

...And then there were Four

Minnesota, Kentucky, Arizona, and North Carolina will battle in Indianapolis

Plizga takes Kentucky, offers advice

March Madness is coming to a close. Each round has produced its own bit of madness, a trend that continued in last weekend's play. Fortunately I don't gamble or I would have lost some serious cash on my way to the Final Four. My upset special team, Iowa State, let me down when they lost to UCLA in the final 10 seconds of play on Thursday. A Cameron Dollar lay-up in the final seconds kept ISU out of the Elite Eight. I can't blame the Cyclones though, they did everything they had to do to win, except stop Dollar at the end of the game. Although it did look like he pushed off to create the shot. My predictions were so bad I didn't even get one of the teams in

the Elite Eight in the Southeast Conference. Providence surprised me by continuing to play tremendous basketball and Arizona knocked off Kansas. I expected Kansas not only to advance to the Final Four, but to win the National Championship. I did fairly well in the other regions picking Kentucky and North Carolina to get to the Final Four. All in all I picked two of the Final Four contestants. For the whole tournament I lost 15 games while winning 43. The battle to reach the championship game will take place on March 29 with the national champion being crowned on

Monday March 31. Now for my Final Four predictions. North Carolina will reach the final by over-powering Arizona. The Tar Heels have gotten great guard play from Shammond Williams and Ed Cota to go with the dominant play of Antwan Jamison. Having 7'3" Serge Zwikker doesn't hurt the Heels chance of reaching the final either. Arizona just isn't smart enough to beat UNC. The Wildcats nearly lost to Providence after having a commanding lead because they didn't get the ball to the right people. For Arizona to have a chance at winning freshman guard Mike Bibby will need to control his

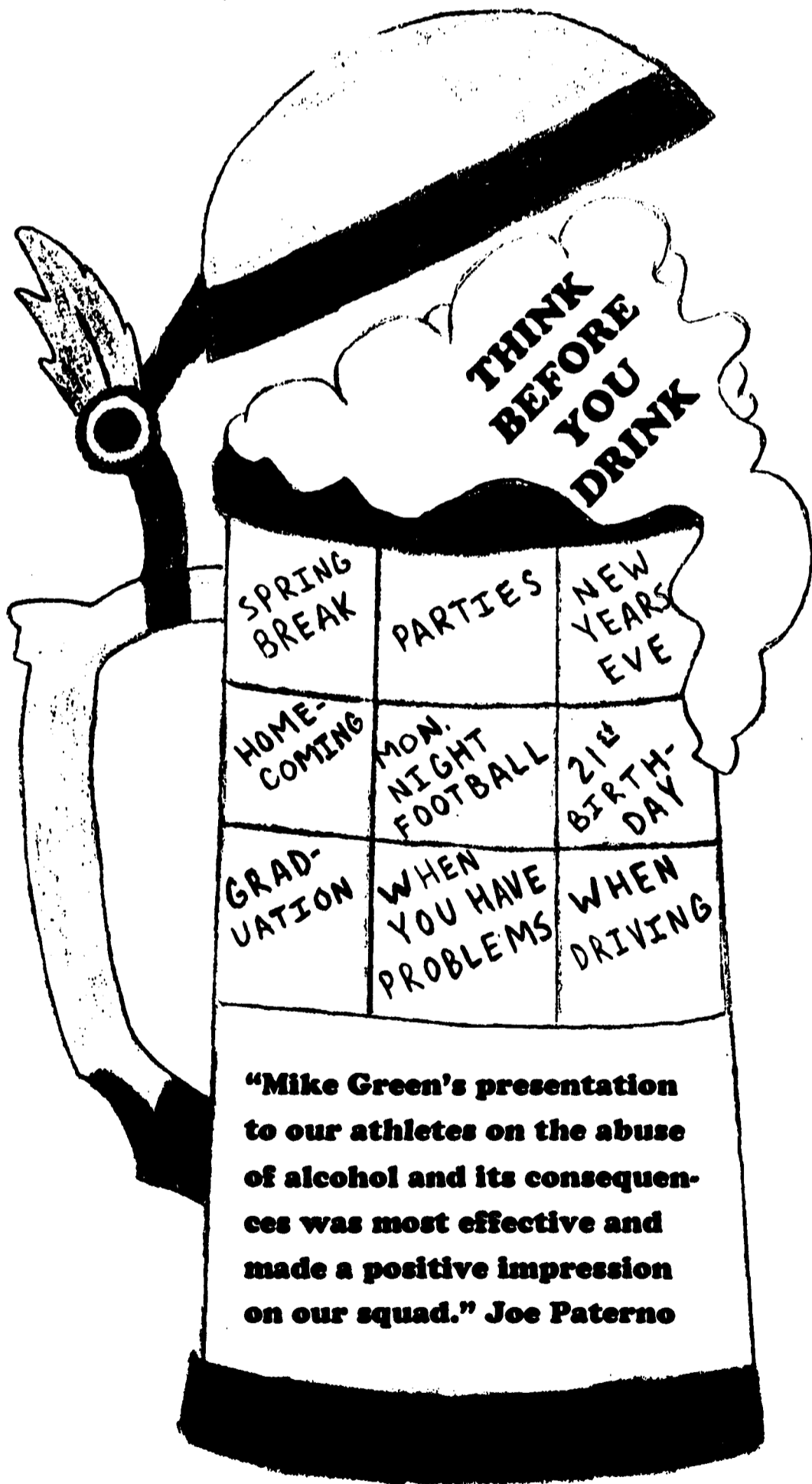
teammates and the game. Arizona's high scoring tandem of Michael Dickerson and Miles Simon will also need to improve their shot selection. One of the most exciting games of the tournament could be Kentucky's match-up with Minnesota. The Golden Gophers have come out of nowhere this year to show that they can play the game too. Both teams have similar styles and like to use the depth that they have. The game should be an up-tempo pace with a lot of dunks, three pointers, and fouls. Despite both teams depth foul trouble will be the key to the game. Kentucky's injuries will make this even more important for them.

