

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday

Men's Baseball
@ Frostburg (DH)
1 p.m.

Men's and Women's Track and Field @ Jim Thorpe Invitational, 9 a.m.

Monday

Women's Softball
*La Roche (DH)
Behrend Softball Field
3 p.m.

Tuesday

Men's Baseball
*Fredonia
Behrend Baseball Field
1 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Baseball
@ Pitt-Bradford (DH)
1 p.m.

Men's Tennis
#Edinboro
Behrend Tennis Courts
3:30 p.m.

Thursday

Women's Softball
*Fredonia
Behrend Softball Field
3 p.m.

Friday, April 5

Men's Tennis
#Alfred
Behrend Tennis Courts
3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6

Men's Tennis
Behrend Invitational
Behrend Tennis Courts
vs. Alfred, Thiel, Frostburg
9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m.
(Round Robin)

Women's Water Polo
@ Indiana Bloomington
Tournament
vs. Mercyhurst
12:45 p.m.
vs. Gannon
5:45 p.m.

Intramurals Schedule

Friday

Intramural Badminton: Men's and Women's Singles; Men's, Women's and Coed Doubles - \$3 - Only names and Social Security numbers are needed. Teams must pick Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday games. All games start at 8:30 p.m.

Intramural Soccer: Men's, Women's, and Coed - \$3 - No restrictions on the number of players

Friday, April 12

Team Triathlon: Three persons to a team, each perform one of three exercise - swimming, biking, and running.

All entries must be at the intramural office by 4 p.m. on the scheduled date

* Subject to cancellation depending on weather

Will be moved to the Pennbriar Athletic Club in the evening should the weather dictate

You're in big league town, now

Track and field to join Behrend water polo as only branch campus teams to play UP

by Scott Soltis
staff writer

Two weeks after Behrend's water polo team defeated University Park, the track and field team will get a chance to make it two-for-two. Late Wednesday afternoon, a decision was made for Behrend to compete at the Jim Thorpe Invitational at University Park this Saturday.

This came as a surprise, to say the least, to the team, which would have never thought its outdoor season would begin like this. The season was set to commence last Saturday at Clarion University, but the invitational was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Consequently, the season opener was pushed back to the Lions' meet at Geneva College on Thursday. Geneva decided to cancel this event due to the weather conditions, as well. This left coach Dave Cooper searching for some competition to keep his team sharp.

"The cancellation last week at Clarion, plus the cancellation of the Geneva meet, has left us in dire need for competition," said Cooper. "It has been over a month since we competed."

Cooper realizes that the competition will be at a higher level than usual this weekend.

"We have the opportunity to compete against Division I schools at University Park Saturday," he said. "Although that would have been the furthest thing from my mind a week ago, we are fortunate to have the opportunity at this point."

The team realizes that there will be some excellent athletes at the meet this weekend. However, the players believe they will not be intimidated by the status of the schools. Junior distance runner Kevin Ritzert feels that the team will thrive in this situation.

"I don't think the team is intimidated by going up against Division I schools," said Ritzert. "In fact, most everyone is looking forward to it. I think that the team will do very well against the tougher competition and I think everyone is just excited about the

atmosphere that will be at the University Park meet."

The invitational will mark the second time in history that a Penn State branch campus will challenge UP. The only other time it happened was when the Behrend women's water polo team defeated University Park in a close game, 7-6, on March 16 in the Behrend Invitational. The track meet will not be scored, so there will be no way of knowing how close the meet against UP will be. However, if the team is able to hang in there with the State College team, it will be a moral victory for the athletes.

This meet will set the pace for the outdoor season, although places may be few and far between. The fact that the team is at this level of competition shows how much progress the Behrend track and field team has made this year.



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON

Jay Davids, left, and coach Katie Heynoski watch Russell Phillips practice the high jump during a recent practice at the Junker Center. The Lions head to State College to take on University Park and several other Division I schools this weekend in the Jim Thorpe Invitational.

Behrend has no school spirit and never will

The other week, I was searching through old Behrend newspaper archives from the early 1970s when I came across something interesting. Actually, it was downright humorous, although it wasn't meant to be when it was written.

You see, one student wrote a short comment criticizing the Behrend students for not showing up at a soccer tournament.



Personal foul
Mike Bello

What caught my eye was that he called the Behrend students apathetic because only 100 out of the 1,550 total students had gone to a Saturday game. It's funny how today the word "apathetic" gets tossed around a lot when describing Behrend students, especially considering how the world has changed the past six months.

Of course, the author goes on to say that the students should go because, "The players, with no protection whatsoever, are constantly crashing into each other, causing numerous fights, which should be of interest to many blood-thirsty fans." What the hell kind of soccer did they play back then? It's nothing like the wussy soccer they play now.

