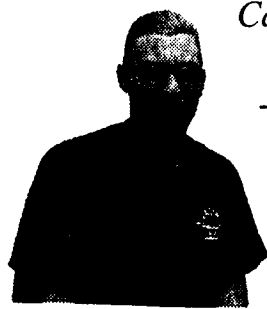


The boys of summer are back

Caught in the Grasp

Douglas Smith
columnist



The baseball season has sprung again and the so-called experts are trying to predict the winners. No one seems to be going out on a ledge because everyone seems to be picking the New York Yankees, who buy the championship every year. Granted, they do have heroes like Jim Leyritz or Shane Spencer who come out of nowhere to help secure the championship. My question becomes, however, can we ever root for someone that just plays baseball and doesn't make the business side the number one aspect?

This past year, Alex Rodriguez signed a \$252 million contract to play for the Texas Rangers. The Rangers still got blasted on opening day 9-1 by the Toronto Blue Jays

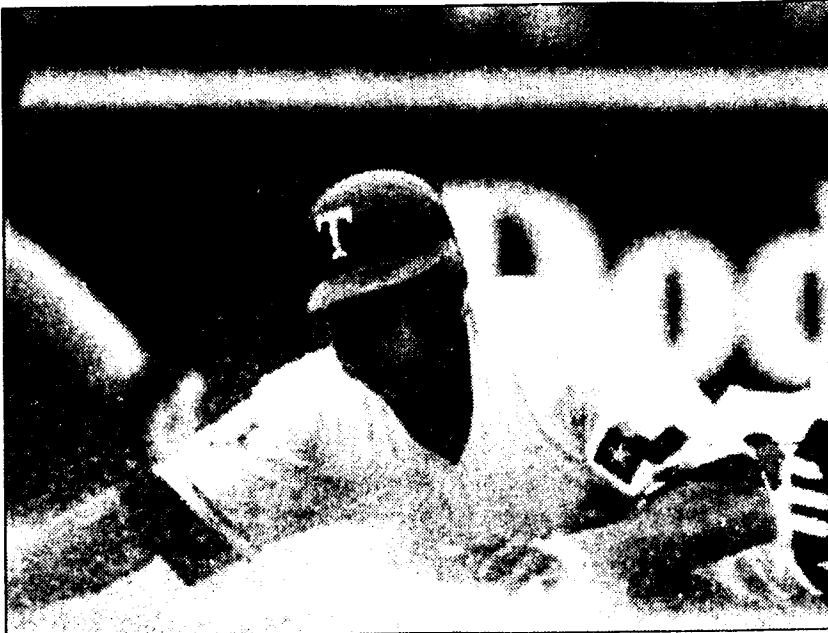
The Blue Jays got rid of David Wells and a lot of their team salary. Their pitcher on opening day was Estaban Loiza, who used to pitch for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He shut down a rather high-powered offense and shut down the money as the item that makes the game flow.

I am sick of seeing Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte win games and be cheered on as the best pitchers in the game. They are supposed to play well. If you are one of the highest paid players in the game then you are supposed to produce for your team. This is the case with Jason Kendall for the Pittsburgh Pirates this year. Every team has at least one player who is supposed to produce. Manny Ramirez, Mike Piazza, and Randy Johnson are among those players. Still injuries or slumps cause the production numbers to go down and fans become disappointed.

The game should be about the fun and excitement. Many say that hitting a round ball with a round bat

is the hardest thing to do in sports. Look at Jason Giambi. He plays for the Oakland A's and hits the ball harder than many of the players ever

turned the game into a business yet, and will play for the wins and to have fun. The competition should



AP PHOTO

Texas now sports the highest paid player in baseball.

to reach the major leagues. A's do not have a high payroll since their shortstop and other stars were virtual no-names last year until they started to produce. They have not

been quite a reimbursement as it is. Go back to the days in Little League when you played against your friends and had fun chatting out on the bases. The fans were

there watching because they were proud, and it was fun to watch. This should be the way the game is today. It is called America's pastime, yet it takes a new ballpark to get fans to support a slumping team. It can be a time to spend with your family and just enjoy beautiful summer weather. These little joys become lost in the numbers of the game.

Many sports have trades and free agent signings, but perhaps only the NBA matches the depth of these two systems compared to Major League Baseball. The Rangers now have Ken Caminiti, Andres Galarraga, and Rodriguez. This is quite a different team from Royce Clayton and Lee Stevens. However, I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that they don't even make the playoffs. I want other teams to make it that at least make you feel like they are playing for the competition and fun of the game.

I think it would be great to see the New York Mets play the San Francisco Giants and the Milwaukee Brewers play, well the Pittsburgh Pirates in the playoffs. Of course that will not happen because they can't receive revenues

from higher market teams; therefore, the market kills their chances. All of the teams above have someone that weighs heavy on their payroll, but they do not fork out money that easily. I am a Pirate fan for life and will remain loyal no matter how much trouble they have succeeding. They are fun to watch and keep baseball like it should be.

In the American League teams like Oakland and Seattle can steal the spotlight from the White Sox and the Yankees. Seattle has dropped a lot of money from its payroll and is still very competitive. That is great to see.

