

Foundation set for future

by Nick Zulovich
Sports Editor

Though it has snowed AGAIN this week, baseball is still being played here at Penn State-Behrend.

The Lions hosted Case Western University in a doubleheader on Sunday afternoon. Behrend ran into a pitching buzzsaw in the first game, losing 8-0. In the second, the Lions could not hold a slim one run lead and eventually fell 5-2. The two losses drop Behrend's overall mark to 15-17.

In the first game, the Lions could only muster two hits. Jeff Hortsman's double in the second and Daryl Schmidt's single in the sixth were it for the Lions' offense.

Meanwhile consistent starter John Ronan suffered his worst outing of the season. Ronan lasted just two-thirds of an inning, allowing five hits and six runs in which five were earned. He also walked two and threw a wild pitch. Matt Holian was summoned from the bullpen and finished the inning, but the Lions were down 6-0 before even coming to bat.

"Ronan took the mound and uncharacteristically had a bad day. He has pitched great for us all year. He struggled and we got behind early," said Head Coach Paul Benim.

Holian pitched four and a third innings, allowing three runs, walking three and striking out two. Bob Vadala and Bart Gaskey threw a scoreless inning apiece.

Benim felt that the club had a chance to make some plays to not allow so many Case Western batters to come to the plate, but unfortunately those plays did not happen.

"We had three opportunities to get people out [in the first inning] and with Ronan struggling we were down 6-0. We just did not do what we needed to do to be successful," stated Benim.

The nightcap looked more promising for the Lions. Case Western did score the game's first run off Behrend starter, Schmidt, but the Lions came up with some offense in the bottom of the

third.

Ryan Camuso started the inning by doubling to left-center. Quinn McGuire singled to center scoring Camuso and tying the score at one. John Green then walked and McGuire and Green pulled off a double steal putting runners at second and third.

With the golden scoring opportunity at hand, first baseman Bill Vitron lifted a fly ball to center, but not quite deep enough for Behrend's all-time steals leader, McGuire, to score. Cleanup batter John Matson then grounded to second scoring McGuire and giving the Lions their only lead of the game at 2-1.

Case Western then tied the game at two off Schmidt. A single, passed ball and another single led to the run.

Timing killed the Lions in the bottom of the sixth. Vitron lead off the inning with a single to right. Matson then hit into a 5-4-3 double play. The double play was not the only thing that hurt. The next batter, Hortsman, drilled a shot into deep right-center for a double. Hortsman was stranded at second and the score remained tied at two.

Case Western would then score three runs in the top of the seventh for the final 5-2 count. Schmidt went the distance for the Lions, giving up the five runs on 11 hits. He walked two and struck out one.

Benim had nothing but respect for Case Western after the game.

"Case Western is a good club. They are a solid, fundamentally sound team," stated Benim.

The Lions' game versus LaRoche College on Saturday was cancelled to due poor field conditions here at Behrend.

"It rained Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning and that was too much for us to overcome," said Benim. "Although Saturday was a great day, the field was nowhere near being ready."

Due to scheduling conflicts between the two schools, the two games will not be made up.

The Lions hope to play their final four games on the road this week. Behrend will travel to SUNY-Fredonia today and Grove City College on Saturday.

The Lions lost their only

meeting against SUNY-Fredonia in the Capital College tournament back in March. Behrend swept a doubleheader from Grove City on April 11.

"We look to finish strong in our last four games," Benim said. With season winding down Benim had nothing but positives to say about the improvement of his team since tryouts last fall.

"We've played some great baseball at times and we know we have to get better. A wise man once said, baseball is like a race horse, its not how you start,

its how you finish. We did start exceptionally well [6-1 after seven games] but we got better and that's what it's all about," explained Benim.

With that future comes recruiting and Benim feels he has some great players now and that will only bring more into the program.

"This group of guys has done an outstanding job this season and is due a lot of praise. They've done a lot of good things and we've built the foundation for future success," Benim said.

Editor's Note: Since I am transferring to University Park, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the coaches [Niland, Fornari, Lauffer, Gregory, Perritano, Keenan, and Benim] I have worked with in the last two years. Plus, an additional thanks goes to Paul Benim and Scott Varrassa in the sports information department for making my job easier. Penn State-Behrend has allowed me to get a great start to my career. Best of luck to all of you!



Photo by Brian Fisher/Collegian Photographer

The throw to first: Behrend first baseman Jeff Hortsman prepares to grasp the throw off a ground ball. The Lions hope to play at SUNY-Fredonia today.

Stocker speaks

Julie Stocker
Assistant Sports Editor

My last semester at Behrend. I can't believe it. There are a lot of thank yous, but I'll stick to sports.

To my soccer team in the fall, thanks for the fun, the success, and being the first ever. Thanks to Coach P., Rick, and Chris.

A special thank you to the defense on the team; Finch, Gontar, Deemer, and, "Thomas."

And softball, thanks to Paul and Bill for making this once cocky freshman into a confident softball player, and for three great years.

Thanks to Coach Gregory, for being the only coach I ever had that would let me bunt for a base hit.

My teammates: Christy, thanks for sticking around despite your finger. I know how you feel! Buffy, thanks for making us all laugh and always bunting. Fox, you're one of the best natural athletes in both soccer and softball. Stop hitching! Boris, my buddy, keep your weight back and your confidence up, cause we all know there's a great player in there.

Maverick and Norder, I wish you guys would change your mind about transferring, cause you love the game and this team needs you. But you two will do well at State, just don't forget these past two years, and thanks.

Koza, you're one of the best I've seen at your position, too bad we couldn't battle for the strikeout record this year.

To my roomies, Stran and Schlottie, you guys know you're two of my best buds. Glad you came back 21, Stran, thanks for making a moron out of yourself

for us.

My bus buddies, Steph and Houna. How could I thank you two? You guys kept me going and laughing. Steph, sometimes you didn't have your arm, but you always had your heart. If you ever lose that, it's time to get out of the game. Houna, you're the best softball player I've ever walked on the field with. You've got it all, even speed! Take care of the team next year.

A special thanks to Becky Reed. My best pal since day one; Rick, we've been through it all.

Most importantly, we've made it through everything. You're one person I know will be my friend 'till the end. Take care, and thanks for everything. You're da best 25!

Thank you to my father, my number one fan, the guy who always beat the bus to away games. I did everything for you; played the game like you would.

Thanks to my number, 22, the one I wore with pride every time I walked on the field. It was a pleasure to wear, and to be called TWOOZ.

LET'S GO LIONS

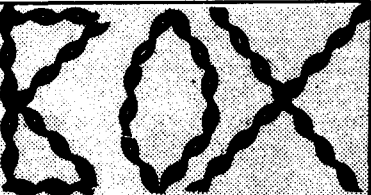
1996 FINALS BLOWOUT
APRIL 26th from 6 to 10
ALL AROUND THE CAMPUS

Game 1 versus Case Western

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

C.W. - 600-020-0 - 8
Beh - 000-000-0 - 0

Ronan, L (4-2)
2/3IP, 5H, 6R, 5ER, 2BB, 0SO
Holian
41/3IP, 5H, 2R, 2ER, 3BB, 2SO
Vadala
1IP, 0H, 0R, 0ER, 1BB, 0SO
Gaskey
1IP, 0H, 0R, 0ER, 1BB, 1SO



Game 2 versus Case Western

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

C.W. - 100-001-3 - 5
Beh - 002-000-0 - 2

Schmidt, L (3-5)
7IP, 11H, 5R, 3ER, 2BB, 1SO