

Track team ready for start of outdoor season

by Scott Soltis
staff writer

The track and field team travels to Clarion University this weekend to kick off its outdoor season. The team is excited to finally compete in the second half of its season. In many ways the indoor season serves as preparation for the outdoor portion.

The women's team comes off a very successful indoor season, especially considering their times and numbers. They also took an excellent number of places while they were outnumbered by some very skilled competition. They established new records almost every time they took the track.

The men's team sent several athletes to the ECAC championships and set new records for most of its events. The team is a mixture of talented young athletes and experienced older athletes who performed well together in the indoor competitions.

With all that the teams have going for them, there is one major thing against them. The Lions have a real lack of adequate outdoor training facilities. In fact, the team first ran on an outdoor track this past Wednesday. In order to do this, they had to travel to Harbor Creek High

School because Behrend has no outdoor track.

Behrend's first outdoor meet is Saturday, and the Lions were only able to run on a track three days before. This poses a major hurdle to overcome before they even take the field at Clarion. The Lions have faced tough odds in some of the indoor meets, but not having an outdoor training facility is probably the toughest obstacle they've had to face all season. Despite all of this, the team is very optimistic and excited for the Clarion Invitational.

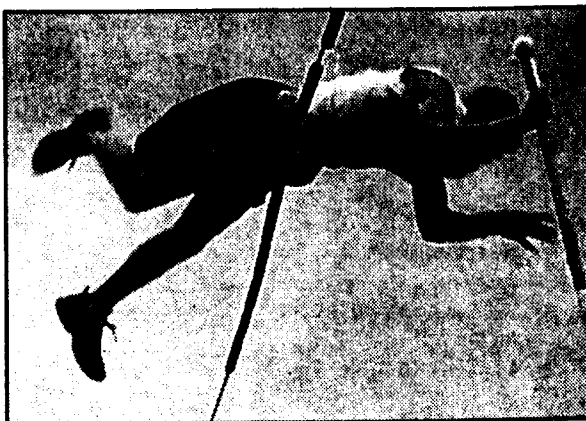
Sophomore Heather Efav is ready and her sentiments echo that of the team.

"The team is pretty pumped about outdoor," she said. "We tend to do a lot better in this season then we do in indoor, so I can't wait to see how people do."

She added that although the meet is in Clarion, a few of the girls are from there, so there will be a cheering section for Behrend.

Senior sprinter Keith Ceroni is also anxious for outdoor to kick off this weekend, but realizes it poses some new challenges.

"The switch from indoor to outdoor season requires a big mental adjustment," said Ceroni. "Not only are you moving from a temperature-controlled environment to the freezing cold, but the track is twice as big. For me, 400



PHOTOS BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON

Steve Feder, above, and Russell Phillips, right, are two athletes looking to make a splash at Clarion.



meters looks a lot longer on an outdoor track." The Lions will soon find out how all of the variables affecting the team will translate into their performances at meets. Clarion will be a good starting point for the season. If the indoor season is any indication of things to come, the team has a great deal to look forward to outdoors.

Tennis team looks to Altoona after dominating Greensburg

by Mike Bello
sports editor

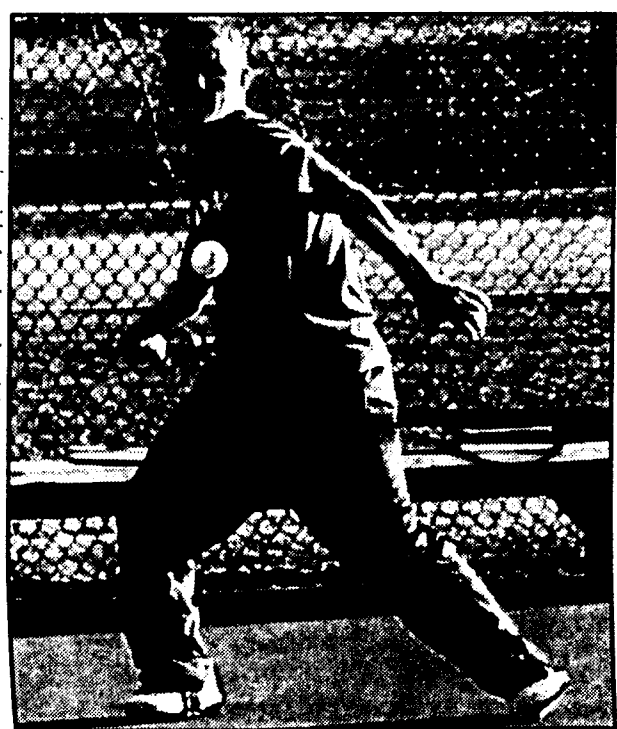


PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Jacob Hillman defeated Greensburg's Jason Pishney 6-4, 6-1, Saturday to lead Behrend to a 6-3 win.

