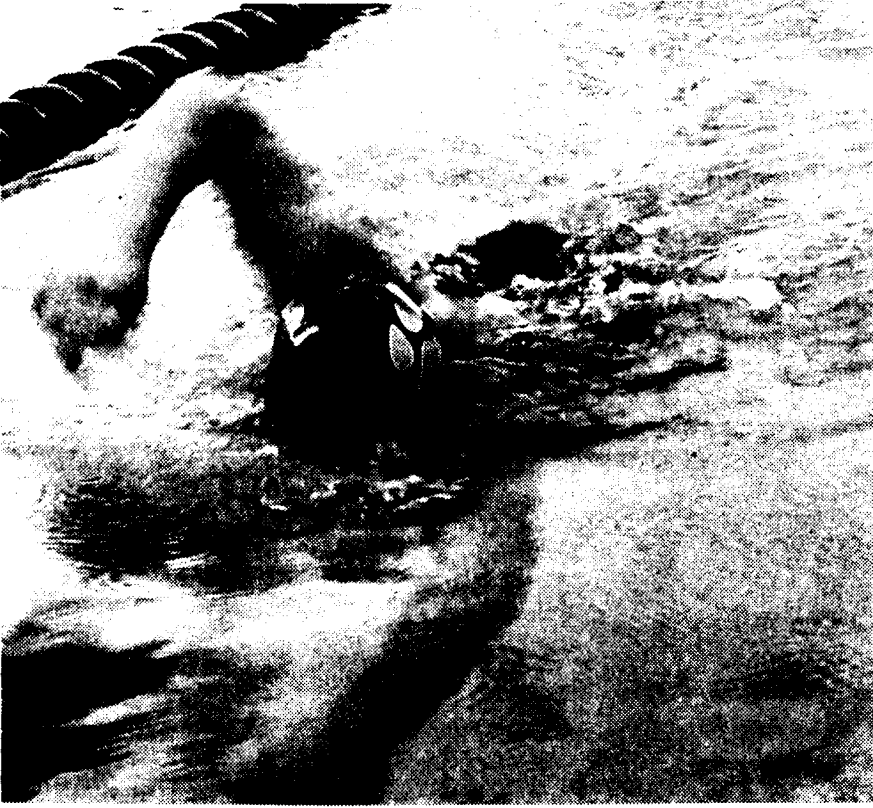


Swimmers sink



by Amy Frizell
staff writer

Despite the individual achievements of Behrend's swim team, the group suffered two losses this past weekend to Nazareth and Grove City.

"The team has responded very well to all the demands placed upon them this year. The men have the best record they have ever had in the history of Penn State Behrend swimming. Even though the women's overall record is not great, their individual performance speaks loudly for them. Both the men and women keep rewriting the record books each meet, at either a personal or team level." Coach Josh Heynes said of the teams' performance so far this season.

This past Friday the team took a hard loss against Nazareth with the men falling 115-112, and the women 119-78.

"At Nazareth it was disappointing on the men's side to lose by only three points, but that sometimes happens when the coaches try to play with the line up. For it being our second meet that we swam in meters instead of yards, our times dramatically improved since the first time at Frostburg this year" said Coach Heynes.

Coming away with first place finishes were sophomore Eric Phillips in the 800 freestyle and the 100 breast, freshman Travis Kochel in the 50 freestyle, freshman Jeff Howard in the 200 IM, senior Alex Fertlemes in the 100 fly, and senior Ben Atkins in the 400 freestyle.

Rounding out the first places winners was the 200 freestyle relay team of sophomore Joe Deely, Kochel, and freshman Steve Schleicher.

The women came through with five victories. Christine Williams took first in 800 freestyle and the 400 freestyle, Tara Braden in the 200 IM and the 100 freestyle. The women's 200 freestyle relay of Williams, freshman Carianne Carstater, and Braden also took first place.

After their loss on Friday the team suffered another blow at home against Grove City College, the men falling 124-101 and the women 115-74.

"Against Grove City, I was hoping the men could pull off a win, but Grove City College proved to be too strong," said Coach Heynes. "It was hard on both teams, swimming their third meets in four days. But that is how we planned the season a year ago. We wanted to see them swim fast even though they were exhausted."

