

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SPRING 1998 SEASON PREVIEWS

### Men's baseball team sets sights on AMCC crown in '98

by Nathan Mitchell  
layout editor

This year's edition of the Penn State - Behrend baseball team is very much looking forward to the upcoming spring season. The blue, white and red are coming off of a very successful fall season, and are excited to contend for the first ever Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) championship.

Leading the eleven returning players is senior captain Marc Burchanowski. Burchanowski is a career .321 hitter, and hit a career best .371 and a team - high 24 RBI's in '97. His strong arm and leadership ability will be a valuable asset to the young squad behind the plate and at first base.

Sophomore Dylan Stewart will also be seeing action from behind the plate

and in the DH role. Stewart hit .380 in '97, while also hitting 15 doubles, which set a new school record for two-baggers in a season.

These two players should anchor the middle of the line-up for '97 Behrend Lions.

"Offensively we made numerous positive things happen on the baseball field," said head coach Paul Benim. "Our team set records for batting average, hits, RBI's and stolen bases. With a solid core of returning players, scoring runs should be a strong point of this year's club," added Benim.

In the infield, the team will be able to play several quality players. Sophomore David Williams will be a key defensive player at shortstop. Williams turned in many outstanding plays in '97, while also batting a

strong .337, with 16 RBI's in 38 games played.

Fellow shortstop Curt Rough will also see action at short and second base, where he will compete with two promising freshmen, Matt Slavonic and Dan Orelski.

At third base are a pair of newcomers in junior transfer Ryan Smith and freshman Joe Thompson. These two both hit above .300 in the fall and combined for 15 RBI's. They will both hold third base and contribute to the pitching staff.

Shaun Headley will also compete for playing time at first base after hitting .300 last year.

The outfield will return three players who earned considerable playing time last season. Jeremy Brubaker will take over in center, while Corey

Walters and Mike Thompson will play beside him. Brubaker hit .302 with 12 SB's in '97, while Thompson hit .386 and added 11 RBI's, and Walters was steady playing three different positions last season and hitting .261.

Bryan Connolly who returns from an injury, freshmen Kristoffer Bower, and David Oldach will each push them for playing time.

The outfield has excellent speed, and should cover some solid ground for the Lion defense.

Pitching should be the most improved area of the 1998 team. In the fall, the squad posed a respectable 3.85 ERA and had 63 strikeouts in sixty innings pitched.

"The pitching staff will be a very important part of our team," said

Benim. "They are a very capable group, and have high expectations for themselves," added Benim.

Sophomores Ryan Frederick and Rob Green return to guide the '97 pitching staff.

Frederick won five games last year, and Green had a good campaign leading the team with a 4.12 ERA. Frederick and Green will provide the team with a solid 1-2 punch on the mound, and are expected to each rack up another fifty plus innings apiece.

Aiding in the pitching attack will be a core of experienced returners and talented freshmen. Along with their time in the field, Headly and Walters will get time on the mound along with Justin Kline. These three all pitched around twenty innings in '97.

Other first year pitchers include

freshmen James Calpin, sophomore Morgan Saeler, and freshmen Oldach.

With AMCC championship possibilities on the horizon, the Behrend Lions look forward to competing for the AMCC title in '98. They open with a seven game schedule in Fort Pierce, Florida. They then head south once again, to compete in a tough tournament in Maryville, Tennessee. The squad opens their AMCC conference slate in April against Pitt - Greensburg.

"This year our major goal is to compete for the AMCC championship," said Benim. "We have some very skilled players, and if they step up and perform, I'm sure we will be pleased with the results of the '98 season."

### Women's softball team return talented upperclassmen to compete for AMCC title

by Dylan Stewart  
sports editor

The Behrend softball team has been working hard and is excited to start up a great '98 season early next week in Florida, where for the first time ever they will have a chance to compete for an AMCC title.

Senior co-captain Beth Calhoun returns to the mound this year after finishing the '97 season with one of the team leading ERA's on the mound, while also sporting one of the team's highest batting average's in '97.

Senior Steph Roberts will take over the catching duties in the '98 season.

Junior Lisa Fox will once again roam the outfield in center field.


Sophomore co-captain Stacy Blass will start at second base and share in some of the catching duties.

Sophomore Tanya Deats will play at first base, while junior Jennie Duchnowski and newcomer Becky Rishel and will round out the infield.

Other newcomers include: sophomore third baseman Mandy Bodnor, who will share some of the mound duties; freshman Meghan Trumbull (second base/ short stop); senior Shawn Morelli (outfield); and freshman Alicyn Haney (outfield).

The Lions leave for Fort Pierce, Florida on Friday for their spring training trip where they will engage in an eight game schedule.

## Track and field and men's tennis previews after Spring Break



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**AT THE REED COMMONS**

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- 40,000 UNITS ARE USED EACH DAY!
- 10,000 PEOPLE RECEIVE A TRANSFUSION EVERY DAY!
- 5,000 PEOPLE WOULD DIE IMMEDIATELY IF BLOOD WAS NOT AVAILABLE!

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# 1998-99 Financial Aid Update

- If you currently receive financial aid, the 1998-99 Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been mailed to your home address. It should be completed and mailed by April 1, 1998. You should make every effort to use completed 1997 tax information on your Renewal FAFSA.
- If you do not receive any financial aid this year, but want to apply for next year, pick up the 1998-99 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at the Financial Aid Office. It should be completed and mailed by April 1, 1998.
- The 1998-99 Penn State - Behrend Academic Scholarship Application is available in the Financial Aid Office. The deadline for applying is February 27, 1998.
- The 1998-99 Penn State - Behrend Leadership Scholarship Application is available in the Financial Aid Office and Student Activities Office. The deadline for applying is February 27, 1998.

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