

# Lady Lions start early



Arnel Balcital/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Maybe a 5-Iron would've worked better...: Terry Pegher, Lady Lion leftfielder, swings and misses at a pitch low and outside.

## Pennant races: Down to the wire

by Greg Kristen  
Collegian Staff

With the football season upon us, that can only mean one thing for baseball, "the pennant races." This year for the first time since 1941, all four division races seem to be going down to the very last week.

In the N.L. East, the Philadelphia Phillies had a comfortable lead all year until late August when they hit a slump and the Montreal Expos caught fire.

Going into last weekend, the Phillies had only a 5-game lead, and travelled to Montreal for the most crucial series of the year. The Phillies hung tough, won 1 out of the 3 games, and held a 4-game lead at the start of this week, the final two weeks of the season.

Now, since this week has started, the Expos have cooled off, and have lost a 1.5 games in the standings, and now trail the Phillies by 5.5 games with 12 games left in the year. As of Wednesday the Phillies' magic number was 7.

The Braves remain the team to beat in the N.L. West as they held a 3-game lead over the slumping San Francisco Giants on Monday.

The Braves are showing why they are the two-time defending N.L. champions as they have proven once again the second half of the season is theirs. They have gone 37-11 since the arrival of Fred McGriff.

This, along with their ace pitching staff, seems to be their formula for making the playoffs again. This week the Braves have kept rolling on as they thrashed the Expos 18-5 on Tuesday night while the Giants were shut out by the Astros 6-0. Going down to the last week and a half, the Braves have a 3.5

game lead, and as of Wednesday their magic number was 9.

After a log jam at the top of the A.L. East for the last month, the defending World Champion Toronto Blue Jays have put their foot forward and have gained a 4-game lead over the New York Yankees.

Last week, Toronto reeled off 8 straight wins and has a chokehold on the division with two weeks left. Meanwhile, the Yankees and Orioles cannot seem to get on track against weaker opponents.

This week the Blue Jays are still the hottest team in the league as they won their ninth straight game on Tuesday. They now control the division with a 5-game lead over both the Orioles and Yankees. As of Wednesday, the Blue Jays' magic number was 7.

In the A.L. West, the Chicago White Sox had a 4.5 game lead over the second place Texas Rangers at week's start. The White Sox have won 14 of their last 21 games and will play a crucial 3-game series against the Rangers starting this Friday.

The White Sox have been led by their two big guns this year, Cy Young candidate Jack McDowell and MVP candidate Frank Thomas. As of Wednesday the White Sox still had a 4.5 game lead after they both lost on Tuesday night. The White Sox' magic number was 9 as of Wednesday.

In the end, I pick the Phillies to hold onto the N.L. East, while the Braves, for the third year in a row, will come from behind at the All-Star break and win the N.L. West. For the A.L. East, Toronto is my favorite because of their timely pitching and their big-time hitters. Finally, in the A.L. West, Chicago is just too tough to pass up with their two big stars on each side of the field.

by Joe Mottillo  
Collegian Staff

On September 14, the Lady Lions softball tuned up for the spring season with a pair of games with Gannon. The Lions, coming off of last year's ECAC championship, defeated the Knights in both games.

In the first game Chari Robinson, a freshman from Strong Vincent, went the distance to pick up the 4-3 win. Shannon Persing, a freshman from Warren, singled in the winning run in the last inning to give the Lions the victory.

Julie Chimera, a freshman from Iroquois, went the distance to pick up the 4-2 win in the second game. Marlesse Schlott, a freshman from Seneca Valley, had an excellent doubleheader as she went 4 for 6 with 3 RBI.

The Lions play next on September 26 at Allegheny.

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**FRIDAY**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**Yanks vs. Blue Jays at 7:20**

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Saturday  
**Major League Baseball**  
**Texas vs. Chicago**  
2:45 p.m.

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**Penn State hosts Rutgers**  
Pregame: 6:00 p.m.  
Kickoff: 7:30 p.m.