Coming out of the meet with a strong performance was the 200 freestyle relay team of Howard, Atkins, Deely and Schleicher. Along with the relay team's win came Howard in the 1000 freestyle, Schleicher in one meter and three meter diving, and freshman JR DeLorenzo took the 200 IM and the 100 m backstroke.

"At Grove City College, DeLorenzo's two first place finishes in the 200 IM and the 100 back stood out," said Coach Heynes. "He attacked those races differently than he did previously this year. Also Jeff Howard's 1000 free time was one of his best's for the year. On the women's side Christine Williams had two great swims, just getting touched out at the end."

The women were only able to produce three first place finishes. Those finishes came from Braden in the 100 breast, freshman Danielle Rearick in the 500 freestyle, and the 200 freestyle team of junior Sarah McGarvey, junior Melissa Donnelly, freshman Len Stachowiak, and freshman Faith Campbell.

The team will next compete on Saturday at the Pittsburgh invitational.

"At Pitt we're just trying to improve on some of the teams times, so that they have the best seeding possible at our conference meet," said Coach Heynes. "Pitt is one of the fastest pools on the East Coast and there will be some division I and II teams there. The team can watch and see what they can accomplish with a little bit of work."

Title IX passing test of time

By Kevin Sherrington
The Dallas Morning News

You go to an SMU women's basketball game a few weeks ago against San Jose State. Get there a half-hour early, but not to fight the crowd.

You're it.

Game time comes, and maybe 300 fans freckle Moody Coliseum. As the diehards wander in, waving, you get the impression you're one of the few strangers, except for those related to the halftime performers.

Other SMU games on other days, the crowds are bigger. Go to Austin or Lubbock or Knoxville, Tenn., for a women's game, and you can hardly find a seat.

But the size of the following doesn't matter. Doesn't matter who shows up, except maybe to the players.

Doesn't matter if you don't care anything about watching women's sports.

All that matters is that you care that they get an equitable chance to play.

This became a large and thorny issue again last week, when a commission appointed by the secretary of education recommended proposals that wouldn't wipe out Title IX but could weaken it.

Maybe you know the history of Title IX. Created in 1972, the legislation affords women an equal opportunity to compete in high school and college athletics.

And it worked. Female participation in the last 30 years has gone from 294,000 to nearly 3million.

Some benefits you can't measure so easily.

History: You go to a Rice women's basketball game 20 years ago against Texas. Right away, you figure they should put up screens to protect fans from stray leather. No protecting the players, unfortunately. One player — head down, legs churning, playing

catch-up — hurtles downcourt and re-ends the unsuspecting ballhandler like a stalled Buick on the 610 Loop.

Women's basketball is safer now, and better. No, women aren't as good as men in most cases, but so what?

Hey, we let the Nebraska men play basketball, don't we?

Women are better now because they've had more opportunities. Another 30 years and who knows how far they'll have come, or how many more might want to play once they've been exposed to it?

But some critics of Title IX say enough's enough. A good law's time has come and gone.

Time to remove or water down the "proportionality" requirement that representation should roughly mirror male-to-female enrollment, even if Title IX offers two other measures to ensure compliance.

You hear lots of stories about what has happened to men's athletics because of Title IX. The numbers show that, between 1981 and 1999, 171 schools dropped men's wrestling, 84 dropped men's tennis and 56 booted men's gymnastics.

But, according to the General Accounting Office, over that same period, the numbers also show that NCAA schools added 135 men's soccer programs, 82 in basketball and 85 in baseball.

Bottom line: Overall, men's participation in college athletics is up, not down.

Not that you'd think so when you hear critics blame Title IX every time a school drops a men's program.

Blame the champagne-and-caviar excesses in football and men's basketball. Visited a Division I locker room or weight room in the last 20 years? Seen what coaches are driving? Seen what players are driving?

You hear people argue that football and basketball pay the freight, they

should get what they want. But football doesn't even pay for itself at most schools.

Funny, but, in professional sports, the toy department of our capitalist society, everyone wants a salary cap or a luxury tax to level the playing field.

But in universities, where we supposedly aspire to our highest ideals regardless of race or creed or gender, everybody's George Steinbrenner.

