

Rubay is running far with the indoor track and field team



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

by Jeanine Neece
assistant sports editor

Tina Rubay is outdistancing the field with the Penn State Behrend Indoor Track and Field team. Rubay is a distance runner for the team competing mainly in the 5,000m and 10,000m heats. With the brand new team forming this year, this senior is definitely a strong competitor for the team. Rubay's experience is going to help Behrend begin this brand new sport.

Rubay did not join the team on her own. She became a long distance runner during the summer of her freshman year, and sophomore year when she began fitness training by running. She enjoyed running long distances and when she came to Behrend for her sophomore year she continued exercising in the vicinity of the campus. While she was running one afternoon, Behrend's outdoor/indoor track and field coach Rich Hoffman spotted her

running. He stopped her and asked her if she would become a member of the cross-country team. She accepted and then began to run for Behrend. After the cross-country season was over, she then joined the outdoor track and field team. She has also been a member of this team since her sophomore year. This year she is extremely excited to be a team member on Behrend's first indoor track and field team.

This active student came to Behrend from Wattsburg, Pennsylvania. She attended Seneca High School where she participated on the track and field team. Rubay was a member during her freshman, sophomore and junior years and competed in the hurdling and long jump competitions. Rubay is a math major here with a minor in statistics. She is currently applying to graduate school for bio-statistics and hopes to pursue this field.

The indoor track and field team practices six days a week. Generally the team's

practices are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sunday, the team is able to run long distances on their own. Rubay says that at times it can be difficult to run the indoor track and field and the outdoors, however, she loves running. Rubay stated that she would continue to train and exercise if she was not on the team, and being a member can be seen as a positive thing.

Rubay enjoyed being a member of the team. She said she could much rather run and compete with her teammates than by herself. Hoffman said Rich Hoffman has been a great coach to help her. He feels, "Tina is coming along very well and she is starting to feel more conditioned. Over the past three weeks she has developed and improved quite a bit." Rubay knows that

she is continuing to improve with several other members of the indoor track and field team. This experience was during the 2000 track and field season when the team hosted a meet in the fall. Behrend competed with ten other schools and as a whole ran extremely well. She believes that having the meet at home was an added incentive to run at her top level. Thus far, Rubay's most memorable experience was last week at the Baldwin-Wallace Invitational. At this meet, she ran her best time in the 5000m. She is excited to be running this well early in the season.

The indoor cross-country team has not traveled at all. However, Rubay, along with the outdoor track and field team traveled to Florida during the 2000 season. Several members of the team competed in the Walt Disney World of Sports Competition. She said that this was an exciting experience and all of the team members that traveled finished well. Rubay knows that this season is a time for the team to learn and gain. She feels that the indoor track and field team is giving Behrend students opportunities that they would not have otherwise. Rubay believes that each year the team will look to improve and become more competitive.

The indoor track and field team will be competing in the Mount Union Invitational on February 24. The team will be traveling to Ohio and the competition will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Indoor track & field continues to improve

by Jamie Salapek
staff writer

One month into the Indoor Track and Field season, the Behrend track team is dashing past the competition. On February 9, the team competed in the Baldwin-Wallace Invitational, and came out ahead of the pack.

The Behrend track team proved to have a strong roster, with several athletes walking away as place takers. Lindsay Schulte came out of the meet taking three places. Schulte placed fourth in the 300-meter dash with a time of 44.36 and third in the triple jump with a mark of 33-01.5. The women's 4x200-meter relay team of Michelle Gutting, Heather Efaw, Kathy Perry and Lindsay Schulte ranked third with a time of 1:58.34.

The men's track team had an impressive list of strong performances for Behrend. Keith Cerroni was a place winner in four events. Cerroni placed third in the 55-meter dash, clocking in at 6.82, and second in the 300-meter dash at 38.34. Dave Ober was a close third in the 300-meter dash with 38.66. Jay Davids took third in the high jump with the height of 6'-2". Kris Ivie captured two sixth places in the long and triple jump, as Tim Linden edged Ivie to take fifth place in the triple jump. The Behrend men placed third in the 4x200-meter relay, with the team of Keith Cerroni, Greg Cooper, Garrett Arndt, and Dave Ober, marking a time of 1:40.84. Cerroni, Cooper, Arndt and Davids also placed third in the 4x400-meter, with a time of 3:41.94.

Coach Rich Hoffman commented, "we had several strong performances. Keith Cerroni ran very well in the 55-meter and 300-meter, which was also a significant factor on our two sprint relays. Dave Ober ran very well in the 300-meter and 4x200 relay. Greg Cooper had a great 4x400-meter leg where he ran with some fire and determination. Our 4x400 relay cut almost 10 seconds from 3 weeks ago and all of those guys cut about 2-3 seconds off their splits."

