

## Boyle overcomes brain tumor to return to baseball diamond



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jake Boyle had brain surgery eight days before he returned to school in August.

Jake Boyle considers himself very fortunate. In the fall of 2000, he was playing intramural football at Penn State Behrend and suffered a concussion after attempting to catch a pass, when he slipped and hit his head on an opponent's knee.

He went to a local hospital for review. After receiving x-rays, an abnormality was discovered in the right frontal region of his brain that was totally independent of the concussion. Subsequent MRIs at the Cleveland Clinic led to the discovery that the abnormality was a grade II astrocytoma brain tumor.

"I believe that everything happens for a reason," said Boyle. "Why? I am unsure as of yet, but I'm confident that someday I will know why I was so lucky to discover the tumor early."

Doctors at the Cleveland Clinic recommended surgery. Boyle then had to decide when to have it done. He was asymptomatic, but encouraged by

his doctor to take of the tumor as soon as possible. Boyle had to weigh the timing of this discovery with schooling, playing his junior baseball season, and pursuing a summer baseball opportunity to play in the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL). He decided to wait to have the surgery.

The spring 2001 baseball season was a struggle for the Behrend Lions who played 33 of 38 games on the road because of the construction of their new baseball facility. The team finished 18-20 after three straight seasons of 20 or more wins. But Boyle was as good as ever. He paced the team with a .400 batting average, a team-high eight home runs, 43 RBIs, 48 runs scored, and 11 stolen bases. He was named Co-MVP of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

Boyle became the all-time leader in batting average (.415), home runs (28), and RBIs (140) at Behrend. He has been evaluated by several major league clubs

and was invited to a Pittsburgh Pirates pre-draft workout in June 2001.

"Jake is arguably the best baseball player to ever wear a Behrend Lions uniform," said head baseball coach Paul Benim.

Boyle is a plastics engineering technology major and earned a 4.0 GPA last semester. In addition to his junior year honors, Boyle has been named the team's MVP three times, recognized by Collegiate Baseball as a player to watch, was named to the NCAA's Mid-Atlantic All-Region Team in 2000, and named to the Dodge Truck All-American Farm Team. In his freshman year he was voted the Newcomer of the Year in the AMCC.

At the end of the season Boyle pursued an opportunity to play in a top-notch collegiate summer league. He competed for the Eastern Tides of the NECBL. The league starts its summer season in early June and plays an eight-week, 40-game schedule. The league championship is determined by a play-off in early August. Each year the top players are scouted and often selected in the major league baseball draft.

"Undoubtedly, the NECBL was the most competitive baseball I have played," said Boyle, a senior outfielder from Cambridge Springs. "As a result of the friends I made, the level of competition I faced day in and day out, and my overall experience, I can say I not only grew as a baseball player but as a person as well."

With Eastern fighting for a playoff spot during the stretch run, Boyle stepped up for the Tides, delivering a game-winning home run in the bottom of the 10th inning of a 2-1 victory over Concord. The win kept Boyle's crew one game back of the Newport Gulls and helped the team earn a postseason berth by one game. In an elimination playoff game against Newport, Boyle hit a game-winning double in the bottom of the ninth with two outs to force game three. The Tides' season concluded the next night, and it was time for Jake to mentally prepare for his surgery.

"Jake told me that he was having surgery, and at first I was so shocked and I couldn't believe what I had just heard," said teammate Chris Shearer. "Jake was so calm about the whole situation and made it seem like it wasn't a big deal, that I really didn't think twice about the situation after that."

Jake was scheduled for surgery on Aug. 9. After some hospital procedures and tests the day before, followed by a meeting in the afternoon, the hospital realized they had made a change in the surgery schedule but did not inform Jake

and his family.

Therefore, surgery was re-scheduled for the following week and left only eight days before the fall semester of classes started.

On Aug. 16, Dr. Gene H. Barnett used the latest intraoperative MRI techniques during the 12-hour surgery to remove the golf-ball size tumor. The process was successful. The staff at the Cleveland Clinic was impressed with Jake's ability to bounce back from the traumatic experience.

He returned home two days after surgery and began a quick recovery. Boyle returned to classes eight days after surgery and has had no subsequent problems.

"Our prayers were answered," said Benim. "It was so positive to hear his family tell us that Jake was going to be fine."

Boyle was expected to miss the entire fall season and spend months recovering from surgery. Remarkably, he was cleared to play during the final week and a half, and made an immediate impact.

"Jake still has a road to travel, but he is healthy and happy," said Benim. Senior Luke Bundy was impressed with Boyle's efforts.

"After the surgery, Boyle showed me how much of a team player he is by calling the doctors and doing everything in his power to get back on the field because he felt he was letting everyone down by not being there this fall," said Bundy. "That just shows me how much heart and passion Jake has for the game and the team."

Boyle's follow-up to surgery consists of only periodic MRIs, but no radiation or chemotherapy treatments. He knows he's fortunate though.

