

Out of Bounds

MLB has tough act to follow. Or does it?

JASON SNYDER

How do you follow up perfection? That seems to be the question as the 1999 Major League Baseball season approaches. What can possibly be done in the world of baseball to match the magic of one season ago? Home run chases aren't an annual spectacle and records don't get smashed with such regularity. The 1998 baseball season set a standard of excellence that can't be reached. So what is there to look forward to?

The last I knew, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa are still gracing the diamond and the New York Yankees have added a future Hall of Famer to 1998's historic team. That story line is already one that will bring much fan attention to the sport. But do we have to have another magical summer to be satisfied?

Baseball is unpredictable. Some years there is scandal, others years have strikes, some are full of magic and heroism and some are just full of competitive men playing for that ultimate dream of a World Series Championship. That curiosity is what will keep the fans coming to the parks. McGwire and Sosa are still modern day heroes that fans admire. Just as fans once came to see Babe Ruth's incredible heroics, the same will happen with today's home run kings. 1998's magic may have ended, but its legend will

live on.

It wouldn't be right to have "years of a century" every year or a "summer of a lifetime" every July. That is what

unless it is McGwire and Sosa themselves. Breaking the record that broke the record that was unbreakable would smash the meaning of last

because the previous record was held for nearly 40 years. Babe Ruth made the record a respectable number. Roger Maris, 40 years later, finally reached it. The record had only been broken twice before McGwire and Sosa reached it last season, which gives us a sense of the accomplishment. It took 40 years to break 61; I'd like to see it take longer to reach 70.

Everyone was entertained last season because the past legends of baseball were once again brought into the spotlight. The people that remember the legend of Babe Ruth could tell the generation of Roger Maris what the record stood for. And last season, the generation of Roger Maris could pass that on to this generation. And it would be an honor for me to tell some other generation of the smashing summer of 1998.

There have been only three successful record breaking seasons. And baseball is still loved as it was when it was called "America's Pastime." Major League Baseball doesn't need another miracle season. It just needs baseball to be baseball. If it plays its role, the path that baseball is headed will be in the direction of another "summer of a lifetime" in the distant future.

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



makes years like 1998 so special. Moments like that are rare. Babe Ruth's homerun spree in the early century was baseball's first real home run chase. It ended up being that he just chased his own records, but there was excitement in the parks every time he walked up to the plate. That same excitement was echoed last season as BigMac and Sosa took the diamond.

That same excitement will be in the world of baseball this year. But I don't want to see another home run chase

season's homerun party. Meaning, if someone else came out and hit 71 this season, the meaning of McGwire's 70 wouldn't stand for as much. I, for one, don't want to see anything taken away from last season's magic.

I would like to see McGwire's record stand for years, until the magic of '98 begins to fade in my mind. Then, when the next homerun king makes 70 his target, the same excitement will follow. Part of the reason that the homerun chase got so much attention was

BEHREND BRIEFS

Carrie Nestor gets AMCC recognition for championship weekend

Behrend junior guard Carrie Nestor added to the Lady Lions' championship week, being named AMCC Athlete of the Week. The recognition is Nestor's second in this 1998-99 season.

In the semifinal win over LaRoche, Nestor played all 40 minutes. She scored nine points, but added six rebounds, five assists and five steals. Only 20 hours later, Nestor continued to pour it on at both the offensive and defensive ends. She played 39 minutes in the grueling final, but continually hit big baskets off penetration. She shot 6-8 from the field and 7-8 from the foul line for 19 points. She added three assists and two steals in the 61-56 championship win.

Fornari praises women's soccer team

Dedication, loyalty and spirit are all qualities that athletic teams like to be known for. Usually those words are given to teams that show those qualities on their respected playing fields. But some members of the Behrend women's soccer team took their Lion pride into the winter season, off of their fields and into Erie Hall.

After the AMCC tournament this past weekend, Behrend women's basketball coach, Roz Fornari commended the spirit of the fans on their way to the championship. But Fornari thanked the spirit that the soccer team brought to the Lady Lions.

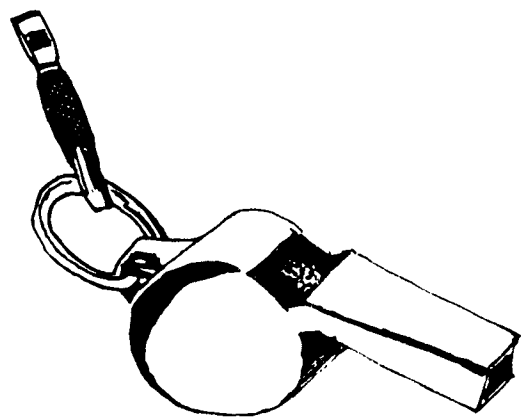
Fornari complemented, "I'd have to say that our crowd, the women's soccer team, was just... They were awesome. The support was awesome all year long, but I'd have to say the women's soccer team fired our team up!"

The Lady Lions' soccer team should be looked at as an example to the Behrend community to support Behrend athletics. It may lead to an AMCC title.

You Make The Call!

What kind of encore does baseball need to have to follow up last season's success? Is it possible?

"Good Luck. We need repeats from Kerry Wood, the Yankees, and McGwire and Sosa."



John Amorose, 08, English

"There won't be another home run race, but we need more teams to be competitive."

B.J. Clute, 04, MIS

"Sosa will have to hit 71 homers, and there will have to be a few Cinderella teams in the World Series."

Dennis Kennelly, 08, English

"We need a National League team to beat the Yankees."

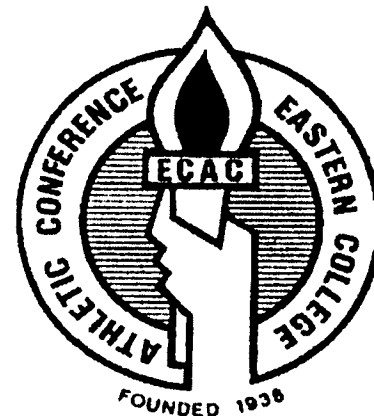
Brian Ashbaugh, 08, English

"All we really need is competitive teams."

David Sonrey, 04, MIS

Behrend Men Advance in ECAC Tourney

Lions defeat Grove City, 64-44 in Quarterfinal Action



Semifinals on March 6 @ Gettysburg, PA vs. Albright

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

SPRING 1999

Soccer

M, W, Coed

Registration Deadline: March 5

Play starts on March 16

Season will last three weeks

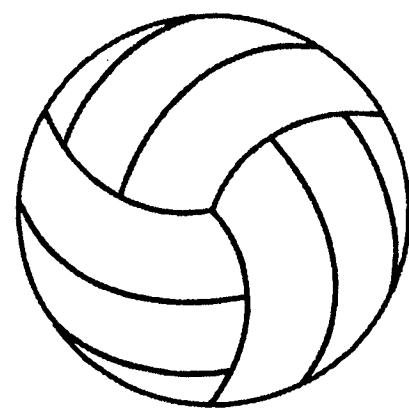
Volleyball

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

Lost and Found

School of Science Office
Found a ladies silver ring and calculator.
Contact Rhonda For More Information at 898-6150

Large amount of Beanie Babies available
contact msf136@psu.edu for price list

For Sale
1988 Toyota Camary! Excellent Condition, Asking \$3,700
If interested call 864-6729

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