Behrend standout Lindsay Schulte continues to impress with another outstanding 300-meter performance, with a long jump in the triple jump to top off the meet.

Hoffman continued, "Kathy Perry, Heather Efaw, Norine Scida and Tina Rubay all had nice races, cutting their times significantly." Dennis Halaszynski improved 17 seconds in the 5000-meter race from 3 weeks ago, and Pat Chapman continues his determined racing that had been a pleasant surprise thus far.

The Behrend Indoor Track and Field team has been edging the competition from meet to meet. "We have a core of good people who love track and field and want to get better. Our conditioning is getting better and beginning to payoff. I think overall we have decent balance, but our depth is limited," stated Coach Hoffman.

In any sport, practice makes perfect. As the Behrend team improves their abilities, we will look to them for more success in the future. The team will next compete against Mount Union on February 23.

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develop a good work ethic and a real positive attitude towards the team and team play, which will help us in the following years. This was the first time many of these players have played together. They are coming from different programs, and we wanted to develop that foundation through hard work. The work ethic would then carry over into games. I think we've worked hard every day, but they didn't realize at first how difficult it is to compete at this level. We got over the hump there in mid-January and started to really come together as a team." All that hard work the team has gone through will be needed once Behrend runs into the other three competitive AMCC teams.

The second round of the playoffs will get more interesting for Behrend. If the Lions run into Pitt-Bradford for the first game on February 23, then the young Behrend squad will have their hands full. The Lions lost by only 4 points to Bradford back on January 10, but then lost to them by 16 points the second time around. The Panthers, by far the most improved team as the season wore on, will be

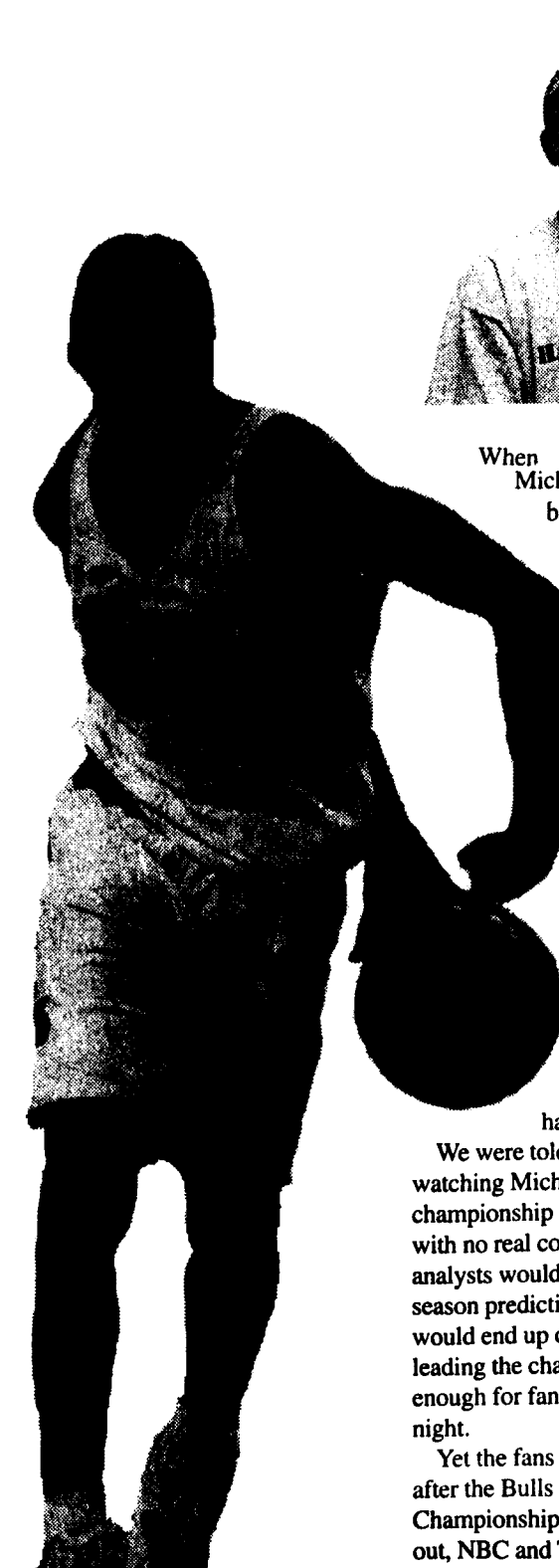
riding high from their season ending winning streak (currently at 13 games). The Lions' postseason inexperience may very well come into play when facing Bradford, or even La Roche and Frostburg, whom the Lions have proven they can beat. However, many of the players have not experienced post-season play, which could be the leading factor into how much success the team will earn this year.



