

This week's senior athletic profile

Brent Carlson: If it's singles or doubles, you can count on MIS major

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Brent Carlson started playing tennis his freshman year at Warren Area High School. During his four years playing for the Warren Dragons, his team was undefeated.

"We learned to play tennis to have fun, and not for competition, and the result was that we were unbeatable," said Carlson.

The team took trips to Hilton Head, S.C. to polish its skills, and played USTA tournaments in several Pennsylvania-bordering states. Carlson and his doubles partner, Eric Morrison, received a No. 1 USTA ranking for the Allegheny Mountain District.

At Behrend, Carlson holds the co-captain position along with Dave Cooper. Carlson plays the No. 3 singles position.

"Each position on the team is of equal importance," said Carlson. "However, the No. 3 spot requires shot consistency and good ball control. You need to not make unforced errors and intimidate your opponent into making errors. Tennis at this level requires a good mental game. Good footwork and playing smart are the most important aspects when it comes to tennis. Good footwork allows you to be in the right place on the court."

He also plays the No. 1 doubles position with his partner Cooper. Carlson said doubles is extremely different from singles because you need to have good communication skills to talk to your partner and position yourself on the court in relation to them.

"Usually the first team to the net controls the point," said Carlson. If given the choice, though, Carlson would rather play doubles than singles.

"It is tough to say whether I like singles or doubles better because they both have their pros and cons," said Carlson. "I would probably choose doubles over singles. Doubles allows you to play fast-paced points and involves a lot of volleying. Volleying is one of my favorite ways to win a point. You and your partner can take over the net and play better angles."

Carlson does not think he plays doubles any more competitively than he does singles, however.

"You do not want to let down your partner, so it is important to stay focused on each individual point," said Carlson.

Carlson said he likes to listen to loud music on the way to the courts before a match. When he arrives, he likes to stretch for about five minutes before warming up several dif-



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON

Brent Carlson mountain bikes, rollerblades, and plays basketball, among other activities, but for the team's co-captain, tennis is a great way to relax from classes.

ferent shots such as the forehand, backhand, mid-court volleys, volleys, and overheads. He also tries to bounce around a lot to keep on his toes, because, for him, footing and quickness play a crucial part in the match.

Carlson's highlight at Behrend was a singles match he played at Altoona in his junior year. He was playing the No. 2 singles, and his opponent had beaten him when they previously played.

"At the time, my opponent thought that the match would be just as easy," said Carlson. "I won the first set by a score of 7-5. Then, we went to 6-6 in the second. During the tiebreaker, my opponent was winning 6-3. I fought back to win the tiebreaker 13-11, and closed out the second set. Close matches and come-from-behind wins are always enjoyable."

Carlson said managing time between class, tennis, and personal issues takes a great deal of organization. He uses an organizer to plan duties and activities for the week.

Carlson said his two strongest characteristics are that he is organized and intelligent. Practice times for tennis vary throughout the season. Everyone on the team has classes at different times, so it is hard to schedule consistent practices, when everyone can attend. But most of the time, the team practices in the evenings from 8-10 p.m. Carlson also belongs to the MIS Club, Communication Club, Sigma Beta Delta, an international honor

society for business, management, and administration.

In his spare time, when he is not on the courts or in school, Carlson likes to stay in shape by rollerblading, mountain biking, or playing basketball. During the summers he enjoys camping, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.

Carlson is majoring in Management Information Systems, because he believes the market is shifting in favor of those with technology degrees.

"I feel that a knowledge of computers, business, and management will prove valuable in the increasingly competitive and technology driven job market," said Carlson. After graduation, he hopes to secure a full-time job in his field of study.

The team's record so far is 1-1 in the conference with two important conference games coming up on Sunday, against Lake Erie and Frostburg.

"I think the team will finish with a winning record," said Carlson. "We have a good chance of dominating our conference if we practice hard and take the matches one at a time."

Carlson thinks the most important thing about tennis is having fun.

"Although with our busy school schedules, it is an excellent way to get exercise and relieve some stress," said Carlson.



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Campus officials see more student rioting after big athletic events

by Catherine Dolinski
Capital News Service

You win some, you lose some, you riot either way.

Such has been the trend in recent years on college campuses after big-time athletic events like the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. And no one has demonstrated it better than fans at the University of Maryland, College Park, where thousands faced off with hundreds of police Monday after the Terrapins won the national championship.

Post-game bedlam like that has been erupting on campuses around the country, leaving police and college officials scrambling to implement new security measures to break the cycle, which they say has been growing more violent, and more commonplace.

"This is a trend, but not just at College Park. It's a national phenomenon," said Maj. Cathy Atwell, of the College Park campus police.

"It's been increasing over the last two years or so."

The raucous scenes Monday in College Park - bonfires, looting, drunken brawls, flying beer bottles and walls of troopers in riot gear - were still milder than damage Terp fans caused last year after losing to Duke in the NCAA Final Four.

In Arizona, Tucson Police Sgt. Marco Borboa said he had flashbacks when he saw pictures of the College Park mob scene in Tuesday's newspapers.

"Those photos could've been taken here," he said.

The chaos Borboa remembers followed the University of Arizona's NCAA championship loss to Duke last spring. That night, rowdy Wildcats fans smashed out storefronts, attacked police, set fire to trash cans and even burned a mobile home.

