

Out of Bounds

Payton faces new challenge

JASON SNYDER

Former Chicago Bears' legend Walter Payton has a new role to play in life. It doesn't deal with finding a hole in his opponent's defense or leaping over the pile for a score or barreling through his defenders with grace and grit. This time, there is a path in front of Payton that he has never seen before. But it deals with more important things than seven points or a rushing record; it deals with his life.

With Payton's announcement last week that he has a rare liver disease, the world began to see the once powerful man in a state of heavy emotion, sadness and fear. Payton didn't mince words, "Am I scared? Hell yeah, I'm scared. Wouldn't you be scared?" But behind the fear and weakened body lies a man that once graced the football field in a way many people never saw before. So instead of looking at this man as a fallen hero, I look at him as a man that has overcome incredible odds before, so why not do it again.

Payton's career truly belongs with the elite of the sport. When you think of great running backs in history, you think Jim Brown, Tony Dorsett, Gale Sayers, Eric Dickerson, John Riggins, Barry Sanders and Walter Payton. Payton was at the top of excellence

through his numbers and attitude, but also through his durability and style.

Payton's list of achievements runs as long as anybody else's. Probably longer. He was twice named the NFL

throughout his career.

Payton's durability was proven as he played 186 consecutive games after missing only one in his rookie season. To add to his story, he caught 495



Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player (1977, '85). His most recognized accomplishment is his record for most career rushing yards with 16,726 yards. His also holds the record for all-purpose yardage with 21,803 total career yards. In addition, Payton ran for 275 yards against the Minnesota Vikings, which is a record for most yards in a game. He ran for 100 yards in a game 77 times

passes for 4,538 receiving yards and threw for 331 passing yards. His athletic talent earned him nine trips to the Pro Bowl. And as you hear of the many greats that could never win the ring, Payton wasn't one of them. He captured his first and only Super Bowl Championship in 1987, one-year before he would retire.

Because of these marks, Payton was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of

Fame in Canton, Ohio in 1993.

I can still remember the times that I would play video games with my friends and they always wanted to be the Bears. At first I didn't understand why. But then I realized. When Payton got the ball every time, I was in for a long day. I guess I somewhat understand what the poor defenders felt at that time. I just didn't have to deal with the hits he would put on people and the sense of chaos he would bring to his opponents.

After a career that would leave many men overly proud of themselves and selfish, Payton continued to build his name off the field. In 1988, he established the Halas/Payton Foundation to help the inner-city youth of Chicago with education.

Walter Payton now will have to face a different challenge. But if his past is any indication of his near future, Payton will undoubtedly fight this disease. He hopefully will continue to exhibit his never say die attitude. We all just pray that on fourth down and one, Payton can hurdle this disease with as much certainty as he hurdled his gridiron counterparts.

Snyder is the sports editor for the Beacon. Out of Bounds appears weekly on this page.

BEHREND BRIEFS

Bovaird earns AMCC recognition

Penn State Behrend senior forward Brock Bovaird was named the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Athlete of the Week for men's basketball this past week. Bovaird has been a major contributor to the success of the Lions' basketball team which is 6-1 in the AMCC.

Bovaird started the week with a 19 point performance against Lake Erie College in Erie Hall. He went 6-9 from the field and a perfect 5-5 from the free throw line. He finished with four assists and two steals in Behrend's 78-59 win. Bovaird then stepped up his play even more in another conference win against Frostburg State. He netted 23 points on 5-10 shooting, with another strong performance from the free throw line, 10-12. He added six assists and two steals in the Lions' five point win.

Bovaird is a graduate of Brockway High School in Brockway, PA.

Behrend Track & Field to open inaugural season

The beginning of Penn State Behrend's Track & Field inaugural season is only weeks away as the Lions will open their season on February 27, at the Slippery Rock Relays.

