

## From Well-known to the unknown

Well, let's start with the obvious this week. It is World Series time. I think we all know this. My man Barry Bonds is in his prime and we all know him, too. Sooner or later this piece will get to the unknown, but I want to talk about what we already know first.

I am writing this on Tuesday which means that much more could have happened in the World Series by the time this goes to print. In fact the series might be over. (My prediction was Giants in six games so, hopefully, there is still one more game to play tomorrow). Still, there have been some incredible feats by people we are familiar with and personally, people I keep rooting for.

Barry Bonds has always been one of my favorite baseball players, even though he left my beloved Pirates for greener pastures in San Francisco. He did take the Pirates a long way in the playoffs and now I can only wish that he makes the Giants a winner.

He does not cease to amaze us. Bonds hit many more balls into McCovey Cove this year and hopefully there are more to come. Perhaps his most impressive at-bat of the year came in the ninth inning of game two of the Series against Troy Percival. Bonds crushed a fastball approximately

485-feet into the right-centerfield bleachers.

After the Angels had captured the victory, Percival said that he figured with two outs he was just going to throw the ball as hard as he could and let him (Bonds) hit it. That is sure what Barry Bonds did. Bonds had six postseason homers following game two.

I think it would be a thing of beauty if the Giants were to clinch on a late-inning home run by Barry Bonds. If he retired after doing that I could not be mad at him.

Angels' player Tim Salmon was caught mouthing, "That was the farthest ball I have ever seen hit." This was right after the devastating crack of the bat from Bonds. His slugging percentage through two games was 1.600.

ESPN.com has even started something called a Barr-o-meter. This measures the degree to which Angels' pitchers challenge Bonds.

We all might as well have some fun with it while we can. Still Bonds isn't the only player standing in the spotlight this postseason as we move on to someone not as well known.

That someone is Angels' second baseman Adam

Kennedy. His salary this year was only \$375,000. I say only because we know how much players like A-Rod are being paid. So Kennedy went 0-4 in the game two win, but he still has a slugging percentage in the .833 range for the postseason. He had four homers in the postseason as of Tuesday. Kennedy had seven runs batted in all season for the Angels.

Those that follow baseball know that Troy Glaus and Tim Salmon are the big RBI producers for the Angels. However, Kennedy has four RBIs in the postseason. He is well above what was expected of him. In the World Series teams usually need role players to step up. Maybe that is Kennedy's position to fill this time around.

Maybe it isn't Kennedy's turn, though. It could be someone else. It could be someone is regularly on the bench for one of the teams. Maybe it will be a pitcher that comes in to pinch run.

Who knows? Of course another thing no one knows is that we can find some pretty outstanding feats in other sports beside baseball, basketball, football, and hockey. Now it is time to get to the unknown.

A few of you may have been bored one day and noticed that a jump rope competition was on ESPN on Oct. 16. I know you stopped and watched it for a minute or two.

Isn't this stuff fascinating? I can swing the rope almost three times before landing, but I am not match for these kids who have become famous in their respective small hometowns for setting records with a jump rope.

Another great thing is that is sound of the rope

and the cheers from the competitors make it the most rhythmic sport around. Many times you can find yourself bouncing along to the beat of the rope, the stomping of feet, and the clapping of hands. Now I must tell you that it can be exciting too and that I will now call it by its real name, rope skipping.

There is a European Rope Skipping Federation along with the U.S. Amateur Jump Rope Federation. There is even an American Double Dutch league. You should see these folks go. One team, the Forces, has captured 56 world titles and 175 state championships in double Dutch. That is domination. The Forces were only started in 1985. Imagine the traveling this team has to do and they come home victorious most of the time.

Let me tell you a little bit about Nicholas Fougere. He holds the speed record for male single rope speed at the 11 and under age group as well as the 12-14 group. His speed keeps increasing. He also holds the record at those same age group for the male three minute single.

Unfortunately there are only about two or three teams that compete in the national competitions that have web pages or easily accessible information. Still it looks like the Lincoln Lions have a good one on their team in Fougere.

OK so maybe this was a little obscure, but if you watched jump rope or rope skipping or double Dutch competitions you would probably be chanting along or moving to the beat. You may be, in just as much awe as watching a Barry Bonds home run travel 485 feet.



Douglas Smith

sports columnist

## Busy Lions competing in many tournaments as season wraps up

By Lauren Packer  
staff writer

Like the Energizer bunny, the men's water polo team keeps going and going and going. In the past two weeks, the team has traveled to MIT, Grove City, and Slippery Rock, playing nine games total.

At the Division III Eastern Championships at MIT, the Lions' first action of the weekend was against the Merchant Marine Academy. Behrend lost the game 20-3. In the second game the Lions took on Connecticut and lost 12-3.

Behrend had a tough time adjusting to the size of the pool at MIT. It was the first time the Lions competed in a pool 30 meters by 20 meters.

"That type of pool is always the great equalizer," said head coach Josh Heynes. "It makes great teams good and good teams bad. It is hard to adjust to a pool of that size when you train in a much smaller pool."

The following weekend Behrend packed up for another tournament at Grove City. There, the Lions played a grueling schedule of five games in two

days.

The first contest of the weekend put Behrend against host and long time rival Grove City College. Behrend has yet to beat Grove City this year and the losing streak continued as the Lions lost to Grove City 12-6.

The Lions then faced the Presidents of Washington & Jefferson College in game two. Washington & Jefferson continued its domination over Behrend this season, beating the Lions 10-2. However, 10 goals were the fewest that Behrend has allowed Washington & Jefferson this season.

In the third game, Behrend faced Division I Bucknell for the first time in history and lost 15-4. The fourth game matched the Lions against Grove City for the second time in the tournament. The Lions lost to Grove City 12-8 and are now 0-4 against the Wolverines this season.

Finally, in the last game of the tournament Behrend was able to post a victory against Mercyhurst 12-2. With the victory, the Lions were able to snap a nine game losing streak.

"We played more as a team the entire weekend

and we just wanted to hold our place standing for the championship in two weeks. We were experimenting with a new offense this past weekend to add more dynamics to our team profile," said Heynes about his team's performance at Inter-Regionals.

After the grueling weekend and on only two days rest, the men packed up once again to play two more games at Slippery Rock University Tuesday night. The Lions went up against Slippery Rock in the first game of the night and lost 17-4. In the second game of the evening, Behrend again beat up on Mercyhurst for an 11-7 victory.

The stats from Inter-Regionals and Tuesday night showed that Heynes was right about his team coming together. A trio of freshmen led the way for Behrend at Grove City. J.R. DeLorenzo racked up 11 goals, two assists, and 12 steals, while Carl Ward continued his standout play with nine goals, seven assists, and 18 steals.

Steve Schleicher, who has showed improvement over the course of the season, contributed two goals, two assists, and 27 steals for the Lions.

Senior Ben Atkins also turned up his level of play and caught the attention of Heynes. "Ben Atkins really came alive this past weekend. His defense and aggressive offense helped spark this team," said Heynes.

With the end of the season fast approaching, the Lions have several bright spots to look forward to in an otherwise mediocre season. Many players are close to breaking into the top five statistical categories for both the season and career records.

The Lions have a bumpy road ahead of them when they head to Princeton for championships but the team is very optimistic.

"We have been working very hard," said J.R. DeLorenzo.

Carl Ward also agrees and says that the team plays off each other and that when they do well it is because everyone elevates their level of play. As for the Lions' catalyst Ben Atkins, he says, "The potential is there. We just have to play to win."



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