

On Deck Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday

Women's Volleyball vs.
Penn State Altoona
@ AMCC Championships
@ Frostburgh University
TBD

Cross Country
@ AMCC Championships
@ Lake Erie
TBD

Men's Water Polo
@ CWPA-Bucknell
TBD

Women's Soccer vs.
Frostburg
Noon
Men's Soccer vs. Frostburg
2:30 p.m.

Sunday
Men's Water Polo
@ CWPA-Bucknell
2:30 p.m.

Tuesday
Women's Soccer
@ AMCC Championships
TBD

Wednesday
Men's Soccer
@ AMCC Championships
TBD

Friday
Women's Soccer
@ AMCC Championships
TBD

Swimming & Diving
@ Buffalo State
6 p.m.

Club Schedule

Saturday
Hockey vs.
University of Pittsburgh D-III
@ JMC Ice Arena
2:15 p.m.

Sunday
Hockey @
Edinboro University
1:15 p.m.

Face Off

2003 World Series: FLA vs. NY



by Ray Immekus
staff writer

Critics of this year's World Series will state the obvious as to why it was a "dud." The teams played in the third lowest rated series of all time. It featured the New York Yankees and their malevolent owner; the most hated man in baseball and possibly all of sports, George Steinbrenner. Most importantly, the hopes and expectations of a Boston versus Chicago series proved false, and with its demise went many of this country's baseball fans.

I, however, could not have been more pleased with this year's Fall Classic.

Although I myself was one of the millions hoping for the Red Sox and Cubs to overcome their respective curses and face each other in the World Series, I did not stop watching when neither of these teams made it. I have no regrets about this decision now, I believe this series treated me with everything I could hope for in the culmination of any baseball season.

The Game 1 victory by the Marlins gave hope to not only myself, but every other anti-Yankee, that Florida could overcome the star-studded New York team. A quick response, a two 6-1 victories by the Yankees, added suspense and much anticipation for Game four, which had the potential to be a gem. And a gem it was. This matchup was the final start for Roger Clemens, a future Hall of Famer, who pitched six solid innings and gave his team the opportunity to win.

The game winning homerun in the 12th inning by Marlins' shortstop Alex Gonzalez brought an end to the most memorable game of the series, the type of game that

every baseball fan lives to see.

Game 5 was not without excitement. The Yankees nearly overcame a four run Marlins' lead in the bottom of the ninth, but Florida held on.

When Josh Beckett finished his complete game shutout in Game 6, and the Marlins celebrated in the middle of Yankee Stadium as thousands of fans sat in disbelief, a smile slowly formed on my face.

To see Steinbrenner lose in his own stadium to a team with one-third the payroll of his Yankees, made the previous five months of waiting for a new champion all worth it.

The Marlins have already begun to prepare for a title defense with the signing of manager Jack McKeon to a one-year extension, but some changes will have to be made. Since the Marlins only have a yearly payroll of around \$52 million, some members of this year's championship team will not likely return. If the Marlins chose to re-sign catcher Pudge Rodriguez, who will most likely warrant a \$40-\$50 million multi-year deal, free agents such as Mike Lowell, Derrek Lee and Mark Redman may be too expensive for Florida.

This is the sad truth of baseball. Teams like the Marlins and last year's Angels are able to put together a championship-caliber team one year and have a 100 loss season the next. Steinbrenner will piss and moan for a few months, release players and fire coaches but will get busy buying his way to what is sure to be another title run.

He will steal other teams' star players with lucrative, enormous contracts that only the Yankees can afford. But that's what makes it so sweet when the Yankees lose.

by Greg Smith
contributing writer

As I sat back and enjoyed myself as my beloved New York Yankees cruised to a 6-1 victory over the Florida Marlins in Game 3 of the 2003 World Series, I felt like nothing could stop the Bronx Bombers from their 27th World Championship.

Apparently, the Marlins didn't get the message.

Some poor hitting and execution, a bad pitch and an untimely injury later, the Yanks' 2-1 series lead turned into the now hated Marlins' second World Championship.

So what went wrong? The Bombers are down 3-1 in the ninth of Game 4 when a seemingly miraculous two-out, full-count triple by pinch-hitter Ruben Sierra plates the tying runs for the Yanks.

Aaron Boone strikes out with the bases loaded and one out in the 11th and Jeff Weaver surrenders a walk-off home run to Alex Gonzalez.

In Game 5, Mike Lowell's flare single dropped into center field in the fifth inning, giving the Marlins a 6-1 lead. A five-hit performance against Josh Beckett in Game 6 and the Series was over.

The Bombers caught some bad breaks, but ultimately dug their own grave. And their catastrophic offense breakdown in Games 5 and 6 prevented them from any kind of a comeback.

The World Series loss seems to hang a dark cloud over a Yankees off-season that was already going to be turbulent enough. The Yankees have already fired hitting coach Rick Down; Derek Jeter (shoulder) and Jason Giambi (knee) look like they both need off-season surgery and coaches Don Zimmer and Mel Stottlemyre

are both reportedly not returning to the team for 2004.

With the retirement of Roger Clemens and the Yanks unlikely to pick up David Wells' \$6 million option for 2004, the team needs to retool its pitching staff. I believe the off-season move that the Yankees HAVE to make is resigning potential free agent Andy Pettitte.

With Mike Mussina, Jose Contreras and possibly John Lieber, who is coming off of surgery, as other possible returning starters, the Bombers would love to add Montreal's Javier Vazquez to fill another spot in the rotation. The Yanks should try to deal for a couple middle relievers as well.

