

Baseball team intimidates AMCC with 12-4 record

by Mike Bello
sports editor

The players knew for weeks that once they got the chance to prove themselves on the field, they would show the rest of the league just what Behrend baseball is all about. Now that the weather has turned more spring-like, the team is finally walking the walk.

Behrend's offense exploded for 24 runs in its first two conference games of the year against Frostburg, and then disposed of Fredonia and nearly swept a doubleheader from Pitt-Bradford later in the week to improve to 12-4 overall, 3-1 in the AMCC.

"I think after the Frostburg wins, we sent a message to other teams in the AMCC that Behrend [is] a team to be scared of," said catcher Luke "Field General" Bundy. "We feel that we are the team to beat."

The Lions struggled offensively against Bradford in game one on Wednesday, as a double by Jason Karas accounted for the team's only hit in a 2-1 loss. Jake Boyle knocked in Adam Best with a sacrifice fly in the first inning for the team's only run. Frostburg tied the game in the bottom of the inning, and then went ahead with another run in the fifth.

Ryan Seyler went six innings, giving up four hits and no earned runs, as his record fell to 4-1 on the season. Using a wicked backdoor curve amidst the falling snow, Bradford's Nick Eichenlaub improved to 3-2 with a dominating performance over the Lions.

It was T.J. Aldrich's turn to shine on the mound in game two, as the junior gave up six hits, two earned runs, and struck out 10 in seven innings to lead Behrend to a 4-2 win. Tony Azzato went 2-for-4 with a two-run double, while Best singled twice. Both teams scored two runs in the fifth, but the Lions took the lead for good when Craig Ottaviani scored Shearer on a safety squeeze in the sixth.

"We didn't deserve to win today," said Bradford coach Bret Butler. "We let that team (Behrend) beat us. They (Lions) played harder and wanted it more than we did."

A day earlier against Fredonia, freshman Chris Kechisen threw 6 1/3 no-hit innings

Weekly Recap	
Behrend 10, Frostburg 3 - March 30	
Behrend 14, Frostburg 10 - March 30	
Behrend 2, Fredonia 0 - April 2	
Behrend 9, Fredonia 8 - April 2	
Bradford 2, Behrend 1 - April 3	
Behrend 4, Bradford 2 - April 3	

and pitched a two-hit gem on the mound for Behrend in game one, and the Lions followed that up with a dramatic win in the bottom of the seventh in game two.

Kechisen pitched all seven innings, giving up only a single and a double while striking out 11 in a 2-0 win. Chris Shearer went 2-for-3 to lead the Lions, while Tyler Wiand had the team's only RBI, as the Lions plated both runners in the second inning.

In the nightcap, Best hit a two-out RBI single to right to score Vince Canzano in the seventh inning to help Behrend secure a 9-8 victory. Best knocked in three runs in the leadoff spot, while Boyle went 3-for-3, including his third home run of the season, with two runs and two RBIs. Bundy, Canzano, and Keith Lepionka each added two hits, with Lepionka contributing two RBIs, as well. Chuck Sevin pitched the final 2 2/3 innings for the win, giving up two hits and one run with two strikeouts.

The Lions were more than happy to finally get the chance to compete on the field, first against Frostburg on Saturday and then against Fredonia on Tuesday. Behrend had played only once since its last spring break game on March 9.

"The team has been anxious all season to play games," said senior Bob Palivoda. "This year we feel that we are a very competitive ball team and we want the chance to prove ourselves."

"We are just glad to be playing again. It is nice to know when you are going to play," said Karas, in reference to the slew of games that were cancelled/postponed during the weeks after spring break.

In the first game against Frostburg, Seyler gave up one earned run in seven innings as Behrend downed the Bobcats 10-3. Sophomore Best went 3-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs. Best also smacked his first home run of the season. Shearer had three hits, while Ottaviani, Boyle, and Lepionka each scored two runs.

Frostburg's offense came alive in game two, but the Lions pounded out 17 hits on their way to a 14-10 win. Frostburg (6-8, 2-2) was up 4-1 after three innings, but the Lions scored three in the fourth and two in the fifth to take the lead for good.

Shearer was the star at the plate for Behrend, as the senior went 4-for-5, including two doubles, with three runs scored and four RBIs. Tony Azzato contributed three RBIs with two hits, one of seven players to have at least two hits in the game. Best continued his assault on the opposition, scoring three runs and stealing the team's only base.

"The team came out very energized and focused and was able to secure two very important victories," said Boyle. "It showed that we can be a very dangerous team when we eliminate mistakes and that we should not be taken lightly by the rest of the conference."

After some much-needed rest, the Lions return to the field Saturday at home against Lake Erie at 1 p.m. The Lions will then play at Case Western Reserve on Sunday before returning home for a game against Pitt-Greensburg on Monday. The Lions also play La Roche on Thursday at home, part of a five-game homestand.

