

Men's tennis gets started in South

by Art Faix
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Men's Tennis Team spent spring break finding its form and soaking up some sun in South Carolina. Head Coach Chuck Keenan piled his squad into a van and headed south for the duration of the break.

The team is led by Captain Art Faix, a junior competing in his third year of varsity tennis. Faix has worked hard in the off season to jump from his comfortable position at third singles last year to the fierce world of first singles. The next two singles spots are filled by a pair of solid freshman. Cathedral Prep legend Matt Weber joins the Lions this year and uses his relentless style of play to hold down the second singles spot. Freshman Matt Carlson uses a consistent game with a hidden attacking ability to win matches at third singles.

"For first year players both Matts have shown maturity far beyond their experience," observed Coach Keenan.

The rest of the singles lineup is highlighted by the return of last years sizzling freshman crop. With a year of college tennis under their belts, Wes

Miller and Ivan McCracken are primed for their slots at fourth and fifth singles, respectively. The sixth single spot will most likely be shared by Sophomore standouts Phil Defabio and Mark Marini. Marini has undergone a vigorous off-season training program to overcome the ankle injury that sidelined him most of last year.

"It feels good to be back in the swing of things, my ankle feels like new," commented the Behrend netter.

Coach Keenan used the spring trip primarily as a training session, however the Lions managed to fit in three competitive matches in between their demanding practice schedule.

The Lions started the season on the right foot with a victory over Savannah Institute of Art and Design. The 5-4 victory was highlighted with the outstanding play of Sophomores Wes Miller and Ivan McCracken. They won at their fourth and fifth singles spots, respectively, and teamed to win third doubles. Matt Carlson and Mark Marini teamed to win second doubles. The fifth point was earned by the consistent play of Art Faix, at number one singles.

"Art has really taken his game to a new level, he has made the jump to number one singles with relative ease," noted Keenan.

The Lions weren't as fortunate in their next two matches. They dropped two tough decisions to powerful Bluefield University and national powerhouse Fairfield-Texas. Wes Miller's play remained consistent throughout the entire week. He led the team with a 4-2 personal match record overall and appears to be on his way to another MVP season.

"Wes just has a knack for winning matches, no matter who we are playing Wes always seems to pull through," described Keenan.

Overall the trip served as a chance for the new look Lions to gain valuable team chemistry and prepare for the grueling season ahead of them.

"Spending over 30 hours together crammed in a van really helped mold us into a team," observed sophomore sensation Wes Miller.

The Lions are off until next Monday, when they travel to Allegheny. Their first home match falls on March 30th against Grove City.

Softball team starts off season with numerous heartbreak losses.

by Dylan Stewart
sports editor

The 1998 Behrend softball team didn't get off to quite the start they might have hoped for going into the upcoming season.

The team traveled down to Fort Pierce, Florida where they left with a 1 - 7 overall record.

Although the team record doesn't look very good, it's really not nearly as bad as it might seem.

The women's softball team lost three of their games in extra innings, while two of the other losses came by three or less runs.

"We had a tough time finishing off games," said head coach Cindy Jacobelli. "Things just didn't seem to roll our way at the end of games," added Jacobelli.

Beth Calhoun was a force to be dealt with as she batted a team high .586, going 17 - 29, with 4 doubles and a team - high 7 RBI's.

Lisa Fox also had a big week offensively as she hit an impressive .500, going 14 - 28, with three doubles and a home - run.

Becky Rishel hit .423, going 11 - 26, while Mandy Bondar hit .476, going 10 - 21.

As far as the pitching goes, Beth Calhoun proved to be the staff ace with a 3.03 ERA, while Mandy Bodner also contributed to the pitching cause by hurling a 8.21 ERA.

The team started their week off by splitting a doubleheader with Washington University by scores of 10 - 7, 3 - 14.

The Lions took Washington into extra innings the first game, before dumping them 10 - 7 in the eighth inning.

The Lions banded out an impressive 21 hits, as compared to 14 for Washington.

Beth Calhoun played a big part on both sides of the ball, as she pitched eight innings, giving up seven runs and striking out two.

On the offensive side Calhoun went 5 - 5, with two doubles, a triple, and three RBI's.

