

Q&A: Who's Behind the Scenes?

Director of athletics Brian Streeter: It's a demanding job, but well worth the hours

by Kate Levinsky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Brian Streeter received a bachelor's of science degree from Texas A & M University with a master's degree from Ithaca College.

Streeter has worked at Penn State Behrend for five years as the director of athletics.

Prior to coming to Penn State Behrend, he was the assistant athletic director, head basketball coach, and summer programs director at Hobart College for 15 years.

Beacon: Did you have a mentor who helped you pick this profession?

Streeter: All my high school coaches were influential in my choosing this profession. I was fortunate to have excellent role models who directed me towards teaching, coaching and volunteering.

Beacon: When and how did you know you wanted to be an athletic director?

Streeter: Once I started teaching, back in 1980, I knew I wanted to someday oversee an athletic program.

Beacon: Does your job require you to be in good physical shape?

Streeter: I wish that was a requirement. I never seem to find time to stay in great shape. With all the running around I do, I seem to stay in just enough shape to survive. I wish sleep was one of the requirements of this job. Boy, could I use some.

Beacon: What are your duties as the athletic director?

Streeter: As the director of athletics at Penn State Behrend, you are involved with the daily tasks of running an athletic program, which involves trying to meet the needs of the student-athletes involved with your program. Here at PSB, we have 21 sports along with the dance team, cheerleaders, and a number of clubs which involves overseeing the scheduling, travel arrangements, meal needs, game officials, crowd control, maintenance, parking, marketing of the games, etc. etc. The job never ends. Some days the only break you get is when the game is being played. But then again, there is always something someone needs that keeps you going until the final out or the doors of the gym are locked. Another aspect of the job involves

with marketing and fund-raising efforts to support the needs of our department.

Beacon: What has been the most rewarding part of your job?

Streeter: Working with the excellent coaches, staff, and wonderful student-athletes is the rewarding part of the job.

There is never a day that I don't have the opportunity to help someone. Over the past five years, being a part of changing the SPIRIT on campus has been a challenge. The addition of a much improved cheerleaders squad, the addition of a terrific dance team, and the formation of the best PEP BAND in Division III (my opinion) has truly been [some] of the best things that [have] added to the spirit on campus.

Beacon: Is there a specific aspect of your job that you enjoy most?

Streeter: Working with students has always been important to me. Being in the field I am in has also allowed me to meet others and become involved in a number of volunteer opportunities. I believe in helping the community you live in. As a member of the local Red Cross Board, [and] involvement with Image Sports, [they have] allowed me to meet others in the community to help better our community. Just recently, the college community here at Penn State Behrend hosted the annual Special Olympics Track Meet. Just seeing the tremendous support from staff, coaches, faculty, and most importantly, the students here at the college reinforced why I work at Behrend. [The way] I would want to be treated is important in my daily approach to my job. Some people believe a director of athletics job is important. But I have always followed the phrase, "It is nice to be important, but it's more important to be NICE."

Beacon: Is there a sport that you prefer to work on more than another?

Streeter: I enjoy all the sports we offer here at Penn State Behrend. Yes, I have spent a third of my life involved with the sport of basketball, but I have truly tried to get to know, as well as show support for, all the sports we offer here at Penn State Behrend. My current involvement as a member of the NCAA National Men's Water Polo Committee has been a tremendous experience for me. I not only have learned more about the sport, but also am involved with the rules and operation of the sport on the national level.



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON

Brian Streeter has many responsibilities as director of athletics, but working with student-athletes is his favorite part of the job.

Beacon: Did you play any sports?

Streeter: I have played football, basketball, baseball, and track and field. I was recruited as a football and basketball player when I went to college, but chose to run track and field while enrolled in college. I have had the opportunity to coach football, basketball, track and field, cross country, softball, men's and women's tennis, and golf over my 22 years in education. I have also taught classes both on the high school and collegiate levels.

Beacon: Is your job at Behrend a permanent position, or do you want to take it to the next level? What is the next level?

