

## Calendar of Events

# Behrend Athletic Events

**Friday, March 7**  
Indoor Track & Field,  
NCAA Indoor Championships, TBA

**Saturday, March 8**  
Indoor Track & Field,  
NCAA Indoor Championships, TBA

Women's Water Polo,  
Southern Championships  
@ Michigan

**Sunday, March 9**  
Women's Water Polo,  
Southern Championships  
@ Michigan, 9:30 a.m.

Softball, Spring Training,  
@ Florida.

Baseball, Spring Training  
@ Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Men's Tennis vs. Emory &  
Henry, Noon

**Monday, March 10**  
Men's Tennis vs. Lebanon  
Valley, 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 11**  
Men's Tennis vs.  
Marywood, Noon

Women's Water Polo @  
Mercyhurst, 9 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 12**  
Men's Tennis @ Hilton  
Head, TBA

**Thursday, March 13**  
Men's Tennis vs. Mt. Union,  
Noon

**Friday, March 14**  
Men's Tennis @ Hilton  
Head, TBA

Women's Water Polo,  
Behrend/Gannon Invitational, TBA

**Saturday, March 15**  
Women's Water Polo,  
Behrend/Gannon Invitational, TBA

**Sunday, March 16**  
Women's Water Polo,  
Behrend/Gannon Invitational, TBA

**Wednesday, March 19**  
Baseball vs. Hilbert, 2 p.m.

## Calling all students

Do you want some cheese with that wine? That's the question I pose to the athletic director of Pitt-Greensburg.

I showed up to the women's AMCC Championship game overflowing with Behrend spirit, only to have it crushed by the athletic director of Pitt-Greensburg.

You see, I brought along a cowbell to ring in support of the Lions. This didn't become a problem to Pitt until there was five minutes left in the game and they were losing. Only once did the cowbell ring when Pitt was on the foul line, and I'm not even the one who rang it. Some other Behrend fan joined in my crusade to support the women's team.

However, I was then approached by our athletic director and asked to hand over the cowbell because the other AD didn't think it was appropriate. I put the

cowbell away out of respect and was told "thanks for your support."

Was that supposed to console me? I had just been asked to put away a portion of my Behrend pride and spirit because the other team didn't think it was appropriate. (Apparently, it was appropriate when Pitt was winning.)

At another game I attended this year, the band was asked to stop the use of its thunder sticks. What's next? Will we be asked to become mute and check our shoes at the door? Will we be discouraged from cheering or stomping our feet in fear that our actions will be deemed inappropriate by the other team? What happened to home-court advantage and crazy fans?

In fact, there is a rule stating fans cannot have artificial noisemakers, so I was in violation. The rule states, "The playing of music and/or amplified music

and the use of artificial noisemakers while the game is in progress shall be prohibited. The only time the game is not 'in progress' is during a timeout or intermission."

Then why hand them out? I'll you why, and this is the heart of the problem. Not that noisemakers are inappropriate, or even that I'm madder than hell my cowbell privileges were taken away, but the fact is that Behrend lacks fan support.

Behrend students complain there's nothing to do on campus. Why not get out and support your peers by attending a sporting event? You don't even have to like sports. You could watch the dance team or cheerleaders perform, listen to the band, or sit and converse with the other students you would meet.

The men's basketball team had 10 regular-season home games and two tournaments. The women's team had 12 regular-season home games and one tournament. Plus, Behrend earned the right to host the AMCC Championships, giving Behrend students at least four

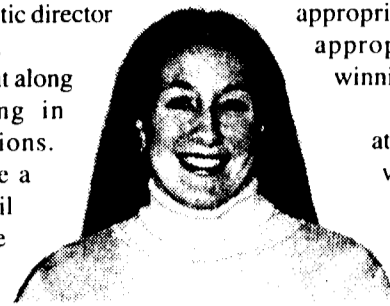
more chances to "do something."

Granted, there are those few fans who attend games and do a great job of promoting Behrend spirit and pumping up our teams, but we need more. Pitt-Greensburg grandparents were making more noise than Behrend students at the women's game. If sheer embarrassment of this fact alone doesn't make you want to attend a Behrend sporting event, then I don't know what will.

Yes, I'm angry I was asked to put my cowbell away, but I'm even more angry to think I had to use the cowbell to make up for the lack of interested Behrend students.

So, between baseball, softball, women's water polo, and tennis, you have 43 more chances to get out and do something with your Behrend spirit to curb your boredom.

