

# Seven out of eight fall to Lions

by Nick Zulovich  
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The Lions are on fire! Using a catch ESPN phrase is the best way to describe the current Behrend baseball club. Head Coach Paul Benim and the Lions have won seven out of their last eight, evening up their record at 15-15. This is the most wins in a season since the school entered the Division III ranks in 1985.

Yesterday, battling the wind and cold temperatures, the Lions swept a doubleheader over Hilbert College 2-1 and 7-3. The first game was a pitchers duel.

No runs were scored in the first game until the fifth inning. In the bottom of the fifth, Ben Hager led off the inning with a walk, then stole second. Hager scored on a single to left by Ryan Camuso to give the Lions a 1-0 lead.

The Lions added their second run in the bottom of the sixth. Bill Vitron doubled to right-center with one out. Vitron scored on a single to left by John Matson.

Behrend starter John Ronan had mowed down Hilbert hitters through six innings. Ronan appeared to be cruising to a shutout, but ran into a little snag in the top of the seventh inning.

Ronan allowed two hits and a walk in which Hilbert scored its only run. But Ronan shut the door on Hilbert with the tying run at second base.

Ronan finished with a complete game allowing a run on four hits, striking out five and walking two. Ronan was very modest of his performance.

"We were hitting the ball and playing defense. I was just one of nine people out there and doing the job," Ronan said.

Ronan was right about the Lions playing good defense. The Lions did not commit an error in the game.

In the second game, Behrend was able to put a little more offense on the board.

The Lions scored a single run in the bottom of the first. Daryl Schmidt reached on an error and stole second. Schmidt scored on a single by Vitron.

That score stood until the top of the fourth. Behrend starter Tom Revak allowed two walks in the inning, which eventually scored. Benim went to hit bullpen and brought in Bob Vadala who got a ground ball to third to end the Hilbert threat.

Behrend responded with two runs of their own in the bottom of the fourth. Matson started the inning by reaching on an error. Jeff Hortsman singled putting runners on first and third. Hager lifted a sacrifice fly to right scoring Matson. Then John Green singled to left scoring Hortsman, giving the Lions a 3-2 lead.

Hilbert came back in top of the fifth by tying the score at three. This would be the only run Vadala would allow.

The bottom of the fifth saw Behrend open up the flood gates by scoring four runs in the inning. Quinn McGuire started the inning by reaching on an error. He stole second and was sacrificed to third by Schmidt. Matson singled to left scoring McGuire. After a Hortsman double, Hager throuled a pitch to deep right scoring both Matson and Hortsman. Hager scored the final run of the inning on a single by Camuso.



Collegian File Photo

**Play ball:** The umpire [center] tells Behrend catcher Marc Burchanowski and the opposing batter to step to the plate. The Lions have heated up recently, winning seven out of eight. They play their final two home games of the season this Saturday and Sunday. First pitch each day is 1 p.m.

Vadala pitched the final three and a third innings for the win, his fourth of the season. Hager finished with three RBIs and two runs scored. Matson and Hortsman scored two runs apiece.

Benim was very happy how his team played in the afternoon.

"We're doing a lot of things right because of and have to look at our pitching," stated Benim.

Sunday the Lions traveled to Washington and Jefferson. Behrend split the doubleheader with the Presidents, winning the first game 15-6 and losing the second 12-7.

Matt Holian pitched a complete game, striking out six and not walking a single batter. Behrend scored seven runs in the first inning, and pounded out 16 hits in the game.

Hortsman hit a three run home run and finished with four RBIs. Vitron had three hits and scored three runs. McGuire, Hager, Green and Schmidt scored two runs apiece.

*We're looking forward to this weekend. We're playing well in our last eight games. If we continue to play well, things should go our way.*

-Head Coach Paul Benim

The second game Vadala left the contest after two innings, allowing six runs and walking three. Revak did not fair much better in the next two inning giving up seven earned runs.

Matson and Schmidt had two hits apiece in the nightcap. Schmidt had two RBIs and Hager, McGuire and Hortsman scored two runs each.

The road trip was a costly one for the Lions as catcher Marc Burchanowski was hit in the knee with a pitch. He has been disabled since the incident and the Behrend coaching staff is not sure when the star catcher will be back in action.

"He is a big part of our program and somebody you don't want to lose," Benim said.

Burchanowski said it was a play he did not have much time to react to.

"I just froze. It was a fastball on the inside corner of the plate. I just couldn't move fast enough," explained Burchanowski.

With absence of Burchanowski, Benim has shuffled his players around, using Hortsman behind the plate and Vitron exclusively at first. Benim is happy Hortsman has been able to adjust to many positions.

"Hortsman has caught, played first and played right field. One of Jeff's biggest strengths is his versatility. That is something that really helps us out," stated Benim.