Streeter: I hope my job is permanent here. I have never really looked at this job as a Division III level position. I truly believe it is a lot harder to be at the Division III level, mainly because you do not have the number of staff members as you would at the Division I level. We are fortunate here at Penn State Behrend to have the support of Dr. Burke and the rest of his senior staff for allowing me to put together a quality staff of coaches and support personnel. [They] have benefited not only our student-athletes and coaches, but also the local community in general. People tend to forget that the number of players stays the same whether it's a Division I

or III sports team in all sports but football. However, when comparing personnel the Division I level tends to have four to five times the number of staff members compared to the Division III level.

Beacon: Does the athletic program have a promising future?

Streeter: The future of the athletic program has a tremendous future. Within the next two years all our teams will [have] the opportunity to participate in the NCAA Championships by earning automatic berths thru league championship play. For the second year in a row, Penn State Behrend has earned the AMCC President's Cup, recognizing the top athletic program within the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. All our teams strive to not only win the AMCC championships, but also to reach postseason tournaments in the ECAC and NCAA conferences. Currently, over a dozen of our track and field athletes have qualified for the upcoming ECAC Championships and one athlete has qualified for the NCAA Division III National Track and Field Meet.

Every week, the Beacon will engage in a little "ask and respond" with someone who doesn't make the headlines.

Lions finish impressive sophomore season

by Kate Levinsky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

The Behrend women's water polo team participated in the Southern Division Championships last Saturday and Sunday at Villanova in its last games of the season. The Lions lost their first two games to experienced competition, then bounced back to beat Washington & Jefferson before dropping a close match to Grove City to finish in ninth place out of 12 teams.

The Lions lost to Division I Michigan 20-2, with a game time of 8:30 a.m. Amanda Brown and Christine Williams scored the only goals for Behrend. The Wolverines (21-11), ranked 15th in the nation, won the championship with a 10-9 win over Princeton.

"There is not much to say about the first game against Michigan," said coach Josh Heynes. "They pulled no punches. They came out blazing, and just racked up the stats on us."

"We fared better against Slippery Rock," he continued. "We started playing as a team, and seeing things more clearly."

Behrend lost that Saturday afternoon game 18-5, though. Williams continued to shine for Behrend, scoring three goals. Tara Braden and Hollie Stash added one goal each.

Behrend then rebounded to beat Washington & Jefferson 8-7 on Sunday. Stash and Williams had an outstanding game with four goals each. It was a hard-fought game all the way through. Goalie Lauren Packer almost got her nose broken, and Heynes was yellow carded for the game. But, the women really dug down against all adversity to pull out a double-overtime win.

"It was a great accomplishment to get the W & J monkey off our back," said Heynes. "We have been so close to beating them in the past, but we always lost in the last few minutes."

But this game was different, we went in excited and knew we could beat them."

In the last game of the tournament, Behrend lost a close match against Grove City 5-4. Williams, Brown, Braden, and Sarah McGarvey all had one goal. This game was similar to the W & J game, being hard fought and intense.

"I think we ended up emptying our gas tank against W & J, and we had nothing left for Grove City," said Heynes. "If we would [have] played the same way we did earlier we would [have] crushed Grove City. They won with a last-second shot again. They did not earn the win against us, we gave it to them."

Erin Troester was the most improved player from the beginning of the season. The freshman from Mercyhurst Prep was new to the sport, and rode the bench the first few games. She never missed a practice, though, and worked hard at getting better. It led to her winning a spot on the starting team.

"She never complained," said Heynes. "Instead, she just did what she had to do to get better."

The goals Heynes set for next season consist of making Division III nationals, beating W & J and Grove City on a consistent basis, and being able to run with the Division I and II schools. That doesn't mean he was disappointed with this season.

"I never would of thought that we would miss making nationals by one point, in our second year," he said. "With all the adversity we faced this year, we accomplished much more than most people gave us credit for. Next year we will be even better."

