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## Jacket Baseball Team Opens Season in Florida

Cedarville University

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# SPORTS NEWS RELEASE

from Cedarville College Yellow Jackets

SPORTS INFORMATION  
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18 March, 1985

For immediate release:

## JACKET BASEBALL TEAM OPENS SEASON IN FLORIDA

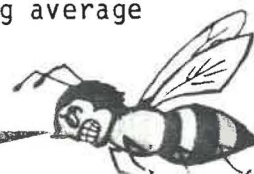
The 1985 Cedarville College baseball squad will feature a new look on the field plus a new coach and the Yellow Jackets hope that a fresh attitude will help them to rebound from last year's losing campaign. C.C. was 10-23 in '84 after winning only one of its last 17 outings despite cracking a school record 21 home runs as a team.

The Yellow Jackets are currently on their annual southern tour to Florida for pre-season workouts that also includes an 11-game schedule. However, only three of the contests will count on the team's record because Cedarville is playing four doubleheaders against junior colleges. The first official game will be this Wednesday afternoon in a single contest at Southeastern College in Lakeland, Florida. On the way back to Ohio this Saturday, Cedarville will meet Olivet Nazarene (IL) College, who will be on its way south, for a twinbill in Nashville, Tennessee.

Former Yellow Jacket standout Dan Coomes has taken over the helm and he inherits a very young ball club. Coomes, who played at Cedarville from 1972-76, has only one senior on the team and more than half of the roster is made up of freshmen and sophomores. "We would ultimately like to make it to a post-season tournament," remarked Coomes. "However, we would just like to play .500-plus baseball and go from there. A lot will depend on how quickly we mature."

Heading the list of top returning players is sophomore co-captain Danny Olinger. The Fresno, Ohio native was third on the team last year with a .310 batting average

-more-



as a rookie despite missing 12 games with a back injury. Olinger will be moved from shortstop to centerfield this year and he possesses a strong throwing arm.

Third baseman and co-captain Gary Mills is the only senior on the club and he is also the only returning player that saw action in all 33 games in 1984. He led the team in the most at bats (108) and hit .269 with 23 runs scored and seven doubles. Mills, who is from Vermillion, Ohio, is also used as a short reliever.

Cedarville High School product Steve Cremean has perhaps the best glove on the team. The sure-handed second baseman made only one error out of 118 chances in '84 for a sterling field percentage of .992. Cremean batted .278 a year ago and was second on club in bases on balls with 20. Steve is also an excellent bunter and had a team-leading nine sacrifices.

Also back is Dallas, Pennsylvania native Bryon Montross who was second on the club in hitting last year as a freshman with a .316 average. Twenty-nine of his 31 hits were singles and the 5'8" outfielder is expected to improve in both hitting and fielding.

As far as team strengths are concerned, Coomes believes the Jackets will play well defensively. The club possesses no extremely fast individuals, but it does have good overall team speed. Coomes hopes to see improvement in last year's .259 batting average.

Pitching is the major question mark to be answered. The staff ERA in '84 was a robust 7.77 and the top three hurlers did not return. However, the number two pitcher from 1983 is back in junior Chris Walter and he will be joined by a number of new arms.

"We feel like we have a good nucleus of players with which to work," stated Coomes. "We'll take each game one at a time with the attitude of not only being physically prepared, but mentally prepared as well. With a ball club as young as we are that preparation will be a key."