Last Thursday was when the Lions improved their play starting with a doubleheader sweep of Grove City. Behrend used good offensive production to defeat the Wolverines 7-2 and 11-6.

Ronan pitched another complete game in the first contest, allowing just seven hits and two runs.

Vitron went three for four in the first game, scoring two runs. McGuire and Burchanowski scored two runs apiece. Matson and Revak had two RBIs each.

The second game saw Schmidt go the distance, allowing six runs on eight hits.

McGuire, Burchanowski, Vitron and Camuso scored two runs apiece, while Matson was the force behind all of those runs, driving in four.

Benim feels that though his team is relatively young, they have steadily improved all season.

"It's a case of we're a young team and at times we do young things. They're doing a lot of good things and we're really happy with that."

The Lions play their final home games this weekend against LaRoche and Case Western. First pitch on both Saturday and Sunday is 1 p.m.

Benim is ready for this weekend since his club is playing so well. "We're looking forward to this weekend. We're playing very well in our last eight games. If we continue to play well, things should go our way."

Game 1 versus Hilbert

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire cf	3	0	0	0
Schmidt ss	3	0	0	0
Vitron 1b	2	1	1	0
Matson 3b	3	0	1	1
Hortsman c	3	0	0	0
Hager rf	2	1	0	0
Green 2b	2	0	0	0
Camuso lf	2	0	1	1
Carper dh	2	0	0	0

Hil- 000-000-1 - 1  
Beh- 000-011-x - 2

Ronan, W (4-1)  
7IP, 4H, 1R, 1ER, 2BB, 5 SO

Game 2 versus Hilbert

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire cf	4	1	0	0
Schmidt ss	3	1	0	0
Vitron 1b	3	0	1	1
Matson 3b	3	2	1	1
Hortsman c	3	2	2	0
Hager rf	3	2	2	3
Camuso lf	3	0	1	1
Green 2b	3	0	2	1
Weaver dh	3	0	0	0

Hil- 000-210-0 - 3  
Beh- 100-240-x - 7

Revak  
32/3IP, 2H, 2R, 0ER, 3BB, 1SO  
W: Ronan (4.5)  
L: Vadala (0.5)  
0ER, 1BB, 3SO

Game 1 versus Grove City

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire lf	4	1	2	0
Burchanowski c	4	2	2	0
Vitron 1b	4	2	3	1
Matson 3b	4	0	1	2
Hortsman rf	3	1	1	0
Revak ss	2	0	1	2
Orend cf	3	0	1	1
Weaver dh	3	0	0	0
Green 2b	3	1	1	0

G.C.- 000-020-0 - 2  
Beh- 203-200-x - 7

Ronan, W (3-1)  
7IP, 7H, 2R, 0ER, 0BB, 3SO

Game 2 versus Grove City

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire lf	2	2	2	1
Burchanowski c	2	2	1	2
Vitron dh	4	2	2	2
Matson 3b	4	1	2	4
Hortsman 1b	3	0	1	1
Revak ss	4	0	0	0
Orend cf	3	1	1	0
Green 2b	1	1	0	1
Camuso rf	2	2	1	0

G.C.- 040-000-2 - 6  
Beh- 202-205-x - 11

Schmidt, W (3-4)  
7IP, 8H, 6R, 4ER, 2BB, 8SO

Game 1 versus W&J

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire cf	4	2	2	0
Burchanowski c	3	1	1	0
Carper pr	0	1	0	0
Vadala rf	1	0	0	0
Vitron dh	4	3	3	1
Matson 3b	3	1	1	1
Hortsman 1b-c	4	1	1	4
Hager rf-1b	4	2	2	2
Green 2b	4	2	2	0
Schmidt ss	3	2	2	1
Camuso lf	4	0	2	2

Beh- 740-040-0 - 15  
W&J- 000-231-0 - 6

Holian, W (2-1)  
7IP, 10H, 6R, 5ER, 0BB, 6SO

Game 2 versus W&J

	ab	r	h	bi
McGuire lf	4	2	1	0
Green 2b	2	0	0	0
Vitron 1b	4	0	1	1
Matson 3b	2	1	2	1
Hortsman c	4	2	1	1
Hager rf	2	2	1	0
Revak dh-p-ss	1	0	1	1
Gasky p	1	0	0	0
Schmidt ss-p	3	0	2	2
Camuso cf	3	0	1	0

Beh- 300-102-1 - 7  
W&J- 132-240-x - 12

Vadala, L (3-5)  
2IP, 6H, 4R, 3ER, 2BB, 1SO  
Revak  
2IP, 8H, 7R, 7ER, 1BB, 0SO  
Schmidt  
1IP, 2H, 1R, 1ER, 0BB, 0SO  
Gasky  
1IP, 0H, 0R, 0ER, 2BB, 3SO