
Spring 1987

1987 Baseball Season Outlook

Cedarville University

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1 9 8 7 S e a s o n O u t l o o k

Cedarville College returns just seven lettermen from last year's 14-18-1 baseball club, plus only 13 players are on the roster. But third-year coach **Dan Coomes** has been successful despite the small line-ups. His 1985 club finished with an 18-11 record as the NAIA District 22 runner-up and that team had 13 members.

"When you don't have a lot of people, then your freshmen play an important part and this is the case with us," said Coomes. "Our pre-season goals remain the same. We just hope to catch hold by mid-season and count on playing .500 ball."

The Yellow Jackets should be strong in the pitching department, but will have to overcome inexperience in other areas. The top returning pitcher is junior right-hander **Dan Erlandson**. He was 3-3 with a 5.04 earned run average last year, but ranked fifth in the NAIA in '85 with a 1.80 ERA. When not on the mound, Erlandson will be in the line-up at first base.

Senior **Sam Springer** has pitched in 20 career games and is expected to continue his starting duties this spring. He can also play the outfield. Freshmen **Steve Hester**, **Shane Hardy**, and **Steve Smith** will also have to contribute. Hester will see action at first base while Hardy can be used in the outfield.

Senior captain **Danny Olinger**, who batted .341 as a switch hitter with 22 runs scored last year, is expected to lead the offense again. He will also be moved from centerfield into second base. Senior **Finny Rajchel** will be in a new position as well in going from catcher to shortstop. He led last year's team in runs batted in (22) for the second year in a row even though his batting average dropped from .303 in 1985 to .264.

A pair of juniors will need to provide consistency. **Brian Marburger** had an outstanding '86 season with a .314 batting average which included ten games of two or more hits. He will continue to play some behind the plate, but will also see extensive duty at third base. **Ken Horton** batted .338 in his first season at Cedarville and tied for the team lead in runs scored (22). His quickness in the outfield will be an asset.

Some other freshmen expected to contribute include **Kevin Campbell**, and **Rod Haseltine**. Campbell will be behind the plate with Haseltine seeing some time in the outfield. Junior **Luis Cruz** and freshman **Randy Hensley** will be used on the mound in relief roles.

"We have a number of players playing new positions," Coomes summarized. "The veterans will have to produce and execution is critical. This is also the toughest schedule we've ever faced and it includes every team in the district. We're looking forward to the challenge."