That's why I'm calling all student to get out more, show some spirit and be proud of not only Behrend athletics, but Behrend itself.



Lauren Packer

## Baseball starts rebuilding process

by Lauren Packer  
assistant sports editor

Let's talk numbers. After all, baseball is about numbers.

In 2002, Behrend baseball posted a school-best 35-8 record en route to winning the ECAC Southern Division Championship. The Lions had the sixth best winning percentage in Division III and 12 players earned all-conference honors.

The squad set numerous offensive records, including a .339 team batting average, 351 hits, and 379 runs scored. Pitchers sat down 250 batters, striking out nine-plus hitters in eight games.

In 2003, Behrend will have to replace 15 men from its championship squad and reload with 11 freshmen and three transfer players. The Lions are ranked third in the AMCC preseason coaches' poll.

Despite the overwhelming numbers put up by Behrend last season, the Lions started their 2003 season this past weekend at Kentucky with enthusiasm.

"Our freshmen have some big shoes to fill but they are capable of doing so. They've been working hard in practice and have come a long way since the fall," said junior outfielder Mike Coutts.

"We lost a lot of experience from last year's team but we are still talented enough to win the AMCCs, get back to

the ECACs and even NAAs."

Behrend headed into the first game of a doubleheader against Transylvania hoping to make a strong showing in their season opener. Behrend came close in the first game, losing 3-2.

Veteran Ryan Seyler showed why he is the Lions ace on the mound.

"With one more victory on the mound, he will tie the all-time leader in pitching victories," said head coach Paul Benim.

The senior gave an impressive performance in his 2003 debut. In five innings, Seyler walked three, struck out three and gave up six hits. Last season, the pitching ace had a 1.36 ERA that ranked eighth in the country.

"My goal is to use last weekend as a learning experience and to get better as the season goes on," said Seyler. We want to get to a level where we have a chance to win the conference tournament and get to the postseason."

In the second half of the twin bill, Behrend sent junior Mitch Reckner to the hill for his second collegiate start. The Lions lost the game 7-2. Reckner allowed five runs in the first inning but then shut down Transylvania, giving up just two hits over the next four innings.

"Once Jason settled in, he did a great job. He will continue to get better," said Benim.

Game three of the weekend's action pitted Behrend against Spalding. The Lions lost 11-1. Sophomore Matt Szymanski allowed five hits and struck out two.

Game four was another loss for Behrend, this time to Brescia 8-2. Senior co-captain Keith Lepionka blasted a home run for the Lions. Freshman Brent Gabel allowed six hits and four strikeouts in the loss.

Even though the Lions started the season on a 0-4 losing skid, the team remains optimistic.

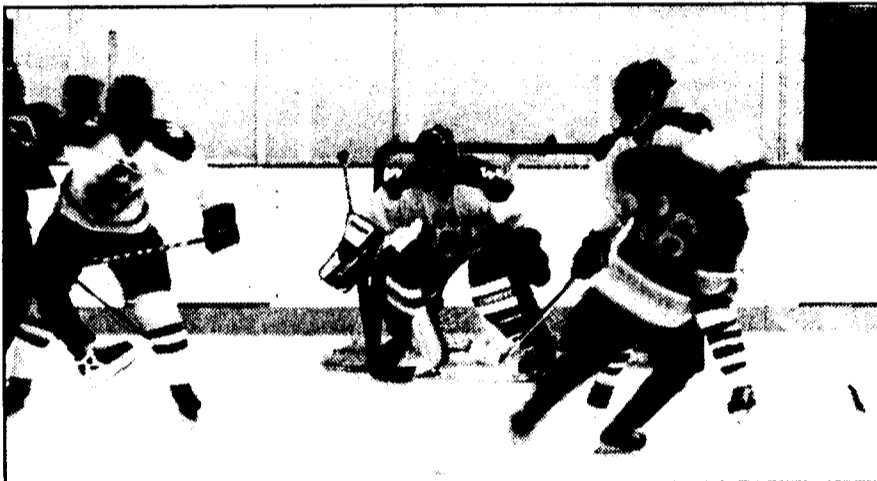
"The trip was beneficial for our program. It was our first time this year on a field and we did some good and bad things. We need to learn from the mistakes we made and attempt to not repeat them in Florida during spring training," Benim said.

Behrend's spring training site is Port St. Lucie, Fla. The Lions will square off in 11 games during spring break and look to get back to their championship form.



Coach Paul Benim has a long road ahead of him replacing 15 players from last year's team.

