

To The Edge

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Jason Karas



Karas, a junior from Bridgeville, PA, hit .380 (8-21) this past weekend at the Ohio Wesleyan Tournament. Karas had one home run with 7 RBIs to lead the Behrend Lions to a 2-4 weekend and 7-9 overall record. Next up for Behrend is a doubleheader at Ainsworth against Altoona for its first conference games on Saturday.

Intramural Calendar

DEADLINES

April 6 - Badminton Singles (Men's and Women's)
Badminton Doubles (Men's, Women's, and Coed)

April 13 - Swimming Individual (Men's and Women's)
Swimming Team (Men's, Women's, and Coed)
Meet on April 21

Behrend Sporting Events

March 31
Women's Softball at Pitt-Greensburg 1:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Pitt-Greensburg at 1:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Track and Field at Geneva - Invitational 9:00 a.m.

Men's Baseball at Ainsworth against Penn State Altoona 1:00 p.m.

April 1
Men's Baseball at Ainsworth against La Roche 1:00 p.m.

April 3
Men's Tennis at Alfred 3:30 p.m.

April 4
Men's tennis at Edinboro 3:30 p.m.

Men's Baseball at Freedonia 1:00 p.m.

April 5
Women's Softball at Allegheny 3:00 p.m.

Men's Baseball at Hilbert 2:00 p.m.

April 6
Women's Water Polo at Southern Championships at Grove City

Men's Tennis vs. Waynesburg 3:00 p.m.

Mandy Bodnor throws strikes for Behrend's softball team



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

by Jeanine Noce
assistant sports editor

Mandy Bodnor is a senior on the Penn State Behrend women's softball team. She plays the positions of pitcher and third base and hopes to help the team win the AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference) championships that were previously won in 1999. She and the other 16 members are continually practicing and are working extremely hard to achieve their goal.

Bodnor has been playing softball since age 5. She lettered during all four years of playing for Shaler High School's team and during her freshman year of high school, she

started varsity. She has also played while attending school here at Behrend for four years. Her experience and dedication have helped the lady Lions stay on a winning track.

Bodnor and the other team members began conditioning and practicing on February 1 for the spring season.

Currently, the softball practices are held daily from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. During the weekend, the practice times vary, however, they are also two hours in length. Bodnor believes that at first it was difficult to balance playing softball and attending school.

"After a short period of time I got into a routine that I could handle," she said.

Bodnor loves being a part of the team. She stated that the team has

become extremely close this year and that is a key thing for a winning attitude. She believes that with the confidence that they give each other, they can maintain a winning edge when playing their opponents.

Her head coach Cindy Jacobelli and her assistant coaches Tonya Deats and Stacy Pondo are also extremely helpful to her and to the entire team.

During the 1999 season, the Penn State softball team won the AMCC championships. This was most definitely Bodnor's favorite experience. In the championship, they defeated LaRoche College to gain the title of AMCC champions.

Bodnor also enjoyed traveling to Florida over spring break. The entire team and coaching staff went to

Cocoa Beach in Florida from March 3-11. They played games from March 5 until the 9. The team learned a great deal and competed against several other college teams. So far this year, the team's record is 3-7. They are definitely trying to work harder each game to improve.

Bodnor is majoring in history and minoring in political science. She hopes to obtain a position in education related to history. Bodnor also played softball during the 2000 fall season. The team began conditioning for the season shortly after Labor Day. The team's next game is tomorrow against Pitt-Greensburg. This is an AMCC game and will be held at Pitt-Greensburg at 1:00 p.m.

Softball team finally gets taste of outdoor experience

by Mike Bello
staff writer

After what seemed like an eternity of indoor practices, the softball team was finally able to step out onto the field and compete when it went up against John Carroll University on March 22. The bad weather however, struck again and the Lions' next three games after John Carroll were cancelled.

Quite possibly more cancellations are on the way as melting snow mixed in with the strong chance of rain for the weekend. This could quite possibly produce muddy, rain-soaked field conditions and force Behrend's next three games to be postponed as well.