The Wildcat's experience under this type of pressure will help them defeat the Golden Gophers. Ron Mercer elevated his game since the injury to Derek Anderson. He has risen even more after he announced his intention to enter the NBA draft. Mercer will need to use all of his skills to offset Minnesota's top guns Bobby Jackson and Sam Jacobson. Kentucky will win keeping Coach Rick Pitino's back-to-back NCAA title hopes alive. That puts the all-time winningest coach Dean Smith's team against the top young coach's in the final. I think Kentucky will prevail. UNC has an advantage on the front line but their backcourt can be inconsistent.

Mercer will take advantage of the Carolina defense and solidify himself as a top three draft pick. If Kentucky does win I also wouldn't be surprised if the Boston Celtics draft Mercer in an attempt to bring Coach Pitino in as their savior. Facing the pressure of Kentucky's defensive will neutralize both freshman Ed Cota and Shammond Williams. If Kentucky does win the national championship it will be one of the biggest surprises of the year. Despite a series of injuries to key personnel (Derek Anderson, Allen Edwards, and Jeff Sheppard) a championship seemed unlikely for the persistent 'Cats.

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Men's Tennis

Netters open season with high hopes

by Lloyd Daubler
Contributing Writer

The men's tennis team, at Behrend, went through a face-lift this year.

Four of last year's top six have moved on to bigger and better things.

Coach Chuck Keenan was left with two sophomores and a host of eager freshman.

Sophomore co-captain Ryan Meroski is the team's number one player.

"Ryan's leadership abilities on and off the court will be a great asset to the entire team this year," commented Keenan.

Freshman sensation Jeff Powell holds down the number two singles spot with a forehand that makes his opponents shake with fear.

Art Faix, sophomore co-captain, holds his own at third singles.

"Art had a great season last year at number four (11-5 singles match record)," said Keenan. His hard work in the preseason enabled him to make the jump to third in singles," vowed Keenan.

Newcomers Wes Miller (McDowell), Ferroz Raham, and Phil Defabio round out the final three singles spots respectively.

Meroski and Faix display the true meaning of teamwork by playing first doubles.

Meroski showed excitement at playing with Faiz by saying, "Art's style complements mine nicely. Together we are a force to be dealt with."

Miller teams his consistency with the raw power of Powell at second doubles. Defabio teams

with Ivan McCracken to complete the doubles line-up.

The Behrend men's tennis team started their season with an event-filled trip to South Carolina over Spring Break.

According to Faix, the fourteen hour van ride was very important to the team. "The team really didn't know each other before this trip, being together in the same place for such a long time allowed us to gain team chemistry."

Behrend got off on the right foot with an eye-opening 8-1 victory over St. Thomas Moore (Cincinnati) College. The netters followed this victory with a tough loss to Division III powerhouse, Mount Union.

Behrend rounded out the rain shortened week at 2-1 with a 5-4 victory over Bluefield, an extremely talented NAIA school.

"(The Bluefield victory) shows the true potential this team possesses," said Keenan.

Dealing with the cold weather of Erie, as opposed to the sunshine of South Carolina has been difficult. "The team dropped it's next two matches to Grove City and Allegheny.

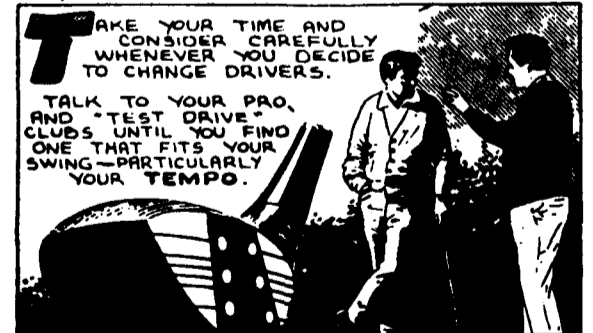
The team sits at 2-3 right now, but Coach Keenan is very optimistic about the team's future.

"We have just completed the hardest part of the season," he said. "Now we can relax and concentrate on our main objective, a winning season."

If this young team can keep it's play at such a high level, a winning season is definitely in it's future.

The netters are off until next Wednesday when they face Fredonia State University here at Behrend.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Sports Quiz

by Larry Duncan

1. What do hunters traditionally call out when sighting a fox?
2. How many laps make up the Indianapolis 500?
3. What is the most expensive competitive sport?
4. What team were the Yankees playing when Dave Winfield's ball accidentally hit and killed a seagull?
5. Who said, "Nice guys finish last"?

6. What's the maximum number of clubs a golfer is allowed to use in a round?
7. Who followed Avery Brundage as International Olympic Committee chairman?
8. How many yards are there from goal line to goal line in Canadian football?

Sports Quiz Answers

1. "Tailly-ho"; 2. 200; 3. large yacht; 4. Toronto Blue Jays; 5. Leo Durocher; 6. 14; 7. Lord Kilgus; 8. 110