

Don't Get Me Started

The rise and fall of an empire

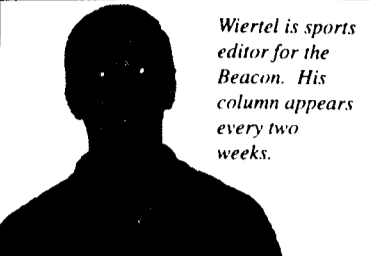
Professional sports teams always outdo themselves. Every time that I think something couldn't become worse or more ridiculous, it always does.

Several weeks ago the free agency period began in the National Football League. This is the time for overpaid athletes to get paid even more and underachieving athletes to get overpaid. Each year I approach the free agency period in horror because it always seems that the Buffalo Bills make some boneheaded move. Now I know that they have a crack staff at One Bills Drive, under the direction of General Manager John Butler, working diligently to find another way to disembowel the team.

And this year they did not let the die hard Bills fans down.

But before I get to this year's fine

Matt Wiertel



Wiertel is sports editor for the Beacon. His column appears every two weeks.

executive decisions, let me go down the list of Butler's previous blunders. As history tells us, John Butler replaced former Bills general manager and football mastermind Bill Polian after the Bills second consecutive Super Bowl appearance. Polian had built the empire by drafting Jim Kelly, Bruce Smith, Andre Reed, Thurman Thomas, and others. But for various reasons, Polian left the Bills organi-

zation and the reigns were handed over to Butler. Now I know that Mr. Butler probably is an upstanding individual, but what I don't like are the decisions that he makes about this football team.

With that being said, the demise of this team started during the year after free agency was instituted in the No Fan League. One of the Bills key offensive linemen, Howard 'House' Ballard, was an unrestricted free agent.

The 'House' wasn't asking for a truckload of cash, but the Bills felt that it was too much to pay, so the 'House' moved to Seattle and the Bills running game went with him.

To fill the hole in the offensive line, the Bills drafted John Fina in the first round of the 1992 draft. I can remember watching the draft at home, see-

ing ESPN analyst Mel Kiper go nuts after the Bills selected Fina. He thought it was a bad pick then, and I can tell you from a fan's perspective, he was right.

These decisions are the first in a long list of decisions that have put the Bills into the predicament that they currently are up against. Two weeks ago, the Bills had to say good-bye to the three remaining players who were on the Super Bowl teams of the early 1990's. Due to salary cap restraints, caused by incompetence and mismanagement on the part of Mr. Butler and Bills' owner Ralph Wilson, the Bills cut future hall of famers Bruce Smith, Andre Reed, and Thurman Thomas.

I realize that this trio was past their prime and the money was needed to stay under the cap, but this never should have happened. If Mr. Wilson

carefully cared about how the team performed or any of the players on the team, he would have prevented this. But because he only cares about his pocketbook and is probably scheming to drive the team into the ground so he can move it elsewhere, he did nothing. Instead of showing some respect to them and planning for this day several years ago, he did the exact opposite and merely had his henchmen muster up a press release full of rhetoric.

Let me tell you that this organization has to be the most mismanaged in the NFL. Any team that signs Doug Flutie to a twenty million dollar plus contract has to have their head examined. Contracts like this one have put the strain on the Bills and prevents them from keeping their mar-

quee players. Already the Bills have lost key free agent Thomas Smith and are on track to lose offensive guard Ruben Brown. But the Bills managed to keep tight end Jay Riemersma in town by tendering him the largest contract for any tight end in the league. I swear these people are brain-dead or they live near a nuclear power plant or something. Riemersma is an average player at best, and he does not deserve to be the highest paid tight end in the league. Contracts exactly like this are the root of the Bills' problem.

Don't you think that they would have learned from their previous mistakes? Apparently they haven't, and if this mismanagement continues, the Bills won't be at One Bills Drive much longer.

SCOREBOARD

BEHREND SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL (22-2) WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (13-6) NATIONAL SPORTS

Penn State Behrend	12-0	22-2
Pitt-Greensburg	8-4	16-8
Pitt-Bradford	8-4	15-9
La Roche	7-5	10-13
Penn State Altoona	3-9	3-18
Frostburg	2-10	6-18
Lake Erie	2-10	3-21

Penn State Behrend	11-1	18-6
Frostburg	9-3	14-8
Penn State Altoona	8-4	13-11
La Roche	7-5	10-11
Pitt-Bradford	4-8	9-15
Pitt-Greensburg	2-10	7-17
Lake Erie	1-11	7-17

MEN'S TOP 25

1. Stanford 22-1
2. Duke 21-3
3. Cincinnati 24-2
4. Arizona 23-4
5. Michigan State 20-6
6. Ohio State 18-5
7. Tennessee 21-4
8. Auburn 21-4
9. Oklahoma State 21-3
10. Florida 20-5
11. Syracuse 21-3
12. Temple 20-4
13. Tulsa 25-2
14. Indiana 18-5
15. Texas 19-6
16. Kentucky 19-7
17. LSU 21-4
18. Iowa State 22-4
19. Maryland 19-7
20. Oklahoma 20-5
21. Connecticut 18-7
22. Vanderbilt 17-6
23. Kansas 19-7
24. Utah 19-5
25. Purdue 19-7

