



What rust?
He hasn't run track since his senior year of high school, but Bill McKinney has picked up where he left off, leading the Lions through a successful track season. Read more about it on Page 4B.

Section B Sports

Mike Bello, Sports Editor

Tennis team rolls
The Lions rebounded from two tough losses in Florida to win their first conference game of the season against Pitt Greensburg. See Page 2B



Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

- Saturday**
Men's Tennis
Penn State Altoona
Pennbriar Athletic Club
8:30 a.m.
- Men's and Women's Track and Field
@ Clarion Invitational
9 a.m.
- Sunday**
*Men's Baseball
Penn State Altoona (DH)
Behrend Baseball Field
1 p.m.
- *Women's Softball
Penn State Altoona (DH)
Behrend Softball Field
1 p.m.
- Monday**
Men's Tennis
@ Thiel
3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Men's Baseball
@ Allegheny w/JV
2 p.m.
- Thursday**
Men's and Women's Track and Field
@ Geneva Invitational
3 p.m.
- Friday, March 29**
Women's Softball
Frostburg
Behrend Softball Field (DH)
2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 30**
Men's Baseball
@ Frostburg
1 p.m.

Intramurals Schedule

- Friday**
Intramural Soccer: Men's, Women's, and Coed - \$3 - Teams are allowed any two combination of two varsity or ex-varsity, no restrictions on number of players
- White Water Rafting in Ohiopele, PA - \$39 - Trip set for April 27, transportation will be provided
- Friday, April 5**
Intramural Badminton: Men's and Women's Singles; Men's, Women's, and Coed Doubles \$3 - No forms required, just names and Social Security numbers
- All entries must be at the intramural office by 4 p.m. on the scheduled date
- *Subject to cancellation depending on the weather

Let the games begin...

Softball, baseball teams celebrate opening of million dollar fields

by Zoë Rose
staff writer

Two new fields dazzle the entrance of Penn State Behrend. The softball and baseball teams are overjoyed to start their 2002 seasons on these pristine additions to the campus.

It's been awhile since both teams have been able to host games, but that's forever changed now. Enthusiastic players and coaches, as well as fans, are ready to walk on the untouched fields as a season packed with games is already under way.

Imagine having to always travel to destinations, sometimes hours away, and get off the bus ready to play. This is exactly what the teams had to do last year. The baseball team didn't play a single game on campus, while the softball team played on a less-than-adequate field. Practice was held in the gym which is nothing like feeling the dirt and the sun glaring down on the field.

"Baseball in a gym and a field is like night and day," said third baseman Jason Karas.

With the players pumped about getting out and playing games on the new fields, they hope fans will feel the same and to come down to watch a few.

"The new field is great to play on for many reasons: smooth infield with no bad hops, the atmosphere of a great ball park, and hopefully (it will) bring some students down to the games and make that home field advantage work for us," said catcher Luke Bundy.

"The new complex brings fans to the games, and it gives a good look on the athletic department," Cheryl Peterson pointed out.

The dimensions of the new softball field are 200 feet down the line and 225 in dead center. The baseball field is 330 feet down both foul lines, 375 in the power alleys, and 400 to center.

