

WE ARE PENN STATE

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Friday, Jan. 17
Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Mt Union, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18
Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Edinboro, 1 p.m.

Women's Basketball @ Frostburg, 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ Frostburg, 4 p.m.

Men's & Women's Indoor Track & Field @ SUNY Fredonia Invitational TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 21
Men's Basketball vs. Fredonia, 7:30 p.m.

Intramurals Schedule

Ping Pong
Men's, Women's, & COED Entries Due Tuesday, Jan. 31
Schedules Posted By Feb. 2
Play will begin Feb. 3

Arena Football
Men's & Women's Entries Due Friday, Feb. 7
Games Begin Feb. 11

Swimming
Men's, Women's, & COED Entries Due Friday, Feb. 21
Meet Date TBA

PENN STATE BEHREND LIONS

5 Reasons Why...

Winter can only get better for this sports fan

1. Carson Palmer - USC's quarterback won the Heisman over the great Penn State running back Larry Johnson. Now, this will be the last time you will hear me complain about the Heisman.

I wrote several articles before break about why Johnson should have won the award. I still feel that LJ deserved this prestigious award, but at least it wasn't Dorsey or McGahee out of Miami.

Still, this was a very tough way to begin winter. Johnson had arguably the best season of any running back in Penn State football's illustrious history. He had the most outstanding season in college football this year. I had never watched a Heisman award show until that fateful night in December. It was easily the most disappointing awards show I have ever seen. A one-hour build up to find out that LJ took third in the voting.

Oh well, Dorsey is graduating and McGahee is going to the NFL early, so the two people I didn't want to win it never will.

Iowa QB Brad Banks, who took second in the voting will have a hard time staying a QB in the NFL, where mobile quarterbacks whose last name is not Vick are not given much of a chance, a la Heisman winner Eric Crouch.

Finally, it looks like Carson Palmer will be drafted by the mighty Cincinnati Bengals. So suddenly a dim situation looks much brighter as Johnson's future seems more promising than most of the others, and I can take solace in that.

2. The Capital One Bowl - Penn State lost to Auburn. It wasn't even a good game. Penn State played in a New Year's Bowl, which is a pretty big deal. Granted it wasn't the Citrus or Orange or Rose, but it was still a New Year's Bowl. Penn State didn't really get an offense going all game.

They didn't give the ball to Johnson enough and they should have kept Robinson in for an ineffective Mills. But, should have and could have are very easy to say. Legendary Joe Paterno did what he thought was best at the time, and he will have many opportunities to win more football games (hopefully, some of them being bowl games).

Another disappointing thing about the loss was that this was a great year with some incredible talent that could have been in the national championship game if it were not for a few bad calls and a couple of sad quarters of football. It would have been very nice to end the season (and many of the player's collegiate

careers) on a winning note.

The core of Penn State's impressive defense is graduating and they are losing more than 2,000 yards in rushing with the graduation of Johnson. This may have been a big opportunity lost for Penn State, but there will be others.

It doesn't look like another chance like this year will come anytime soon, but you never know with Paterno at the helm.

3. Rich Gannon - Rich Gannon was the winner of the Most Valuable Player Award in the NFL this year. There was a big debate going into the voting about if it is the most outstanding statistically, or most valuable to their team.

Few would argue that Rich Gannon did not have the most outstanding statistical year in football. In fact he had one of the best stat years ever. But he was by no means the most valuable player to a team in the league.



Scott Soltis

He has Tyrone Wheatly to pound the ball, Charlie Garner to run and more importantly catch the ball, and a receiving core composed of two future Hall of Famers and one quickly rising star. With talent like that, numbers are sure to come.

The Most Valuable Player to his team (that was successful) was and is quarterback Steve McNair.

McNair does not have a stellar stable of pass catcher Kevin Dyson is good, but was hurt and so was Frank Wycheck. McNair used what he had and made up for another sub-par season by Eddie George.

