

Berger King

by Jill Pauch
Collegian Staff

Steve Berger, a seventh semester history major, is this week's Athlete of the Week.

Berger received this honor because of his play in the Hamot Classic tournament, held the weekend of the Nov. 19. Berger averaged 17.5 points and 9.5 rebounds in the two games played. He was also named MVP for the tournament.

Berger followed with a 15 point, seven rebound performance in a loss to Thiel on Nov. 22.

Men's basketball head coach Dave Niland said, "I was very pleased with Steve's effort in the games. He really did a nice job. I think the year off made him realize how much he missed basketball."

Niland is speaking of last season when Berger sat out. Berger has returned this season with another year of eligibility.

"The year off made me regret not playing and I missed the game," said Berger.

"This year's team is basically the same. It is very talented," said Berger in comparing this

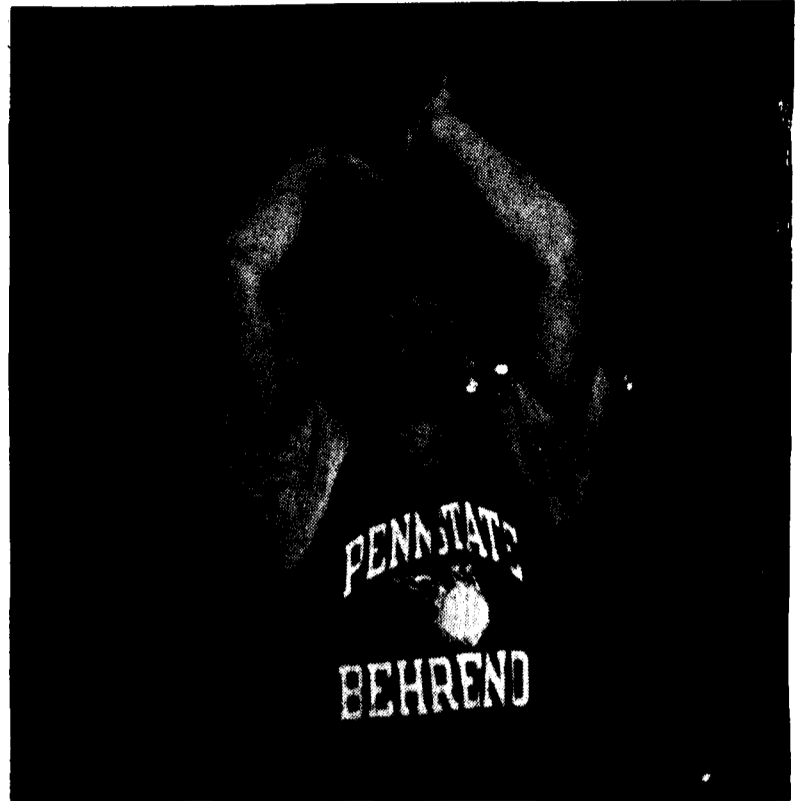


Photo by Zubin Patrawala/Collegian Photographer

Comeback kid: Steve Berger has returned to the Lions after sitting out last season.

squad to others he has played on.

Berger played basketball at North Hills High School for four years and played his first two years at Behrend before sitting out last season.

"Steve brings maturity to a young team. He's a very experienced player," said Niland.

Berger's goals this season are for his team to win, play well and hopefully make it to the playoffs.

Playoff preview

by Jerry M. Bruno
Collegian Staff

The NFL playoff picture is heating up. The only tie in the league is in the AFC Central where the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cleveland Browns are tied with 9-3 records.

Pittsburgh has an edge with its win in Cleveland during week two. Both teams will

meet again on Dec. 18th at Three Rivers Stadium. That game will probably be the deciding factor in the division.

If the NFL season was to end today, the playoffs would look like this:

AFC

East Champion: Miami

Central Champion: Pittsburgh

West Champion: San Diego

Wild Cards: Cleveland, Kansas City and the N.Y. Jets

NFC

East Champion: Dallas

Central Champion: Chicago

West Champion: San Francisco

Wild Cards: Philadelphia, Minnesota and Green Bay.

San Francisco (which has already won the Western division) and Dallas are fighting for home field advantage throughout the playoffs in the NFC. Due to the 49ers' win earlier this year over Dallas, there will be a tie-breaking game if both teams have the same records at the end of the season.

The NFC central was locked up by Minnesota until it had a huge letdown by losing three in a row. The Bears are in the lead right now but expect a race toward the end of the season.

Philadelphia has also lost three in a row, which gives Dallas some much needed breathing room in the wake of Troy Aikman's current injury.

The AFC East, the most inconsistent division, is still up for grabs since the Dolphins are severely injured at almost every position. Buffalo is almost counted out being 6-6. San Diego had a fast start but injuries to Stan Humphries have held the team back. Denver and the Raiders were pre-season Super Bowl favorites; now they are both fighting for a wild card spot.

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