

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Behrend baseball hopes to hustle to top of AMCC

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Behrend Lions baseball team enters the 1999 season with hopes of continuing to build on a program that is on the rise. The Lions are coming off their winningest season in the history of the college with a 23-10 record. The Behrend men hope to compete for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championship in only their second season in the conference.

The Lions are coached by Paul Benim, who is entering his fourth season as the head coach of the baseball team. In his first three seasons, Benim has put together a talented team that could vie for the AMCC championship. Benim is assisted by Matt Palisin and Marc Burchanowski.

The Lions enter this season on a high note, winning twelve of their last fourteen games and are riding a six game winning streak. The 1998 team broke records in pitching strike outs (240), runs scored (263), batting average (.332), RBI's (227), stolen bases (120, ranked nationally), and single game records

in runs (20) and stolen bases (11).

Behrend enters the 1999 season behind the leadership of senior Ryan Smith. Smith comes off a 1998 season that saw him bat .312 with 41 runs and

experience to a relatively young team. Coach Benim commented on the veterans saying, "Those six guys are going to be a major factor. They've been there, they know what's expected.

They know what to do. We've got good leadership with those guys." The Lions' roster consists of four sophomores and sixteen freshmen.

Behrend's pitching staff will consist of Ryan Frederick, coming off a 1998 season that saw him strike out 55 batters in 48 2/3 innings. Supporting Frederick will be Ryan Smith, Shaun Headley, Corey Walters,

James Calpin and a cast of six freshmen.

The Lions will open their season with a spring training trip to Florida from March 7-14. In last season's trip, Behrend won five of seven in

preparation for the season. Speaking on the importance of the trip, Benim realizes the value of good southern weather and said, "We've got some good teams we will be playing down there." He added, "The main thing is to prepare for the northern schedule, try to evaluate people and give people and opportunity."

After the trip, the Lions will open their regular season schedule hosting Allegheny College on March 18, at 1:00 p.m. "March is going to be a great test," said Benim. AMCC play will begin on April 6, as the Lions will host Pitt-Greensburg. The AMCC tournament will be on April 24-25, followed by the ECAC Championships on May 8 if the Lions are to qualify.

In the AMCC conference, the Behrend men see Frostburg State as their toughest opponent. The Lions know an AMCC Championship win must go through Frostburg.

Behrend's annual goal is simple in words, but challenging in action. "We want to be Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Champions! We want to be the most hustling team in NCAA Division III Baseball!"



26 RBI's. On the mound, Smith recorded a 4-1 record and a 1.37 ERA. The Lions will also get leadership from their five juniors. Jeremy Brubaker, Ryan Frederick, Shaun Headley, Corey Walters, and Dave Williams add

Softball team looking forward to 1999 season under Jacobelli

by Jessica Tucci
associate editor

The weather might not be showing it, but softball season starts in less than two weeks. The season opens up on March 20 with Mount Union, and is finished on April 22 at Waynesburg.

Head coach Cindy Jacobelli is very optimistic about her second



season as head softball coach. Although the team is very young, one senior and two juniors, she believes that the team consists of a bunch of great athletes. "The girls are very dedicated and enthusiastic. We should do well," says Jacobelli.

As for Jacobelli herself, she has proven to be a great asset to the Behrend softball program. She was named "Coach of the Year" in the 1998

season and coached a 16-19 overall season her first year as coach last season.

In the 1998 inaugural season, this past fall, the team finished third with a record of 11-4. "The team seems to be ready for the challenging season ahead," concluded Jacobelli.