The episode, which resulted in at least 17 arrests, replayed many of the same problems the city suffered when Arizona beat Kentucky to win the championship in 1997.

"This year we had no incidents, but it looks like other campuses are being faced with it now," Borboa said.

"The problem is that it becomes a tradition. Once you have one or two incidents, it becomes the tradition that this is the place to gather, and that becomes well-known. It's tough to break the cycle."

Atwell pointed to similar problems in recent years at universities like Michigan State and Ohio State. "Even Indiana had some unrest last night," she said Tuesday.

Bloomington, Ind., police reported that after the Hoosiers lost to the Terps Monday, a crowd of thousands of Indiana fans grew unruly, throwing bottles, ripping plywood off buildings and lighting fires. About 1:30 a.m., the roughly 130 riot gear-clad city and state troopers in downtown Bloomington resorted to using tear gas and pepper spray to disperse the mob.

Lt. Jerry Minger, of the Indiana University campus police, said most of the rabble-rousing occurred downtown, and that things had stayed comparatively peaceful on campus. Yet even campus cops wound up making about 20 arrests that night, adding to the 10 or 15 reported by city police.

"Part of this is a copycat phenomenon," said Sheldon Steinbach, general counsel for the American Council on Education.

Steinbach, who has observed student riot behavior for several decades, said campus sports rioting traces back to high-profile episodes of violence following professional sports games like the World Series, Stanley Cup and the Super Bowl.

"It sets up a pattern for other revelers to mimic," he said.

"Reactions in various towns for professional sports events have set the pattern... It's behavior fueled by excessive alcohol consumption, and with that comes somewhat of a herd mentality."

Men's tennis gets taste of outdoor play in preparing for invitational

by Mike Bello
sports editor

The men's tennis team has faced some tough competition throughout the season. On Wednesday, it didn't get any easier. The Lions lost every individual match to Division II Edinboro in a 9-0 loss. The loss dropped the team's record to 2-7.

Edinboro (8-2) certainly was a team Behrend had little chance of beating. But playing against this difficult opponent, something the Lions have become accustomed to this season, gave the Lions a chance to improve their game for the upcoming Behrend Invitational on Saturday.

Before the Invite, which includes Alfred, Frostburg, and Thiel, the Lions will play Alfred today at 3:30 p.m. That game, along with the Edinboro match - the first one the Lions have played outside this season up north - gave the Lions some much-needed outdoor experience. Behrend's two other post-break games were played at the Pennbriar.

"They (Edinboro and Alfred) give the team a chance to fine-tune any skills that are out of place at the moment," said junior Doug Smith. "The games against Alfred and Edinboro should be used to improve consistent serving and lessen the number of unforced errors."

The Lions will count on their top singles players against the three Invite teams, as well as Lake Erie, an AMCC team the Lions play against, along with Frostburg, on Sunday. Saturday and Sunday's matches begin at 9 a.m. Mike Oey and Brent Carlson lead the way for Behrend, as both players have three match wins under their belt. David Cooper and Oey both have two wins as doubles partners, and will prove valuable if the Lions are to overcome their opponents this weekend.

Should the weather hold, the six matches this weekend - Alfred today, Frostburg, Thiel, and Alfred on Saturday in the round robin tournament, as well as the matches against both Frostburg and Lake Erie - will take place at the Behrend Tennis

Courts. If not, the matches will move to the Pennbriar in the evening.

For now, though, the Lions are content to play at home, since their last five matches this season, as well as the AMCC tournament, are on the road. Behrend's last home game is Wednesday against Fredonia.

"I think all the games at home [are] a win-lose situation," said Smith. "You cannot get comfortable at home since the games after that are all on the road. Yet it gives the team a chance to [achieve] a comfort level."

The Lions are just counting on developing some consistent play to overcome the time off after spring break.

"We just want to find a consistent playing level," said Smith. "We need to have the doubles teams mesh more so that we have the advantage coming out of doubles and into the singles matches."

"The tournament begins the home stretch of the season that will tell us where we rank among other teams in the AMCC."



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Steve Broussard returns serve against Edinboro on Wednesday. The Lions host the Behrend Invitational on Saturday at 1 p.m.

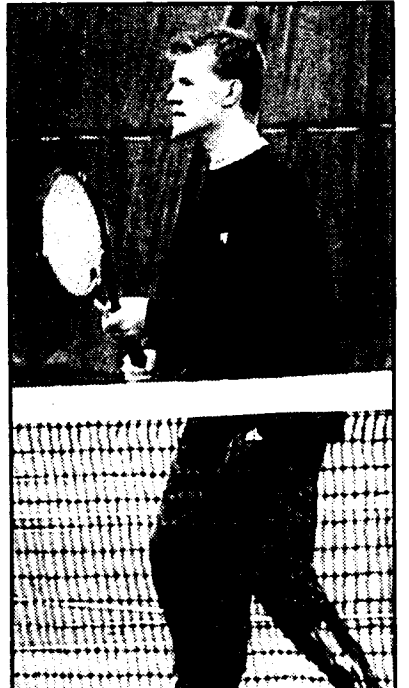


PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Jacob Hillmann awaits the serve from his Edinboro opponent Wednesday at the Behrend Tennis Courts.