

Test time for Spartans

By RED BIRCH

Staff Writer

The Steinert High baseball players will be testing this week, yet it is doubtful that the people administering those tests will be very quiet about it.

The Spartans, the top-ranked team in *The Trentonian's* Top 20, have flown to a 9-0 start heading into one of their busiest weeks of the season. Each game poses its own set of challenges.

Coach Brian Giallalla's club is set to kick off the week at 4 p.m. today with a home game versus 6-1 Ewing (weather permitting).

The No. 4-ranked Blue Devils are coming off their first loss — a 7-5 setback versus West Windsor-Plainsboro North Friday — and are still quite dangerous with one of the league's most dangerous hitters, Nick Cifelli, as well as one of its top pitchers in junior left-hander Colin Holmes, who will most likely get the ball today.

Tomorrow Steinert is scheduled to host No. 12-ranked Hun, which is in the process of turning around its season. After dropping their first three games, the Raiders have won four in a row.

Wednesday the Spartans visit Valley Road field to take on Princeton High. No matter what the Little Tigers record, they always seem to give the Hamilton Square gang trouble when they visit this college town.

Despite struggling to a 1-7 start, the Little Tigers have been in every game under first-year head coach Dave Roberts. This could be more of the same if it is senior right-hander Matt Alvarez's turn with the ball. Alvarez is second in the Colonial Valley Conference in strikeouts with 30.

Thursday is basically a rain day for the Spartans (no one really has off days anymore) before the big one on Friday. That's the day CVC Colonial Division archrival Notre Dame (No. 6 at 5-2) visits Steinert at 4 p.m. for the first of what figure to be two spirited clashes (the second is May 4 at Rev. John D'Onofrio Field).

Not tested enough? The Spartans cap their busy seven-day stretch with one more interesting matchup versus a dangerous Peddie club, which won its first two games, only to lose its next five.

When the bell rings at the

end of this first test week, it will be interesting to see if this extremely deep club will still have a zero at the end of its record.

Even if that's not the case, Steinert is hoping to get high marks as it prepares for a May, which is quickly becoming just as busy thanks to Mother Nature.

The Inter City Classic is set for Saturday at Trenton High. This year will feature an interesting first-round matchup between Hightstown and Trenton High at 10 a.m. The game will not only decide who advances to play the Irvington-Pemberton winner in the 1 p.m. championship, it will also count toward the CVC. The Colonial Division foes are also slated to meet today in Hightstown.

SATURDAY RESULTS

ROSELLE 5, Old Tappan 0 — Kevin Dragert tossed another gem for the Steinert High baseball team, scattering four hits and striking out 12 with only one walk in a complete-game effort as the Spartans defeated Old Tappan, 5-0, in the Roselle Park Showcase.

Matt Maher led Steinert's offense, going 2-for-4 with two runs batted in and a stolen base. Mark Kalokitis tripled and drove in two more runs as the Spartans (9-0) broke open a game which was scoreless heading into the sixth inning.

WW-P North 8, S. Brunswick 6

SOUTH BRUNSWICK — After a third inning in which nine unearned runs were scored by West Windsor-Plainsboro North and South Brunswick in other late Saturday action, the Knights earned some runs when Mike Voltmer and Scott Kelly hit back-to-back home runs in the top of the sixth to seal the victory.

David Bachner went four innings to earn his third win, despite allowing five unearned runs on one hit. The senior left-hander struck out nine, but walked six before Neal Devincenzo closed out the game and get his second save.

John Sullivan went 2-for-4 with two RBIs for WW-P North, which improved to 6-1.

LOCAL NOTICE

American Legion Baseball — The Hamilton Post 31 American Legion baseball team will hold registration for the 2009 season from 6:30-7 p.m. Thursday, April 23 at Steinert High baseball field.

The Mercer County Ameri-

can Legion League season is set to begin June 1.

Players born on or after Jan. 1, 1990 and who reside in the Steinert High School sending district are eligible.

Further information can be obtained by calling manager Rick Freeman at (609) 588-0152.

STEINERT 5, OLD TAPPAN 0

STEINERT	ab	r	h	bi	OLD TAPPAN	ab	r	h	bi
Moceri cf	3	2	1	1	Caravella 1b	3	0	0	0
Maher 3b	4	0	2	2	Spagnuolo 2b	2	0	0	0
Kalokitis c	4	0	1	2	Park dh	2	0	0	0
Flunkert pr	0	0	0	0	Cassarmentti dh	0	0	0	0
Zuccheri 1b	3	0	0	0	Piscione lf	3	0	0	0
Constanelli lf	2	0	0	0	Chizzo 3b	2	0	0	0
Conradino dh	0	0	0	0	Bernstein 3b	1	0	1	0
Sydzpalski 2b	3	0	0	0	Fugere ss	3	0	2	0
McLaughlin rf	3	0	1	0	Magracci cf	2	0	0	0
Bertron ss	2	1	1	0	Messina cf	2	0	0	0
Beers pr	0	1	0	0					
Totals	27	5	7	5	Totals	24	0	4	0

Steinert (9-0) — E-Dragnet, O'Reilly, Elias, LOB-Steinert 4, Old Tappan 4, 2B-Caravella, 3B-Kalokitis, S-Moceri, SB-Maher, Fougere, CS-Simmordino.

