

Softball scholars

BEHREND- The National Softball Coaches Association has recently named for Penn State-Behrend softball players All-America Scholar-Athletes: Shannon Angel (So.), Michelle Carino (Jr.) Megan Musante (alumni), and Heather Norder (So.).

These students-athletes excelled in the classroom and played pivotal part on Penn State-Behrend's ECAC post season softball team. The blue, white and red established several new school records including: the highest team batting average at .333, most team RBI's with 234, and most runs scored in a single-season with 269.

The NSCA requires All-America Scholar Athletes to achieve a minimum 3.5 GPA in the classroom and to have an important role with the softball squad. All four of these young ladies contributed a great deal to

the overall success of the softball program. Musante (General McLane H.S.) finished an outstanding career gaining All-Region honors and her second NSCA All-America Scholar-Athlete honor. Musante hit .354 scored 34 runs, drove in 20 runners and stole 12 bases. Angel (West Mifflin H.S.) and Norder (Harborcreek H.S.) hit .329 and .323 respectively. Angel had 29 RBI's while Norder had 20; both began bright careers as freshmen in 1994-95. Carino (Noter Dame-Cathedral Latin H.S., Ohio) was named for the first time and played great defense all year making only one error in the outfield.

These four players assisted the Penn State-Behrend softball team in achieving 20 wins and making the ECAC playoffs for the third consecutive year. The 25 wins last season are the third most wins in softball history

Derian ATW

Junior forward last week's star

by Mike Coursey
Collegian Staff

Last week's Housing and Food Services athlete of the week was a member of the Penn State-Behrend men's basketball team, Ron Derian.

Derian is a 6'4" 210 pound junior forward from Munhall, Pennsylvania, that is currently averaging 12 points and 6.6 rebounds through this early three game season.

Derian is one of two returners from last year's 13-12 team, and one of the four juniors on the squad. So naturally, second-year Head Coach Dave Niland will

performance," said Derian of Behrend's performance against Thiel.

Derian's hot shooting continued against Hilbert, as he was 6 for 7 in field goals for a total of 13 points in the losing cause.

While fighting an ankle injury, Derian played against Fredonia and finished with five points and a team-high seven rebounds. The junior also chalked up an assist.

"Derian took control of the younger guys on the team by leading by example. He's a great leader," said junior center Brian Perkins.

Derian has a great work ethic that motivates the rest of the team to play just as hard, if not harder.

teammate Matt Plizga

look heavily upon the junior for leadership and guidance.

"He is a very versatile player who can handle the ball well. We also look to Ronnie to play and do a little bit of everything," remarked Niland.

In the first game of the season, Derian came out on fire as he lead the Lions in scoring with 18 points. He shot 7 for 12 from the field and 4 for 6 from the foul line. Derian also grabbed nine rebounds and had four steals and two assists.

"Ron really showed his leadership abilities down the stretch against Thiel," said junior guard Steve Adams.

"The game went very well, we did everything we practiced and had a solid defensive

"Derian has a great work ethic that motivates the rest of the team to play just as hard, if not harder," said freshman guard Matt Plizga.

Despite the 1-2 start for the Lions, Derian and the rest of the Lions have a goal of making the post-season playoffs.

"With more efforts like the Thiel game, we have a good chance at an ECAC [Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference] tournament bid," Derian remarked.

Derian and the Lions will continue their quest for basketball in March as they participate in the annual Hamot Classic in Erie Hall. The men will square off Friday night at 8:00 p.m. against the Bison of Bethany.

"Swoosh" hits Michigan

The Michigan Daily
University of Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - The black, military-style vehicle adorned with a white Nike swoosh logo has become a familiar site at some of the nation's largest college football stadiums.

Shoe and athletic wear companies long-ago realized the value of connecting their products to premier athletes and teams. Professional teams and player have picked up big money from endorsement deals.

Now many others of the nation's college athletic powerhouses have entered the marketplace and found it just as profitable. The new form of corporate involvement has caused college presidents to become concerned about whether schools are ceding control of their athletic programs to companies such as Nike.

Last year, the University of Michigan's Athletic Department signed a six-year, \$7.2 million contract with Nike, which provides apparel and scholarship money to all of the University's 23 varsity teams.

Such deals also foster an environment in which athletes might be more tempted to accept money or gifts from player agents or boosters in violation of national Collegiate Athletic Associations rules, or leave school well before their scheduled graduation dates, said Tom Hansens, commissioner of the Pacific-10 Conference.

"Today it takes a lot of money to maintain a lifestyle on a college campus," said Hansen, whose league has had to cope this fall with investigations of NCAA rules violations by UCLA and USC football players.

