

# Seniors seek redemption

## Princeton out to bounce back from disappointing season

By RED BIRCH  
Staff Writer

**PRINCETON** — The Princeton High baseball team will go as far as its talented senior class will take it.

Head coach Dave Roberts returns for his second year with nine returnees ready to prove they are much better than their 4-18 finish of a year ago.

Improving is not the easiest thing to do in the ultra-tough Colonial Valley Conference, but that will not keep the Little Tigers from trying to make a move in the four-team Valley Division.

"We'll still need some of the seniors to step up," said Roberts, whose team gets to work on things a little longer before their official opener April 5 at Nottingham.

That begins a tough first week in which Princeton also plays Notre Dame, Pennington and Hopewell Valley.

"There's not much I'm doing differently this year," Roberts said. "I'm still stressing pitching and defense."

The Little Tigers want to try to avoid the frustration they encountered after starting last season with five one-run losses in their first eight games. They went on to lose seven games by one run.

Senior returnees like Nick Miranda (center field), Steve Eberton (shortstop), Benito Gonzalez (right-handed pitcher/outfielder), Trevor Barsamian (outfielder/designated hitter) and Danny Powell (right-handed pitcher/outfielder) will do all they can to change that.

Last season, Miranda, the team's Haverford College-bound leadoff hitter, was among the best in the league in batting average (.443), hits (31) and stolen bases (12). Gonzalez was also among the leaders with eight doubles.

"Last year, we did not do a good job getting consecutive hits," Roberts said. "If we'd been able to string a few more together, we would have won more games."

Princeton graduated 59-strikeout pitcher Matt Alvarez, but the bulk of its staff returns. Gonzalez proved to be the ace with a 3-3 record. Powell will be looking to show he is much better than his 1-6 record of a year ago.

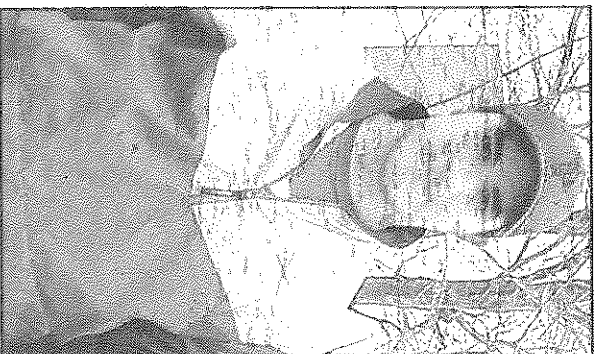
Junior right-hander Luke Cordonnier did not have a varsity decision in 2009, yet is one of a number of fresher arms who will be counted on to take some of the pitching chores off the seniors.

"We have a pretty experienced pitching staff," Roberts said. "To improve, we need to play smarter overall."

That is another area where Roberts will be counting on the team's upperclassmen to lead the way.

With Miranda in center field, Eberton at shortstop and classmate Carson Eisenach behind the plate, the Little Tigers should be strong up the middle.

Seniors Matt Weidner and Mike Van Itallie will help in the outfield. Their classmates Colin Graydon and Kethan Dawar are battling junior Alex Charwin at second base.



Princeton seniors Trevor Barsamian, left, and Benito Gonzalez will be among the top players counted on this season to get the Little Tigers back on track after a 4-18 season.

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— DAVE ROBERTS

### INSIDE PRINCETON

Head Coach: Dave Roberts (2nd year)  
Assistant Coaches: Scott Goldsmith, Allan Forsyth, Jason Pikul  
Last Year: 4-18 overall, 3-14 CVC.

Poster: Nick Miranda (Sr., CF); Steve Eberton (Sr., SS); Benito Gonzalez (Sr., RHP/IF); Trevor Barsamian (Sr., OF/DH); Danny Powell (Sr., RHP/OF); Matt Weidner (Sr., OF); Carson Eisenach (Sr., C); Mike Van Itallie (Sr., OF); Colin Graydon (Sr., 2B); Kethan Dawar (Sr., 2B); Luke Cordonnier (Jr., IF/RHP); Alex Charwin (Jr., 2B); Will Greenberg (So., C); Matt Hoffman (So., UTL); Ben Harrison (So., 1B/LHP); Nico Mercurio (So., IF).

Outlook: With nine returnees, the Little Tigers are hoping to cause some trouble in the Valley Division this season. Miranda will spearhead the offense, while Gonzalez will key the pitching staff. Plenty of other players will need to help out to keep Princeton moving in the right direction by improving on their four wins of a year ago.

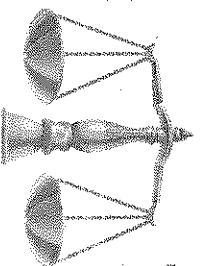
### PRINCETON SCHEDULE

|          |                 |       |
|----------|-----------------|-------|
| April 5  | at Nottingham   | 4:00  |
| April 7  | at Notre Dame   | 4:00  |
| April 8  | Pennington      | 4:00  |
| April 9  | Hopewell Valley | 4:00  |
| April 10 | at Florence     | 11:00 |
| April 12 | at Allentown    | 4:00  |
| April 14 | at Hightstown   | 4:00  |
| April 15 | Emily Fisher    | 4:00  |
| April 16 | Trenton         | 4:00  |
| April 17 | Hun             | 11:00 |
| April 19 | at Robbinville  | 4:00  |
| April 21 | Hamilton        | 4:00  |
| April 23 | at PDS          | 4:15  |
| April 24 | Lawrence        | 11:00 |
| April 26 | Steinert        | 4:00  |
| April 28 | at Ewing*       | 7:00  |
| April 30 | WW-P South      | 4:00  |
| May 1    | Montgomery      | 10:00 |
| May 3    | at WW-P North   | 4:00  |
| May 5    | Hightstown      | 4:00  |
| May 7    | Nottingham      | 4:00  |
| May 10   | at Hamilton     | 4:00  |
| May 14   | at Hillsborough | 4:00  |

\*—at Moody Park

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