

Golden Gales Battle Tigers On Marietta Soil In Playoff Today

By Jack Behrens
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Like a re-run of the past basketball season, Lancaster will again face a strong Marietta team today as the Gales shoot for a spot in the forthcoming Class AA District Baseball Tournament at Ohio University, May 8.

A little over a month ago, a Lancaster cage five went against a Marietta crew for a district berth and the local squad was virtually flattened. Now, the same chance appears to be in the making as the Golden Gale baseball team, sporting an 11-2 mark for the season, encounters Tiger diamondmen in

their own backyard near the Ohio River.

Marietta has been pushing aside baseball competition ever since the season opened. The Tigers, who now own an 11-1 record, have belted Athens twice, Parkersburg and a strong St. Mary team from the West Virginia side of the river. The Bengalmen will probably start veteran hurlers Jim Farley or Dick Spindler on the mound. Neither of the two hill artists has been defeated yet this season. Farley has a 3-0 mark and Spindler is on top of the Marietta tossing department with a 4-0 slate.

One setback that may have an effect on the Tigertown club

today is the loss of veteran clutch hitter Frank Christie, outfielder-pitcher, who was placed on the sidelines because of a badly strained shoulder. Christie was belting a healthy .333 before the injury. He is currently undergoing daily treatments for the strain.

Lancaster in the meantime will enter Marietta with a ball club that has been improving steadily as the season progressed. Against their most recent foe, Pomeroy, the Gales displayed a real potent plate attack connecting for 18 hits, 7 extra base slams and 15 runs as they clobbered their tourney opponents, 15-3.

Leading the Lancaster offense are second baseman Bob Graham, catcher Terry Farmer, first baseman Stan Miller, shortstop Mike Campbell and outfielder Chilton Bowers. Graham, who usually pelts the ball in every contest, is the most consistent hitter on the club. To keep that position, the wiry key-stone sacker has to really produce however for not far behind, his teammates really put the pressure on him with equally good plate performances.

The Gale mound staff, one of the most serious question marks at the first of the season, has surprisingly earned much of the praise for Lancaster victories says LHS Coach Dick England.

Gale hurlers, led by big Dan Hines, have been the deciding factor in several games and their strength has helped the local club edge tough crews such as Portsmouth, St. Charles and Chillicothe.

Hines, a good right-handed tosser and stick-wielder, holds a 5-1 record to front LHS twirlers, followed closely by Roger Severing, a portside hurler, Glen Kitchen and Jack Reynolds.

Today's contest will get underway at 2 p.m.