To keep baseball fun to watch, root for a California World Series this year. The Giants will not give Barry Bonds any more money, so they are bucking the system and Oakland never talks about its payroll. These teams keep games exciting and showcase some of the best players in the league right now that have nothing but raw talent. So, let's keep the business aspect on the DL and activate fun and players that amaze.

Seven school records broken at Geneva Invitational

by **Jamie Salapek**
staff writer

The Behrend track and field team was up and running last Saturday at the Geneva Invitational. With better weather conditions and high hopes, the team blew away the competition by shattering many school records. Endurance, strength and determination paid off for Behrend as it walked away with seven school records and several personal bests. Twenty-one team members also finished in the top 10.

With a long list of outstanding performances, the Behrend team continues to show significant improvement and leave tough opponents in the dust.

"I think we can overcome a lot of adversity because we've had to improvise and be creative in many of our training sessions," said coach Rich Hoffman. "That allows our athletes to be adaptable and complete under difficult circumstances. I think we had a couple of instances Saturday that showed this."

Behrend standout, Lindsay Schulte, set three school records in the 200-meter race with a 26.90 time and the 400, clocking in at 1:03.20. Schulte placed fifth in both events and broke her third school record of the day, placing seventh in the triple jump. She also qualified for the ECAC in the 200 after her fine performance on Saturday.

The Behrend women proved to be

difficult to beat in Geneva. Andrea Sanko placed sixth in the 5000 with a time of 20.13, while teammates Tina Rubay and Brandi Napenas ran a close race behind Sanko with times of 21.45 and 22.33.

Pilly Gonzalez took home sixth place in the high jump, with a mark of 4-10 and seventh in the long jump, measuring 15-02.25. Jessica Knapp placed sixth in the 1500 with a 5:14.10 time, and ran well in the 800 with a time of 2:39. Teammate, Jessie Coe, followed closely behind Knapp, clocking in at 5:48.

Louise Wingerter and Heather Efav left their mark on Behrend as both women set a new school record. Wingerter set a new record and placed second in the pole vault, with a mark

of 8-0 and Efav set a new time of 1:13.60 in the 400 hurdles. Bernadette Wingerter placed fifth and Jen Carroll placed sixth in the pole vault. Kathy Perry earned fifth place in the 3000 steeplechase with a time of 13:03 and Lynn Herrmann took home sixth place in the javelin, with a toss of 101-10.0.

The men's team put up a good fight, breaking two school records and taking home many rankings. Tyler Travis set a new school record and placed eighth in the 5000 with a time of 16:14.0. Dave Masilunas also set a record and placed fifth in the 110 high hurdles, clocking in at 16.74. Dennis Halaszynski took home a seventh place in the 3000-meter steeplechase timed at 10:46.0.

Mark Suroviec, Dave Ober, Chris Weiser, and Kenton White took home eighth places for Behrend. Suroviec placed in the 1500 with a time of 4:15.90, Ober in the 400, clocked at 11.30, Weiser placed in the 200 at 24.80, and White in the triple jump with a mark of 5-8. David Young brought home seventh place in the discus with a throw of 99-0.

Jay Davids placed third in the high jump and qualified for the ECAC with a mark of 6-2 and the Behrend men's team took home a third place in the 4X400 relay at 3:30.30. Clint Altman, Carl Alberico, Brian Pratt and Matt Gimmeke all set personal best in the 1500 with times of 4:34.1, 4:42.0, 4:43.0 and 4:48.0.

An injured Keith Cerroni put his

fellow athletes to the test, as they had to pick up where he left off. Ober took Cerroni's place in the 4X400 relay.

"Cerroni had worked hard this year and we hate to see him injured with an unfortunate hamstring injury but we hope to see him get back soon," said Hoffman. "I think the other guys reached down inside a little and found a little extra to make up for Cerroni's absence and he was right there cheering them on."

The Behrend track and field team has continued to prove that rain or shine, healthy or injured, its fierce skills and driving force to the finish line keep it one step ahead of the competition.

Servin' it up



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

The men's tennis team competed against Penn State Altoona on March 24. This was an AMCC Conference game that was held at 11:00 a.m. here at Behrend. The team was defeated 5-4. The team has an overall record of 1-3 and is 1-1 in conference play.

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WATER POLO

ponents. Spiegel also picked up a goal.

In the final game of the weekend, Queens defeated Behrend 11-2. Freshman Sara McGarvey was able to finally break the ice and score her first goal of her collegiate career. Spiegel also played a part in the game as she once again came through for Behrend with another goal.

Although the women walked away from the weekend without a first win, they think that the elements are coming together for a

victory. Over this past week, the women have been working vigorously on various techniques to get ready for the championship tournament this weekend at Grove City.

Passing and shooting are two key elements that the women must put together successfully to achieve a win this weekend. The Behrend Lions believe that after a week of lengthened practices, working on different passing and shooting techniques, they will be ready for the tournament.

From the upcoming tournament, the Behrend women have a chance of going all the way to the NCAA Final Four in Women's Water Polo. Behrend's first game of the tournament at Grove City is today at 4:00 p.m. against Princeton. Their second game will also be played on Friday at 7:30 p.m. against Slippery Rock. The results of these games will determine the times that the Behrend women will play on Saturday.

Check out the ARC website at:

www.pserie.psu.edu/athletic/intramural/Arc.htm

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