

Men's tennis finishes second at AMCCs

by Mike Bello sports editor

The Penn State Behrend tennis team struggled against Frostburg State in the three regular season matches...

Frostburg, the defending AMCC champs, scored 12 points in the tournament, but Behrend defeated the Bobcats in all three head-to-head individual matches...

This year was different, though. Playing in the bracket tournament, Behrend had two singles champions, in the No. 2 and No. 3 seed, as well as a runner-up in the No. 6 singles and No. 2 and 3 doubles.

"We knew that we could do well in the AMCCs," said Steve Broussard. "We just stepped up a notch when it came to playoff time. The look on Frostburg's faces when we took the second-place plaque, it was like they didn't know what hit them. It felt great."

Freshman Michael Oey, in the No. 2 singles,

defeated Penn State Altoona's J.D. Goldstein for the third time this year before knocking off Frostburg senior, and AMCC Player of the Year, Terance Killen 5-7, 6-0, 6-3 in the finals.

Senior Brent Carlson won Behrend's other title, in the No. 3 singles, when he beat Frostburg's Scott Reust 6-2, 2-6, 7-5. Carlson slid past Altoona in the first round and then defeated Reust for the first time this season.

Despite playing the tournament against several teams instead of just one, with different players battling against different teams at the same time, the Lions saw the tournament as a total team effort and not an individual effort on behalf of each player.

"I think that although tennis is played individually or in pairs, it really was a team effort," said Oey. "If any one of us had lost one of our matches, we would not have topped Frostburg."

Motivation was key to the second-place finish as well for the Lions, as players switched back-and-forth from the sidelines to the courts.

"Some of our best motivation was winning for the team," said Oey. "It was important for the team to cheer for other teammates because it helps to keep that motivation."

"It's definitely an advantage to cheer on your teammates," said Broussard. "When you get to the late rounds, it is possible that you have played five or six matches (doubles and singles), so you're tired. With your teammates cheering you on, it gives that little energy you need to finish off your match."

Sheel Galliard took runner up in the No. 6 singles when he fell to Altoona freshman Jim Hofer 6-0, 6-3. It was the first meeting between the two, as Hofer spent most of the year as the No. 5 singles player for Altoona.

Oey and Jacob Hillmann took second in the No. 2 doubles match, falling to Altoona's Yannick Riverti and Jared Fearar 8-2 after defeating Greensburg's and Frostburg's second doubles pair.

Goldstein and Hofer then won the last doubles match 8-3 over Behrend's Andrew Schenck and Broussard in the first meeting between the two pairs.

"We definitely knew that we were better than everyone thought," said Broussard. "That was our advantage going in to the matches. Frostburg and Altoona both thought they would have an easy time against us. But we showed up to play."

Dave Cooper won the opening match in No. 1 singles before falling to Altoona's Dave Bruno, the AMCC's Newcomer of the Year. Hillmann defeated Lake Erie in the No. 4 singles before Riverti sent him packing, while Schenck lost to Fearar in the No. 5 singles.

"It is a great finish to the season," said Broussard. "This is the first AMCC men's tennis plaque to go on the wall. It's a second-place plaque, but we have to start somewhere."

Cooper, Carlson, Broussard, Jacob Cornwell, and Sundeep Bhatia all said goodbye to Behrend tennis with the completion of the AMCC tournament on Saturday. After losing only one starter the previous year, the Lions will have several gaps to fill for the 2003 season.

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Athlete of the Week

PENNSTATE Eric

Michael Oey



Oey, a freshman tennis player from Montgomery High School in BellMeade, N.J., led the Behrend Lions to a second-place finish in the AMCC tournament last Saturday at Frostburg State University.

Alongside Jacob Hillmann, Oey was also named to the All-Conference second team in the second flight doubles.

The team concluded its season 8-13 overall and 4-4 in the conference.

FROM PAGE 1B

Undignified parents ruin youth sports

11-12 year old league, one father began to make fun of the other team (my team), because we were losing by 15 runs or more. It's not a misprint, he was making fun of 10, 11, and 12 year olds.

Then there was the uproar created when, before the season started, many parents complained that my team's soccer nickname was the "Muffins," (with a bakery as a sponsor) while other teams were named "Crunch" or "Stompers."

This overly competitive atmosphere isn't just invading youth sports either. Have you ever played basketball with friends and found

yourself caught up in winning that you completely forgot why you were playing in the first place? Even pickup games have become much more intense. In our society today, our views of others are often determined by their success or failures, and sports is no different.

Everytime I play a round of golf with someone else, be it my dad or my brothers or some friends, I always feel the pressure to outperform them. This is what often leads to frustrations in sports, because we are made to feel like complete losers when we don't come in first.

The easiest way to overcome this is just to forget what the other person or team is doing. As long as you or your child are enjoying themselves in whatever sport you/they play, then there's nothing more you need to do.

AMCC ALL-CONFERENCE

Table with columns for First Team Singles, Second Team Singles, First Team Doubles, and Second Team Doubles.

Table with columns for AMCC Tournament at Frostburg and Newcomer of the Year.

THE BEACON SCOREBOARD

THE BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Table with columns for Men's Baseball, Women's Softball, Men's Tennis, Baseball Stats, and President's Cup Final Standings.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA

Table with columns for NASCAR 2002 Winston Cup Standings, Professional Golf Association PGA Money Leaders, Major League Baseball League Leaders, and 2002 NFL Draft First Round.