

Behrend track and field officially begins

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

After a promising showing at the Slippery Rock Relays this past February, the Behrend track and field team officially opened their inaugural season this past Saturday, March 27 at Clarion University. The event gave the Lions a chance to perform strong individually as no team scores were kept.

Coach Rich Hoffman said, "this is the first time our athletes have set foot on a track all year, so to do as well as they did, I think they should be commended."

The men's team saw many individuals place well. Jarrod Hart took first place overall in the pole vault, with a vault of 13.0 feet. Also having a big day was Scott Nicklas who placed second in the long jump and third in the triple jump. Nicklas cleared 21'2.5" in the long jump and 42 feet in the triple. Also placing third on the men's side was the 400 meter relay team of Keith Cerroni, Chris Schlosser, D. Ober and Steve Omecinski who crossed the line at :45.4. Cerroni also ran well in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.4 seconds, good for sixth overall. He then teamed with Omecinski, Shawn Furman and Tom McCall in

the 1600 meter relay to finish fourth, with a time of 3:35.2. Omecinski, Furman and McCall also came up big in the 400 meter run, crossing the line within one second of each other for a 3rd, 5th, and 6th place, respectively.

In the distance events, Mark Surovic placed fifth in the 1500 meter run with a time of 4:18.6. Dennis Halaszynski performed well in the 3000 meter Steeplechase. He ran the event in 10:47.2 for a fifth place finish.

On the women's side, Lynn Herrmann placed second in the javelin, throwing it 111 feet. Hoffman said of Herrmann, "I think she will surprise some people this year." Jenny Detelich finished third in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:28.65 and Tina Rubay finished highest among the Behrend distance runners with a fourth place finish in the 5000 meter run.

Coach Hoffman said of the first official meet, "we did an excellent job against primarily NCAA Division II competition. I was extremely pleased with the performances of our athletes." He added, "they have done a very good job of preparing and overcoming a lot of obstacles to achieve what they did."

The Lions travel to Geneva College Thursday, April 1 to compete in a scored five team meet. Hoffman concluded, "I think we are off to a good start and hope to keep the momentum."



Keith Cerroni hands off to Chris Schlosser at the Clarion Invitational.

photo by Jason Blake

Softball team dominates

by Jessica Tucci
associate editor

The Behrend softball team roared into Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference play this past week. After dropping two games to Mount Union, the Lions have gone 5-1 in conference play and 10-4 overall. They are coming off two very convincing wins against Pitt-Greensburg. "The girls are ready for a challenge," says head coach Cindy Jacobelli.

Their first two games after returning from Florida occurred on March 20th against Mount Union. Things did not go as smoothly for the women as they would have liked. The team lost both games of the doubleheader. The first game was close with a score of 3-4, but the women fell 0-7 in the second game. Miller contributed with a double and Haney had two triples. Bodnor pitched eleven out of the fourteen innings, and had two strike outs.

The next games occurred only four days later on March 24th. In the first game, the team triumphed against LaRoche with a score of 9-6. Bodnor pitched the entire game and had eight strike outs. The team totaled eleven hits. Miller, Vasser, and Angelo all contributed two a piece and Woods and Heidt both added three. In the second game, the team came up short with a loss of 2-4. Once again Bodnor pitched the majority of the game. She had six strike outs and hit a double offensively.

The following opponent was Pitt-Greensburg on March 28. Penn State reigned supreme in both games. In the first game, the score was 34-1. The Lions then trounced the Bobcats, 49-0 in the second game. True to form, Bodnor pitched both games and had 15 huge strike outs. The team was enormous offensively also. Miller had a total of ten hits, Woods had eight, Heidt recorded six, and Rischel added five with two home runs.

The next victim to the winning streak was Lake Erie College. In the first game the team won 20-2 and in the second 18-5. Not surprisingly, Bodnor pitched both games in their entirety. She had eight strikeouts and hit two home runs. Haney had six hits with a triple, and Miller added four hits. The team totaled 28 hits on the game.

The Behrend women's next game will be April 1 against Pitt-Greensburg at home. They will then travel to Buffalo State on April 2 and Allegheny College on April 6.

Lions a hit in Tennessee

Baseball team plays season's first home game after trip to Tenn.

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Behrend baseball team took their 6-3 record to Maryville, Tennessee this past weekend. The Lions went 2-2 in their two doubleheaders against teams from Chowan and Maryville. The men then returned home to play their first home games of the season on Wednesday, March 31, where the Lions swept Oberlin.

The Lions faced tough competition in their second southern trip of the season as they challenged 16-4 Chowan. Entering the weekend, Chowan was carrying a six game

winning streak. In Game one, Behrend fell behind 4-0 through two innings and 6-0 after five. They could only muster up two runs in final two innings to fall 6-2. Chowan out hit Behrend, 11-7.

In Game two of the day, Behrend took on host Maryville (7-6). The Lions gave up one run in the second inning and trailed early. However, the third and fourth innings saw the team score six runs to tie the game at six entering the sixth of seven innings. Behrend tacked on two in the sixth inning to take the game 8-6. The Lions were led by Corey Walters with three RBI's and one steal.

The second day of competition saw

the Lions fall one run short of snapping Chowan's winning streak. The team took an early 3-0 lead through three and a 6-1 lead into the final inning. Chowan scored five runs in the fifth to tie the game and sent it to extra innings. Behrend's Ryan Smith pitched six strong innings of baseball until he slowed up in the seventh. Chowan then went on to score one in the eighth to pull out the victory. Behrend finished with 12 hits, three doubles and 2-2 steals.

The Lions continued to play well in the final game of the trip against

Maryville again. The team got good pitching from Ryan Frederick, who gave up only six hits in seven innings. He struck out two and moved to 2-1 on the year. Six different Behrend players earned runs as Jeremy Brubaker led the team with one double and one triple. The 8-4 win moved the Lions to 2-2 on the weekend and 8-5 on the year.

The men returned home and hosted their first games of the season against Oberlin this past Wednesday. They opened the game with a 3-1 lead after one inning and would not relinquish it. The Lions added two

more runs through the fourth and fifth innings to take the contest, 5-1.

In Game two of the doubleheader, the Lions' bats loud as they put up 13 runs off of 18 hits. Behrend pitching held Oberlin to only two late runs to give the Lions a convincing 13-2 victory. The win moved the men to 10-5 on the season.

The baseball team will travel to Penn State Altoona to open their Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference play on April 3. They will then return home to host a doubleheader against AMCC opponent Pitt-Greensburg.



The Lions sweep their home opening doubleheader vs. Oberlin on March 31.

photo by Michael Frawley