"We will only lose two people and gain a ton of talent. I am proud of the 11 women that made the sacrifices and put their hearts and souls on the line when it was needed most. I wish I could [have] gotten them to nationals. Next year will be a whole new story, just wait and see."

Behrend wins President's Cup

by Mike Bello
sports editor

Penn State Behrend captured the 2001-2002 President's Cup for the second straight year after winning two AMCC titles and five runner-up titles. The Lions finished the year with 58 points, six ahead of Frostburg State (52). Schools earn points for each sport's final rankings in the conference.

"Our coaches and athletes are thrilled again to win the AMCC President's Cup," said Brian Streeter, director of athletics, in a press statement. "Winning the AMCC President's Cup shows the commitment of excellence by all those who are involved in our

programs. The high level of competitiveness by all our sport teams throughout the year was great to see."

Behrend won AMCC titles for the first time in women's volleyball and women's cross country back in the fall. Behrend also captured the silver in men's and women's soccer, men's cross country, men's tennis, and baseball.

Pitt-Bradford finished third with 44 points, followed by Penn State Altoona (41), La Roche (34), Pitt-Greensburg (33), and Lake Erie (15). The Lions won the title last year by edging out Frostburg 50-46. The presentation of the President's Cup will take place May 29-30 at the annual AMCC meeting.

Lauffer inducted into SRU Hall of Fame



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Herb Lauffer

by Mike Bello
sports editor

Herb Lauffer, the longtime soccer coach and athletic director at Penn State Behrend who passed away in January 1997, was inducted into the Slippery Rock University Hall of Fame on April 13 as an athletic/physical education administrator.

Lauffer was one of eight people to headline the Hall of Fame Class of 2002, the 19th inducted class at Slippery Rock, which now brings to 125 the total in the Hall of Fame.

At Slippery Rock, Lauffer lettered four years in soccer and two in tennis while pursuing a B.S. in health, physical education and recreation

degree, which he received in 1963. Lauffer received his masters in physical education at West Virginia University in 1968. In between, Lauffer was an instructor of physical education and coached tennis, track and field, and basketball at Iroquois High School.

Behrend hired Lauffer in July 1968 to lead the young and still developing men's soccer program. He coached for 23 seasons and recorded 131 wins, and was a two-time NAIA (junior college) Coach of the Year. Lauffer later coached tennis for six years, leading the Lions to two undefeated seasons.

Lauffer also served as athletic director for 16 years up to his death in 1997 at the age of 55, after undergoing heart surgery. He was instrumental in Behrend moving from an NAIA status to Division III and becoming a member of the ECAC. Lauffer also helped create the Behrend sports Hall of Fame, in which he will be inducted later this year.

Lauffer was born in Butler in 1941 and graduated from Slippery Rock High School in 1959. He directed many soccer camps and youth programs throughout his career. Lauffer was the founder and president of the Erie Youth Soccer Association, the most popular youth organization in Erie.

Softball finishes rough first season on new field

by Zoë Rose
staff writer

The competition was tough, and the Penn State Behrend softball team pulled out with a respectable mark, but far from satisfying. Overall, the Lions are 8-27 on the season and 6-6 in conference play. Last weekend, the Lions traveled to La Roche to compete in the 2002 Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference tournament. Following the action at the conference, the Lions traveled to play Bethany on Tuesday, losing both games (4-0, 6-0).

In the first round of action on April 19 at the AMCC Championships, the Lions took on La Roche and lost 3-0. The Blue and White then went on to challenge the No. 3 seed, Pitt-Bradford, which lost to the No. 2 seed Penn State Altoona in the first round. This game was equally as challenging as Behrend lost by a tight 3-2 score.

The AMCC finals took place last Saturday with the No. 1 seed La Roche taking on Penn State Altoona. With two very close and physically demanding games, La Roche pulled out as AMCC tournament champions with a 1-0 win in the first game and a 3-2 win in the second.