After sweeping Frostburg and nearly doing the same to Bradford, the Lions feel that intimidation will play an important part throughout the rest of the season, especially now that the conference season is well under way.

"It's a good thing to intimidate a team because before you even play them, you have already won," said Karas.

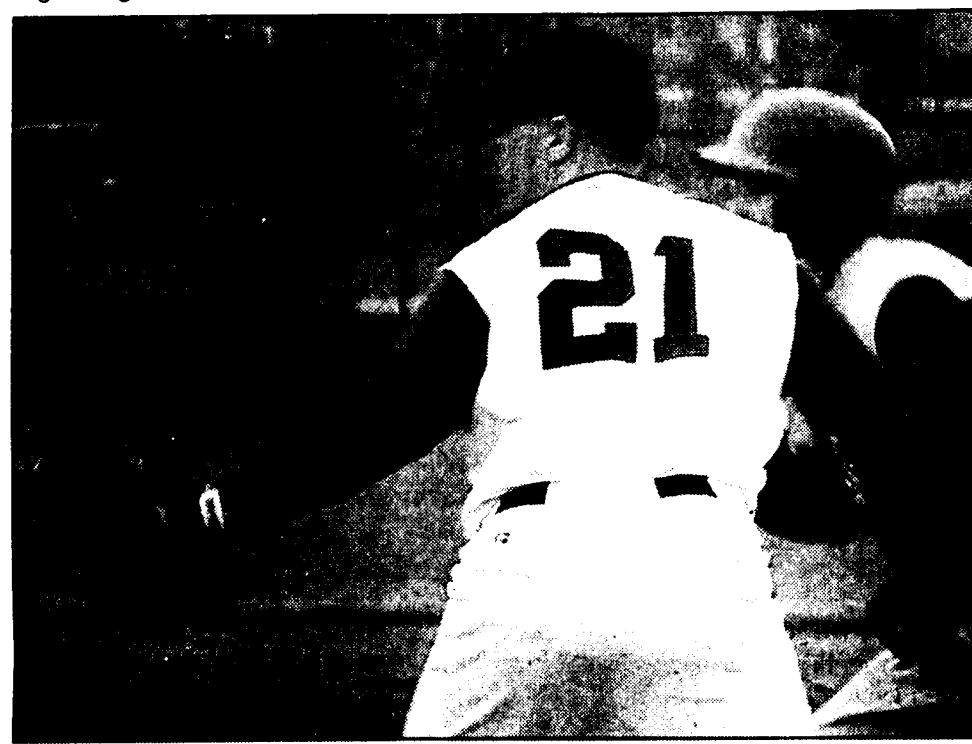
"Intimidation is a key factor in the game of baseball," said Palivoda. "From the first game of the season until the last game of the season, it is always good to feel that your team has the upper-hand when taking the ball field."

Boyle, though, isn't as sold on the idea. "It is more important for us to simply worry about us and make sure we perform up to our ability. What other teams think/feel means nothing, really. If we play our game like we know how, we will win. Period."



PHOTOS BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Tyler Wiand, top, takes a cut against Fredonia Tuesday in the rain at the Behrend Baseball Field. Keith Lepionka, below, keeps his Fredonia opponent close to the bag during the Lions' doubleheader sweep.



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	3-1	14-4	Penn State Altoona	4-0	11-5	Penn State Altoona	3-0	6-0	Adam Best	9	21	.412
Penn State Behrend	3-1	12-4	La Roche	2-0	6-4	Frostburg	2-1	3-2	Jake Boyle	17	24	.407
Frostburg	4-2	10-8	Penn State Behrend	2-2	4-13	Penn State Behrend	1-1	2-7	Chris Shearer	10	19	.388
La Roche	0-4	1-12	Pitt-Bradford	2-2	6-5	Pitt-Greensburg	2-2	2-5	Lucas Bundy	6	17	.347
Penn State Altoona	0-2	5-17	Pitt-Greensburg	1-2-1	1-6-1	Lake Erie	0-1	0-1	Anthony Azzato	15	17	.333
Pitt-Greensburg	1-1	2-9	Frostburg	1-0-1	4-5-1				Keith Lepionka	11	16	.296
Lake Erie	0-0	0-6	Lake Erie	0-0	0-4				Vince Canzano	6	10	.263