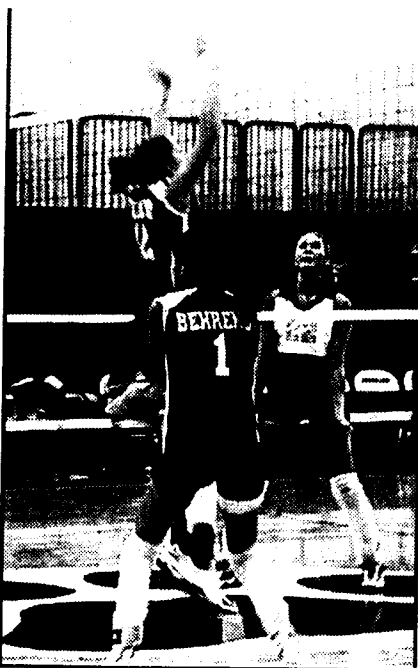
For years the Pinstripes needed someone to fill their giant hole in left field. This year they found that someone in Hideki Matsui. Now their hole is in right field. The Yanks could make a run at Expos superstar Vladimir Guerrero to take on their right field role.

There has been talk of an Alfonso Soriano/Nick Johnson for Guerrero/Vazquez deal, but it seems unlikely to me that the Yanks would give up on young talent like first baseman Johnson, especially with Giambi deteriorating into a permanent DH role. As for Soriano, his World Series numbers were far less than stellar, but it's hard to ignore his 38 regular season home runs from the leadoff spot.

Right now, many questions about the off-season remain. The important thing for the team is that manager Joe Torre is still at the helm. With some added pitching and a couple new solid bats in the lineup in '04, the Yankees will once again be ready to make a run at the World Series.

Volleyball seeded second going into AMCCs

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor



After they won consecutive games against Pitt-Greensburg and Molloy, the women's volleyball team suffered three straight losses to end their regular season on a down note.

On Oct. 24, the Lady Lions traveled to Pitt-Greensburg for their final conference game of the season. The teams had previously met on Oct. 3 with Behrend winning 3-0. This encounter would be no different as Behrend came away with another 3-0 victory.

The squad's next stop was at the Waynesburg Quad on Saturday. The Lady Lions played three games there. They came away with one victory and two losses.

Their first game was against Molloy and the Lady Lions routed them by a 3-0 final score. This would prove to be the team's final victory of the regular season.

Behrend next went up against Waynesburg. This would be the teams' first meeting of the season and did

not go well for Behrend. Waynesburg came away with a resounding 3-0 victory.

The Lady Lions' final game of the Waynesburg Quad was against Fairmont State. The Behrend squad was once again unable to come away with a victory, but fared slightly better than in their previous game. They lost by a final of 3-1.

The team's final regular season game was an away game at Fredonia on Tuesday. The team was hopeful that it could go into AMCCs with a victory, but they were denied. They lost another tough game by a score of 3-0.

The Lady Lions now go into the AMCC tournament today with a 17-16 record overall, 8-4 in the AMCC. They are the No. 2 seeds and will face the No. 3 team from Penn State Altoona. The two teams split their two previous matchups this season. Altoona won the first game, 3-0, and Behrend won the second, 3-1.

If the Lady Lions play the way they did the second time around against Altoona, it seems likely that they will have a very successful tournament.

Men's Water Polo team embarks on CWPA's

by Adam Massaro
staff writer

With 25 games under their belts, the men's water polo team will look to consummate its season this weekend at the CWPA tournament at Bucknell. The CWPA is the last stop the Lions will make this season, after traveling to Princeton and John Hopkins the two previous weekends.

The CWPA is the Masters of men's water polo and will conclude the Lions season. Since it is the culmination of all previous preparations, the tournament will either end the season with an exclamation point or a question mark.

To begin the tournament, the Lions will square off against two heavyweights in their own bracket: Gannon and the Princeton Tigers. The Lions have previously encountered both teams and lost convincingly.

Most notably is the five game winning streak the Gannon Knights boast over the Lions. Gannon has outscored the Lions 83 to 13 in five previous matches, and the closest the Lions have come to

dethroning them is a 13-2 loss.

If history repeats itself and the Tigers and Knights prove to be too much for the Lions, the team will face another two-loss team in a crossover game.

"We are most likely going to see Grove City at the southern championship. That crossover game is going to be the biggest game of the year," said head coach Joe Tristan. "If we win that game we are going to play for the ninth place game, against whoever that may be."

In three of the previous meetings this season, Grove City has edged out wins by a margin of three points or less.

"We have improved so much in our game over the season," said freshman Justin Ryder. "The first time we played (Grove City) they beat us by like 10, and then it was like by 3 or less the rest of the times."

The Lions will look to take advantage of a weakened Grove City team, whose best player is expected to be out of the lineup this weekend, due to injury.

Combining the opportune injury and the Lions

recent improvements, the team feels it is only a matter of time before they beat Grove City.

The CWPA tournament will feature 12 different teams, in four separate brackets. After the first two games of pool play, the crossover game matches teams with two losses together from separate brackets. Due to the tournament structure the crossover game will either propel the Lions into contention for a ninth place finish, or bump them down to contend for eleventh place.

Ryder feels the tournament will provide the team with the "big game" experience it has lacked in the past, as well as an opportunity to capture some key wins to conclude the season.

Tristan will not implement any new schemes for the tournament but will look to correct the mistakes the team made in previous tournaments.

"As for our training regiment, it is going to be based off what we did in the interregional and at Hopkins," said Tristan. "When we get to Southern we will already know what our mistakes are and are going to have fixed them."