

Behrend baseball team looks to rebound from rough spring training

by Matt Plizga
Sports Editor

Despite spending last week in Fort Myers, Fl. spring break for the Behrend baseball team was anything but fun.

Playing against some very tough competition, the Lions dropped eight games in Florida.

"Overall we struggled; but there were plenty of good signs," said Coach Paul Benim.

Most of the good signs came at the plate for the young Lions, whose roster features just four upperclassmen.

Sophomore outfielder Ben Hager had a productive spring training. Hager batted .500 with five runs batted in.

Senior Quinn McGuire started strong, going seven for his first 12 before cooling off.

"Quinn got us going, that is what we needed from our seniors," said Benim.

The starting centerfielder finished the spring hitting .333 while stealing four bases.

Catcher Marc Burchanowski and first baseman Jeff Hortsman also had productive springs at the plate. Hortsman hit .375 while Burchanowski hit .300.

The lone bright spot on the mound for the Lions was junior Sean McKiernan.

"McKiernan pitched well on the mound," said Benim.

McKiernan pitched 11 and two thirds innings recording 14 strikeouts. Despite sporting a 2.41 earned run average he was charged with two losses.

Baseball is like a horse race, it's not how you start it's how you finish

Coach Benim

Although Behrend did not win a game it was a productive spring.

"We got some good game experience. That's what we go down their for" said Benim.

Behrend will open the regular

season this weekend when they travel to Columbus, Ohio. The Lions will take place in the Capital College Tournament for the second year in a row.

"We are looking forward to going down to the Capital Tourney. It should be a very strong tournament," said Benim.

The Lions will open the tournament Friday at 12:30 when

they face host Capital. Behrend returns to action Saturday against nationally ranked Ohio Wesleyan.

The tournament will conclude Sunday when Behrend travels to Denison. All games are double-headers with seven innings unless there is a tie.

"We will be playing six games in three days, this should give the young guys a chance to play," said Benim.

Despite the slow beginning for the Lions the coaching staff still remains confident.

"Baseball is like a horse race, it's not how you start it's how you finish," Benim said.

The first chance to see the Lions in action on their home field will be later next week. Behrend will face Oberlin College on March 26 at 1:00 p.m.



by Colleen Gritzen/Photo Editor

Keep your eye on the ball! The Behrend Lions prepare for action in the upcoming Capital University tournament. The Lions will begin play Friday March 21 at 12:30.

Lady Lions back from Florida prepare to play in the cold weather

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

The Penn State Behrend Lady Lions are back from a warm, sunny trip to Florida.

But the sun didn't do much to brighten up their days as they returned 1-5 to begin their season in Erie.

Lady Lion Head Coach Sharon Gregory doesn't seem to be worried, though.

"No, I look at how we played toward the end of the week," said Gregory. "We did some things extremely well."

The Lady Lions began the week strong with a 9-6 victory over Mount Union.

Beth Calhoun had three hits, including two doubles (one a ground-rule double) and five RBIs. Leadoff hitter Jeannie Dowdy also had three hits and a RBI in the win.

Calhoun also pitched solidly on the mound getting the victory.

"We came out really strong in the first couple of innings, and then we had a margin for error," said Gregory of the first victory of the season.

Calhoun and Dowdy had two hits a piece for the Lions. The problem was that they were the only four hits the Lions had in the 9-0 loss to Ithaca College.

"We're getting used to the people around us, like the new

The Lady Lions ran into more trouble last Tuesday as they dropped a twinbill.

In the opening game, the Lady Lions lead Mary Washington College 2-0 going into the sixth. Mary Washington would rally with two runs in the sixth and one in the seventh to get the win.

Calhoun had another strong performance as she had a pair of hits in the batters box and struck out five on the mound in the loss.

In the late game the Lady Lions fell down 9-0 early. Calhoun's two run double in the fifth sparked a late rally by Behrend that produced four runs. However, they came up on the short end of the 9-4 loss to St. Ambrose (Iowa).

"We continued to fight back and to hustle," said Gregory. "We (also) played an errorless game."

We came out really strong in the first couple of innings, and then we had a margin for error

Coach Gregory

The Lady Lions were worn down fast in the second game of the Monday twinbill.

infield" commented Gregory. "(We're) making tremendous improvement."

Playing in their fifth and sixth games in three days, the Lady Lions dropped a 8-0 decision to Anderson (Ind.) in the five inning early game, and dropped the late game by a close 3-1 final to Benedictine on Wednesday.

The Lady Lions fell behind very early in the opener as Anderson got sixth in the first. Their pitcher, Ann Hodges scattered three Behrend hits over the five innings to get the shutout.

