

SPORTS

Men's tennis displays talent, youth in opening matches

By Amy Frizzell
managing editor

Over spring break, the men's tennis team took its annual trip to Hilton Head Island to participate in Spring Break Tennis. The Lions played six matches, coming home with a record of 2-4 making their overall record 5-5. The blue and white defeated Eastern Nazarene 8-1 and Seton Hill 5-4 after suffering a four match losing streak earlier in the week.

"I felt that it took too long to adjust to being outside," said Coach Jeff Barger.

Spring break was the first time the men played outdoors this season. Due to weather conditions the team has practiced and played its matches indoors, splitting the time between Westwood Racquet Club and Pennbriar Athletic Club. Playing outdoors means the team would have to adjust to the climate conditions, such as temperature, wind and sun.

The team also had to adjust after freshman Todd Guarneri had to back out of going on the trip at the last minute.

"With Todd we're solid all the way through," said sophomore captain Matt Meyer. "Without him we're not as strong."

The team pulled it together when they defeated Eastern Nazarene. Freshmen James

Myers and Steve Rohm provided a doubles win 8-6, along with sophomore captains Meyer and Brian Espin who won by default. Freshmen Miles Boyea won at first singles 7-5, 6-3, followed by Espin at second 6-3, 6-2, junior John Marini at third 6-1, 6-1, Meyer at fourth 6-2, 6-1 and freshmen Trevor Dougherty at sixth 6-1, 6-0.

The blue and white fought its way to a win over Seton Hill they day before. Meyer and Espin provided the first win of the day when they tallied up a doubles win at second doubles, 8-5. Espin continued winning defeating his opponent at second singles 6-3, 6-3. Meyer also continued winning at fourth singles taking his first set 6-4. After losing the second set 1-6, Meyer made his comeback winning the third set 6-2. Myers also made a come back after dropping his second set in a tie breaker. He provided a win at fifth singles 6-2, 7-6, 6-3. Finally Dougherty tallied up a win at sixth 6-1, 6-1.

The team took a hit on March 8 as they lost to Wilkes 3-6. Providing the only wins were Myers and Rohm in doubles 8-1, Marini at third singles 6-2, 6-1 and Dougherty 6-1, 6-1. Dougherty again marked down a win when the team took on Elizabethtown, fighting his way back from dropping the first set in a tie breaker 6-7. He took the second set 6-2 and won the third set

barely avoiding another tie breaker 7-5.

Boyea gave the team its only point against Mt. Union on March 7 winning his singles match at one, 6-1, and 6-2. When the team played Concordia on March 6 Dougherty tallied up a single point for the team winning his sixth singles match in three sets 6-3, 4-6, and 6-4. Dougherty went 5-1 in singles while playing through an elbow problem.

"Having a strong six like Trevor [Dougherty] helps the team," said Meyer. "And the fact that he's hurting and winning shows a lot of heart."

The blue and white also received an extra boost when Marini returned to the line-up after a brief hiatus.

"We're feeling confident about our upcoming conference matches," said Meyer. "Getting John [Marini] back added more confidence."

The Lions will start conference play against Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday, a team they defeated 9-0 both times they met last season. On Sunday it will take on Penn State Altoona who they defeated 5-4 and 8-1 last year.

"We will be going back to basics for the next couple of practices," said Barger. "Our overall play needs to pick up for us to win AMCC again."

Men's basketball ends season with first-round NCAA loss

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

Behrend's basketball team has been competing in a marathon since October. They have endured much blood along the way, much like P. Diddy did during the highly publicized New York City marathon. On March 3 against Lebanon Valley, the team "hit the wall" on the last lap of its marathon. It was a good run, but they came up just short of the finish line.

Behrend, the 2005 AMCC champions, faced huge adversity going into the game. Critics were not giving the Lions a snowball's chance in Hell, especially since the game was on Lebanon Valley's home floor where they were undefeated for the season. However, Behrend trailed only by seven at the half before losing 71-53 to Lebanon Valley in the first round of the 2005 NCAA Division III Tournament in front of 1,332 fans.

The Lions were within reach at halftime when the score was only 29-22. "We played alright in the first half," Assistant Coach James Curren said. "We hung in there, then in the second half our shots just wouldn't fall."

This uncharacteristic shooting performance put the game out of reach midway through the second half. The Lions shot 38 percent overall: 32 percent from behind the arc and 61 percent at the charity stripe. The Dutchmen shot 47 percent for the game and 41 percent from three-point land.

Behrend was led by senior guard Tom Lulich, who led the Lions with 11 points on 3 of 7 shooting from three-point territory. Also in double-figures was 6'7" freshman Kevin Buczynski with 11 points and senior guard Joe Lucas added 10 points in 25 minutes of action. Senior Jared Clough, who earned first-team all-conference honors this season, pulled down a game-high 7 boards and chipped in with 8 points and 3 assists.

