

Pitching To Prove Key Baseball Factor

By STEVE PITT
Sports Writer

Optimism — that's the big word for this year's edition of the Knights of the Diamond. Coach Jim Ollis is very optimistic in his anticipations for this year's baseball team.

The big factor confronting the Knights will be whether or not the pitching comes through. If the pitchers come through, as expected, the Knights will give their opponents a hard time.

A strong point for the Knights is in their hitting. Last year the Knights outhit their opponents (.287 to .233), and most of the big hitters are returning this year. Defense should be improved over last year because of several replacements.

Big Guns From Mound

In the pitching corps, returning from last year are Doug Maxwell and George Britt. Last year's corps had a better ERA

as compared to the opposing hurlers.

Maxwell will be depended upon heavily, just as last year, but he will get some help from George Britt. Britt looked very impressive in his appearances last year and will be counted on for a lot of mound duty this year.

A newcomer, southpaw Jack Cole is expected to handle the hurling from the left side of the hill. Pete Stephens will be used in relief.

Fewest Strike-Out King

Behind the plate, Von Settlemyre, who batted over .300 last year, will be returning. Von is very good at getting on base, drawing over 20 bases on ball while striking out only three times during the entire season last year.

Johnny Wilson and Paul Rose, two freshmen, are pushing Von hard. Wilson has shown consid-

erable power at the plate.

At the first sack, Charles Hughes has looked very good and will probably hold down the position when Maxwell is pitching. Dick Sansbury, a freshman has also been impressive at the first base position. Both Hughes and Sansbury are newcomers.

Keystone In Good Hands

Second base is a bright spot as Norman Foxworth has claimed it as his own. Coach Ollis has high hopes for Fox who has very quick reflexes and wields a strong stick.

Bobby Crenshaw will back up Foxworth at second while not playing shortstop. Bobby Benton is also being counted upon to perform similarly to last year as he batted well over .300 and was very impressive as the regular short-stop.

Handling the chores of the "hot corner" will be Pete Ste-

phens. Pete played second last year but is moving to third, replacing Morris Ellison. Pete carried a big bat and is constant with his hitting.

Lee Settlemyre another newcomer will also be at third and is considered to be very capable and will give Pete a run for the position. Lee has quick hands and is mean at the plate.

The outfield features Gene Barbour, a returning senior, who has a lot of power. Last year Gene slammed the ball over 400 feet on several occasions. He will probably roam the meadows of left field.

Ward Anderson, a transfer student, has been termed as the best of the newcomers. Coach Ollis says this boy has baseball instinct: he covers center field as if he were born there. He also hits with good power to all fields.

Jim Knupp will be in right field. Jim is a newcomer who

has given an indication that he will help the team very much.

Returning Connie Little will help with some power at the plate while playing in the outfield and possibly helping out behind the plate too.

Good Depth Major Asset

Returning infield utility men are Flea Croon and Ed Carter. Ed Hurt and first year man Bill Stainbach give the outfield added depth. Good men able to come up with the right play at the right time will give St. Andrews an added asset which it lacked last year.

One bad factor working against the team is the weather. The team has only been able to get on the playing field about six times since the beginning of practice.

St. Andrews opens its home schedule against VMI on April 2. During spring vacation the team travels to High Point and Milligan Colleges.

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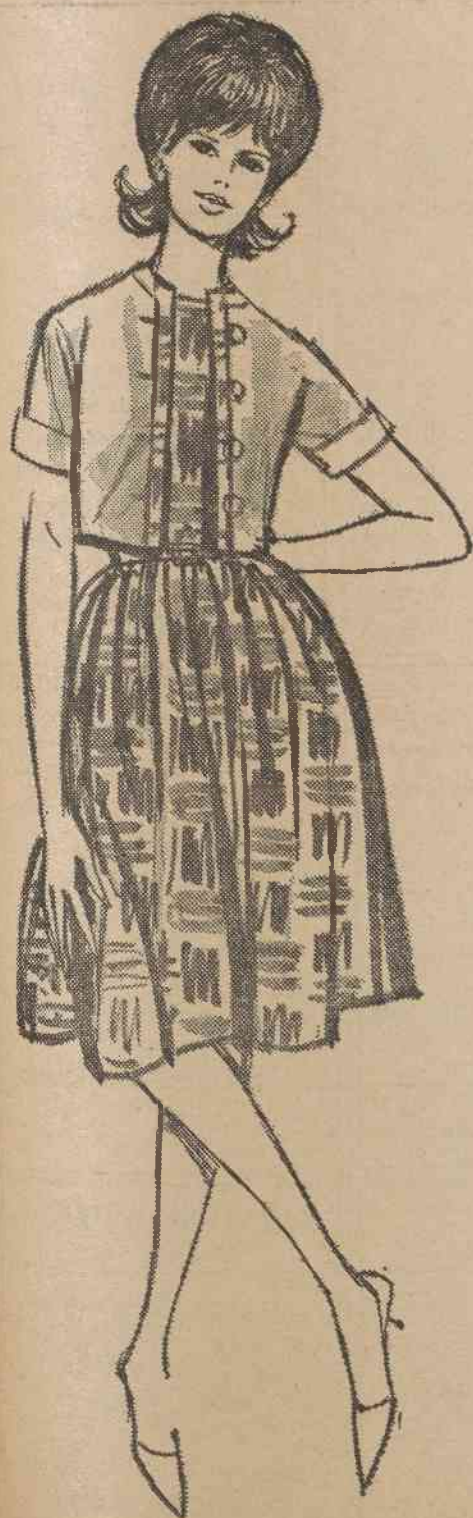
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