Men's golf team to open season with trip to Myrtle Beach

by Will Jordan
editor in chief

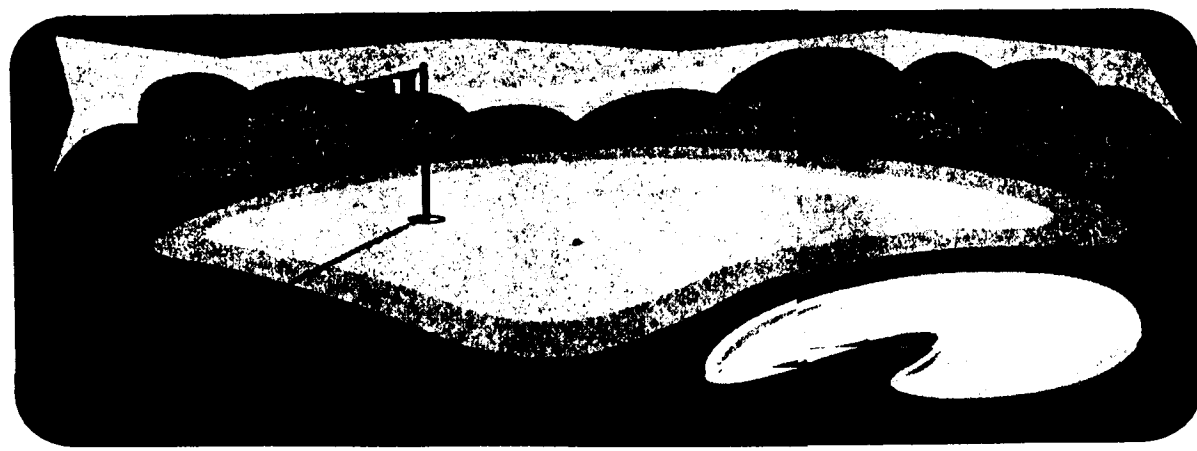
The 1999 spring varsity men's golf season begins in the near future. The team will be playing in seven tournaments this spring. "On an average we finish second or third in the tournaments that we are in. The talent in our league is fairly distributed for the most part and there is some competition for us," said team captain Jason Cujas, 08 MIS.

This weekend, the team leaves for Myrtle Beach this weekend and will be returning on Friday. The other team captain, Brian Shellito, 08 MIS, said, "I think we'll be competitive. We lost our number one man last semester because he gradu-

ated, but we still have three seniors so there will be leadership on the team. I think that we play better in the spring

and we get a head start on several of the other teams by going down to Myrtle Beach. I am very excited about

this season and about going down south."



Track and Field team set for inaugural season

courtesy of Penn State Behrend Athletics Department

This spring marks the inaugural season for Track & Field as an official varsity sport at Behrend. The program has been well received, and currently there are

Geneva, NCAA DII Westminster, and NCAA DI St. Francis.

Although there is currently no track facility on campus, by the fall of 2000 the new fieldhouse complex should be completed, and that facility will contain an indoor training track plus specific areas for the various field



events to utilize, including pole vault and long/triple jump areas. This facility will give the Behrend Track & Field program an area to prepare during the winter months as they get ready for the outdoor season. In the interim, the program will make use of excellent nearby

sixty athletes on the roster. The total is comprised of 40 men and 20 women, with all events covered. The enthusiasm and commitment of these athletes has been very exciting for everyone involved, and several of the Behrend athletes have an opportunity to make a run for Regional and National honors.

The schedule for this first season is highly competitive, as the majority of competition the Behrend thin clads will face will be NCAA Division II schools. One of the highlights on the schedule is the quadrangular at Geneva College, which will pit Behrend against

high school facilities.

The Head Coach for Track & Field and Cross Country is Rich Hoffman, a former All-District, All-Conference, and Academic All-American distance runner at Davis & Elkins College. He has previously coached at West Liberty State College, Cameron High School, and last year at Hiram College, where he coached the distance runners, jumpers, and throwers. Hoffman has guided several athletes to All-Conference status in previous coaching stints, and was named this past fall as the AMCC Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year.