Because of the NCAA's amateurism rules, college athletes can receive only tuition, room, board and books from a university. In addition, scholarship athletes cannot hold paying jobs during school.

In a recent interview with The Michigan Daily, UM Athletic Director Joe Roberson defended the University's contract and said a number of things people point to in attacking it are not true.

"The student athletes benefit from our contract with Nike. No one gets a penny," Roberson said. "We get a couple of scholarships, a general residence program that they're sponsoring, equipment for all our teams--not just the two high-profile ones that are on television all the time--and every penny of it goes back into the support of the student-athletes, and I consider that a big step forward."

The nation's colleges generated \$2.5 billion in retail sales of products bearing their names, logos and mascots last year -- more than was generated by the national Hockey League or Major League Baseball. Unlike professional teams, the colleges make individual arrangements with manufacturers of products such as sweatshirts, pennants, stickers and mugs. Some schools have deals with as many 500 companies, each of which may make a different item and many of those businesses are relatively small.

Nike and other large shoe and apparel makers, such as Reebok, have the national orientation, advertising budgets and marketing savvy to help colleges sell more goods in more places. Nike posted sales of about \$5.2 billion during the 12 months ending Sept. 30, and \$50 million of that came from its two-year effort to sell authentic college tam apparel --

the items worn by players and coaches during games that have become increasingly popular with fans.

LSA Classical Studies Prof. David Ross said he opposes the Nike contract and the commercializing of collegiate athletics in general. "I think it stinks. I think it's crass commercialism. It's absolutely crass."

"Why does a university want to get involved in this kind of money? Already the football programs are much, much, much too big. The entire athletic department is for too big... It's all about money and commercialism," Ross said.

"To pretend we're not commercial is absolutely silly," Roberson said. We charge 100,000 people roughly 25 bucks a head to get into the stadium and we sell them everything we can possibly sell them, and then we try to pretend we're not commercial."

School officials say these arrangements are matters of necessity. In a time of increasing costs, they are attempting -- or, in some cases, being forced by Title IX, the law that prohibits sex discrimination in athletic programs at federally funded schools -- to add programs for women without cutting programs for men.

Seven of the 10 schools that have all-sports pacts with Nike or Reebok are ranked among the top 25 in this week's Associated Press football poll; two others are ranked among the top 20 in this week's AP men's basketball poll.

NCAA rules allow a manufacturer's logo to be used on uniforms as long as it fits in an area no larger than two square inches.

Cleveland Browened another fan's opinion

by Micheal Coursey
Collegian Staff

November 6, 1995 was a sad day for Cleveland and all Cleveland Browns Fans. One would never think that this would happen, a fifty year old NFL franchise leaving Cleveland and their devoted fans for Baltimore.

Other teams have left their cities, but there are no fans like Cleveland Browns' fans. Some 22 million people have attended and supported Browns games over the last fifty years.

The devious one, Art Modell, who wasn't satisfied with 35 years of sellout crowds along with the Browns Backers scattered all across the country, took an offer from a Baltimore group that offered him 50 million dollars up front and concessions from a new stadium to be built.

I thought it was low of Art Modell after he got rid of Bernie Kosar, a class act and one of the best quarterbacks to play for the Browns. But now things are

worse; Cleveland and the Browns will be replaced by the Baltimore Browns.

I grew up in Erie, a diehard Browns fan for at least 25 years. We always had our fierce rivalry with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Even in the Steelers' glory years, we still played them tough in Cleveland Stadium.

As for the rest of the NFL, who can forget the interception thrown by Brian Sipe against the Oakland Raiders in a playoff game? Who can possibly forget "the drive" by John Elway that snuffed out a Super Bowl bid for the Cleveland Browns? We have to remember the game in 1993, against the Steelers, in which Eric Metcalf returned two punts for touchdowns to win the game for the Brownies.

Older fans have many more memories about such greats as Jim Brown, Otto Graham, and the coaching of Paul Brown, who founded the Browns way back when.

Yes, this is a sad day. And I, among others, don't know if I'll follow the Browns anymore. It's kind of like seeing your ex-wife with another man- it really stings.

Some say I, among other "Dawg Pound" members, take this football thing too seriously. I don't think so, football is emotion, it's execution, it's teamwork...it's WAR!

I don't think Clevelanders will be able to replace the Browns with another team, or an expansion team. Dan Dierdorf of ABC Monday Night Football grew up not far from Cleveland, and was really impressed with the "reawakening" of Cleveland with the Indians, Jacobs Field, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Well, how fast things change.

After twenty five years, I only have disgust, bitterness, and I "cast a weary eye" toward Art Modell, because he is no leader, he is a coward.