It didn't take long for the men's tennis team to see the fruits of their labor. After a difficult spring break, when they played two Division II teams and dropped to 1-5, the Lions began their conference season on Saturday with a confidence-boosting 6-3 win over Pitt-Greensburg.

More importantly, the win gave Behrend (2-5 overall, 1-0 AMCC) a chance to prepare for Saturday's match against Penn State Altoona, a stronger AMCC opponent than Greensburg. Although, the Lions believe they already have an advantage.

"I think our preparation has been much better than other schools in the conference, which is going to be a big factor," said senior Sundeep Bhatia. Behrend was the only team that scheduled games in late February and early March.

The Lions dominated in singles play, winning five, and nearly the last, of the six matches. Dave Cooper began play with 6-3 and 6-1 wins, and Mike Oey followed up Cooper's performance with even better results, 6-1, 6-1. Brent Carlson then disposed of his Greensburg (0-3, 0-2) opponent 6-2, 6-1, and in the fourth singles match, Jacob Hillman won a close 6-4 set before cruising 6-1.

Andrew Schenck, playing his first set of the year, lost

to Greensburg's Jon Germock 6-3, but the newcomer didn't back down, winning 6-2 and 6-4 to seal the victory for the Lions. In the last singles match of the day, Sheel Galliara defeated Puneet Mehrotra 6-4 before falling 6-2. Galliara gave it his all in the last set, forcing Mehrotra into an extra game before falling 7-6.

Cooper and Oey partnered up to crush Greensburg's Mehrotra and Thomas Janicki 8-0 in the first doubles match, stretching Behrend's lead to 6-1. Carlson and Hillman forced Chris and Bryan Gesinski into an extra match point before losing 9-8, including the 7-4 tiebreaker. Jacob Cornwell and Steve Broussard dropped the third doubles match 8-3.

Any early-season matches, no matter who they are against, give the Lions the advantage over such teams as Altoona, which has played one game so far this season.

"The more matches we play, the more we know how the players are going to be on the other side," said Bhatia. "This definitely is a strength because we shall be able to understand how to play such players."

The Lions will count on this and then some against Altoona Saturday at the Pennbriar Athletic Club, starting at 8:30 a.m. Altoona defeated Behrend twice last year, by 5-4 scores, and then finished second in the conference playoffs with 18 points, 14 ahead of Behrend.

On Monday, Behrend travels to Thiel (0-1) to take on

the Tomcats. Although it may not seem like it, this match is important to the Lions, since they won't play again until a week-long homestand starting April 3.

Through the ups and downs of the early season, the Lions have maintained a positive attitude.

"Although tennis is an individual game, I think the attitude of the team off the court was great, where everyone did everything together, which is good for the team," said Bhatia.

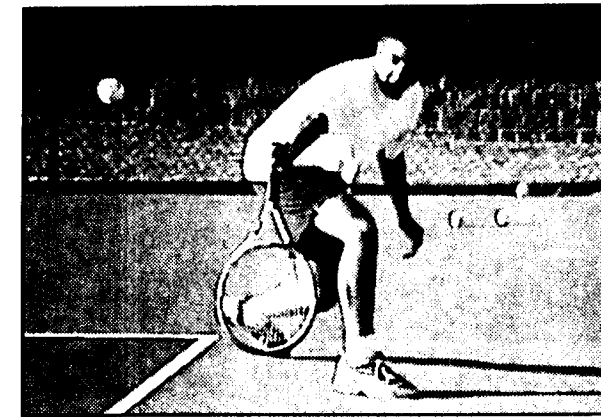


PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Sheel Galliara and company will look for revenge against Penn State Altoona Saturday at the Pennbriar. Behrend lost to Altoona twice last year by 5-4 scores.

THE BEACON SCOREBOARD

THE BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Men's Baseball			Women's Softball			Men's Tennis			Baseball Stats			
School	C.R.	Overall	School	C.R.	Overall	School	C.R.	Overall	Player	RBI	Hits	Ave.
Pitt-Bradford	0-0	10-2	Penn State Behrend	4-0	4-9	Penn State Behrend	1-0	2-5	Jake Boyle	15	19	.452
Penn State Behrend	0-0	7-3	Pitt-Greensburg	0-2	0-4	Pitt-Greensburg	1-1	1-3	Lucas Bundy	4	12	.414
Penn State Altoona	0-0	4-6	La Roche	0-0	4-4	Lake Erie	0-1	0-1	Adam Best	2	12	.387
Frostburg	0-0	3-3	Frostburg	0-0	3-3	Penn State Altoona	0-0	1-0	Anthony Azzato	10	11	.379
La Roche	0-0	1-6	Pitt-Bradford	0-2	2-2	Frostburg	0-0	2-0	Chris Shearer	5	10	.323
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0	0-2	Penn State Altoona	0-0	1-3				Keith Lepionka	6	11	.314
Lake Erie	0-0	0-1	Lake Erie	0-0	0-2				Vince Canzano	4	7	.280