In the second contest, Leah Balmer singled in a run to give Behrend the early 1-0 lead, but a three run third by Benedictine took the wind out of the Behrend sails as they fell to 1-5.

Balmer finished 2-2 in the game, and Calhoun added a two-bagger.

The two Friday games for the Lady Lions were rained out and were not rescheduled.

Staff ace Beth Calhoun fished the Florida trip pretty solid. She only

gave up only twelve runs in seventeen innings, but half of them came in the win over Mount Union. Her 6.35 ERA not really showcasing solid outings.

Mertz got banged up a little down South giving up 26 runs in just 15 innings but should improve on those numbers as the season progresses.

"All week we made tremendous improvements," said Gregory on her team's play over the break.

The Lady Lions are at home this Saturday to face their only victim in Florida, Mount Union.

Calhoun will pitch the first and Mertz will go in the late game. First pitch is at two and Coach Gregory and the team are ready to go.

"We're regrouping and focusing on Saturday's first pitch," said Coach Gregory. "We're anxious to play on Saturday we've been off so long."

NCAA Tournament

by Matt Plizga
Sports Editor

March Madness tipped off over spring break giving me a chance to watch many of the games without having to skip classes.

The first round was full of excitement and produced some shocking upsets. Among the most surprising upsets was Tennessee-Chattanooga dismantling of three seed Georgia.

The Southeastern Conference suffered another amazing loss when two seed South Carolina lost to 15 seed Coppin State on March 14. Coppin State became just the second 15th seed to win an NCAA tournament game.

The second round which was played on Saturday and Sunday also had its share of surprises.

Tennessee-Chattanooga continued their amazing tournament run with a hard fought victory over Big Ten power Illinois.

The victory for the Moccasins put a 14 seed in the Sweet 16 for only the second time in tournament history.

Two six seeds also pulled off upsets. Iowa State beat Cincy while Stanford ended Tim Duncan's career at Wake Forest.

The most surprising loss of the second round had to be the Duke Blue Devils early exit against Providence.

This year's Sweet Sixteen features many of the usual faces. Top veteran coaches Rick Pitino, Dean Smith, Denny Crum and Roy Williams are back with some new faces.

UCLA's Steve Lavin and California's Ben Braun lead their clubs in their first full year of coaching. St. Joseph's and Tenn-Chatt. are making their first Sweet 16 appearance in recent years.

Everybody has their favorites to make it to the Final Four for a variety of reasons. I think the

guard play has been the key for most teams and will continue to be.

Kentucky and Utah should advance to the Elite Eight in the West. Kentucky is too deep for St. Joe's. While Utah's Keith Van Horn will have to dominate against Stanford to off-set the play of guard Brevin Knight.

In the Midwest, Minnesota will beat Clemson behind the play of Sam Jacobson. UCLA's tournament run will end when they lose to Iowa State.

The Cyclones will win because of the guard play of Jacy Holloway and Cedric Willoughby. Another key will be the play of Kelvin Cato who has dominated in the tournament.

The Southeast has produced the most upsets in the tournament. I hope to see Tenn-Chatt continue their surprising run with a victory over Providence.

Kansas will have a tough battle with Arizona but they will prevail. This game will feature some of the best guards in the tournament.

Jaque Vaughn will lead Kansas offensively while shutting down Arizona's big gun Michael Dickerson.

North Carolina will advance in the East giving Dean Smith yet another win. Possibly the best third round game will be Louisville against Texas.

The game will feature two of the top guards in the country. Texas' Reggie Freeman and Louisville's DeJuan Wheat.

Wheat's Cardinals will prevail giving coach Denny Crum another Elite Eight appearance.

My Final Four consists of three of the four number one seeds in the tournament.

Kentucky, North Carolina and Kansas will be joined by my upset special team the Iowa State Cyclones.

In next week's issue I will preview the Final Four and report on the accuracy of my predictions. If you have more right than me you can have my job.

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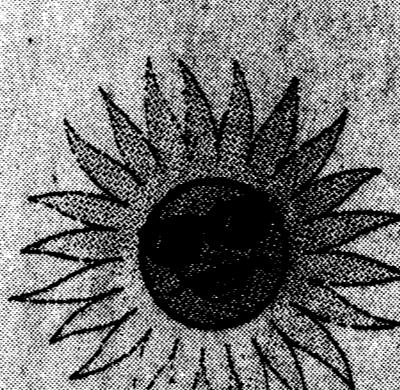
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ASTRO 011
BA 243
BIOL 033
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CMPBD 204
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