

Q & A with sports info director Paul Benim

by John Peebles
staff writer

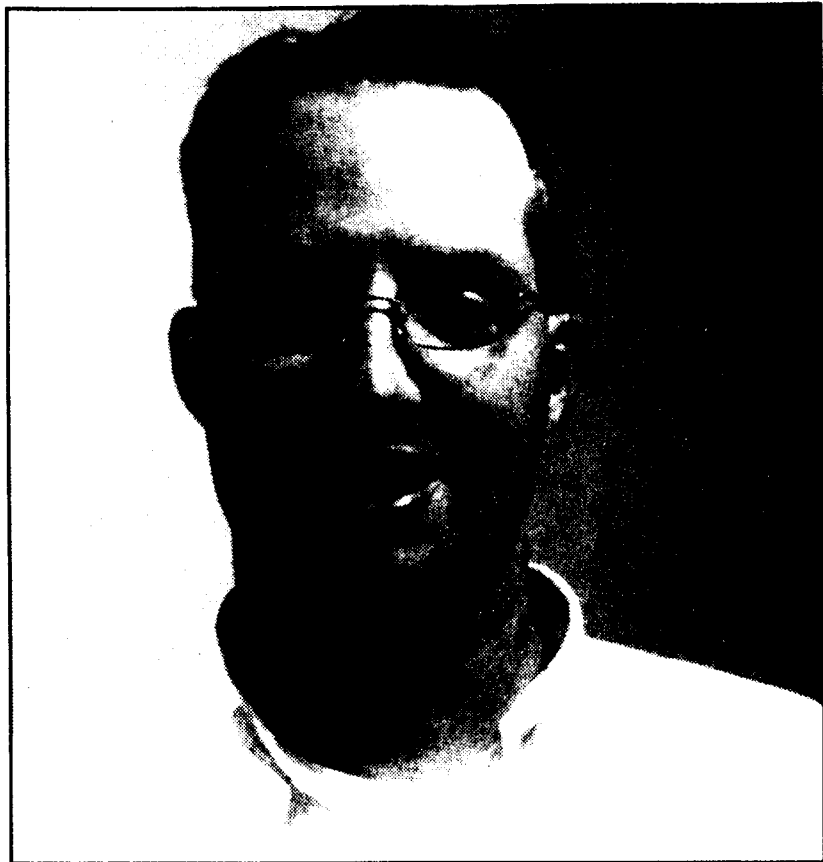


PHOTO BY ZOE ROSE/BEHREND BEACON

Paul Benim is the sports information director at Penn State Behrend. He is constantly working hard to help all athletic programs and is also the head baseball coach at Behrend.

Beacon: As the sports information director at Behrend, what exactly do you do?

Benim: We handle maintenance of information for 21 varsity sports and all day-to-day activities of the sports information director's office. Things such as rosters, schedules, statistics, all interaction with media outlets (TV & newspapers), web sites, press releases, publications (pocket schedules, media guides, BLAA newsletters, etc.), game programs, event management, nominations for AMCC, NCAA, ECAC awards.

Beacon: How long have you been at Behrend and what brought you

here?

Benim: I was recruited to play baseball and enrolled in 1988. I have been employed in athletics since 1992 and I am currently head baseball coach, as well as the sports information director.

Beacon: What is your favorite part of the job?

Benim: It is great when student-athletes earn honors, set new records, or a team excels. Being around the athletic realm is something I thoroughly enjoy. I am very lucky.

Beacon: How do you feel, overall, everything is going so far this year?

Benim: It is a daily challenge and at times a grind. Sports information is not seasonal. It is non-stop with requests and deadlines. There is no break from the requirements and at times impossible to do it all. Most schools have a full-time sports information director with the amount of sports we have. I am 50 percent sports

information director, 50 percent baseball.

Beacon: What improvements were made over the summer to make Behrend athletics better?