"Somebody once asked me if I ever wonder why such a terrible thing would happen to me. The answer to that is no. If brain surgery is one of the biggest obstacles I must overcome in my life, then I should consider myself lucky. I am surrounded by family and friends who provide me with more support than I could ever ask for."

"Brain surgery seems trivial compared to problems in the world such as the children who wake up every morning wondering if they will have something to eat that day or those that walk home from school wondering whether there will be another shooting in the neighborhood or not."

*Contributed by Paul Benim, Sports Information Director at Penn State Behrend*

## Weebles wobble, don't fall down



**Out of Bounds**  
Jason Snyder

The same can be said for the New York Yankees.

Trailing two games to none in a best-of-five series against the red-hot Oakland Athletics, the New York Yankees appeared to be headed for their first play-off series loss since 1997. But in true pinstripe fashion, the Yankees erased the deficit and overtook the A's, giving them new life in a post-season that had them wobbling but, at the same time, refusing to fall down.

You would think that a team that has won four of the past five World Series Championships would breeze through the playoffs. The Yanks, however, have quite a history of showing vulnerability in post-season play. But they are most remembered for their ability to pull through when it matters most.

1996 Divisional Series - Texas led in every game of the four-game series against the Yanks, including a 4-1 lead in game two, a 2-1 ninth inning lead in game three, and a 4-0 lead in game four. The Yankees, who lost game one, won all three of the remaining games to win the series 3-1.

1996 ALCS versus Baltimore - The Orioles led New York 4-2 in game one, going into the seventh inning. The Yanks tacked on one run in the seventh, one in the eighth, and one in the 11th to win 5-4.

New York trailed in three of the five games, but won the series 4-1.

1996 World Series - Atlanta stole the first two games in New York and headed back to Atlanta with a 2-0 series lead. The Braves outscored the Yankees 16-1 in the first two games and led game four by the score of 6-0 in the sixth inning. But New York would score three in the sixth, three more in the eighth and two in the 10th to win 8-6. A Braves' win would have put the Yankees down three games to one with another game yet to be played in Atlanta. But New York's win in game four tied the series at two, giving the Yankees momentum towards a 4-2 World Series win.

1998 World Series - In a game one that seemed more important at the time than it does now, the San Diego Padres built a 5-2 lead entering the seventh inning at New York. The Padres were three innings away from gaining the early momentum by stealing home field advantage in the series opener. But the Yanks would score seven runs in the seventh off a three-run homer from Chuck Knoblauch and a grand slam from Tino

Martinez to take game one 9-6.

The loss seemed to take the wind out of the Padres' sails, who eventually were swept in the series 4-0.

1999 ALCS versus Boston - The Red Sox also had a chance to steal a game in New York early in the series. In game two, Boston took a 2-1 lead entering the seventh inning. But after holding the Yankees to only one run through six innings, Boston gave up two runs in the seventh, giving the Yankees a 3-2 win.

Boston led in three of the five 1999 ALCS games, but lost the series 4-1.

1999 World Series - Atlanta led game three 5-2 in the seventh inning. New York then tacked on one run in the seventh, two in the eighth and one in the 10th, to win 6-5 in extra innings. The win gave the Yankees an insurmountable 3-0 series lead. They would finish off the sweep in New York the following game.

2000 AL Divisional Series - The scare that Oakland gave New York this year wasn't the only time that the Athletics have had the Yanks' backs against the wall. One year ago, Oakland forced another game five against New York, which was New York's first elimination game since they lost to Cleveland in 1997. However, this time the Yankees would come out swinging, scoring six runs in the first inning to win the game 7-5.

2000 ALCS versus Seattle - In game two, The Mariners were six outs away from taking a 2-0 series lead back to Seattle. But in the eighth inning the Yankees, trailing 1-0, scored seven runs to tie the series at one game apiece. In game six, New York overcame a 4-3 Mariners' lead, scoring six runs in the seventh inning. The Yankees won the game 9-7 and the series 4-2.

2000 World Series - New York vs. New York. The Mets led game one in the ninth inning 3-2, but couldn't finish off the Yankees who scored the game-tying run. The Yanks would go on to win in the 12th, 4-3. They won the series, 4-1.

New York's past four World Series Championship runs, they are 6-1 in games that go to extra innings. They are 11-7 in ALCS and World Series games when trailing after six innings. And what's even scarier for New York's opponents is what happens when the Yanks aren't showing signs of vulnerability. They are 20-0 when leading going into the seventh inning.

Beating the Yankees in a best-of-seven series has proven to be a monumental task for every team they have faced. It will be no different for the 116-win Seattle Mariners who already trail 2-0.

By the way, the Yankees are 6-0 since 1996 when they win the first two games of a playoff series.

## Women's tennis wins last three games before start of AMCC tournament

by Kate Leviansky Petrikis  
assistant sports editor

The Behrend women's tennis team has been busy. The Lions played on Oct. 4 at Thiel, and won 7-2. Kimmy Asada and Michelle Braendel both won their singles matches, and

played as partners to win their doubles match.

