

Out of Bounds It ended on Cal's Terms

Jason Snyder

As quickly and unceremoniously as Cal Ripken Jr.'s consecutive games streak started, it ended. In front of 48,013 unsuspecting fans, the Baltimore Orioles took the field against the New York Yankees. The Yanks' second baseman, Chuck Knoblauch, grounded out to shortstop Mike Bordick to get the historic game underway. The only problem was that no one knew it was historic. It appeared to be a normal baseball game. But sud-

"The Ironman" himself. "The Streak" would end on his terms.

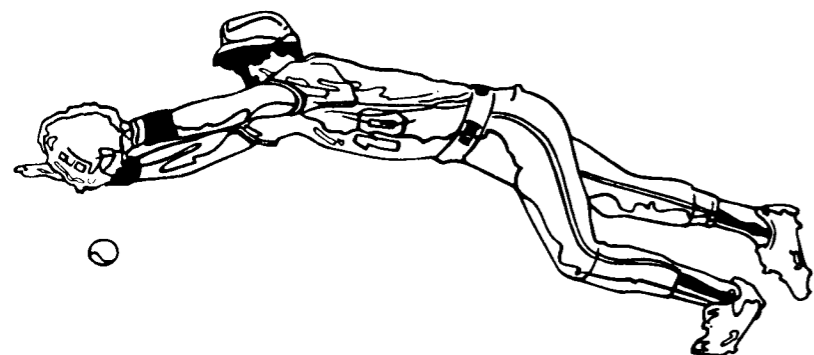
Just to try to fathom the number 2,632 is in itself a challenge. Since the streak started, he has played for eight different managers. Eleven active managers were still playing baseball when Cal Ripken Jr.'s streak started. Six ballparks that were in existence are gone, including Baltimore's Memorial Stadium where the streak began. During the streak, the Orioles used 40 different first basemen, 35 sec-

ond basemen, 48 third basemen, and 14 shortstops. And only 17 players that were active when Cal was put into the lineup are still playing today. All of this happened, and Cal Ripken Jr. never missed a start. He never pinch hit or pinch ran to save the streak. He played 8,243 consecutive innings in a streak that lasted from June 5, 1982 to September 14, 1987. During the streak, Ripken Jr. accounted for 2,832 hits, 534 doubles, 381 home runs, 1,494 RBIs, and a .277 batting average. And just to put 2,632 straight games in perspective, the next active leader, Albert Belle, currently leads the Majors with 330 consecutive games played.

Baseball needed Cal Ripken Jr. It needed him more than a baseball needs threads, because without Cal, baseball might have fallen apart at the seams. The world of baseball needed a miracle; and Cal was about to deliver.

September 6, 1995 - history was made. Cal Ripken Jr. took the field to a standing ovation. After the five innings needed to qualify the outing as a game, the celebrations began. In a magical moment, Cal Ripken Jr. broke the record that was said couldn't be broken. He played 2,131 consecutive games, passing Lou Gehrig's "untouchable" record. Not a dry eye was in the house. Baseball was on its way to respectability again.

In this 1998 season, fans are being rewarded with the home run chase between Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, the Yankees' attempt to break the American League record for wins in a season, and the perfect game thrown by David Wells. Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig calls this the beginning of a "renaissance in baseball." But the end of Cal Ripken Jr.'s streak should remind us that even though this 1998 season is unbelievable, "The Ironman" was the



denly a mob of photographers and video cameras horded the Baltimore dugout. When the Yankees realized what was happening, they rose out of their dugout to salute and admire this modern day hero. With the picture of Cal Ripken Jr. shown on the scoreboard, the fans in Camden Yards stood up and cheered in admiration of "The Ironman," for Cal Ripken Jr. finally took a break. After 16 years and 2,632 consecutive games played, "The Ironman" took a seat in the dugout and brought to an end, "The Streak."

The ceremony after that didn't consist of another victory lap or a 30 minute standing ovation as given in 1995 with the breaking of Lou Gehrig's record. Instead, there was a somber feeling that came with the end of "The Streak." Of course the fans did show their appreciation and thanks to Ripken Jr. with a standing ovation that lasted a couple of minutes. And yes, this respectable hero tipped his cap to the Yankees and waved and bowed. But in admiring Ripken Jr., fans didn't really understand why Cal did what he did. Why just suddenly decide to sit out? Was this the way to end it?

Many people have pondered the thought of how "The Streak" would end. Many hoped Cal would retire with the record still intact, and ride his iron horse into the sunset. People scorned the fact that an injury could end "The Streak" in its tracks. There were many possibilities, but the final decision came by

Ripken Jr.'s career achievements show he didn't just show up. He played hard and consistently throughout his career. He was the 1982 rookie of the year, a 16 time All-Star, and a two time MVP. He was part of the Baltimore Orioles' 1983 World Championship team. He holds the all-time record for home runs by a shortstop with 345. His value to the Orioles' organization is inconceivable. He leads the organization in hits (2,873), runs (1,508), RBIs (1,514), and home runs (384).