Behrend	75	Lake Erie	65
Behrend	41	34	75
Lake Erie	31	34	65

Player	FG	3-point	FT	Points
Lawrence	4-9	3-6	2-2	13
Berchtold	3-6	1-2	0-0	7
Orris	2-7	0-4	2-2	6
Hughes	10-17	0-0	6-7	26
Keith	3-5	1-2	0-0	7
Park	2-6	0-1	3-5	7
Willson	1-2	0-0	0-1	2
McKinney	2-3	2-3	1-2	7
Totals	27-55	7-18	14-19	75

Assists: 13, Rebounds: 38, Blocks: 1, Steals: 4, TO: 9

Player	FG	3-point	FT	Points
Kwasniak	5-10	0-1	1-1	11
Rustifo	4-8	0-0	0-0	8
Henderson	3-10	0-1	1-2	7
Domonick	10-19	3-8	5-6	28
Baker	1-1	0-0	0-0	2
Castrilla	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Colon	3-6	2-4	1-2	9
Totals	26-54	5-14	8-11	65

Assists: 10, Rebounds: 21, Blocks: 1, Steals: 7, TO: 6

Behrend	63	Lake Erie	47
Behrend	29	34	63
Lake Erie	24	23	47

Player	FG	3-point	FT	Points
Buck	2-4	1-3	0-0	5
Nestor	1-4	0-0	0-0	2
Weigold	1-3	0-0	0-0	2
Mausier	1-1	0-1	2-2	4
Tanner	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
Janiuk	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Jackson	5-9	0-0	0-0	10
Costanzo	0-5	0-1	1-2	1
Charnock	1-3	0-0	0-2	2
Phillips	4-11	0-0	12-14	20
Sanders	0-5	0-1	0-0	0
O'Lare	5-8	0-0	7-9	17
Totals	20-54	1-6	22-29	63

Assists: 10, Rebounds: 37, Blocks: 2, Steals: 10, TO: 19

Player	FG	3-point	FT	Points
Taylor	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Whitacre	1-2	0-0	1-4	3
Berardinelli	4-13	0-0	3-6	11
Casiano	4-15	0-3	1-4	9
Bolden	4-8	0-2	0-2	8
Gast	1-1	0-0	1-2	3
Frabotta	3-12	0-7	0-0	6
Foglyano	1-3	0-0	0-0	2
Ford	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Novotny	2-5	0-1	1-2	5
Totals	20-59	0-13	7-20	47

Assists: 5, Rebounds: 38, Blocks: 3, Steals: 8, TO: 16



Coming Soon....



Spring Sports Preview

BEHREND CLASSIFIEDS

Have you seen the *Beacon* swearjar? Some hoodlum stole it from our office and we want it back!! If found contact the *Beacon* office.

Tall desperate man searching for the alien who probed him. Wants to pay him back for the alien giving him explosive void. If you see the alien life form, run away, run away!!

Campaigning will start soon for SGA elections. If you are interested in running for an office, stop by the SGA office for further information.

Students and employees of Penn State Behrend are invited to submit a free classified ad in *The Beacon*. Types of ads may include personal messages and items for sale. Maximum classified length is 25 words. Persons who submit ads must state their affiliation with Behrend. Classifieds are meant for individual use. Official notices and group events should be submitted to the Calendar editor. Businesses must pay regular advertising rates. *The Beacon* can not guarantee the publication of all classifieds submitted for space purposes. Classifieds should be sent to the Classified editor at *The Beacon*, Reed Building or dropped off at *The Beacon* offices, or sent to behrcoll4@aol.com. Deadline for submission for publication in that week's paper is Tuesday at 5:00PM.

Shamrock Smiles
Buy Eat'N'Park smiley cookies! Shamrock Cookies by the dozen \$5.00, half dozen \$2.50.



Orders must be placed by **March 2**. Cookies will be delivered between **March 15-17**. Sale benefits Lambda Sigma. To place an order contact Sarah at x-7066 or at sre122@psu.edu

Can you guess where the Lion is at?



Silkscreen Unlimited will be sponsoring the Find the Lion Contest, in conjunction with the *Behrend Beacon*. If you know where the Lion is at, fill out the form below and drop it off at the *Beacon* office by Friday the following week. The person who answers the question correctly will receive a prize from Silkscreen Unlimited and their name will be in that week's issue. Two winners will be drawn every Friday at 12:00 noon.

silkscreen unlimited
1709 West 8th Street at Lincoln Ave. • Erie, PA 16502
Phone: 814-323-4543 • Fax: 814-323-3211 • e-mail: silksun@psu.edu
SCREEN PRINTING, COMPUTERIZED MONOGRAMMING & ENGRAVING
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS AND AWARDS
CRAFTSMAN OF QUALITY SINCE 1972

Name: _____
Semester: _____
Phone #: _____
Beacon members are not eligible. Winner must be a Behrend student, faculty, or staff member. Cannot win more than once per semester. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.

Receive 10% off one order of merchandise for one organization
Can not be used with any other offers. Cash value (1/20 cent)