

# Men finish third at own tournament

by Bryan Gomolchak  
Collegian Staff

The Behrend men's tennis team is playing very well as of late after starting the season 0-4. They recently hosted their own tournament here at Behrend last Saturday. They hosted seven schools which included: Allegheny, Carnegie Mellon, Frostburg State, Washington & Jefferson, Alfred, St. John Fisher, and Waynesburg University.

The Lions' first round match in the tournament featured them against St. John Fisher University. Penn State-Behrend took no time in advancing to the semifinal as they beat St. John Fisher 4-1. Winners included Ryan Murawski, Rob Avitabile, Art Faix in the singles competition and Brant Suhrie and Greg Best in the doubles portion of the tournament.

Penn State-Behrend then ran into a tough Carnegie Mellon team in the semifinal match. They were unable to beat Carnegie Mellon and were defeated 3-2 in a tough match. Penn State-Behrend winners included Faix in singles and Suhrie and Best in doubles. With the loss, Behrend was forced to play for third place against Frostburg State.

The Lions' goal was to place in their own tournament. They easily defeated them 5-0 in a fury of tennis talent. All starters won their matches including: Trent Goerk, Murawski, Avitabile, and

Faix in singles, with Suhrie and Best were victorious in doubles play.

Behrend had achieved their goal to place well in their own tournament and raising their overall record to 3-5.

Coach Chuck Keenan gave a lot of credit to the young athletes that had taken them to third place.

"The outstanding performers of the day were Art Faix, Brant Suhrie, and Greg Best as they all posted undefeated records," Keenan said.

Coach Keenan commented on their impressive turn-around this season.

"Overall the biggest difference is the fact that our first four matches were against extremely tough teams that have always given us trouble. Lately, beating Frostburg State proved to be a big confidence booster and has helped Behrend rise to the level that the other teams are playing at."

Best, one of the undefeated seniors this past weekend, had a few comments about their play on Saturday.

"Everyone played really hard and really wanted to place in our own tournament among the many talented teams. It was a big accomplishment for Brant and I to go undefeated in doubles play in the tournament. We all had a good time over Easter weekend and look forward to the rest of the season," explained Best.

# Learn dazzles Erie

by John Hafner  
Collegian Staff

Saturday, April 6 was an exciting day for bowling fans everywhere, but especially for those here in Erie. Hometown hero Bob Learn, Jr became the first Erie bowler to win the Flagship Open.

Learn started the day seeded fifth behind four of the top professionals on tour. But with the "homecourt advantage" and over 4,000 screaming fans cheering him on, Learn managed to throw an amazing 44 strikes in 48 frames to take his third pro title.

Learn defeated hall of famer Johnny Petraglia 300-279 in the opening match, earning him a \$100,000 bonus for his perfect game and energizing the Tullio Convention Center's packed house.

He went on to beat John Mazza 270-268, Parker Bohn 280-279,

and top seed Randy Pedersen 279-257 in the championship match.

It was a \$150,000 payday for the Erie native. Learn collected \$100,000 from Eastway Lanes for his perfect game, \$30,000 for his first place finish, and \$20,000 in sponsor endorsements.

Learn's 282.25 average and 1,129 total pins set new PBA records, and his dramatic perfect game was the 52 sanctioned 300 game of his career. The thirty-three year old pro is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the most 300 games.

The five pros' combined average of 276.5 for the nationally-televised finals also set a new PBA record, crushing the former mark by 23.5 pins.

Learn showed both emotion and pride after his victory. "There is nothing in my career that will ever eclipse this," he admitted. "It's the best thing that I'll ever do in my career. This is

every bowler's dream - hometown, make the telecast and put on a show in front of 4,000 fans."

The tournament marked the sixth straight year that the Professional Bowlers' Tour has come to Erie. Eastway Lanes and Erie's many fans anticipate the pros' annual visit and greet them with open arms, as the tournament benefits local supporters and businesses in many ways.

It's no surprise that the pro bowlers voted Erie their "most favorite stop in the tour."