Finding it difficult to pick the pace back up after a disappointing result in the AMCCs, the Lions had to look to their strong players to outplay Bethany. However, the Blue and White were unable to push any runs across the plate against the Bisons. In the first game, Cheryl Peterson and Becky Corbin had the team's only hits. Jennifer Miller pitched the entire game, giving up seven hits and three earned runs, with no strikeouts or walks.

In the second game, Peterson had a single and a double, but Corbin had the only other hit as again the Lions failed to produce at the plate. Corbin also took the loss for the Lions, allowing six hits, four earned runs, two walks and striking out one.

On the mound this season, sophomore Stephanie Covert has pitched 74 2/3 innings, giving up 60 earned runs and 120 hits and striking out 20. Covert's record for the season is 4-9 with a 5.63 ERA. Following Covert is sophomore Becky Corbin, who has pitched 51 1/3 innings, allowing 39 earned runs with 84 hits and 26 strikeouts. On the season, Corbin is 3-7 and has a 5.32 ERA. Next up is freshman Jennifer Miller, who pitched 60 innings, giving up 55 earned runs with 103 hits and 23 strikeouts. Miller is 1-9 for the season and has a 6.41 ERA.

As for the rest of the players, Lindsay Patton leads the



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON

Catcher Cheryl Peterson was one of the few bright spots for the Lions this year, as the junior was named to the all conference first team as a DH and to the second team as a catcher

Lions in batting average at .545, although she only has 11 at bats. Junior Cheryl Peterson follows with an impressive .404 average in 99 at bats, scoring 22 runs and knocking in 24. Peterson made the All-Conference first and second teams, as a designated hitter for the first and a catcher for the second. After her last AMCC tournament, senior Kelly Woods has a .304 batting average with 79 at bats, 10 runs, and 17 RBIs. Close behind is sophomore Brandy Polimick with a .300 average in 80 at bats, with 15 runs and 13 RBIs.

Several freshmen contributed to the team, and now have one year under their belt. Leading the first-year players after Patton is Aleigha Powder, who is 1-for-4 this season with one run scored and three RBIs. Close behind is Jennifer Osborne with a .196 batting average in 46 at bats, with six runs and five RBIs. Roberta Baker has a .181 average in 83 at bats, with 10 runs, and seven RBIs.

With the 2002 season almost over - Behrend plays at Frostburg Saturday - the Lions can soon get a breather and start looking forward to next year's action. With all but one player coming back, the Lions know a good off-season can mean improved results in 2003.

Softball All-Conference First Team

Cassie Byerly	La Roche	1B
Raelee Casazza	Frostburg	2B
Rachel Zielinski	La Roche	2B
Richelle Foor	Frostburg	3B
Jess Porter	Bradford	SS
Krissy Jackson	Frostburg	C
Amanda Rourke	Altoona	P
Amy Kurtz	La Roche	P
Autumn Dossier	Bradford	OF
Kristy Phister	La Roche	OF
Christy Byerly	La Roche	OF
Cheryl Peterson	Behrend	DH

Second Team

Julie Keane	Bradford	1B
Jess Vardian	Altoona	2B
Nicole Flynn	La Roche	3B
Erin Heningin	Altoona	SS
Cheryl Peterson	Behrend	C
Heather Nelson	Bradford	P
Nikki Kres	La Roche	OF
Sarah Kokanovich	Bradford	OF
Mandy Kiril	Bradford	OF
Lindsay Wagner	Bradford	DH

Honorable Mention

Becky Corbin	Behrend
Rachel Dye	Greensburg
Jenn Patishnock	Altoona
Jamie Stratnaus	La Roche
Stacey Detwiler	Altoona
Nichole Spindler	Bradford
Raelee Casazza	Frostburg
Amber Blackmire	Frostburg
Toni Boscasno	Altoona
Kelly Woods	Behrend
Melissa Davis	Altoona
Ashley Morgan	La Roche
Newcomer of the Year	
Nikki Kress	La Roche
Most Valuable Player	
Krissy Jackson	Frostburg
Coach of the Year	
Orie Gentile	La Roche