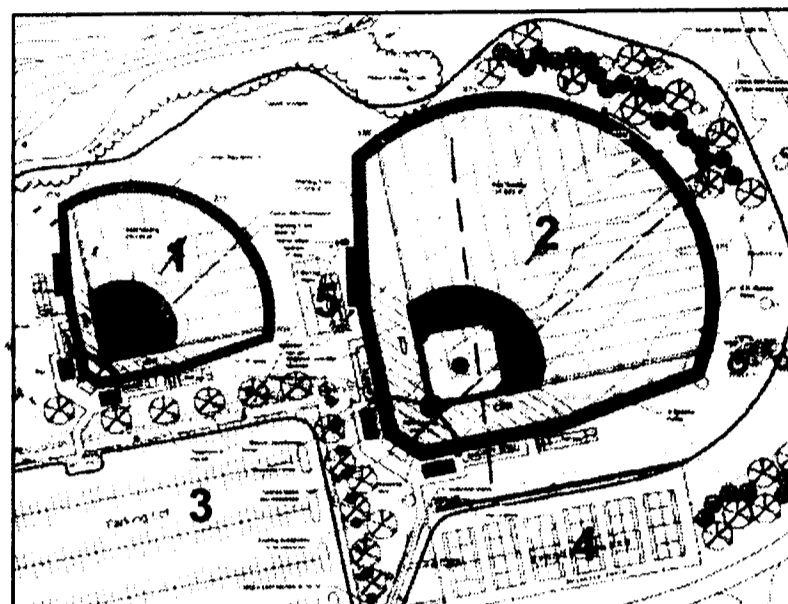
When building fields in northwestern Pennsylvania, where the weather

isn't always predictable and most of the year it snows or rains. Establishing a superior drainage system is important. Brian Streeter, the director of athletics, said every 15 feet there is a drainage line installed so teams can compete even if it rains early in the day. This means the teams could play in the afternoon after a morning shower.

To maintain the beautiful look of the field and to preserve the still-developing grass, the maintenance department on campus cuts the grass to keep the field looking new. If workers are not available, the teams are responsible for raking and top-dressing the infield and outfields, which they often do.

There's a lot more to the fields now than ever before. The old fields had no dugout, no warning track, and benches for the players to sit on. Now,

NEW FIELDS OPEN
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Above: Preliminary blueprints for the Behrend Ballparks.

1. Softball Field
2. Baseball Field
3. Parking Lot
4. Tennis Courts
5. Batting Cages

Baseball does it all against Hilbert



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Ryan Seyler delivers the first pitch ever on the new baseball field Tuesday against Hilbert.

by Mike Bello
sports editor

If all of its games are like the home opener against Hilbert, the baseball team is going to enjoy the first season on its brand new field. Three different pitchers gave up a total of two hits and Behrend's offense racked up 11 hits in a 12-0 shutout of Hilbert. The win improved the team's record to 7-3.

It had been more than a week since their last game in Florida, but the Lions didn't seem to notice. What they did notice was the difference between gym practices and games on a grass field.

"Having a home field is a great thing," said

Jason Karas. "Last year we didn't play one home game and only got on a field once to practice. That is hard for a team to be on the road all season and play ball in the gym. Baseball in a gym and [on] a field is like night and day."

On Tuesday, the Lions saw the ball like it was a clear, sunny day. For Hilbert, it was like playing in the dark. Ryan Seyler pitched three innings of one-hit ball, striking out six, to pick up the win on the mound for the Lions. T.J. Aldrich pitched the middle three innings, and gave up only one hit as well. Kevin DUBYAK pitched the last three hitless innings to record the save.

Jake Boyle was the star of the game at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two RBIs, two triples, and three runs scored. Mike Coutts and Keith Lepionka each drove in two runs, while Tyler Wiand scored two runs. All 15 position players saw action against Hilbert (0-3).

The win was a good tune-up for Saturday's home contest against Penn State Altoona, the first conference game of the season. Both teams split a doubleheader in their only regular season matchup in 2001, although Altoona defeated the Lions in the AMCC playoffs. Still, it doesn't matter which conference opponent they play, because the Lions are riding high on confidence at this point in the season.

The non-league games, although important, are nothing compared to the conference games. For good reason, because with nine seniors on the team, the Lions know they have a very legitimate shot at the conference title.

"We can beat any team in our conference and to be honest, I don't think we will lose any conference games," said Karas. "It's a

BASEBALL WINS HOME OPENER
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Softball dominates in home opener

by Zoë Rose
staff writer

When you fall, you dust yourself off, and try again. This time, the Behrend softball team, after an 0-9 preseason mark during spring training in Florida, picked up the pace.

Since returning to campus and getting a chance to play on their brand new softball field, the Lions have opened the 2001-2002 conference season with a flawless 4-0 mark.