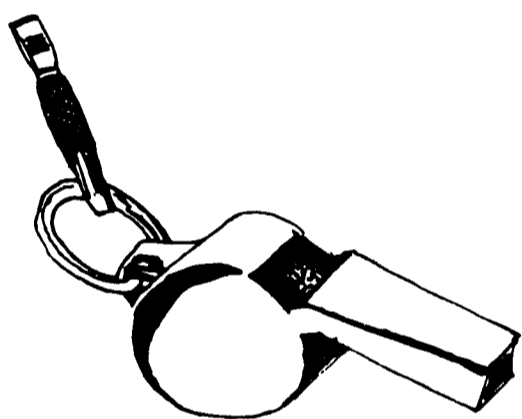
In only its first season at Behrend, the track and field team will consist of nearly 40 men and 12 women. The teams will face tough competition this season, with many opponents being Division II schools. The Lions will compete against such schools as Geneva, Westminster, St. Francis (Division I).

The Lions have many former high school standouts on their roster this season. Coach Rich Hoffman is optimistic that many of these athletes will qualify for nationals.

There is no track facility on campus right now, but by the fall of 2000 there will be the athletics/recreation complex that will consist of an indoor track. This will enable the Track and Field team to practice during the winter months.

You Make The Call!

Who do you think is the best basketball player now that Michael Jordan is gone? Why?



"Antoine Walker, because I'm a Celtics' fan and he's the best player on the Celtics. The Celtics are going all the way baby!"
Gil Jordan, 02, History and Politics

"Scottie Pippen. Although no one can replace Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen comes pretty close."
Sarah Edwards, 02, Comm.

"Kobe Bryant. I would say Scottie Pippen or Hakeem Olajuwon, but they are getting old."
Brad Wiertel, 02, MIS

Scottie Pippen, because he's been around for a long time, and now that Jordan left, he should take over. He is a strong-willed player."
Amy Bednar, 02, Undecided

Lions streak continued from page 10

time. A balanced scoring attack and Behrend's experience payed dividends down the stretch against a much younger Frostburg team, and they came away with a 82-77 victory.

Bovaird again led the Lions in points, with 23, and also led the team in assists with six. Four other

Lions scored in double figures, as Hughes scored twelve, Paloskey and Emick scored eleven, and Willson scored ten. Emick led the team in rebounds with nine, and Bovaird and guard Asheley Orris each grabbed two steals.

The men's next game is another critical home contest as the men face Pitt-

Greensburg this Saturday. At press time, Pitt-Greensburg was tied with Pitt-Bradford for second in the AMCC standings at 4-2. The men then travel to Waynesburg on Monday, February 15, and host Allegheny College on Wednesday, February 17, in a pair of non-conference games.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

Name: Brock Bovaird
Sport: Men's Basketball
Class: Senior
Position: Guard
Date: February 1 - February 8

Brock Bovaird, a senior guard, has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. Bovaird has helped lead the Behrend Lions to the top of the AMCC with a 6-1 record and a 16-3 mark overall.

On Wednesday, Bovaird was 6 x 9 from the field and 5 x 5 from the line to finish with a game-high 19 points. He also had three rebounds, four assists and a pair of steals in the 19 point win over the Storm. In another key conference battle, Bovaird stepped up for the blue, white and red with 23 points and six assists in a tough win in Maryland. Bovaird rallied the Behrend Lions, who were down early, to the come from behind victory.

For the season, Bovaird leads the team in scoring at 12.7 ppg and in assists at 4.3 apg. He is making 39% of his three-point attempts and 82% from the field. In addition, he is the number one all-time three-point percentage leader having made (100-220) 45% of his attempts. He is also climbing the all-time charts for assists in a season and in a career.

Bovaird is a graduate of Brockway High School.

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

SPRING 1999

4 vs. 4 Coed Volleyball

Registration Deadline: February 19

Play starts on February 22

Season will last one week

Soccer

M, W, Coed

Registration Deadline: March 5

Play starts on March 16

Season will last three weeks

Volleyball

M, W, Coed

Registration Deadline: March 5

Play starts on March 16

Season will last five weeks

Spring semester Intramural schedules are available in the IM office and on the Reed and Erie Hall IM boards.



The Behrend Classifieds

COMMUNICATIONS MAJORS

You can take part in a communications conference on March 20, 1999.

Positions Available:

-workshop leaders
-volunteers throughout the day

GREAT RESUME
BUILDER!

Call Sarah at 898-6583 for
more information.

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