

SPORTS

Behrend students qualify for Boston Marathon

by Matt Wiertel
sports editor

Imagine yourself at a competition in a crowd of 4735 people who are all trying to finish in approximately 250 spots. In addition, you have to run 26.2 miles before obtaining one of these spots. Sound impossible?

Not for Penn State Behrend students Brian Musick and Jason Saeger.

The tandem competed in the twentieth annual Columbus Marathon on November 14th in an attempt to advance to the Boston Marathon. With only three hours and ten minutes and 26.2 miles

separating them from a "day that will go down in infamy", the two set out to attain their goal.

Both Musick and Saeger are very familiar with the perils of competitive running. Brian, who began running for John F. Kennedy High School of Warren Ohio in ninth grade, was competing in his fourth marathon. Saeger also is an extremely experienced runner. He began his competitive running career as a freshman at Conneaut Lake High School, and the Columbus Marathon was the third marathon that he has run.

As for the Columbus Marathon itself, Musick and Saeger ran an incredible race under the circumstances. Battling a twenty mile-per-hour wind for the final two miles of the marathon, the pair crossed the finish line simulta-

neously with a time of three hours and eight minutes. With the help of an experienced pace runner, who Musick and Saeger ran along side of during the majority of the race, they were able to run each mile in an average of seven minutes and thirteen seconds. Their ability to keep a steady pace was a key factor in their ability to finish the race in under three hours and ten minutes.

All in all, the combo was extremely confident going into the marathon. From the start they had their goals set on advancing to the Boston Marathon. Throughout the race they tried to focus on everything but running. Either they would try to motivate the crowd or talk amongst themselves.

Musick and Saeger will try to improve on their performance on April 17, when will travel to Boston to compete with some twenty thousand other competitors at the Boston Marathon. Right now they are continuing to keep in shape by running the gorge and to Dobbins Landing and back on week-

ends. By doing so, they hope to complete the marathon in three hours or less. This is quite an accomplishment, and Musick and Saeger should be commended for their achievement.



PHOTO BY BRIAN MUSICK

The crowd of 4735 competitors, including Musick and Saeger, wait for the Columbus marathon to begin



PHOTO BY MATT WIERTEL

Brian Musick and Jason Saeger display their medals that they won at the Columbus Marathon. They will be competing in the Boston Marathon on April 17.

THE BEACON SPORTS STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE ENTIRE BEHREND COMMUNITY A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Intramural ROUND-UP

Intramural 5 vs. 5 Basketball FALL 1999

Entries: Deadline is Friday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m.
Entry Fee: A \$2.00 entry fee will be charged to your student account.
Divisions: Competitive and Recreational - Men's and Women's
Time and Place: Game time will vary from 6pm-11pm depending on varsity schedules. All games will be held in Erie Hall.
 Anyone interested in being a referee please contact Rob at the IM office.

The Beacon would like to thank Rob Wittman for all of his help with the intramurals box this semester.

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