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Steve Merrill looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

'The Answer' to saving the NBA - Allen Iverson



Out of Bounds Jason Snyder editor-in-chief

When Michael Jordan left basketball three years ago, almost no one could have expected the immediate effect that his departure would have on the NBA. Ratings are down, interest is lowering and respect for the image of the game is almost nonexistent. All this after basketball analysts tried to argue that Jordan's departure would be a good thing for the NBA. Their theory hasn't materialized.

We were told that fans were tired of watching Michael's Bulls win championship after championship with no real competition. The analysts would say that the early season predictions that the Bulls would end up on top with Jordan leading the charge wasn't intriguing enough for fans to tune in night after night.

Yet the fans did tune in. In fact, after the Bulls won the 1998 NBA Championship and the league locked-out, NBC and Turner Sports wouldn't

release their televised schedule of games until they found out if Michael's Bulls would be returning for their fourth NBA Championship.

When Jordan announced his retirement, needless to say, these stations didn't give the Bulls much airtime.

And ironically enough, the same networks that waited for Jordan's announcement before they would release their schedule were the networks with basketball analysts that said that Jordan was bad for the NBA. Why would these networks care whether or not Jordan was returning if his Bulls' dominance was bad for ratings?

What these networks didn't realize is that competitive games can't compete with a legend. Fans would rather see what else Jordan had up his sleeves (if uniforms had them) instead of who won the nail-biter between the Heat and Mavericks. The networks just thought that with Jordan gone, there would be more competitive games with the outcome unpredictable.

Three years later...

Whew! Jordan is gone, the Bulls are worse than Golden State, and the basketball analysts have more to analyze and talk about than they have in over ten years, right? Sort of. Jordan is gone and the Bulls do suck, however basketball analysts aren't exactly having a ball like they anticipated. Analysis consists of which teammates are bickering, which players are releasing rap albums filled with bigoted lyrics and which team (stress the singular) will win 60 games

this year.

Well, is it even important for the NBA to have a slue of teams above the 60-win mark? You wouldn't think so. But look at history. The more games a particular team has won, the more interest there has been for that sport, be it basketball, baseball or even golf (Tiger).

In baseball, the Yankees won 114 games in 1998 when baseball was at its peak in popularity since the strike in 1994. Granted, you could credit baseball's popularity boom to the Mark McGwire/Sammy Sosa homerun race, but then why did baseball's ratings continue to boom when the postseason hit? It's because fans realized they were watching greatness in what is possibly the greatest baseball team of all time.

More relevant to the NBA would be the Bulls' run at 70 wins in 1996. The more the Bulls won, the more the people watched. It's obvious that the bigger the separation that there is between the league's elite and the league's not so elite, the better it is for the sport. This season, no team has a shot at even coming close to 70 wins. 60 could even be considered a surprise.

But it's not so much the lack of a dominant team that has put the NBA in a slump. It's the lack of a superstar; a model player that when fans think of the NBA in the year 2001, they associate it with the name of one player. The 1960s belonged to Wilt Chamberlain. The 70s centered around Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and the 80s and 90s were stamped by Michael's excellency.

Last season made it pretty apparent that Shaquille O'Neal was the new poster boy for the NBA. This year, Kobe Bryant has vowed to change that. Yeah, partly with his play, but more so with his mouth. He

"jokingly" threatened to ship his play (with mouth) elsewhere and has taken over Shaq's spot as the go-to guy in LA. Meanwhile, the Lakers have fallen to fourth in the Western Conference.

But while Shaq and Kobe battle for their spotlight in LA, there may be some movement over in the east that brings hope to a dying league. This past week, Allen Iverson changed his focus from being the star on the NBA's best team, to being a leader in a movement that the NBA must take. For too long we've tried to convince fans to look past the controversial aspects of athletes. We've tried to bury the talent of tattooed and dreadlocked athletes before they could breathe life into sports that needed it.

If the NBA were smart and if basketball analysts would shut their mouths for a couple of seconds, maybe we could embrace Iverson as the new poster boy for the NBA. Something needs to be done and it shouldn't involve making greatness out of athletes that aren't. It should begin by looking at the talent that is out there, and instead of making another Michael Jordan, start embracing players like Iverson that are winning games for their team, not for themselves.

The league is faced with having to match the excitement of its greatest player ever winning championships for arguably the greatest team ever. We had the privilege of witnessing greatness in the sport of basketball. Unfortunately, there is no player, or team to spark a light at the end of the tunnel. A tunnel that began with Jordan's departure and will end when a player finally begins to act like a role model and takes on the reigns of the NBA with a stronger sense of its history, rather than a dark vision for its future.

