5 Reasons Why...

The NHL drops the puck on the 2002-03 season, and no one seems to care

1. Major League Baseball – Okay, I know that a month ago I said baseball should have just gone on strike. I still think it should have, but it has actually gotten interesting, or at least better than the NHL.

The Yankees are out, leaving the Twins and Angels in the American League. Granted these are not big name teams, it is still interesting. Especially since the Twins were supposed to be contracted before the season started.

In the National League we have the Giants and the Cardinals. These are both great stories. Even though I can't stand Barry Bonds for leaving Pittsburgh so many years ago, the people still love him. Since this might be his last season if they win it all, I'll watch.

Scott Soltis
sports editor

The Cardinals are also a good story coming off of the tragic death of pitcher Darryl Kile.

So, baseball is drawing a crowd and hockey will be overshadowed by the playoffs.

2. National Football League – The league is more exciting and surprising than it has been in years and it is drawing great numbers of fans. With no one knowing who will win from week to week the league has strayed from the old powerhouse-dominated NFL we were all used to.

Strangely, the league's newfound excitement might actually help the NHL. At least in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers suck and Lemieux is still playing so fans will be drawn to Mario and away from Kordell.

There is another reason that the NFL might not draw too much attention from the NHL. This reason in a word is Canada.

Canadians don't really care about the NFL. They love hockey, so the NFL won't really affect their hockey viewing. But, here in America, by and large, the NHL will be hurt by all of the enthusiasm surrounding pro football this year.

3. The Americans and the rest of the world – Now, don't get me wrong, this is NOT an article bashing Canadians. But, the fact of the matter is that Canadian players made all of their money in the US, then went back to Canada to win the Gold Medal in the last Olympics.

Hopefully, U.S. sports fans won't forget this anytime soon and there will be a backlash.

Another nation-based problem for the NHL is its stars.

Consider where the following stars were born. Major League Baseball has Barry Bonds (California), the NFL has Emmitt Smith (Florida), and the NBA has Kobe Bryant (Pennsylvania).

Who does the NHL have? Jerome Iginla (Canada), Markus Naslund (Sweden), and Patrick Roy (Canadian). Fans can realte to the stars from the other major sports much more easily than in the NHL This is another serious issue that the league must address.

4. The Erie Otters – The Otters are the most popular team in the city of Erie. This sounds obvious since they are the only semi-pro team to be playing around this time, but it is more than that.

If Erie was to get an Arena League Football team, I would guess that the Brown, Bills, and Steelers would still dominate the Erie area. The same cannot be said for hockey.

Otters hockey is exciting and steals some of the thunder of the NHL starting. Erie hockey fans await the start of the Otters' season, and don't seem very interested in the Penguins or Sabres. The Otters may lack the nationally recognizable players like Mario Lemieux, but they still have dedicated fans.

This is the case in Erie, and I don't know that it is the case anywhere else, but it illustrates the local lack of NHL interest.

If many other cities the size of Erie begin to get exciting teams like the Otters, the NHL might have a big problem on its hands.

5. Hockey on TV is boring – Hockey will never be as successful as the NFL, NBA, or MLB because it is not very exciting to watch until the playoffs.

Hockey is incredible live, as I have witnessed at Penguins games. You hear all of the hits and it doesn't seem so long between goals.

Unfortunately, on television the time drags. Baseball has home runs and diving catches, basketball has slam dunks and three-pointers, and football has touchdowns and sacks. These happen constantly throughout the games of those sports, where as checks and goals are not nearly as frequent.

The NHL's popularity will rise as the season goes on, but as long as it has so much competition, it will never be able to compete with the big three. Adding to the NHL's woes are NASCAR and NCAA football. When these sports end college basketball will be in full swing, but the NHL playoff races will be in full swing and should counteract some of this.

Unless the NHL gets more stars won fans can somewhat relate to, a later time for the season opening, and can eliminate regional competition, it will be in serious trouble. Especially when Mario retires again.

