the bases-loaded walk.

A recent graphic in *USA Today* (and if you missed it, it was a beauty) displayed some statistics of the NBA's Detroit Pistons with and without guard Joe Dumars, who has been sidelined with a broken hand.

Without Joltin' Joe, the Pistons haven't won half of their games (40 percent to be precise), while winning almost 77 percent with him. With Dumars, Detroit manages to break 100 points per game. However, with Dumars missing from the lineup, the Pistons average is less than triple digits. The story is the same on defense, with the Pistons allowing almost 100 points per game without, but yielding only 97 with Dumars.

These numbers aren't surprising. Everyone knows that Dumars is Mr. Defense for the Pistons, as he usually guards the opposing team's leading scorer. Dumars has also proven himself at the other end of the floor. Normally overshadowed by teammates Isiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer, Dumars made a name for himself offensively in last year's NBA finals when he ripped apart the defense of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Swing batter



photo by Rick Brooks

Making contact: A Lion batsman connects with some horsehide in Monday's home double-header with local rival Edinboro. The visiting Fighting Scots took both ends of the twinbill. Story on page 10

Save a Lion -- support Behrend sports

Sports Bits

5K run this Friday

A 5K cross-country run will be held this Friday at 5:30 pm. Registration for the event will be behind Erie Hall near the campus tennis courts. Age group awards will be presented. Behrend Army ROTC is sponsoring the event, with the proceeds benefiting Diehl Elementary School's playground project. Applications for the run are available at the Intramural office or the ROTC office.

Tell us about it

Do you have some sports news that everyone at Behrend should know about? Then just drop off the information at *The Collegian* office with your name and phone number. Or just call us at 898-6488 between 9 am and 5 pm. Deadline is Monday at noon the week of the publication that the information should be printed in.

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