Fun fact: Behrend, which once had a wrestling team (go figure), used to be nicknamed the Cubs. They probably changed the name when they realized a) The name is very sissy, and b) No team named "Cubs" ever wins anything.

What's even funnier, though, is that of the more than half dozen soccer games I've seen in order to snap some pictures, I didn't see even 100 fans combined. Granted, some of those days were downright freezing, when layers upon layers of clothes were required. But even on days when the weather was nice, the only fans I saw were some parents and maybe a few students here and there.

Basketball games were a little different, obviously, because basketball always draws the bigger crowds. However, I've still seen a whole lot of empty seats, seats that probably could have been filled by the large number of students in the weight room in the same building.

I am by no means here to criticize anyone. If people want to show up to games or not, it's their choice, and I'm not going to criticize those who don't (unlike our '70s author). But I would like to give reasons why Behrend lacks school spirit, and why the community does not care about the school.

The biggest reason is because Behrend is a public school, unlike Mercyhurst and Gannon, which are private schools. Therefore, their tuition is more than \$20,000 a year. Behrend, because tuition is fairly inexpensive, attracts a lot of people from this area. Edinboro's a public school as well, but for most of the Erie County population, Behrend is closer.

As a result, many of the students here commute, and most of them only come to school to learn and get a degree - nothing more, nothing less. They might have more permanent jobs, or family, or other local ties that take up their time. In other words, they are just here for their classes and not for extra-curricular activities. It's hard to reach those students when school doesn't rank at the top of their list of important activities.

Speaking of Mercyhurst and Gannon, another reason Behrend doesn't attract large crowds is because the community really doesn't care. There's a huge gap between the public and the school, and let's just say construction on the bridge is on permanent hiatus. People get pumped up a lot for Hurst, Gannon, and even to a certain extent, 'Boro (although most of those fans are from the town of Edinboro). Who gets pumped up to see Behrend play?

This couldn't have been more clear than on Jan. 26, when more than 3,000 people packed the Hammermill Center for a Gannon/Hurst men's basketball game. People were lined

BEHREND LACKS SPIRIT
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2001-2002

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MONDAY, APRIL 1, NOON

Bring your lunch to the Penn State Behrend Wintergarden and enjoy world-class performances in an informal setting. Admission is free.

PENNSSTATE Erie The Behrend College

This week's

senior athletic profile

Kelly Woods: There's nothing better than playing a little softball

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

When Kelly Woods first started playing softball, she said it was just pure fun. Her team at North Hills High School was dominating. It won the district almost every year.

She continued to play at Behrend because it was still fun, but she said it also helped her relieve stress that would build up from classes. This is Woods' second year as a co-captain, sharing the honor with Stephanie Covert this year.

Woods started playing softball

when she was 7. Her parents thought that signing her up for a sport would be a good idea, and they picked softball. As a result, Woods said her parents are the biggest influence in her life.

"They encourage me in everything that I do and support me when I need it the most," said Woods.

Woods plays centerfield, the position that takes charge of the outfield. "My favorite part of [the] position is [it] has the best view [of] the field," said Woods.

Woods believes every coach she has ever played for has made her a better player for one reason or another.

"They always have something new to teach," said Woods.

Woods' whole softball career at Behrend has produced great memories. Woods has made the AMCC's All-Conference team twice, and received honorable mention once.

Woods tries to keep her classes as early as possible, given that softball takes up her afternoons and evening.

"It does not leave much time for a personal life," said Woods.

Practice is usually held from 4-6 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. She also holds a work-study position in the weight room, and works as a night assistant. Then, Woods occasionally works on the weekends as a referee for volleyball tournaments. In her spare time, Woods said she usually sleeps,

watches a movie, or hangs out with her friends.

Woods said that her role model is simply anyone who can set a goal and do what it takes to accomplish it. She said her two strongest characteristics are that she tries to stay open minded to anything, and that she would do almost anything to help out a friend.

Woods is majoring in psychology because she is interested in finding out why people do what they do, or think the way they think. After graduation, Woods would like to attend the United States Sports Academy to get a masters in sport coaching. The US Sports Academy is a school that offers a graduate program for different aspects of sport, such as, management, coaching, and training. Woods' dream job is to coach softball at a small college.

The team is 4-11 overall, and 4-0 in the conference.

"I do not know how our record will turn out, but I know that we will have fun and be closer as a team when we are done," said Woods. "I have tried to make my experience here at Behrend well rounded by being involved in different activities."



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON

As a senior and a centerfielder, Kelly Woods does double duty as she leads the young softball team through a difficult first half.