Lebanon Valley standout senior guard J.D. Byers, who was recently chosen as the Division III Player of the Year, hit 9 of 16 shots from the field for a game-high 31 points.

"Our guys played hard," Curren said. "This game was a really good experience for our underclassmen. They got to see what it was like to be a part of an NCAA game's atmosphere. As for the game itself, Byers was probably the best guard I've ever seen at this level."

Behrend closed out the season with a 19-8 mark. "We had a very successful year. This loss took nothing away from our great season," Curren said.

With the win, the Dutchmen (20-6) advanced to play at St. John Fisher (27-0) on Saturday in the second round, where they lost. Ironically enough, St. John faced Potsdam in the Elite 8 round, and were defeated by this Potsdam squad who has the same starting five that last year's Behrend team faced in a two-point NCAA first round loss. This goes to show you how tough the competition was in the NCAA this year and how Behrend was able to get respect from other Division III programs.

Senior Spotlight



Jeremiah Gutherie
Men's Tennis



Samantha Cibula
Women's Water
Polo

Congress to sort out steroids mess, star slugger not invited

By Chris LaFuria
sports commentary

Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig, players' association chairman Donald Fehr and a handful of players, present and retired, all received subpoenas to testify about the steroids scandal that has plagued baseball.

On March 17, the aforementioned group will go before a Congressional committee to discuss the new steroids policy and the history of the epidemic to the game. Among those in question include Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco, Curt Schilling, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas.

The new policy, which includes random testing of players for illegal substances and insensitive penalties for those who fail to qualify, inaugurated with the examination of the Florida Marlins. Many players feel that the new procedure will help baseball redeem some of the respect that was lost during the initial investigation. Others claim that it is a disgrace to the game.

"I'm disappointed with major league baseball and the association for not implementing a plan that is completely solid," Dodgers second baseman Jeff Kent said. "We need to prove to the fans that there's no question baseball should be clean

and is clean and we're not sending the right message with this policy."

Congress plans to surface any dissident actions by players who still utilize steroids and to put the rumors to rest. Congress may have taken the right steps, inviting players and administration to testify in front of a jury, but the particulars to their agenda may be somewhat detrimental. This may be the choice of Congress to only subpoena the people they have chosen, or it could result in much debate from the players' association and people who cherish baseball records.

This leads to the main point in this argument. Jose Canseco, with his new book, rattled out some of his contemporaries that, he claimed, may have taken steroids. Therefore, it was sufficient to have the likes of McGwire, Sosa and Canseco himself testify. The problem with the invitations is that the person who instigated the whole controversy over steroids did not receive an invitation.

That's right. Barry Bonds will not be in attendance. Mr. Get-Bigger-With-Age will not testify to Congress over the steroids scandal. The man who weighed 185 pounds as a rookie in 1987 and bulked to an immense 228 in his 2004 campaign seems to have either fooled the whole baseball

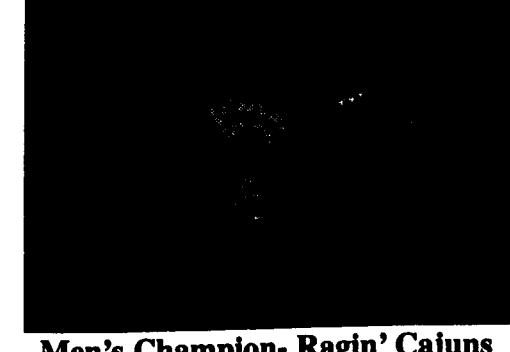
noticed by Congress. Even though Bonds didn't intentionally take the illegal drugs (or so he claims), he was involved with a matter that was against the rules of Major League Baseball. That fact alone should have landed Bonds on the March 17 court date with Congress.

There must be some good explanation for why Bonds was not subpoenaed. The only sense I could make out of it was that it would be like Cal Ripken having a stunt double taking his place for the games he couldn't attend during his record-breaking streak. The American public loves records. And records are made to be broken. The thought of Barry Bonds breaking Hank Aaron's record of most career home runs and then proclaiming that he used steroids would crush baseball, if it hasn't been already.

I'm not directly attacking Bonds and saying that he was directly involved with steroids; it's the fact that he was surrounded by these rumors and was involved with illegal substances. Usually, in most law cases, anyone with the most minuscule involvement with the topic at hand receives their date in court.

All I'm trying to say is give Bonds his day in court. If he is found to have used the illegal substance, maybe, his actions will be justified. If all turns out in Bonds' favor, we, as fans of records, can all sleep better at night.

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Women's Champion- Project Mayhem

Don't miss out on your chance to register for Intramural Soccer. Men's, women's and coed teams are available. Games begin April 4 and take place on the Behrend Fields. The first captain's meeting will be held on March 31 at 5 p.m. in the Junker Center Classroom. For more information, please email Rob Wittman at rww3@psu.edu or stop by the Junker Center for more details.

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