McNair played hurt, and played well, very well. Whether it was turf toe, a bad back or bad wheels, McNair did not hesitate to do whatever his team needed to win the game. This is why he got hurt so much. He tried very hard and was rewarded with much success. He was truly the definition of a "Most Valuable Player."

4. The Lakers - The Los Angeles Lakers are my favorite team in the NBA. I don't like Kobe, but there aren't many cocky people that I do like. Shaq is my man. The Big Aristotle, Shaq Daddy, Shaq Diesel, Shazaam, whatever you choose to call him, he is the most dominating force on one of the most dominating teams in NBA history.

That was until this year. Shaq was hurt for most of the beginning of the season, and when he came

back they did not do a whole lot better. The team is struggling to reach .500, which is embarrassing for a three-time defending world champ. The team needs to trade Bryant and get a Steve Nash or a Mike Bibby, players who can make the big play and are not selfish.

Bryant is an incredible player, but he and Shaq have had trouble co-existing for the past few years and it looks like it may be falling apart this year. Fortunately, the Lakers are coached by Phil Jackson, one of the best in history, and he might be able to lead them back to their former glory. Until then, this will be a dismal winter in L.A.

5. National Championship Game - The two teams that I despise the most on this earth, be it football, basketball, baseball, college or pro are the Miami Hurricanes and the Ohio State Buckeyes football teams.

As a Penn State fan I automatically dislike Ohio State, our Big Ten rival. Even during a brief stint when I lived in Ohio, I still stayed loyal to Pennsylvania. I don't like any former Buckeye players now in the NFL (except Eddie George and that's just because of the team he plays for now).

Ohio State was lucky to get to the national championship game. One errant pass by Zack Mills sent Ohio State past Penn State this year, and a prayer into the end zone put Ohio State over Purdue.

Now, the reason I detest Miami is because the first Penn State game I went to was the season opener last year. The game started with Adam Taliaferro leading the team onto the field after suffering an injury that some thought he would never walk again from. Miami then proceeded to suck all of the joy out of the stadium by routing the Lions and mocking their fans. I do not like cocky people, and this was a team featuring Clinton Portis and Jeremy Shockey. This one game has totally turned me against the Hurricanes.

These two teams played in the national championship games this year in what I was told was a great game. I did not watch anything but the overtime. I turned on the game to see who won and the overtime began so I watched it. I had no players to root for and definitely no team.

It was like seeing Jason fighting Freddy, who do you hope wins? In the end I was glad to see Miami's win streak end but I did not want to see McGahee (or anyone for that matter) suffer the terrible injury that I saw on highlights. This may go down as one of the best championship games ever played, but it gave me, a huge football fan, no enjoyment.

BEHREND SPORTS BRIEFS

BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Men's Basketball

Lions are ranked atop the AMCC Standings at a perfect 3-0 in conference play.

James Curren ranks fourth in the AMCC in points per game with an average of 17.0.

Curren also leads the team in rebounds per game with 6.36 which is good for sixth in conference.

Women's Basketball

The Lady Lions are currently third in the AMCC behind Pitt-Greensburg and Lake Erie.

Behrend's top scorer is Amber Krumpke who is averaging 13.5 points per game which is seventh in the AMCC.

Krumpke is statistically the most accurate shooter in the AMCC with a field goal percentage of 51.2%.

NATIONAL SPORTS NEWS

NFL

The Cincinnati Bengals have given Marvin Lewis a long-overdue head coaching job. Lewis is only the third African American coach currently in the league.

The San Francisco 49ers have fired head coach Steve Mariucci after six successful seasons at the helm.

NCAA Basketball

The Duke Blue Devils are the last unbeaten team in Division I basketball. Duke is the top team in the country according to the Associated Press and a USA Today/ESPN poll.

The Tennessee Volunteers Women's Basketball coach Pat Summitt became the only the third college basketball coach to reach 800 wins this week.



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