

# TIGERS GOING BACK TO BASICS

By RED BIRCH  
Staff Writer

**PRINCETON** — There is nowhere to go but up this season for the Princeton High base-

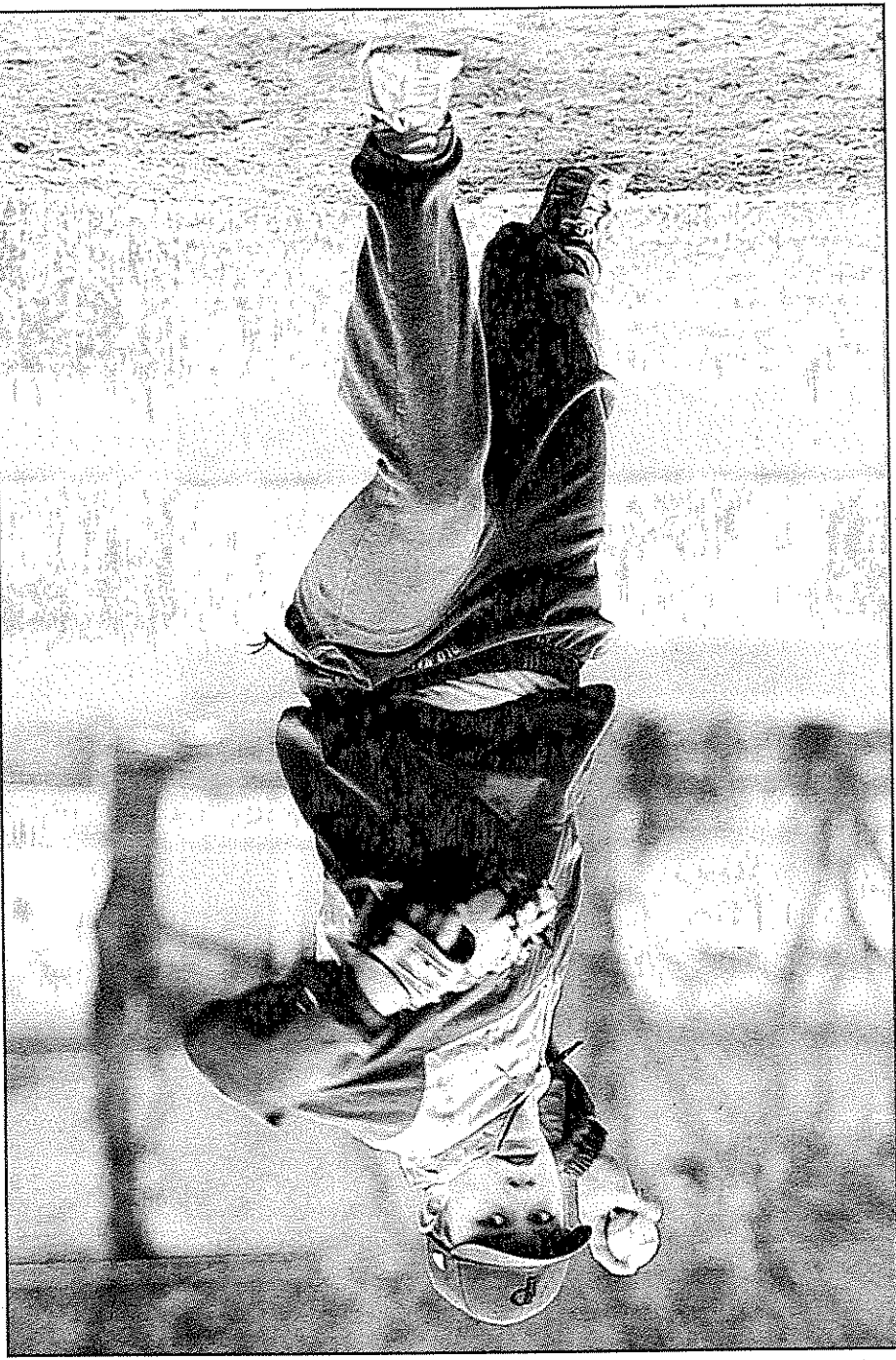
ball team. After struggling through a 1-22 campaign a year ago in the tough Colonial Valley Conference Patriot Division, the Little Tigers will have a slightly different look as two-year head coach Dave Roberts switch places. Roberts is taking a back-to-basics approach with the Little Tigers as they try to recover from a season in which they only won their second-to-last game.