Benim: Behrend is getting better every day. That is why I've stayed and there is great leadership under Brian Streeter, our athletics director. The athletics program has really grown, and we expect things to continue to progress in a positive direction.

Beacon: If you were to talk to a freshman athlete at Behrend, what advice would you give them?

Benim: Make the most out of your collegiate experience. Borrowing a line from Reebok, "Life's short-play hard!" Participate in things like athletics, because the real world is much tougher than being in college. Also, encourage them to understand how blessed they are to be furthering their education and experiencing what they are experiencing.

Behrend Lions ready for Eastern Championships

by Lauren Packer
Staff Writer

Ring the dinner bell and get dinner on the table: The men's water polo team is hungry.

Behrend heads to MIT this weekend as the sixth seed in the Division III Eastern Championships and is eager to make a huge impact.

The Lions used this week's games to prepare for the championship by playing four tough opponents.

Behrend faced Mercyhurst on Saturday and won 11-8. The Lions were able to score quickly and early against the Lakers. The second set of offensive players earned valuable game experience because the starters were able to gain a lead quickly.

The freshmen on the squad kicked it up a notch during this game, showing they are ready for a championship weekend. Record-chasing Carl Ward recorded two more goals and posted three steals in the win. J.R. DeLorenzo and Brandon Sieber also contributed two goals to the victory.

Steve Schleicher is another freshman who raised his level of play. Schleicher recorded three goals and three steals during the game. He also drew four kick outs on Mercyhurst (a kickout is similar to a power play in hockey).

The Lions then traveled to Salem International to take on Slippery Rock. Behrend has never played at Salem and had trouble adjusting to their pool.

"Their pool was very dark and we just seemed to get off to a slow start against Slippery Rock," said head coach Josh Heynes. "We never really got into it with them. However, all pools are different in some way, we must be able to adapt and move on."

However, the Lions could not get past the lighting of the pool and lost to Slippery Rock, 15-4. Ward recorded two of the four goals and helped defensively with five steals.

Schleicher continued his impressive play along with Ben Atkins. The two combined for two goals and eight steals.

Brian Vallor stepped in as goalie, replacing Nick McGrady, and blocked three shots and managed three steals.

The team saved its best performance of the weekend for its last game. Playing host Salem International, Behrend was down six goals after the first quarter and came back to tie the game at halftime.

Unfortunately for the Lions, Salem regrouped at halftime. They came out too strong for the Lions in the third quarter and never looked back, downing the Behrend 16-10.

Five different Lions scored against Salem. Senior Dario Kis and Carl Ward paced the Lions with three goals each. DeLorenzo added two more goals and Schleicher scored his fifth goal of the weekend versus Salem.

Freshmen again led the way for Behrend in the last game before Eastern Championships. Behrend faced Washington & Jefferson College Tuesday night in the last home game of the season. The Lions were not able to keep up with Washington & Jefferson's fast-break offense, losing 17-5.

DeLorenzo scored three of the Lions' five goals and sophomore Eric Phillips had an impressive shallow end goal against a tough goalie.

But for now, Behrend's backyard games are finished. It's time to pack it up. A 12-hour drive awaits the Lions on Friday, followed by an intense weekend of championship action.

Behrend faces the Merchant Marines Academy in the first game of the tournament. If things go as predicted, the Lions could face the Wolverines of Grove City College for fifth place.

Rest assured, the Lions are hungry for a chance to beat their rivals.



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Saturday, Oct. 12th Parent's Day!!

- *Men's Soccer vs. Bethany at 1:00
- *Women's Soccer vs. Bethany at 3:00

Tuesday, Oct. 15th

- *Men's Soccer vs. Buffalo State at 3:00

GET A FREE PEPSI CUP!!!

Wednesday, Oct. 16th

- *Women's Volleyball vs. Fredonia at 5:00

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Thursday, Oct. 17th

- *Women's Soccer vs. Case Western at 6:00

Friday, Oct 18th

- *Women's Volleyball vs. Penn State Altoona at 6 p.m.

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