

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday

Baseball vs. Penn State Altoona (DH), 1 p.m.

Softball @ Pitt-Greensburg (DH), 1 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Pitt-Greensburg, 11 a.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Waynesburg, 2 p.m.

Tuesday

Baseball @ Allegheny (S), 2 p.m.

Softball vs. Westminster (DH), 3 p.m.

Women's Water Polo @ Gannon vs. SRU, 5:15 p.m.

vs. W & J, 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 27
Softball @ Buffalo State, 3 p.m.

Intramurals Schedule

Soccer

Men's, Women's, COED
Entries due March 28
Play begins March 31

Badminton

Men's, Women's, COED
Entries due April 11
Play begins April 14

An ode to sportsmanship

This article is a precursor to the thesis I will complete this semester regarding the state of emergency surrounding sportsmanship in professional sports today.

It is sad that winning is always the first priority over playing fair. I am guilty of feeding the fire, as I am so passionate about my teams being on top that my comments feed into the will to win. However, there are still times, many times, when playing fair is the right thing to do.

Many athletes are given a general idea by their fans, coaches, and the media that actions that are unruly deserve attention and not much is done about them.

Fights in hockey are glorified, while skirmishes in basketball stay on the news for weeks, especially when they involve Jeff Van Gundy. Baseball brawls that clear the benches are well documented.

I actually heard statistics as to when the last fight occurred between certain ball clubs after a few incidents last year. I was at a Pirates game versus the

Cardinals in which the bench cleared three times. The post-game interviews centered on the bench clearing incidents and not the competitiveness of the game.

There used to be a time when a nice block was followed by helping the opponent up. Hockey games still have handshakes after a playoff series, but the number of fights is escalating. I was on a middle school basketball team that had a fight erupt during the handshakes. The world of sports has become quite hectic.

Many governing bodies of high school athletics give out sportsmanship awards. Have you ever noticed how these awards always seem to go to the losing teams?

It doesn't matter how a team wins, they will get the trophy at the end of the year, and so we better reward the losers with something. The payoff doesn't seem so good to me.

In research for my thesis I have rediscovered incidents of sexual harassment by coaches, the tragic beating

of hockey dads, the beating of a first base coach, a 115-2 basketball game, and many other immoral events.

The agenda-setting media glorifies incidents like the small scuffle that Eric Snow got into after receiving the Joe Dumars award for best sportsman in the NBA, instead of mentioning the existence of a National Sportsmanship Day. By the way, that was March 4th.

Did you get any notice of this? I didn't think so. You can even get a free packet from the website teaching all about ethics in sports. That website is <http://www.internationalsport.com/nsd/nsd.cfm>

Maybe I am ranting and I come across as a hypocrite. To an extent I probably am, but it is refreshing to see players help opposing players back up or give credit to a great performance. It is just a shame that fans, the media, and coaches emphasize winning without any concentration of sportsmanship. Teams can still win and be a sportsman.

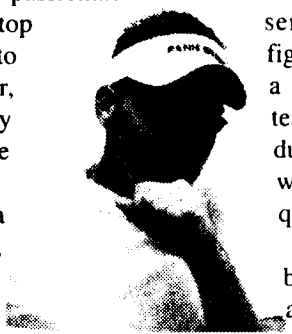
One good example of this is phenom LeBron James. He is getting media coverage as the first round draft pick in the NBA. He is in high school and has been the focus of the media for years.

Do you think he has a small ego at all? His success is leading him to overlook getting an education for the money, fame, and winning.

How about the 115-2 basketball game I mentioned earlier? What could possibly make anyone want to run up the score this badly? College football often has coaches running up scores to improve their rank in a chance to play for the national championship. These coaches are seen as very unfair. If a team is so unevenly matched with its opposition, then maybe the other team's coach can be more fair by putting his players that usually sit on the bench in the game much more.

Maybe governing boards should make a rule that says the clock doesn't stop in lopsided victories. Something must be done to stop these horrible showings of poor sportsmanship.

If you want to read more about this topic, the thesis must be completed by May 2. The communications department will hold onto the final version. It is called "Real Sportsmanship."



Douglas Smith
sports columnist

5 Reasons Why...

I'm lousy at picking March Madness

1. I play favorites. Every single year, I send Syracuse to the Elite Eight and every year they burn me. You would think that I would learn my lesson after years of having my bracket busted by the Orangemen that I would be realistic and send them to the Sweet Sixteen this year.

Well, in my SportsIllustrated.com bracket I have them going to the Elite Eight, in my ESPN bracket, I have them going to the Final Four, and according to my predictions for CBSSportsLine.com Syracuse is going to win it all. ESPN is the poll that I actually put some time and effort into, so I went middle ground in it.

The same goes for Duke. The Blue Devils have been my pick to win it all almost every year I have filled out a bracket. All the hope, but few times did they deliver. This year's team is young, so I could justify only sending them to the Sweet Sixteen in the ESPN poll, where they will probably lose to Kansas.

