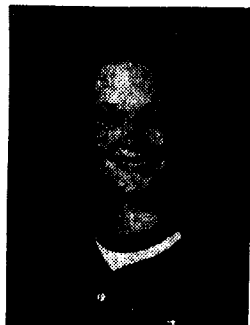


To The Edge

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Nichole Spindler



Spindler, a freshman from Bradford, PA, was 4-6 with four RBI's for the Behrend Lions in a 2-0 league week. The Behrend Lions are 5-7 overall and 2-0 in league play. Next up for the blue and white is an AMCC conference game at Lake Erie, Saturday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m.

Intramural Calendar

DEADLINES
April 13

Swimming Individual (M and W)
Swimming Team (M, W, and Coed)
Meet on April 21

Behrend Sporting Events

April 7
Men's Tennis Penn State
Behrend Inv. 9:00 a.m.

Women's Softball at Lake Erie
1:00 p.m.

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

Men's and Women's Track &
Field at Case Western Inv.
10:00 a.m.

April 8
Women's Softball vs. Frostburg
1:00 p.m.

Men's Baseball at Case West-
ern Reserve 1:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Frostburg/
Lake Erie 9:00 a.m.

April 9
Men's Tennis vs. Baldwin &
Wallace 3:30 p.m.

April 10
Men's Golf at W & J TBA

Men's Baseball at Pitt-
Bradford 1:00 p.m.

April 11
Men's Tennis vs. Fredonia
3:00 p.m.

April 12
Women's Softball vs. Pitt-
Bradford 3:00 p.m.

Men's Baseball at
D'Youville 1:00 p.m.

April 13
Men's Tennis at Penn State
Altoona 4:00 p.m.

Men's and Women's Track
& Field at Western PA
Championships at Geneva

Behrend Lions split doubleheader with Altoona



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Junior pitcher Brian Pifer receives pertinent coaching advice from head coach Paul Benim. Pifer hopes to be a starting pitcher.

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
staff writer

Although the game scheduled on March 28 at Allegheny was cancelled, the Behrend Lions were still able to compete in a doubleheader against Penn State Altoona on March 31. The Lions put up a hard fight, but lost the first game 9-6 on a three run homer in the bottom of the sixth. However, the Lions won game two 6-5 when Tyler Wiand and Craig Ottaviani, scored two runs on a wild pitch.

The Lions Keith Lepionka was named one of AMCC's "Best of the Rest" going 3-5 with a pair of two run homers in a split versus Altoona. Lepionka does not believe that the doubleheader was hard on the team.

"We split the games and it would have been nicer to come out of Altoona with two wins," said Lepionka.

He also said that there were some challenges that the team faced in the game.

"We found ourselves battling from behind many times this season showing that we continue to fight even if it doesn't look good," said Lepionka.

The team is also trying to prepare itself mentally.

"The team is trying to focus on what we have to do and get it in our head that every game is a big game. Physically, we have been practicing since the beginning of the semester trying to take as many swings in the batting cage and working on a num-

ber of fielding drills," said Lepionka.

The pitching staff is still helping the Lions with their victories. Ryan Seyler battled on the mound for a tough six innings.

"We possess experienced players on both sides of the ball and want to succeed day in and day out," said Matt Slavonic, the senior captain. "Also, the team has to continue to stay confident and believe in the talents of ourselves and each other are the team's strengths."

The Lions have a busy schedule over the weekend, playing a doubleheader at Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday, and then battling in another doubleheader at Case Western Reserve on Sunday. Behrend then plays back to back games Tuesday against

Pitt-Bradford and two more games April 12 versus D'Youville.

"I am excited about the upcoming schedule because it has been very hard for us to practice inside all of the time, so it is nice to get outside and play," said Lepionka.

Slavonic agreed.

"I am looking forward to playing in the conference games because the team believes that we are as good as any other team and that we can beat any team in our conference," he said. "This team definitely has the ability and depth to go far, and I am very excited to see just how far that is."

The Behrend Lions are 8-10 overall and 1-1 in the league.

Experience brings water polo team close to first victory

by Bob Palivoda
staff writer

A weekend of defeat was not able to keep the women's water polo team from holding its head above water. As the PSU Behrend women traveled to the Grove City Invitational last weekend, they entered with high spirits and positive attitudes. Although the results on the scoreboard left the team without a win, the weekend brought the women closer as a team and to achieving their goals.