Behrend track and field coach, Rich Hoffman

photo by Andrea Zaffino

Spring Sports '99 Schedule

BASEBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
March 7-14	@ Spring Training - Fort Pierce, Florida	
March 8	Anna Maria College (DH)	9:30 p.m.
March 9	Christopher Newport University (DH)	12:00 p.m.
March 11	Lebanon Valley College (DH)	9:00 p.m.
March 12	William Penn College (S)	12:30 p.m.
March 12	Norwich University (S)	8:00 p.m.
March 17	Allegheny College (S)	2:30 p.m.
March 23	@ John Carroll University (S)	1:00 p.m.
March 27	@ Maryville College Tournament, Tennessee	
March 27	Chowan College (S)	1:00 p.m.
March 27	Maryville College (S)	4:00 p.m.
March 28	W. River Falls (S)	10:00 p.m.
March 31	TBA (S)	1:00 p.m.
April 3	Oberlin College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 6	@ Altoona (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 8	Pitt-Greensburg University (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 10	@ Pitt-Bradford University (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 11	@ Frostburg State University (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 13	@ Hilbert College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 13	LaRoche College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 15	Grove City College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 17	@ Pitt-Greensburg Univ. (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 18	Pitt-Bradford University (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 21	Altoona (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 23-24	AMCC Conference Tournament	TBA
April 27	@ LaRoche College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 30	@ Grove City College (DH)	1:00 p.m.
May 8-9	ECAC Regionals	TBA
May 19-23	NCAA Regionals	TBA

SOFTBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
March 7-14	Spring Trip to Florida	
March 8	Swardmore College	10:00 a.m.
March 9	Russell Sage College	5:00 p.m.
March 11	Fairmont State College	5:00 p.m.
March 12	Chowan College	10:00 a.m.
March 12	Ohio Valley College	12:00 p.m.
March 20	Mount Union	2:00 p.m.
March 24	@ LaRoche	3:00 p.m.
March 25	@ Pitt-Greensburg	3:00 p.m.
March 27	Frostburg	2:00 p.m.
March 30	@ Lake Erie	2:00 p.m.
March 31	Pitt-Bradford	3:00 p.m.
April 1	Pitt-Greensburg	3:00 p.m.
April 2	@ Buffalo State	3:00 p.m.
April 6	@ Allegheny	3:00 p.m.
April 8	Lake Erie	3:00 p.m.
April 10	@ Frostburg	2:00 p.m.
April 13	@ Geneva	3:00 p.m.
April 14	@ Pitt-Bradford	4:00 p.m.
April 17	Delhany	2:00 p.m.
April 18	LaRoche	2:00 p.m.
April 20	Fredonia	3:00 p.m.
April 22	@ Waynesburg	3:00 p.m.
April 24-25	AMCC Championships	TBA
April 29	Grove City	3:00 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Date	Site
February 27	Slippery Rock University Relays
March 27	Clarion University Invitational
April 1	Geneva College Quadrangular
April 17	IUP Invitational
April 10	Baldwin Wallace Invitational
April 24	Grove City Qualifier
May 1	Clarion Last Chance Meet
May 5	Mid-Atlantic Regionals
May 9	NCAA D-III Nationals @ Baldwin Wallace.
May 20-22	

TENNIS

Date	Opponent	Time
March 7-14	Spring Trip to Hilton Head	
March 16	Allegheny	3:00 p.m.
March 18	Grove City	3:00 p.m.
March 27	Penn State Altoona	1:00 p.m.
April 6	@ Alfred	3:00 p.m.
April 7	@ Edinboro	3:00 p.m.
April 9	Waynesburg	3:00 p.m.
April 10	Penn State Behrend Gamma Invitational	9:00 a.m.
April 11	Frostburg w/ Lake Erie	9:00 a.m.
April 12	Baldwin Wallace	3:00 p.m.
April 14	@ Fredonia	3:00 p.m.
April 16	@ Lake Erie	6:00 p.m.
April 17	@ Frostburg	12:00 p.m.
April 18	AMCC Championships	9:00 a.m.
April 21	Fredonia	3:00 p.m.
April 24	@ Penn State Altoona	1:00 p.m.