The Lions also won their next game, on Oct. 10 at Hiram, 4-3.

"It was a tough match," said coach Jeff Barger.

Angela Albertson and Braendel were partners in what was the determining match. Albertson and Braendel were way down in the match, losing 7-4, but made a huge comeback to win the game 9-8.

Behrend won its third consecutive game Oct. 13 at La Roche, 7-0.

Asada and Lennys Redondo both had a great day, winning their singles matches 6-0, 6-0. However, more than two players helped pull out the victory.

"Everyone played well, it was a team victory," said Barger.

The Lions play Oct. 19 at Frostburg against Pitt-Greensburg. The Lions go into this

match 5-2 in the conference, and 8-9 overall.

The AMCC championships start the following day, Oct. 20, at 9 a.m. Unfortunately, Redondo will not play this weekend because she is hospitalized. This will hurt the Lions' chances, but the team still has a positive outlook.

"Going into this week, I thought we were coming together," said Barger. "Redondo's absence hurts, but the team will just have to pick up the slack. I still think we have a chance. However, we will be moving people around and different people will be playing together."

Albertson should be the number one seed going into the AMCC's. Albertson is undefeated in singles conference and only lost one match in doubles. This week, Albertson was named "Best of the Rest" by the AMCC.

"Angela has played way above what I expected," said Barger. "She stepped up from number three last year, to number one this year. On a limb, Albertson will be conference player of the year."



PHOTO BY KRISTIN RODGERS

Sophomore Jennie Zhang returns a shot to her opponent Saturday against La Roche. The Lions completely dominated the game, winning 7-0.



## Water polo team gears for next competition

by Zoë Rose  
staff writer

This past weekend, the Lions returned to Grove City for the Eastern Championships, but came away with three more losses on the season. The Lions lost to UMM 20-2, John Hopkins 16-3, and Grove City 17-13. The Lions have remained focused on their game though.

"We led in every quarter and lost the game in just the last few minutes," said Heynes about playing Grove City last weekend. "Against the HURST at W&J, we just underestimated them and they came to win. We just made too many dumb mistakes and it cost us the game."

This weekend, the blue and white participate in the Princeton Invitational, the last games before the Southern Championships at the U.S. Naval Academy. Besides concentrating on skills to improve on, Heynes emphasized a few needs.

"First have fun!" said Heynes. "Second, beat mercyhurst again! Third, survive playing these nationally ranked

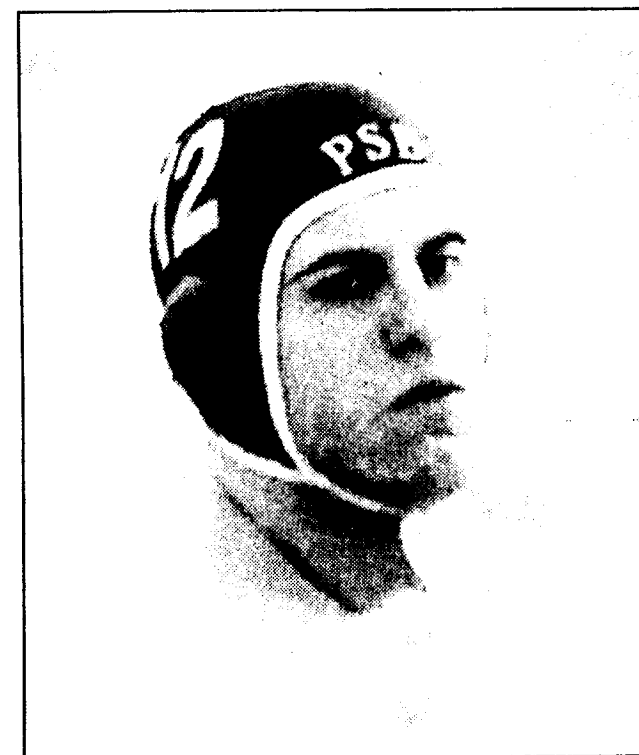


PHOTO BY LYNDESEY BOOR

Freshman Casey Doody has played a big part on defense for the Lions this season.

teams."

Looking ahead to the weekend, the Lions feel that they will need to perform their best to beat the strong Slippery Rock team and then move on to play Johns Hopkins, a top five team in the Division III poll.

Freshman Andrew Hanhauser is an outstanding player who broke the season goal scoring and the assists record last weekend at the Eastern Championships at Grove City. Newcomer Casey Doody has also become a vital player on the team, entering the top five in season steals and season assists.

"He has become a thief in the water and I am really impressed with his playing ability" said Heynes. "Different individuals are shining at different parts of the game."

i.e. Hanhauser on offense and Doody on defense. We just need everyone to shine as a team at the same time."

If you don't go 100%, don't go at all.