## Behrend has a hockey team?!



Goalie Jeremy Stehle defends the net.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

by Amy Frizzel  
staff writer

Many students don't know about the hockey team at Behrend, but there is one. The team currently has 22 players on the roster who play as part of the Provisional Division of the College Hockey East League.

Being a provisional or a "temporary" team means that it is allowed to play all of the provisional teams in the division as well as the teams that are a full member of CHE. As a provisional team they can not participate in any CHE playoff games. But that will all change next year.

"The team is looking forward to next year's season when we will become a full member of the College Hockey East league" said junior winger Andrew Frizzel.

This year the team ended its season with a record of 3-8-2, which started with a devastating loss to Slippery Rock.

"The first year went well. The guys were able to come together as a team," said coach Dan Fritts.

"We've improved a lot since the beginning of the season" said junior captain Mike Fritts.

"We've been able to learn each others' playing style making it easier to work together," freshman center Joe Persang added.

This showed when the team took second place this past weekend in the

first ever Provisional Tournament at the Indiana Ice Center in Indiana, Pa. Other participants were Case Western, Cal U, and Penn State Altoona.

"We had some ups and downs, but a lot of good things came out of this tourney," said Mike Fritts. "We learned how to battle back and how to win in tough games which we did in our first game against Cal U."

The Lions beat out Case Western Reserve and Cal U, who they had struggled with throughout the season, to make it to the finals. Due to the fact that the tourney was based on a points system, Behrend had to face Cal U yet again in the finals, where they lost 6-4.

Even though the team had a hard season they have been able to agree on a goal for next year.

"We want to be a big time contender next year, that's why we are playing harder teams such as Robert Morris University who is the defending Division II National Champions this year," said Mike Fritts.

To become the tough opponents they want to be, the team will have to work hard in the off season.

"They will need more practice time, which means more ice time along with finding more hard working players," coach Fritts said. "The guys will also have to keep up with strength training and, as always, they will need more student support."

## Women's water polo off and swimming

by Ryan Russell  
staff writer

The Flying V. The Circle of Death. Are these mere ideas from movies or something more?

Actually, these are just two of the plays in coach Josh Heynes playbook for the upcoming women's water polo season, kicking off in Michigan this weekend, in an tournament that includes Division I school Indiana University.

Why does the Lady Lion water polo team play against Division I schools? Well, because as of right now, there are not many other options. There are not enough Division III schools that have a women's water polo program to form its own league.

The league that the Lady Lions are in, along with the rest of the women's water polo teams, is the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA), which handles scheduling for all divisions of teams. Playing Division I schools isn't a drawback in any way for the Lady Lions however.

"I don't mind doing that," said coach Josh Heynes. "Because it makes us better at the Division III level."

And the team returning this year is pretty good, and getting better. After last year's double overtime win in the Southern Championships against heated rival Washington and Jefferson, a first for the team, the Lady Lions lost to Grove City in the final 10 seconds of their next contest, costing them a shot at nationals.

Returning from last year's team is senior

Ann Marie Havey, juniors Lauren Packer, Amanda Brown, Hollie Stash, Tara Braden, Sarah McGarvey, and sophomores Christine Williams, and Erin Troester.

Most of this year's squad has been together since the beginnings of the water polo team three years ago, so there is plenty of chemistry between teammates. The team knows what it will have to do to reach its goal for this year, which is getting back to the nationals tournament.

Who is going to lead the team then? Everyone is.

"This year we are looking at the group as a whole," Heynes said. "It can't be any one individual, because other teams will camp on that individual. We are looking for a lot of people to step up their level of play."

Heynes looks for some of his younger players to come up with the big offensive plays needed to win. He also hopes that the players who have been on the team since the beginning can step up and show the younger players what defense is all about.

The women know what they have to do, and they also know who they have to beat at the Division III level to get to the national tournament at the end of the year. While Grove City and Washington & Jefferson pose the biggest divisional obstacles standing in the path to glory (and nationals) for the Lady Lions, they also play many Division I and II schools.

While the Lady Lions may not have much hope against the likes of these teams, each game against them is a huge learning

experience for the players, which can help lay out the steps on the road to nationals.

After traveling to Michigan this weekend, it will host the Penn State Behrend St. Patrick's Day Invitational March 14 thru 16.

The Southern Championships occur March 28 through March 30. The Lady Lions last home game is on April 22, against both Grove City and Gannon, and the national championships occur May 2 through May 4.

If you love water polo, or just want something to do on these cold Erie nights, come out and see the Lady Lions.

And be sure to look for that tricky Flying V.