Lisa Fox was a solid 3 - 4, with a home run, double, and two RBI's.

Becky Rishel, Mandy Bondor, and Meeghan Trumbull each contributed three hits apiece.

In the second game of the double header the Lions seemed to fall apart a bit as they dropped the contest by a score of 14 - 3.

Beth Calhoun and Mandy Bodner each had two hit respectively, with Bodner coming up with a triple.

Mandy Bodner also pitched seven innings of work, giving up twelve earned runs and striking out four.

Next up for the softball team was a double - dip against Bryant College

two straight games in extra innings. Game one was lost in the bottom of the ninth by a score of 2 - 1.

Beth Calhoun and Becky Rishel each had two hits apiece, while Lisa Fox knocked in the only RBI for the Lions.

Beth Calhoun let up a mere two runs in nine innings of work.

Game two provided much the same as the Lions again lost in the bottom of the ninth, by letting up five runs to drop the game by a score of 15 - 10.

Beth Calhoun was 4 - 5 with two doubles and two RBI's, while Lisa Fox went 3 - 5 with a double and two RBI's.

Mandy Bodner worked the hill, giving up fifteen earned runs in nine innings pitched.

On the last day of the Florida swing, the Lions dropped two more heartbreakers to Edgewood by scores of 2 - 1, and 4 - 1.

In game one, the Lions let up two runs in the bottom of seventh to drop the contest 2 - 1.

Becky Rishel and Tammy Marsh paced the team with two hits apiece, while Steph Roberts provided the only RBI.

Beth Calhoun went seven innings of work, giving up only two earned runs on thirteen hits.

The last game of the trip had the Lions bowing out by a score of 4 - 1.

Tanya Deats provided most of the offense with two base hits, while Fox once again provided the only RBI for the Lions.

Mandy Bondar pitched seven innings of work, giving up four runs on eight hits.

"Although the team had a tough week, they kept their heads up throughout all of the tough losses. The wins will eventually start falling our way," said Jacobelli.

To find out exactly when the Lions next play, please pick up a Behrend sports schedule or look them up on the Behrend website.

"Although the team had a tough week, they kept their heads up throughout all of the tough losses. The wins will eventually start falling our way."

head coach Cindy Jacobelli

in which the Lions dropped by close scores of 6 - 5, and 2 - 0.

In game one Tanya Deats led the offense going 2 - 3, while also scoring a run as the Lions fell short 6 - 5.

Many Bondar pitched 6 innings, giving up eight hits and three earned runs.

In game two, the Lions held a 10 - 6 hit advantage, however fell short by a score of 2 - 0.

Mandy Bodner went 3 - 3, while Steph Roberts also came up big at the plate going 2 - 3, with two singles.

Beth Calhoun pitched six innings, giving up six hits and only two earned runs.

The third day of the trip provided much heartbreak as the Lions lost



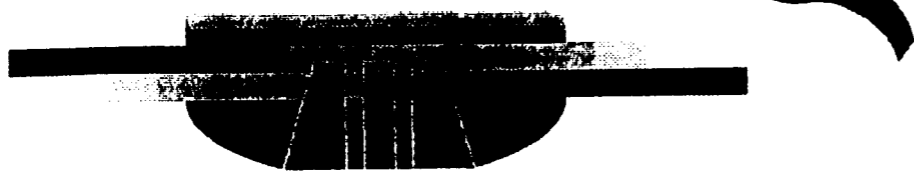
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courtesy of Behrend Athletics

Members of the 1998 women's softball team show off their best smiles in Florida.

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classifieds

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Eric, Rachel, and Dave,
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-Jill

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Grandin,
Coon Dogs Suck!

Why has everything today involved things either going in or coming out of my ass?
-Cartman

Garin,
Well if I had money, I'd tell you what I'd do. I'd go downtown and buy a Ford truck or two.
-Nate

Z,
Had a great time in DC. Thanks for your help.
-R

Naw, I don't have anything to say.
-J

M,
When will Terra once again experience the eroticism of the love wagon?
-N. G. & S

Oh my God! They killed Kenny.
-Kyle

N,
Stop snorting Jello.
-G

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