Maybe we ought to figure some other way to remedy these viable issues. Maybe football coaches don't need to park teams in a hotel the night before a home game. Maybe we ought to put a salary cap on coaches. Maybe we ought to try more significant revenue sharing.

Maybe we shouldn't try to roll back legislation that made life better and more enjoyable for a significant portion of our population.

You confess that you went to that SMU basketball game a few weeks ago because your 9-year-old daughter was dancing at halftime.

She doesn't care much for athletics. Soccer shinguards made her legs itch. First time she was called into a game, she skipped out to the scrum.

No, she's a dancer, not a point guard. She reminded you of as much once when she asked what you wanted to be when you were growing up.

"I want to be a dancer," she said. "I don't have to be famous or anything. I just love to dance."

You sat looking up at her big, beautiful brown eyes and realized you were staring straight into a dream. And if she'd said she wanted to be a midfielder? Doesn't matter. Either way, heaven help the fool who gets in our way.

LET'S GO LIONS

Saturday, Feb. 7th

Women's Basketball vs. Frostburg @ 2:00

Men's Basketball vs. Frostburg @ 4:00

1st 50 people get free coffee

Wednesday, Feb. 12th

Women's Basketball vs. Lake Erie @6:00

Men's Basketball vs. Lake Erie @ 8:00

Get a free stress ball, Enterprise pen, or t-shirt

Q&A with NCAA SAAC representative Dave Masilunas:

Dave Masilunas is a junior in Plastics Engineering. Outside of the classroom, Masilunas runs for Behrend's Indoor/Outdoor Track and Field teams, is president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and NCAA representative for

the AMCC and Skyline Conferences. The Beacon sat down with Masilunas and discussed his recent trip to Anaheim, Calif. for the 97th annual NCAA Convention and what he plans to bring to Behrend.

Beacon: How did you become the NCAA representative for the AMCC and Skyline conferences?

Masilunas: It was a multi-step process. First, I became track and field's representative for Behrend's SAAC. Next, I applied for the position of NCAA representative and Mr. (Brian) Streeter (Behrend athletic director) nominated me. All schools in both conferences were eligible to nominate people from their SAAC.

Beacon: What kind of material did you discuss at the NCAA convention?

Masilunas: We discussed a lot of new legislation, especially the possible amendment of seasons and practices on the Division III level. The joint SAAC, which is all divisions of the NCAA, discussed topics on a broader, general term. For instance, we talked about the elimination of all American Indian mascots and names. We also worked on legislation that involved insurance for all athletes. This is a huge thing; requiring students to have some sort of insurance, whether it is provided by the parent or the school. Another big thing we worked on involved Title IX policy amendments and championships. Title IX is a big thing; even President Bush has a special

committee looking into the possible amendments. Also, we decided to add three more schools to the AMCC—Mt. Aloysius, Hilbert, and Medaille.

Beacon: What are your thoughts on the likelihood of the NCAA amending Title IX?

Masilunas: It's hard for me to guess because I am new to the position. It may hurt some of the smaller male sports in order to help the female sports. You cannot be ignorant to the fact that women play sports, but at the same time, no one should be denied the opportunity to participate.

Beacon: What were the highlights of your trip?

Masilunas: I would have to say the entire thing was absolutely amazing, but the highlights were the people I met. Getting to eat lunch with the president of the NCAA was awesome and I found out he's a really cool guy. Also, I met Warren Moon at the honors dinner, which will be aired on ESPN. We, all the delegates, also completed a community service project for underprivileged youth. We got to talk to them about the importance of academics and eating right. Most of

them were under 10 and thought we were the coolest thing around.

Disney hosted a delegate's reception for us and shut down half the park; it was really amazing.

Beacon: What did you learn that could be applied to Behrend's SAAC?

Masilunas: Leadership. I learned a lot about myself and the strength of the student-athlete voice. When used correctly, it can be incredibly powerful. I have some ideas for community outreach programs. They would be things in which Behrend could incorporate both athletics and academics.

Beacon: In a few words, summarize what Behrend athletics are all about.

Masilunas: Rough it up, play hard, shake hands, go home. Yeah, We Are... Penn State, but we prefer We Are...Behrend.