"We basically tore everything up and went back to fundamentals," Roberts said. "We have the pitchers working on throwing strikes. We're going through position drills with the fielders. We're working on our offense and our defense. Everything we can." The Little Tigers will enter the season with a roster of predominantly seniors and juniors, so most of the players remember last year well.

Veterans like senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder Matt Alvarez, junior center fielder Nick Miranda, junior right-handed pitcher and infielder Benito Gonzalez and junior outfielder/designated hitter Trevor Barsamian will be counted on to lead by example and provide direction for their less experienced teammates.

Alvarez and Gonzalez, for starters, have something to prove since a year ago each went 0-6 on the mound for a team that surrendered 203 runs, while scoring only 75. Princeton pitchers allowed 64 of those runs in their first five games last year, so getting off to a better start this time is of utmost importance.

"Playing in the CVC, the schedule is never easy," said Roberts, who was also an assistant with former head coach, now athletic director John Miranda. "With that kind of schedule, there are no days off. You have to bring it every day. That's what we're working on." After a busy preseason, Princeton will open the 2009 campaign with a home game at Valley Road Field versus another team which had its struggles in 2008, Lawrence. It's a good starting point for both clubs as each strives to turn around the misfortunes of the past and get back on course for the future.



Trentonian File Photo  
Matt Alvarez is one of Princeton's veterans who will help the Tigers improve on last season's performance.

## INSIDE PRINCETON

Head Coach: Dave Roberts (1st year)  
Assistant Coaches: Scott Goldsmith, Jason Pikul, Allan Forsyth.  
Last Year: 1-22 overall, 0-16 CVC.

Roster: Matt Alvarez (Sr., RHP/OF); Eric Hoffman (Sr., RHP/IF); Steven Fuchs (Sr., C); Matsuru Shimamoto (Sr., RHP/3B); Colby Haring (Sr., OF/RHP); Ronak Chawla (Sr., OF); Dan Chen (Sr., 2B); Ho-Sung Kang (Sr., OF); Benito Gonzalez (Jr., CF); Trevor Barsamian (Jr., OF/DH); Danny Powell (Jr., RHP/OF); Matt Weidner (Jr., OF); Steve Eitherton (Jr., SS/RHP); Carson Eisenach (Jr., C); Luke Cordonnier (So., IF/RHP).

Outlook: Former varsity assistant Roberts and former head coach Goldsmith switch places this year. The goal is the same as the Little Tigers strive to get back to respectability. Returnees like Alvarez, Miranda, Gonzalez and Barsamian will play key leadership roles in helping the inexperienced club recover from a tough 2008 season.

## PRINCETON SCHEDULE

April 1	Lawrence	4:00
April 3	at Hightstown	4:00
April 4	at Montgomery	2:00
April 6	Hopewell Valley	4:00
April 8	Nottingham	4:00
April 9	Delaware Valley	4:00
April 13	at Notre Dame	4:00
April 15	Trenton	4:00
April 16	PDS	4:15
April 17	Allentown	4:00
April 20	at WW-P North	4:00
April 22	Steinert	4:00
April 24	Robbinsville	4:00
April 25	at Allentown	11:00
April 27	at Robbinsville	3:45
April 29	at Hamilton	4:00
May 1	at Ewing*	7:00
May 2	at Pennington	2:00
May 4	WW-P South	4:00
May 7	Emily Fisher	4:00
May 11	at Hun	4:00
May 13	at Hopewell Valley	4:00
May 15	Ewing	4:00
May 18	N.Hope-Solebury	4:00
Home games		
at Valley Road Field		
*at Moody Park		