Cal Ripken Jr.'s achievements before the strike shortened season of 1994 were already worthy of Hall of Fame status. But it was what he did for baseball after all that, that will undoubtedly place him in Cooperstown. In a time that Major League Baseball lost much fan support and respect, Ripken Jr. had the key to baseball's future success; a key that would open

the door to the path of baseball's credibility.

Volleyball keeps sights high

By Jamie Salapek
staff writer

The women's volleyball team lost four straight matches this past weekend in the John Carroll Tournament. However, they continue to display a positive outlook.

Forget the hotdogs and popcorn. Now being served in the Erie Hall Gymnasium is our very own Behrend Lions' volleyball team. Hold on to your seats volleyball fans, because these ladies are going to rock the house.

As school started and volleyball season rolled around the corner, the team was already ahead of the pack. This year's squad consists of sixteen girls who are coached by Cindy and Greg Jacobelli as well as former middle hitter Erin McCormick. Ten hours of intensive practicing is conquered each week, which develops precise skills of attack.

Coach Cindy Jacobelli stated, "we have a relatively young team this season with only one senior and two juniors to display their leadership abilities, yet expectations will be ongoing as well as high."

Teamwork is essential to the sport because when you're on the court with six people, communication is the

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

Cross Country

M, W, COED

- Individual and team competition
- Race begins at 6:00 pm, Monday, October 5

Registration Deadline: October 2

Flag Football

M, W, COED

- Games begin October 16

Registration Deadline: October 2

Recreation

Commuter Euchre Tournament

Registration Deadline: October 9

Scoreboard

| Date | Opponent | Result |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Women's Soccer | | |
| September 19 | Lake Erie | W 4-1 |
| September 20 | Mount Union | W 1-0 (OT) |
| Men's Soccer | | |
| Sept 16 | @ Case Western | L 2-3 |
| Sept 19 | Lake Erie | W 5-0 |
| Sept 22 | @ John Carroll | W 1-0 |
| Cross Country | | |
| Sept 19 | Penn State Behrend Invitational | Men- 2nd Place Brian Gaines- 28:14 Womens- 4th place Keri Lowman- 24:34 |
| Volleyball | | |
| Sept 18-19 | @ John Carroll Tournament | |
| Hanover | L | 15-11, 8-15, 10-15, 4-15 |
| John Carroll | L | 8-15, 15-17, 6-15 |
| Denison | L | 15-10, 7-15, 10-15, 9-15 |
| Allegheny | L | 16-14, 5-15, 15-17, 12-15 |

Cindy Jacobelli concluded, "I think patience will be the theme early in the season. We have some strong girls that aren't used to their positions, but it'll only take time. I also feel that the team should leave their heart on the floor each time we play."

Volleyball may not have hit its peak of popularity here at Behrend, but once you see the magic as the Li-

ons blow away their opponents, you'll never want to miss another game. Behrend will be hosting Lake Erie College on September 29th. Much fan support is needed, also prizes and promotions will be given away during the games. So, come to cheer on your very own Behrend Lions' volleyball team as they battle the competition.

Upcoming Sporting Events

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Women's Soccer | | |
| September 26 | @ LaRoche | 1:00p.m. |
| September 30 | Pitt-Bradford | 4:00 p.m. |
| Men's Soccer | | |
| September 26 | @ LaRoche | 3:30 p.m. |
| September 30 | Pitt-Bradford | 2:00 p.m. |
| Cross Country | | |
| September 26 | @ Alfred Invitational | |
| Tennis | | |
| September 25 | @ LaRoche | 3:00 p.m. |
| September 26 | @ Frostburg | 1:00 p.m. |
| September 29 | Grove City | 3:00 p.m. |
| September 30 | @Fredonia | 3:00 p.m. |
| Volleyball | | |
| September 24 | @LaRoche | 7:00 p.m. |
| September 29 | Lake Erie | 7:00 p.m. |
| Golf | | |
| September 24 | Penn State Behrend Invitational | |
| September 26 | @ Pitt-Bradford | |
| September 28 | @ LaRoche | |

Gaines paces Behrend to quick success

By Jason Snyder
sports editor

The men's cross country team, paced by freshman Brian Gaines, is off and running through a promising 1998 season. Coming off first place finishes at both the Fisher and Thiel Invitionals, the Lions hoped to continue their early season success hosting the Penn State Behrend Cross Country Invitational, and ended up placing second.

Gaines captured the lead early in the race and was able to pull away from the field, holding off Grove City's John Sabella for the win. The win marked Gaines' third consecutive win for the season and a 3-0 start to his college career.

Behrend placed Mark Surovic (6), Adam Dzuricky (13), Jason Saeger (16), and Dennis Halaszynski (19) in the top 20. However that was not enough to hold off Grove City who

won the invite with 28 points. Behrend finished second with 54 points.

While the men's team suffered its first loss of the season, the women placed for the first time. They raced all five of their athletes and finished the race in fourth. Keri Lowman led the women with a 30th place finish. She crossed the line at 24:34.

Next up for the Lions will be the Alfred Invitational this Saturday, September 26.



Cross Country runners in Saturday's Invitational run through Behrend's playing fields
Photo by Andrea Zaffino