

Men's soccer kicking shutouts **Running it up**



Photo by Colleen Gritzen/Collegian Photographer
Gentlemen, start your engines: Freshman Steve Gibbs races with the opposition towards goal during recent soccer action.

by **Bryan Harkins**
Collegian Staff

This past Saturday, the Penn State-Behrend men's soccer team bouldered over Nazareth College 4-0.

Before Saturday's contest, Behrend was winless against

Nazareth. But that all changed in a hurry.

The win puts the Lion's winning streak to four games. During this stretch, Behrend has out-scored their opponents by a 15-0 margin.

Co-captain Sean Blank, who tallied a goal against Nazareth,

commented, "We came out strong in the first half. We are improving as a team and we're playing with more unity."

Chris Hey added to the Lion scoring effort by hitting the back of the net twice. Travis Lang put one by the Nazareth goalkeeper via a penalty kick.

Many players feel their success is due to the unity of the team.

Jay Hodgkinson claimed, "We play well together, as a team."

Head Coach Dan Perritano is happy with the team's success and is optimistic about the future.

"We have gained experience and we can still continue to improve out soccer in the future," said Perritano.

Behrend men's soccer is certainly on the rise, as the team currently stands at a 5-5 slate for the season. Blank recognizes the importance of the Nazareth win to turn the season around for the Lions.

"This is a great win to turn us around and get us to the .500 mark," said Blank.

This Saturday, the Lions travel with The Penn State-Behrend Lady Lions for a doubleheader at Alfred University. The men's kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.

Some college football teams have been accused of running up game scores this season as an effort to place higher in the national rankings.

Blowouts in college football games are nothing new. But for many college fans, there's no place in college football for the current slew of 60-point blowouts.

"It's unnecessary, and it's stupid," said Alan Loville, a Northwestern University graduate who attends numerous Big Ten and Notre Dame games each year. "Believe me, I've seen my share at Northwestern. A win's a win. I don't see why coaches have to run up the score."

Neither do most fans. But the pollsters are a different story. With the Bowl Alliance scheduled to pit the top two ranked teams against each other in the Fiesta Bowl for the national championship, most coaches are wary of losing a top ranking because of a standard win over a lesser opponent.

When Nebraska destroyed Oklahoma State 64-21 on Aug. 31, Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden said he was worried that the Cornhuskers would pass up his top-ranked Seminoles in the polls. To ensure his team's ranking, FSU pounded Duke 70-26.

After receiving a complaint from Duke Coach Fred Goldsmith about a touchdown pass late in the second half, Bowden sent a letter of apology to the Blue Devils. One week later, however, as Nebraska was running over Arizona State 77-28, FSU was pounding North Carolina State 77-17.

When the dust cleared, the AP poll's top seven teams averaged wins by an average of 45 points, averaging 63 for the day.

University of Michigan Coach Lloyd Carr said he was "sick of guys who run the score up" after the Wolverines 23-13 victory at Boston College. At the end of that game, Carr told his third-string offense to down the ball near the BC goal line at the end of the game instead of going for the touchdown.

"You want to talk about sportsmanship? We won't let kids take their helmets off on the field. They get penalized if they show any emotion," said Carr at his press conference after the game. "And you have coaches trying to run up the score. I think it's ludicrous."

When the polls came out after the game, Michigan dropped a spot to number 10 and were passed by the University of Colorado, who beat Northeast Louisiana 66-14.

In mid-September, Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany sent out a letter to the poll voters, 62 members of the media for the AP rankings and 62 I-A coaches for the USA TODAY/CNN poll, asking them to examine their alleged policy of rewarding big wins with high placement in the polls.

"We just want everyone to take a look at the big picture," said Delany, whose Big Ten teams, along with those from the Pac-10, are out of the Bowl Alliance because of their commitment to the Rose Bowl. "If teams are running up the score against someone who really has no business being on their schedule, then what's the point? We're rewarding teams for beating up on under-matched teams."

by Marco Buscaglia

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IM Update

by **Mike Coursey**
Collegian Staff

This past week, intramural champions were crowned in slow pitch softball and cross country.

Thirty-two teams entered the slow pitch softball tournament, with 21 mens teams, eight coed teams and three womens teams. This was the biggest turnout ever for slow pitch softball.

The winners in the men's division was Surething over Sigma Kappa Nu. The winners of the Coed division was Graphix over Staff Infection, and in the Women's division the victors were Niagara 3 over Perry 1.

There was also more interest in cross country than ever before. More than 100 runners turned out for the competition. The course, which was 3.1 miles throughout

the campus, proved to be a challenging one.

The top finisher was Joe Trettel with a time of 17:23. Shawn Denslinger came in second with a time of 17:38, and Brett Kocijan of Sigma Tau Gamma came in third at 19:14.

The points race is very competitive once again this year. Among fraternities, Sigma Tau Gamma remains in first place ahead of Kappa Delta Rho 705-530.

The Jolly Ranchers lead the Independent division 315-205 over The Sure Thing.

Niagara 3 leads the womens division with 145 points, and Team Graphix lead the coed division with 205 points

Intramural football will start its five week season next

Tuesday. The deadline for entries is tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. in the IM office.

The purpose of intramurals, according to IM Director Rob Whitman, is "participation, meeting people, getting involved, blowing off steam and getting exercise."

When asked how successful intramurals has been this year, Whitman replied, "out of five sports, three of them has had more participation this year." Those sports were sand volleyball, golf, and slow pitch softball.

If you have any questions, contact Rob Whitman at the IM office in the Reed Building at x6208.

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