DRAGERT W 3-0	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	7.0	0	0	0	1	12

WW-P NORTH 8, SOUTH BRUNSWICK 6

WW-PN	ab	r	h	bi	S. BRUNSWICK	ab	r	h	bi
Kelly ss	3	2	1	1	Taggart cf	0	0	0	0
Tartaro lf	3	1	0	0	Dunleavy rf	3	1	0	0
Phelan c	3	1	0	0	Peardario 2b	3	1	0	0
Hase 1b	3	1	0	0	Spillatore 1b	3	0	0	0
Hill 1b	4	0	0	0	Boyle dh	2	1	0	0
Rosenbaum 2b	4	0	2	0	Oliver dh	2	1	0	0
Chizzo dh	3	0	0	0	Heizer 3b	4	0	1	0
Oliver dh	3	0	0	0	McMouth 3b	4	0	0	0
Avino 3b	1	1	0	0	DeMouth 3b	1	0	0	0
Voltmer rf	2	1	1	0					
Totals	27	8	5	4	Totals	31	6	3	1

WW-P North (9-1) — E-Kelly 2, Phelan 2, Peardario 2, Oates, LOB-West Windsor-Plainsboro 6, South Brunswick 6, 2B-Cates, HF-Kelly, Voltmer, SB-Avino, Tartaro, Rosenbaum, Taggart 2, Spillatore, CS-Tartaro, Sullivan.

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBO

DRAGERT W 3-0	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
	7.0	0	0	0	1	12

STEINERT 5, OLD TAPPAN 0

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Maher 3b	4	0	2	2	Spagnuolo 2b	2	0	0	0
Kalokitis c	4	0	1	2	Park dh	2	0	0	0
Flunkert pr	0	0	0	0	Cassarmentti dh	0	0	0	0
Zuccheri 1b	3	0	0	0	Piscione lf	3	0	0	0
Constanelli lf	2	0	0	0	Chizzo 3b	2	0	0	0
Conradino dh	0	0	0	0	Bernstein 3b	1	0	1	0
Sydzpalski 2b	3	0	0	0	Fugere ss	3	0	2	0
McLaughlin rf	3	0	1	0	Magracci cf	2	0	0	0
Bertron ss	2	1	1	0	Messina cf	2	0	0	0
Beers pr	0	1	0	0					
Totals	27	5	7	5	Totals	24	0	4	0

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Constanelli lf	2	0	0	0	Chizzo 3b	2	0	0	0
Conradino dh	0	0	0	0	Bernstein 3b	1	0	1	0
Sydzpalski 2b	3	0	0	0	Fugere ss	3	0	2	0
McLaughlin rf	3	0	1	0	Magracci cf	2	0	0	0
Bertron ss	2	1	1	0	Messina cf	2	0	0	0
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CVC BASEBALL STATS

Games through Friday, April 17

BATTING

AVERAGE (minimum 16 at-bats) — Nick Cifelli (Ewing) 15-23, .652; Ed Ras (Allentown) 10-17, .588; Brian Witkowski (Notre Dame) 9-16, .563; Ryan Phelan (WW-P North) 8-16, .500; Steve Arnold (Ewing) 10-21, .476; Nick Miranda (Princeton) 10-21, .476; Joe Leone (Notre Dame) 8-17, .471; Matt Patterson (Nottingham) 12-26, .462; Fred Ulisse (Robbinsville) 10-22, .455; Colby Haring (Princeton) 9-20, .450; Armando Alfonso (Notre Dame) 8-18, .444; Tom Koontz (Allentown) 8-18, .444; Matt Chotkowski (Nottingham) 11-25, .440; David Schultz (Hightstown) 7-16, .438; Rich Toto (Lawrence) 10-23, .435.

HITS — Cifelli (Ewing) 15, Matt Patterson (Nottingham) 12, Chotkowski (Nottingham) 11, Arnold (Ewing) 10, Mark Kalokitis (Steinert) 10, Miranda (Princeton) 10, Marc Moceri (Steinert) 10, Ed Ras (Allentown) 10, Toto (Lawrence) 10, Ulisse (Robbinsville) 10.

DOUBLES — Sugith Murali (WW-P South) 5, Arnold (Ewing) 4, Phelan (WW-P North) 4, Dan Block (WW-P South) 3, Kalokitis (Steinert) 3, Scott Kelly (WW-P North) 3, Kevin Kocsak (Hamilton) 3, Mike O'Byrne (Nottingham) 3, Ed Ras (Allentown) 3, Mike Voltmer (WW-P North) 3.

TRIPLES — Chotkowski (Nottingham) 3, Cifelli (Ewing) 3, Carlos DeJesus (Trenton) 2.

HOME RUNS — Cifelli (Ewing) 3, Matt Patterson (Nottingham) 2, Paul Grant (Lawrence) 2.

