

Behrend Baseball: Lions' tough schedule resumes

Team looks to rebound today after disappointing tournament

by Julie Stocker
Collegian Staff

The Penn State-Behrend baseball team started the 1995 campaign with a trip to Columbus, Ohio, to participate in the Capital University Baseball Tournament.

The Lions played eight games in four days, and the tough schedule left Behrend at 2-6 for the bus ride home.

As far as numbers go for the tournament, center fielder Quinn McGuire led the Lions with a .464 batting average. Bill Vitron followed hitting .440 with five runs batted in.

Junior pitcher Greg Gapen also had an exceptional tournament at the plate, as he hit .318 with 4 RBI's.

"We've been very challenged early in the season. But now we are prepared for the last 20 games of our season," said second year head coach Dan Perritano.

The Lions then traveled to

Greenville, Pa, to battle the Thiel College. Behrend swept the doubleheader from the Tomcats, winning 3-2 and 7-5.

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-Dan Perritano

In the first game, it was a pitchers duel as there were seven hits total for the game. Entering extra innings tied at two, Behrend got the lead at the top of the eighth inning and closed the door to pull out the victory. Both teams committed three errors for the contest.

John Matson had two hits at

three at bats, while McGuire and Fred Veith each picked up a hit. Matson and Veith each notched an RBI.

Gapen picked up the victory on the hill for the Lions.

In the nightcap, the Lions took advantage of a four-run third inning and four Thiel errors to collect their fourth win of the season.

McGuire, Tom Gardner, Bob Vadala, and J.J. Stickney each had two hits, while Gardner and Vadala each picked up two RBI's. McGuire, Bill Vitron, and Marc Burchanowski each chalked up one RBI.

Pitcher Bob McLaren earned his second victory of the season for the Lions.

Behrend then moved on to play the Presidents of Washington & Jefferson on Saturday. The Lions split the twinbill, winning the first game 4-0, and falling in the second game 8-2.

In the first game, Gapen pitched a shutout and collected

his third win of the season. He scattered three hits in seven innings.

"We've had some exceptional pitching performances," said Coach Perritano. "Greg has been excellent while going 3-1."

Several Behrend players had multi-hit games. Gapen, Rick Bowers, and Chris Straub each had more than one hit. Gapen, McGuire, and Marc Burchanowski each collected an RBI.

In the nightcap, the Behrend bats cooled off as the Lions could only muster three hits. A two-run sixth inning prevented the Lions from being shutout.

"Our hitting is up and down. But as our pitching goes, so does the rest of our play," said Perritano.

Bob McLaren picked up the loss, but with the help of four Behrend defensive errors.

Matson paced the Lions with two RBI in the top of the sixth.

Behrend then made the long journey down to play the Bison of Bethany. Behrend fell twice to Bethany by the final scores of 12-0 and 9-0.

This afternoon, the Lions currently 5-9 will battle SUNY-Fredonia at home. According to Perritano, the SUNY-Fredonia and Behrend rival has become fierce in the past year.

"They're a good ball club. We played them four times last year and we beat them once. This has become a strong rivalry, and there were some very competitive games last year," said Perritano.

"Any team on our schedule we are capable of beating," concluded Perritano.

Pro bowlers in Erie

by John Hafner
Assistant Entertainment Editor

The Professional Bowlers' Association returned to Erie last week and was greeted by enthusiastic fans ready to watch the nation's best bowlers compete in the fifth annual Splitfire Sparkplug Open.

Formerly known as the Flagship City Open, the tournament has changed its name as well as its image. The portable AMF lanes that were assembled in the Erie Civic Center enabled a larger seating capacity for fans and a super-charged environment for the bowlers.

Match play was held at Eastway Lanes from Mar 27-31 and the TV finals, televised live across the nation by ABC Sports, were aired from Civic Center on Saturday, April 1.

Baltimore's Danny Wiseman, who began the day in the number three spot, won three games in a row to emerge as the champion and walk away with the tournament's impressive \$39,000 first prize.

Wiseman's victory did not come easily. He squeaked by Mike Edwards with a near perfect performance, beating him 278-277. Then Wiseman went on to win an emotional nail-biter over tournament leader Steve Jaros in the final game, defeating him 231-224.

Wiseman's championship performance could not have come on a better time. After a string of victories and top twenty-four finishes in the early 1990's, personal problems left him with the possibility of leaving the tour



Photo by Dan Nowicki/Photo Editor

Keeping your eye on the ball: The Behrend Lions always stress good defense on the diamond. The Lions continue their season as they will take on SUNY-Fredonia this afternoon.

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