Of course, in another bracket I have them in the Final Four so that I can sleep at night and not feel as if I betrayed my team.

2. I won't pick teams I don't like. In every sport there are a few teams out there that I just can't stand, and feel guilty for picking to win. In college football they are Nebraska, Ohio State, and any team out of the state of Florida. In the pros, it's the San Francisco Giants, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Philadelphia 76ers.

In college basketball they are Arizona, Stanford, and

Florida. I can't exactly trace the origin of my distaste for these teams, but it's there. Arizona is a one seed, Stanford a four, and Florida is a two seed in this year's tournament.

I have Arizona going to the Elite Eight in my main bracket, but I don't have Stanford or Florida making it out of the second round. Is this because I have some inside tips about why they're going to lose? Nope, it's because I don't like them. I would have even had Arizona lose earlier if they weren't so good.

3. I pick way too many upsets. This is hard to see when you look at my Final Four this year which is Pittsburgh (two seed), Kansas (two seed), Texas (one seed), and Syracuse (three seed). If you go back one round you can see my penchant for picking underdogs. My Elite Eight consists of two number one seeds, two number two seeds, a three, a four, a six, and an eight.

All told I have 18 upsets including a 14 beating a three and an eight beating a one. This is actually one of my more conservative years. Usually I have a two losing in the first round and two number three seeds getting bounced in the field of 64. My typical Final Four does not have a single number one seed in it and usually a four or five winning it all.

However, I did indulge my crazy side a bit in my CBS bracket with an all orange final, number three-seeded Syracuse beating the fourth seeded Illinois.

4. I change my picks too often. My bracket that I am

serious about was set for the final time late Wednesday. My picks changed at least a dozen times as Andy Katz or Dick Vitale would come on ESPN and make a few predictions. On top of this I look at all of my friends' brackets, and wonder how in the hell I could have ever thought IUPUI could knock off Kentucky. That's a bit of an extreme case, but they did influence many realistic changes.

I've found that picking a bracket is just like picking answers on a multiple choice test. Your first answer is usually the right one. It's when you second guess yourself that you get into trouble. In the tournament I second, third, and fourth guess myself to the point where I don't even know who my original picks were and why I picked some of my new ones.

5. I don't watch nearly enough regular season. I usually watch some at the start of the season, see Sportscenter highlights in the middle of the season, and then watch some of the conference tournaments. I know about the marquee players, I catch the big upsets, and I closely watch how the rankings shift from week to week.

All of that is fine, but can't compare to watching the actual games. To see how teams respond under pressure is key. To be watching when a player gets hurt or fouls out and seeing how a team responds to this adversity will tell you a lot about how they will play in the tournament. Although some teams seem like a totally different group of athletes when tournament time comes around, a lot can be said for the regular season. That's how they got to the big dance.



Scott Soltis
sports editor

BEHREND SPORTS BRIEFS

BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Baseball

The Lions are 9-4 overall and have the best record amongst the AMCC.

Behrend is second in the AMCC for runs scored. The Lions average 6.33 runs per game.

Adam Best is second in the AMCC for stolen bases. In 11 attempts, Best has swiped 10.

Softball

The Lions are 1-7 overall, looking to snap a five-game losing streak.

Becky Corbin is second in the AMCC for ERA. Corbin allows only 3.07 runs per game.

Freshman Leacy Sauer went 4 for 4 in her first collegiate start.

NATIONAL SPORTS NEWS

Brigham Young University lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. The loss comes as a sigh of relief to the bracket makers. The Mormon school would have had to play on a Sunday if it won that game and its next one. However, it is against the school's religion to play sports on a Sunday and so the NCAA would have had to move BYU into a different bracket for that one game and then move them back if they won. But they didn't make it out of the first round.

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT GAMES SET FOR THIS WEEKEND

Missouri squeaked by Southern Illinois to earn the right to play Marquette on Saturday night at 8:50.

Top seed Arizona annihilated Vermont and Gonzaga upset Cincinnati to create a One Vs Nine matchup on Saturday.

UConn beat BYU and Stanford knocked off San Diego to set up a East Coast Vs. West Coast battle.

Top seed in the East, Oklahoma won by nearly twenty in its first round game and will square off against eight seed California on Saturday.

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference

Athlete of the Week

PENNSSTATE Erie



Mitch Reckner

SPORT: Baseball
CLASS: Junior
DATE: March 24

Mitch Reckner (Brockway HS/Brockway) was named AMCC Athlete of the Week. Reckner led the Behrend Lions to a perfect 8-0 spring training week, batting .566 on 17 hits in 30 at-bats.

He scored 12 runs and contributed 14 RBIs.

"Mitch had a tremendous week for the Behrend Lions," said eight-year head coach Paul Benim. "He was a rally starter. He made us go all week in spring training and because of his work ethic and intensity we expect

him to continue doing several more good things for our team," said head coach Paul Benim.

Next up for the blue and white is a doubleheader against Penn State Altoona.