Behrend had been preparing for games against Penn State Altoona on March 24, against Pitt-Bradford on Monday and then on Wednesday at home versus Fredonia. All three had to be called off because of the new snow that fell over that weekend, but the cancellations were only the start of the team's problems. The Lions were scheduled to play Thursday at Buffalo State. They are also scheduled to play on Saturday and then against Pitt-Greensburg and then on Sunday which is a make-up matchup versus Penn State Altoona. All of these games will be on the road. Nothing will be set in stone, most likely, until a day before the game. Both teams want to hold off as long as possible to see if playing conditions will be fair enough to allow the teams



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

The softball team takes a break from practice in order to confer with assistant coach Stacy Pondo.

to compete and end the musical chairs game the weather is playing with Behrend's season schedule. The Lions' April schedule has been expanding due to postponements, with three games already added to the original one.

The Lions did get in a doubleheader

against John Carroll, which gave the team a chance to evaluate where it stood. In the first game, Mandy Bodnor gave up only two runs on four hits in 7 innings on the mound, but the offense continued to struggle in a 2-1 loss. Cheryl Peterson drove in Nichole Spindler for the team's only

run. The Lions could only manage six hits in the game, including two by Spindler and Emily Allen, after getting only two hits and scoring three runs in their last Florida game versus Case Western.

In game two, Behrend's offense performed just as badly, again scor-

Baseball team faces tough competition

by Kate Leviansky Petrikis
staff writer

Penn State Behrend's baseball team participated in the Ohio Wesleyan University tournament from March 22-25. The team played several tough games and had an overall record of 2-4.

Behrend played two games against Bethany and split. Behrend won the first game 6-5 after battling back from a 5-0 deficit. Behrend pitcher Ryan Seyler pitched a good game and led the team in this come-from-behind win.

"The win showed great character given that all of our guys kept fighting," said coach Paul Benim.

In game two against Bethany, Kevin DUBYAK, also pitched a good game but the Bethany Bison beat Behrend 3-0.

On Friday, Behrend beat Rochester Institute of Technology, 15-7. However, the Lions lost to the 11th ranked team in the country, Ohio Wesleyan, 21-7.

Saturday, the Lions lost two tough games to Ohio Northern. Behrend was winning 1-0 in the bottom of the seventh with two outs, but ended up losing the game 2-1 because of defensive mistakes. Brian Pifer was "awesome on the mound," said coach Benim. Pifer went 1-1 this past weekend with 10 strike outs and only three walks in almost eight innings of play.

Pifer thought he pitched competitively, however, "There is room for improvement," he said. The Lions also lost 10-9 to Ohio Northern. Pifer said, "They could have gone either way. All we can do from those losses is learn from them and get prepared for the next time we are in a close game."

The team begins its home games, which will be held at Ainsworth Field, on Saturday, versus Penn State Altoona. They will then play La Roche at Ainsworth, also, on Sunday.

The baseball team's upcoming schedule is going to be tough. The team plays a lot of quality teams throughout the month of April, and is getting to the heart of the season's schedule. However, this is a team that keeps improving every time it steps onto the field.

Pifer said that the Behrend Lions are strong because they're "Very close as a team" and added that "this helps us when we get in tough situations on the field because we are always behind each other 100% no matter what the outcome is."

ing only one run in an 11-1 loss. After having scored at least eight runs in five of their first six games, the Lions have only managed a total of eight runs in their last four games. Bodnor smacked a double to score Amy Hunter for their lone run. Stephanie Covert took the loss by giving up 10 earned runs in five innings of work and giving up 17 hits to John Carroll, including two home runs. Behrend (3-7) as a team could manage only 3 hits and are now batting .167 over their last three games, a sharp contrast considering they started the season at a .362 clip.

Behrend will play host on Wednesday and Thursday to Baldwin-Wallace and Thiel respectively. B-W brings a 5-5 record into the game, but has yet to play a game up north since its Florida spring break trip. B-W's record is a little misleading, though, because four of their five losses were by three runs or less. B-W is batting .273 on the season but behind their two big stars, Evie Evans and Liz Fries have a team ERA of 1.24.

Behrend was originally scheduled to play Thiel on March 19, but had to push the game back to Thursday, April 5. Starting times for the doubleheaders against Thiel and B-W are scheduled for 3:00 p.m., that is if the Lions do not have to postpone their games once again. If so, then the softball team will be forced to continue practicing indoors at the ARC, a place it has grown all too accustomed to, at least for a team that in theory is supposed to play an outside sport.