Lately the team has been working on many different elements of the game and trying to accomplish them. At the Grove City Invitational, the team was able to improve on those different elements, but could not put them together at the same time.

In Penn State Behrend's first game against Slippery Rock over the weekend, Behrend fell 11-1. The one goal scored for Behrend came from Cassie Harris. The game looked like it may have been a shutout for Slippery Rock, but the PSU women were able to capitalize on a man-up opportunity. Harris came up with the wet pass and blazed the ball past three defenders into the goal.

Behrend's second challenge of the Invitational came against Bucknell. Penn State also came up with only one point in this match-up losing with a score of 12-1. Behrend's leading scorer of the season Lindsay Spiegel (20 goals), was able to deny Bucknell of the shutout, adding on another goal to her great season.

The third game of the Invitational was against St. Francis, where Behrend came away with a loss of 19-2. Assisted by Harris, Hollie Stash came away with her third goal of the season when she slammed the ball past her op-

WATER POLO

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Behrend Lions dominate Altoona

by Mike Bello
staff writer

The last remnants of winter, and the mess that comes with it, postponed even more of the softball team's games before the beginning of April. Officials had to call off games at Buffalo State on March 29, and at Pitt-Greensburg on March 31, because playing conditions were still terrible.

The outlook for future games got a lot brighter though when Behrend swept a doubleheader against Penn State Altoona on April 1, upping its record to 5-7. Those wins, along with a weather forecast calling for highs in the 50s and 60s the following week with little chance of rain, give the Lions hope that they will be considered the team to beat in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

Barring any more snow accumulations, the Lions should be able to play out the rest of their schedule. After heavy snow fell and later melted Tuesday, the Lions were forced to go on the road for their game against Baldwin-Wallace on Wednesday, a game the Lions were originally supposed to host. Since the grounds crew was able to clear the field, Behrend finally played its first home game, against Thiel on Thursday. The next home game is set for Sunday.

The Lions only played their second doubleheader in more than three weeks since returning from Florida against another Penn State branch campus, PSU Altoona. This game was originally scheduled to be played March 24 in Erie. De-



PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

With uncooperative weather conditions, the softball team continues to practice in order to keep in shape for the coming games.

spite the long trip, Behrend showed no signs of fatigue, sweeping Altoona (5-4) by a score of 1-0 in the first game followed by a 12-3 blowout. In the second game Behrend scored more runs than it had scored in its previous five games combined. Senior Becky Rishel knocked in the only run of the game in game one, but the bats

came alive for the Lions in game two. The Lions piled up 17 hits, including three each by Cheryl Peterson, Becky Corbin, and Nichole Spindler, who also had four RBIs.

Following their game against Thiel, the Lions have on tap a schedule of five opponents in eight days beginning with a game at Lake

Erie (0-4) on Saturday. Lake Erie's only conference play so far was against La Roche, in which Lake Erie lost both games in a doubleheader by scores of 2-0 and 10-2. The next day Behrend comes home to compete against another AMCC foe, Frostburg State (4-10), starting at 11 a.m. Frostburg comes in as one of the teams that could give

the Lions a run for the AMCC championship as they defeated La Roche 9-2 and then lost 5-4 in extra innings.

On Wednesday, the Lions will welcome Fredonia to the Behrend field, a game that was supposed to be played March 28. Fredonia (3-4-1) took part in the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic tournament in Florida on March 17-23, where it won its last three games to gain momentum for their regular season schedule.

The Lions then will play host to Pitt-Bradford on April 12. Pitt-Bradford (3-1) has also suffered from poor field conditions, but was able to get in two games against Penn State Altoona. They defeated Altoona 9-6 in extra innings before falling by a score of 3-2, meaning the teams are pretty much even strength. Both games, against Fredonia and Bradford, start at 3 p.m.

The Lions will also be at home against La Roche on April 14, their last tune-up before the AMCC tournament starts April 18. Behrend's success against AMCC opponents Lake Erie, Frostburg, Bradford, and La Roche in the coming week could very well determine its chances of capturing the tournament crown. If the Lions can come out on top in most of those doubleheader games, then they will prove they are the team to beat in the AMCC. If not, the Lions will have a difficult journey ahead of them if they are to win back the championship they won in 1999 but could not defend last spring.