

Men use torrid hitting to go 6-1

by Nick Zulovich
Sports Editor

A trip to Florida for spring break means vacation for most college students, but not to the Penn State Behrend baseball team. Head Coach Paul Benim and his club did not have time for fun in the sun as the Lions played seven games in a four day period.

Before leaving for Florida, Benim was concerned how his club would gel together with so many new players. Benim and his coaching staff did an excellent job of bringing the club together as the Lions went 6-1 on their Florida jaunt.

The scores of the seven games were as follows:

- Behrend 13, Neuman 6
- Behrend 13, Avila 6
- Avila 12, Behrend 11
- Behrend 3, Lebanon Valley 1
- Behrend 12, Eastern 7
- Behrend 6, Eastern 5
- Behrend 11, Neuman 10

So far, offense is the strong point of the Lions game. Behrend scored 69 runs in its seven games in Florida. Behrend also had the running game in high gear, as the Lions had 46 stolen bases on 54 attempts.

Benim was happy to see that great combination of both clutch hitting and great speed come together in the first seven games.

"Offensively, we really put pressure on the opposition," Benim said. "I can give you a litany of names, we just hit the heck out of the baseball. The bottom line is our players are doing a good job at the plate."

The Lions came up with many timely hits to surge them to their 6-1 record. Benim commented most about Quinn McGuire's game-winning slash in their

Lions. The pitching staff also pitched very well in the first seven games.

Senior Bob Vadala pitched his way to a 2-0 record in two starts. Freshman Darryl Schmidt is also 2-0, one victory coming as a starter, the other in relief. John Ronan also earned his first college save in the Lions first victory. Ronan leads the Lions in strikeouts with 14.

One concern of Benim's about the pitching staff is the number of walks. The staff walked 45 batters in 53 1/3 innings.

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-Head Coach Paul Benim

fourth game against Lebanon Valley.

"Quinn McGuire probably got the biggest hit of his college career. We are tied one-one in the seventh inning, two out, two runners on second and third. He hit a two-two curve ball to left field and scored two runners which proved to be the game winning runs."

But the hitting was not the only thing going well for the

"You put a lot of pressure on your team to make defensive plays [when you walk so many]," Benim said.

One of the other higher points for the Behrend Lions did not happen when the team was in competition.

Vero Beach, FL, the spring training home of the Los Angeles Dodgers was not far from where the Behrend Lions were conducting spring training.

Dodger Manager Tommy Lasorda gave Benim and the Lions the royal treatment as Behrend got to meet not only Lasorda but a couple of the Dodgers stars like Mike Piazza and Raul Mondesi.

"Coach Lasorda is a wonderful ambassador for this great game of baseball," said Benim. "He created a tremendous amount of memories for these players and our baseball program. Coach Lasorda is a class act."



Collegian File Photo

Swing for the fences: The Lions hope the weather gets better here in the north so they can continue their outstanding play.

Burchanowski stepping up behind the plate

by Bryan Gomolchak
Collegian Staff

The Penn State-Behrend baseball team is off to strong start this season, beginning the season with a 6-1 record. They have gotten contributions from a variety of players, but most of all from Housing and Food Services' athlete of the week, Marc Burchanowski.

Burchanowski is a sophomore catcher from Franklin High School who knows how to play baseball. He really seems to be an asset to the Penn State-Behrend's baseball program.

During the club's spring training in Florida, Burchanowski's bat and glove came in very handy for the Lions.

He led the team in batting with a .428 average and threw out six of seven base runners trying to steal. Burchanowski has also led the team in total runs scored with 10 and also has been perfect in stealing with five bases out of five attempts.

When Burchanowski was asked about his performance over the previous week, he gave a modest answer.

"I performed up to my capabilities and worked hard to improve my hitting this year. I bring leadership qualities to the team and a lot of players look up to me because of my catching ability."

Burchanowski feels he is on a team that has the capability to have a great season.

"I expect the team to do very well this year. We'll know more

after our Capital Tournament in Ohio because there are a lot of tough teams down there."

Burchanowski is precisely what the Behrend baseball coaching staff has been looking for. Coach Paul Benim really likes this rising star.

"Burch epitomizes what we are looking for in a baseball player at Penn State-Behrend. He works extremely hard behind the plate and makes a huge impact from his position. Additionally, he hit .428 and led our team in runs scored.

Catcher is a difficult position to play and Benim feels he has a very quality young man at that position.

"He stabilizes our team from behind the dish and provides us with necessary leadership. Defensively, he had a superb week throwing out six of seven base runners attempting to steal. Our coaching staff has tipped our hats to him for his outstanding week."

Teammate Quinn McGuire had nothing but kind words for the catcher.

"He did the job behind the plate. He hit the ball very well. He knew what he had to do and did it. He is going to catch a majority of our game and has accepted that."

Burchanowski epitomizes his coaches' and team's philosophy, hard work leads to bigger and better things. His spring training performance could just be a taste of what this catcher and the rest of the Lions can do.

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