RUNS SCORED — Cifelli (Ewing) 11, Eric Patterson (Nottingham) 11, Moceri (Steinert) 10, Nick Beers (Steinert) 9, Chotkowski (Nottingham) 9, Chuck Wyckoff (Ewing) 9, Ryan Brand (WW-P South) 8, Kelly (WW-P North) 8, Mike Tartaro (WW-P North) 8, Toto (Lawrence) 8.

RBIs — Cifelli (Ewing) 13, Matt Patterson (Nottingham) 13, Nick Zuccheri (Steinert) 12, Chotkowski (Nottingham) 10, Murali (WW-P South) 10, Arnold (Ewing) 8, Kyle McGuire (Ewing) 8, Ralph Aurora (WW-P South) 7, Mark Mak-simow (Notre Dame) 7, Kevin Monahan (Hightstown) 7, Phelan (WW-P North) 7.

STOLEN BASES — Tartaro (WW-P North) 6, Matt Maher (Steinert) 5, Chris Sunikis (Hamilton) 5, Toto (Lawrence) 5, Witkowski (Notre Dame) 5, Beers (Steinert) 4, Chotkowski (Nottingham) 4, Cifelli (Ewing) 4, Jon Krecicki (Nottingham) 4, Eric Patterson (Nottingham) 4, Ulisse (Robbinsville) 4.

PITCHING

ERA (minimum 7 innings) — Kevin Buryum (Robbinsville) 0.00, Kevin Dragert (Steinert) 0.00, Kevin Fitzell (Lawrence) 0.35, Colin Holmes (Ewing) 0.41, Mike Mimmo (Nottingham) 0.46, Kyle Reed (WW-P North) 0.58, James Sijagi (Steinert) 0.64, Evan Smith (WW-P South) 0.88, Neil Harm (Steinert) 0.89, David Bachner (WW-P North) 0.93, Charlie Battis (Notre Dame) 0.95, Dylan Murphy (Hamilton) 1.00, Matt Owle (Nottingham) 1.05, Kyle Paul (Steinert) 1.24.

WINS — Holmes (Ewing) 3-0, Reed (WW-PN) 3-0, Owle (Nottingham) 3-1.

INNINGS PITCHED — Fitzell (Lawrence) 20, Owle (Nottingham) 20, Matt Alvarez (Princeton) 18, Tim Wolf (Hopewell Valley) 17, 2/3, Holmes (Ewing) 17, Benito Gonzalez (Princeton) 16, Tom Koontz (Allentown) 16, Harm (Steinert) 15, 2/3, Mimmo (Nottingham) 15 1/3, Bachner (WW-P North) 15, Ed Ras (Allentown) 15, Ryan Leader (Robbinsville) 15.

STRIKEOUTS — Bachner (WW-P North) 33, Alvarez (Princeton) 30, Ed Ras (Allentown) 22, Fitzell (Lawrence) 21, Reed (WW-P North) 20, Harm (Steinert) 16, Gonzalez (Princeton) 14, Holmes (Ewing) 14, Max Merkowitz (WW-P South) 14, Paul (Steinert) 14.

COMPLETE GAMES — Fitzell (Lawrence) 2, 13 tied with 1.

SHUTOUTS — Dragert (Steinert) 1, Mimmo (Nottingham) 1, Murphy (Hamilton) 1.

SAVES — Mimmo (Nottingham) 2, Paul (Steinert) 2, Chris Coyle (Lawrence) 1, Carl Delmonico (Ewing) 1, Eric Hoffman (Princeton) 1, Mark Maksimow (Notre Dame) 1, Paul Palladino (Allentown) 1, Mark Metcalfe (Ewing) 1.

BCSL STANDINGS			CVC STANDINGS		
Liberty Division			Colonial Division		
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
Rancocas Valley (5-1)	2	0	Steinert (9-0)	7	0
Northern Burlington (2-3)	2	0	Notre Dame (5-2)	4	1
Moorestown (2-1)	1	1	WW-P South (5-3)	1	2
Burlington Township (2-3)	1	3	Hightstown (2-5)	1	5
Pemberton (1-4)	0	2	Trenton (1-5)	0	5

Patriot Division			Valley Division		
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
Cinnaminson (5-3)	3	0	WW-P North (6-1)	4	0
Delran (4-1)	2	1	Nottingham (7-1)	5	1
Bordentown (5-1)	2	1	Lawrence (4-2)	4	1
Westampton Tech (2-1)	1	1	Hamilton (4-5)	2	5
Holy Cross (3-3)	1	2			
Willingboro (0-2)	0	4			
Medford Tech (0-5)	0	4			

Freedom Division			Patriot Division		
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
Maple Shade (3-2)	3	0	Ewing (6-1)	6	1
Burlington City (1-1)	1	0	Allentown (2-5)	2	4
Florence (4-2)	3	1	Robbinsville (3-5)	1	4
New Egypt (2-3)	2	1	Hopewell Valley (2-4)	1	4
Riverside (2-6)	1	3	Princeton (1-7)	0	5
Palmira (0-3)	0	2			
TCAcademy (0-5)	0	3			