Volleyball struggling to stay above .500

The women were unable to rally from a 2-0 deficit against Allegheny, but stormed back against Lake Erie a week later.

by Scott Soltis
sports editor

At home a week ago the women's volleyball team lost three straight games to drop its overall record to 10-12. Luckily this was a non-conference game and served as a wake up call for the team.

Going into Thursday's game against Lake Erie the Lions were a meek 3-3 in the AMCC conference.

The Lions were able to outplay Lake Erie in the Junker Center to improve their record to 4-3.

This may be just what the Lions need to gain some momentum as they have a tough road ahead. Within the next seven days the Lions will face AMCC rival Pitt-Greensburg, which is building off its first win and looking for another upset in confernce play. Also in this span Behrend will be facing Frostburg who has yet to be defeated by an AMCC team this season.

The Beacon will not be published next week due to fall break, and by the time it comes back it may be looking at a whole new team.

Aside from the two big confernce matches the team will face Fredonia and Buffalo State on Oct. 16. The following week, the team will face some more stiff AMCC competition at Pitt-Bradford on Oct. 22nd.

All told, by the next publication date of Oct. 25, the team will have played three conference games and two non-conference games. The team can conceivably move into first place in the AMCC it can win these tough conference matches.

The team will need Danielle Bemis, Trisha Adams, and Rose Boni to keep up the work they have been doing. Bemis is second on the team in both kills and digs. Adams is first on the team with 236 kills and third in digs with 232. Boni is leading the team with 349 digs. This trio has also started all 83 games that the team has played thus far this season.

With this core of talent and coming off of a big home conference win, the Lions hope to come out of the next few weeks a revitalized team. These next several games could easily make or break the Lion's chances.

THE BEACON SCOREBOARD

THE PENN STATE SPORTS SCENE

Men's Soccer

School	C.R.	Overall
Pitt Greensburg	4-0	11-1
Behrend	3-1	4-7-3
PS Altoona	2-1	8-1-2
Frostburg	2-1	5-5-2
La Roche	2-3	7-7-1
Lake Erie	0-3	1-12
Pitt-Bradford	0-4	4-9

Women's Soccer

School	C.R.	Overall
La Roche	5-1	10-2-1
Pitt-Greensburg	3-1	8-3
Behrend	3-1	6-8
Frostburg	2-1	5-5-4
PS Altoona	1-3	6-6-1
Lake Erie	0-3	0-14
Pitt-Bradford	0-4	3-7

Women's Volleyball

School	C.R.	Overall
Frostburg	6-0	16-3
PS Altoona	4-2	9-8
Pitt-Bradford	4-2	7-5
Behrend	3-3	10-12
La Roche	3-4	6-9
Pitt-Greensburg	1-4	3-17
Lake Erie	0-6	1-10

Women's Tennis

School	C.R.	Overall
P. S. Altoona	3-0	8-3
Behrend	3-2	7-9
Frostburg	0-3	0-6
La Roche	0-1	0-1

Big Ten Football

School	C.R.	Overall
Ohio State	2-0	6-0
Iowa	2-0	5-1
Michigan	1-0	4-1
Michigan State	1-0	3-2
Minnesota	1-1	5-1
Penn State	1-1	4-1
Purdue	1-1	3-3
Wisconsin	0-1	5-1

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA

NASCAR
2002 Winston Cup Standings:
Thru Race 30 of 36
Next Race:
UAW GM Quality 500
October 13, 2002

Pos.	Driver	Points Behind
1	Tony Stewart	Leader
2	Mark Martin	-72
3	Jimmie Johnson	-82
4	Ryan Newman	-137
5	Rusty Wallace	-147
6	Matt Kenseth	-201
6	Jeff Gordon	-201
8	Bill Elliott	-229
9	Ricky Rudd	-246
10	Sterling Marlin	-255
11	Kurt Busch	-324
12	Dale Jarrett	-364
13	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	-477
14	Jeff Burton	-541
15	Michael Waltrip	-596
16	Ricky Craven	-666
17	Jeff Green	-734
18	Bobby Labonte	-847
19	Robby Gordon	-869
20	Dave Blaney	-933