It's always nice to see records broken in such dramatic fashion, and it's even sweeter when the one who breaks them is the local favorite.

Bob Learn, Jr.'s incredible performance is one that will not be equaled anytime soon. He has done so much for the sport of bowling.

# Linksters battling weather

by Julie Stocker  
Assistant Sports Editor

Taking a look at all the Major League Baseball cancellations, it's really hard to think of another sport that would have as many postponements due to weather. There's another sport that has been struggling due to rain and snow; just ask the Penn State - Behrend men's golf team.

The Lions are hitting a mere .250 with completing golf matches. With four tee-offs scheduled, only one has been played. Behrend competed in the

Malone Tournament last weekend.

"It was very hard to concentrate [with the weather]," said junior golfer Dave Koster. "I never played in snow before, and it was very difficult."

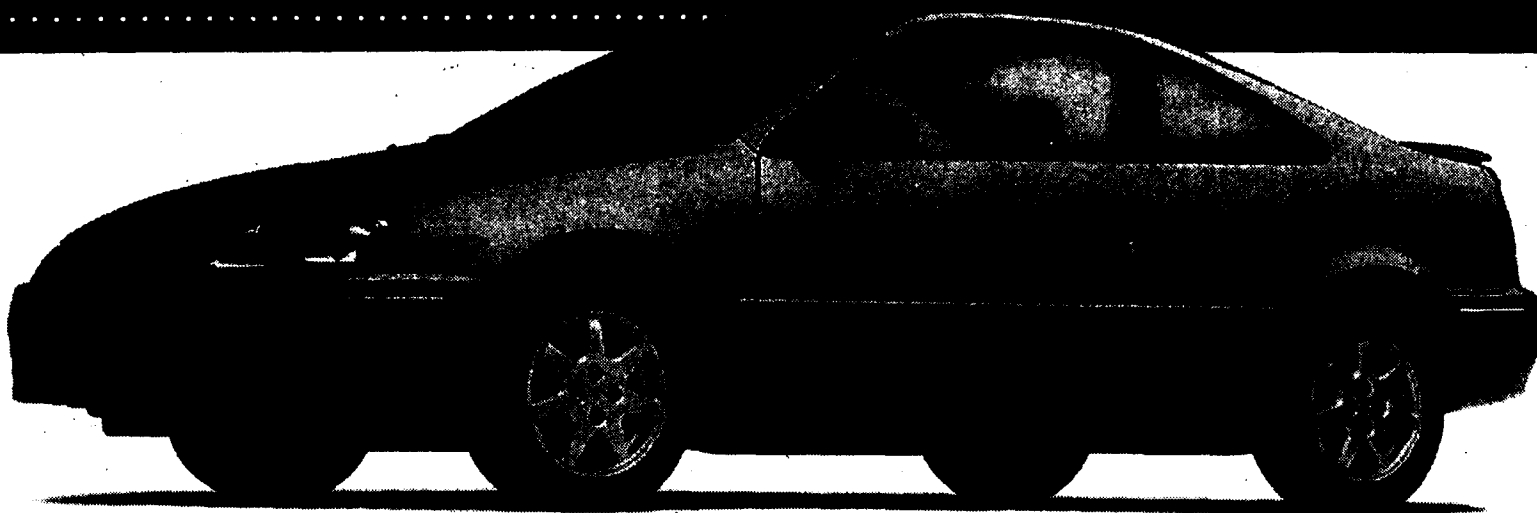
At the Malone Tournament, the Lions finished ninth in a field of ten strong teams. Despite the disappointing finish in the tourney, Koster was quick to point out some key performances.

"Chris Donalics is a very consistent golfer," started Koster. "He scores well and hits a real good ball, and he did that at Malone."

Malone was at one point ranked 14 in the country among NAIA schools. The host team thus led the power of houses at the tough two day tournament.

The Lions will try their luck again on Monday, as Behrend will participate in a meet to be held at Washington & Jefferson.

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