

Alumni Newsletter – February 23, 2006

On February 18, the Penn State Baseball Club opened up the 2006 season in Raleigh, North Carolina. With hopes of traveling to warm weather and sunny skies, the club found itself bringing the miserable weather of Penn State down south, playing in rain, hail, and snow. Undaunted by the elements, the PSBC opened up with Elon University. Led by Peter Chalfin's stellar pitching performance (5 innings, 10 strikeouts, 2 hits, and 0 runs) and the solo home run of Rudy Hersh the PSBC went on to an easy 6 – 0 victory.

In game two, the team faced UNC-Chapel Hill under the lights. With unprecedented amounts of pressure riding on this game, the PSBC hoped to overcome their 0-0-1 overall record against UNC. Baseball historian Sandy Sanderson informed us about a small scorebook error by Mike Ridge which resulted in a draw years ago. Strong pitching performances by Greg Lisa and Jason Shirey and a team offensive effort led to a final score of 4 – 3.

These two wins, which were round-robin match-ups, sealed the PSBC a spot in the championship bracket with North Carolina State, Wake Forest, and Virginia Tech. To get to the championship game, we needed to beat Virginia Tech. After falling behind 0 – 2 on back to back Hokie homeruns, the PSBC went up 4 – 2 after some clutch hits by Jordan Wagner, Chris Connors, and rookie Tim Ryan. Brian Binder had a brilliant pitching performance, shutting Virginia Tech down after the first inning. However, in the sixth inning, rookie pitcher Dave Brodeur took the mound and threw well, but Virginia Tech was able to knock a few hits through the infield and take advantage of a few PSBC errors. The Hokies went up 5 – 4 for the win, and the Lions were eliminated from the Wolfpack Invitational. The team left with high spirits – we played well enough to beat Virginia Tech, and we matched up well against all of our opponents on the weekend, most of which were World Series caliber teams.

The team will get an opportunity to redeem itself against Virginia Tech in less than two weeks when we travel to Tampa, Florida for the NCBA Spring Training Showcase. We are slotted to play six games in three days, and the first two on March 6th are against the Hokies, who have definitely become a rival of ours in the past few years. We will also face Ferris State, Central Michigan, UNC-Charlotte, and Bowling Green. If any of you are in the Tampa area during that time, drop by! Our games will feature some great competition, and after our last game on the afternoon of March 8th, the PSBC will surely be having an extremely “well” time, as some would say.

Lastly and on a lighter note, the PSBC discovered the world's most fabulous Sheetz in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sandy Sanderson and his assortment of M&Ms can vouch for this. The team looks forward to discovering more Sheetz on their road trip to Florida.

Sincerely,

Mark Mihalik, *President*

Greg Lisa, *Treasurer*

<http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/psbc/>