NASCAR Winston Cup Series

Professional Golf Association Money Leaders
(money in millions)

Rank	Player	Earnings
1.	Tiger Woods	6.496
2.	Phil Mickelson	3.870
3.	Ernie Els	3.180
4.	Vijay Singh	2.846
5.	Rich Beem	2.822
6.	Jerry Kelly	2.698
7.	Justin Leonard	2.612
8.	David Toms	2.597
9.	Reteif Goosen	2.472
10.	Sergio Garcia	2.319
11.	Fred Funk	2.270
12.	Shegeki Maruyama	2.103
13.	Nick Price	2.079
14.	Len Mattiace	2.079
15.	Jim Furyk	2.004
16.	Chris DiMarco	1.961
17.	K.J. Choi	1.939
18.	Charles Howell III	1.928
19.	JoseMariaOlazabal	1.910
20.	Rocco Mediate	1.897
21.	Robert Allenby	1.860
22.	Chris Riley	1.838
23.	Loren Roberts	1.829
22.	Bob Estes	1.803
25.	Davis Love III	1.768

National Football League
League Leaders

OFFENSIVE

Passing

	Player	Team	TDS	YDS
1	D Bledsoe	BUF	12	1762
2	T Brady	NE	13	1566
3	B Favre	GB	11	1470
4	K Collins	NYG	4	1358
5	R Gannon	OAK	10	1355

Rushing

	Player	Team	TDS	YDS
1	P Holmes	KC	8	590
2	R Williams	MIA	4	565
3	L Tomlinson	SD	5	554
4	D McAllister	NO	5	461
5	A Green	GB	0	416

Receiving

	Player	Team	TDS	YDS
1	M Booker	CHI	3	566
2	E Moulds	BUF	3	525
3	P Price	BUF	4	493
4	T Holt	STL	0	462
5	A Toomer	NYG	1	456

DEFENSIVE

Tackles(TKL)

	Player	Team	POS	TKL
1	B Urlacher	CHI	MLB	42
2	K Bullock	TEN	OLB	37
2	R Lewis	BAL	ILB	36
4	T Spikes	CIN	OLB	35
5	R Williams	DAL	FS	33

Sacks

	Player	Team	POS	Sack
1	R Colvin	CHI	OLB	7
2	M Rucker	CAR	DE	6
2	G Ellis	DAL	DE	5.5
4	A Schobel	BUF	DE	4.5
5	10 Players Tied At 4 Sacks			

Interceptions(INT)

	Player	Team	POS	INT
1	G Wesley	KC	SS	4
1	D Brooks	TB	OLB	4
3	J Porter	PIT	OLB	3
3	D O'Neal	DEN	CB	3
3	R Woodson	OAK	FS	3

ESPN/USA Today Football Coaches Poll

Rank	Team	Record	PTS
1.	Miami	5-0	1524
2.	Texas	5-0	1423
3.	Oklahoma	5-0	1405
4.	Virginia Tech	5-0	1346
5.	Ohio State	6-0	1260
6.	Georgia	5-0	1220
7.	Oregon	5-0	1147
8.	Notre Dame	5-0	1116
9.	Tennessee	4-1	974
10.	Michigan	4-1	891
11.	NC State	6-0	828
12.	Florida State	5-1	816
13.	Washington St.	5-1	763
14.	Iowa State	5-1	727
15.	LSU	4-1	655
16.	Florida	4-2	542
17.	Penn State	4-1	541
18.	Washington	3-2	349
19.	Air Force	5-0	328
20.	Iowa	5-1	317
21.	Auburn	4-1	305
22.	Wisconsin	5-1	285
23.	Kansas State	4-1	267
24.	USC	3-2	154
25.	UCLA	4-1	129