Last Saturday, the Lions hosted their first games on their new field, a doubleheader against Pitt-Greensburg. The Lions overwhelmed Greensburg with an unheard of 20-0 win in the first game and a 10-1 win in the second. Then on Tuesday, the Blue and White hosted Pitt-Bradford in a doubleheader that solidified their mark as a very difficult opponent in the AMCC. The Lions defeated Bradford 5-1 in the first game and completed the sweep with a 3-1 win in the second.

Behrend controlled the entire first game against Bradford, as Brandy Polinick had three hits and one RBI, Cheryl Peterson had two hits and one RBI, and Stephanie Covert added one hit and an RBI. Nicole Miller picked up the win on the mound, giving up one run in seven innings.

After a successfully win in the first game, the Lions followed it up with a 3-1 win in the second game against the Panthers. Covert pitched seven innings, giving up one hit and striking out two. Kelly Woods had two hits and knocked in one run. Polinick stole a base and Becky Corbin brought in a run.

Catcher Cheryl Peterson knew the wins not only gave the Lions a shot of confidence, but they called attention to the other teams that Behrend is for real.

"The two wins over Pitt-Greensburg [were] a confidence booster for this young team,"



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Freshman Roberta Baker (24) scored three runs and had two RBIs against Greensburg last Saturday.

said Peterson. "The Pitt-Bradford games were important games for us. It makes our mark on the AMCC. The whole team was focused and ready to play their best and take both games."

"We look at Florida as a learning experience and a getting to know each other period," said coach Kellie Diehl. "I feel like the team knows each other and how they play so I feel confident going into our conference play."

If the Lions had low spirits after the Florida trip, then they were erased against rival Pitt-

LIONS DOMINATE IN CONFERENCE
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Water polo squeaks by UP in first sports meeting between schools

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

The Behrend Water Polo Tournament took place March 15 and 16. The Lady Lions walked away with three wins and only one loss, placing second behind Gannon.

The first game of the tournament was against Mercyhurst, and Behrend won 13-5. This was the ladies' first win ever, as they went 0-22 in their 2001 freshman season.

"Overall it was a convincing win," said coach Josh Heynes. "They really only have one good player, and the ladies shut her down for the game."

Heynes said the offense and defense were great, even between transitions.

"We pretty much owned the game from the beginning," he said.

Behrend stole the ball often, put pressure on Mercyhurst to make mistakes, and most importantly, the Lions took full advantage of those mistakes. Christine Williams was the most valuable player on the offensive side with five goals and eight steals. Lauren Packer shined in goal with 20 saves and five assists.

The following day was packed full for Behrend, with three more games on tap. The first game was against Gannon. Behrend lost 12-3. Christine Williams continued her excellent



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Amanda Brown, left, Moe Moe Ng, top center, and Christine Williams, right, battle three University Park players during the Lions' 7-6 victory. Behrend became the first branch campus to ever play UP in any sport.

play with two goals and four steals.

"We finally went into a game against Gannon not afraid of them," said Heynes. "We ran with Gannon for most of the first half against their starters, which has been done before against this team. Usually

they score 8-10 goals, then put in the B or C team against us. We had a real good showing with them. Our defense was really on their game, and overall I was pleased with the team."

Behrend then played University Park, the game the Lions had been waiting for. The stands were packed and the game was televised live on Image Sports. Behrend made history, because no branch campus had ever challenged UP in any sport. Not only did Behrend challenge them, but they won 7-6. UP is a nationally ranked team.

"For us to hang with them and to have the lead for most of the game, is a huge accomplishment for these ladies," said Heynes. "Then to finally beat them in the last few minutes of the game was just amazing. It was just a great day for Behrend's women's polo."

Lauren Packer had 10 saves in between the pipes, two of which could have meant a loss for the Lions. But Packer stood her ground and did a amazing job.

"She has really improved her game from last year," said Heynes.

After the huge win against University Park, Behrend then played Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Behrend came

WATER POLO WINS THREE
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