PENN STATE BEHREND LIONS

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA

NASCAR 2002 Winston Cup Standings: Race 5 of 36 Next Race: Food City 500 March 24			National Basketball Association League Leaders				Major League Baseball Spring Batting Statistics				PGA Money Leaders (In Millions)			National Hockey League League Leaders			
Pos.	Driver	Points	Points Per Game (PPG)		Batting Average (AVG)		Pos.	Name	Money	Points (Pts)							
1	Sterling Marlin	825	Player	Team	POS	PPG	Player	Team	POS	AVG	Player	Team	POS	Pts			
2	Ryan Newman	726	1	A Iverson	PHI	G	31.5	1	P Konerko	CWS	IF	.500	1	J Iginla	CGY	RW	80
3	Matt Kenseth	682	2	S O'Neil	LAL	C	27.0	2	S Halter	DET	IF	.476	2	J Sakic	COL	C	72
4	Rusty Wallace	677	3	P Pierce	BOS	F-G	26.2	3	M Sweeney	KC	IF	.475	3	M Naslund	VAN	LW	71
5	Jimmie Johnson	667	4	T McGrady	ORL	G-F	25.7	4	A Ochoa	MIL	OF	.426	4	A Oates	PHI	C	68
6	Jeff Gordon	664	5	K Bryant	LAL	G	25.4	5	P Feliz	SF	IF	.422	5	R Francis	CAR	C	67
7	Jeff Burton	650	Rebounds Per Game (RPG)		Home Runs (HR)		Goals		Points (Pts)								
8	Ward Burton	640	Player	Team	POS	RPG	Player	Team	POS	HR	Player	Team	POS	Goals			
9	Mark Martin	638	1	T Duncan	SA	F-C	12.7	1	E Durazo	ARI	IF	6	1	J Iginla	CGY	RW	43
10	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	621	2	B Wallace	DET	F-C	12.4	1	L Gonzalez	ARI	OF	6	2	M Sundin	TOR	C	36
11	Kurt Busch	614	3	D Fortson	GSW	F-C	12.2	3	D Minor	SF	IF	5	3	D Alfredsson	OTT	RW	35
12	Tony Stewart	604	4	K Garnett	MIN	F	11.8	3	E Chavez	OAK	IF	5	3	B Guerin	BOS	RW	35
13	Elliot Sadler	600	5	E Brand	LAC	F-C	11.8	3	K Mench	TEX	OF	5	5	P Bondra	WAS	RW	34
14	Bill Elliott	594	Assists Per Game (APG)		Runs Batted In (RBI)		Goals Against Average (GAA)		Points (Pts)								
15	Ricky Craven	542	Player	Team	POS	APG	Player	Team	POS	RBI	Player	Team	POS	Goals			
16	Ricky Rudd	517	1	A Miller	CLE	G	10.7	1	P Konerko	CHW	IF	19	1	P Roy	COL	G	1.91
17	Bobby Labonte	510	2	J Kidd	NJ	G	9.9	2	R Casanova	MIL	C	17	2	RCechmanek	PHI	G	2.06
18	Jeremy Mayfield	506	3	G Payton	SEA	G	9.1	3	E Durazo	ARI	IF	16	3	D Hasek	DET	G	2.14
19	Dave Balney	484	4	B Davis	CHA	G	8.5	3	L Gonzalez	ARI	OF	16	4	J Jiquere	ANA	G	2.17
20	Terry Labonte	482	5	J Tinsley	IND	G	8.4	5	V Wells	TOR	OF	15	5	J Theodore	MON	G	2.18
			Field Goal Percentage (FGP)		Runs		Assists (Ass.)		Points (Pts)								
			Player	Team	POS	FGP	Player	Team	POS	Runs	Player	Team	POS	Ass.			
			1	S O'Neal	LAL	C	.576	1	E Spivey	ARI	IF	18	1	A Oates	WAS	C	57
			2	D Marshall	UT	F	.529	2	A Ochoa	MIL	OF	16	2	J Sakic	COL	C	48
			3	R Patterson	POR	F	.528	3	L Gonzalez	ARZ	OF	15	3	J Roenick	PHI	C	44
			4	D Davis	POR	C-F	.522	4	B Hill	CHC	OF	14	3	A Brunette	MIN	C	44
			5	E Brand	LAC	F-C	.520	4	J Guillen	ARI	OF	14	5	R Francis & J Allison			43