PENN STATE
BEHREND
LIONS

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA

Professional Golf Association PGA Money Leaders (In Millions)			National Basketball Association League Leaders					Division I College Basketball ESPN/USA Today Final Top 25 (Scores do not include playoffs)						National Hockey League League Leaders				
Pos.	Name	Money	Points Per Game (PPG)					Men's Basketball			Women's Basketball			Points (Pts)				
			Player	Team	POS	PPG	Team	Record	Points	Team	Record	Points	Player	Team	POS	Pts		
1	Tiger Woods	1.677	1	A Iverson	PHI	G	31.3	1	Maryland	32-4	775	1	Connecticut	36-0		1000		
2	Jose Maria Olazabal	1.503	2	S O'Neil	LAL	C	26.7	2	Kansas	33-4	720	2	Oklahoma	30-3		960		
3	Craig Perks	1.347	3	P Pierce	BOS	F-G	26.3	3	Indiana	25-12	701	3	Tennessee	28-4		898		
4	Vijay Singh	1.312	4	K Bryant	LAL	G	25.5	4	Oklahoma	31-5	692	4	Duke	30-3		875		
5	Jerry Kelly	1.299	4	T McGrady	ORL	G-F	25.5	5	Duke	31-4	606	5	Vanderbilt	30-6		835		
6	Brad Faxon	1.269	Rebounds Per Game (RPG)					6	Connecticut	27-7	586	6	South Carolina	25-6		737		
7	Sergio Garcia	1.246	Player	Team	POS	RPG	6	Oregon	26-9	586	7	Old Dominion	28-5		716			
8	Chris DiMarco	1.243	1	B Wallace	DET	F-C	12.9	8	Cincinnati	31-4	489	8	Stanford	32-3		689		
9	Kevin Sutherland	1.160	2	T Duncan	SA	F-C	12.8	9	Pittsburgh	29-6	482	9	Colorado	24-9		647		
10	Scott McCarron	1.089	3	K Garnett	MIN	F	12.1	10	Arizona	24-10	458	10	Kansas State	26-8		560		
11	Phil Mickelson	1.076	4	D Fortson	GS	F	12.0	11	Illinois	26-9	410	11	North Carolina	26-9		512		
12	Ernie Els	1.019	5	E Brand	LAC	F-C	11.7	12	Kent State	30-6	402	12	Texas Tech	20-12		503		
13	Len Mattace	1.011	Assists Per Game (APG)					13	Kentucky	22-10	394	13	Texas	22-10		473		
14	David Toms	1.009	Player	Team	POS	APG	14	Alabama	27-8	281	14	Purdue	24-6		445			
15	Stephen Ames	.896	1	A Miller	CLE	G	10.7	15	Missouri	24-12	272	15	Baylor	27-6		421		
16	Kenny Perry	.888	2	J Kidd	NJ	G	10.1	16	Gonzaga	29-4	264	16	Iowa State	24-9		385		
17	Matt Kuchar	.853	3	G Payton	SEA	G	9.0	17	Ohio State	24-8	237	17	BYU	23-9		347		
18	Matt Gogel	.829	4	B Davis	CHA	G	8.5	18	Marquette	26-7	186	18	Penn State	23-12		325		
19	Rocco Mediate	.776	5	J Stockton	UTH	G	8.1	19	Texas	22-12	186	19	Louisiana Tech	25-5		264		
20	Pat Perez	.726	Field Goal Percentage (FGP)					20	UCLA	21-12	170	20	Drake	25-8		244		
21	Ian Leggatt	.707	Player	Team	POS	FGP	21	Mississippi St.	27-8	162	21	Minnesota	22-8		204			
22	Rory Sabbatini	.649	1	S O'Neal	LAL	C	.576	22	Southern Illinois	28-8	157	22	LSU	18-12		148		
23	Fred Funk	.636	2	D Marshall	UTH	F	.525	23	Florida	22-9	140	23	Cincinnati	27-5		107		
24	John Huston	.635	3	E Brand	LAC	F-C	.524	24	Xavier	26-6	116	24	Colorado St.	24-7		83		
25	Charles Howell III	.601	4	D Davis	POR	C-F	.519	25	NC State	23-11	86	25	TCU	24-7		79		
26	John Cook	.601	5	CWilliamson	DET	F	.516	OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES			OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES			Goals Against Average (GAA)				
27	Michael Campbell	.597	USC 80, Miami (Fl) 66, Wake Forest 54, Georgia 44, Notre Dame 44, Western Kentucky 44			Boston College 65, Florida 48, Mississippi St. 46, Arkansas 45, Florida Intl. 44, Georgia 44, Iowa 39			Player			Team	POS	GAA				
28	Jim Furyk	.554	1			A Oates	WAS	C	61	2			J Sakic	COL	C	50		
29	Lee Janzen	.552	2			R Francis	CAR	C	50	3			D Hasek	DET	G	2.09		
			4			N Lindstrom	DET	D	49	4			J Theodore	MON	G	2.15		
			5			J Allison	LOS	C	48	5			M Turco	DAL	G	2.18		