

Calendar of
EventsBehrend
Athletic
Events

Friday

Women's Water Polo @
W&J, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball vs. Frostburg
(DH), 1 p.m.Softball @ Penn State
Altoona (DH), 1 p.m.Women's Water Polo
@ W&J
vs. Indiana, 12:30 p.m.

vs. Gannon, 8 p.m.

Track & Field @ Clarion
Invitational, TBAMen's Tennis vs. Penn
State Altoona, Noon

Sunday

Women's Water Polo @
W&J vs. Mercyhurst,
1:15 p.m.Baseball vs. Bethany (DH)
1 p.m.

Monday

Softball vs. Bethany (DH),
2:30 p.m.Men's Tennis vs. Thiel,
3:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Baseball @ Fredonia (DH),
1 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Tennis @ Edinboro,
3:30 p.m.

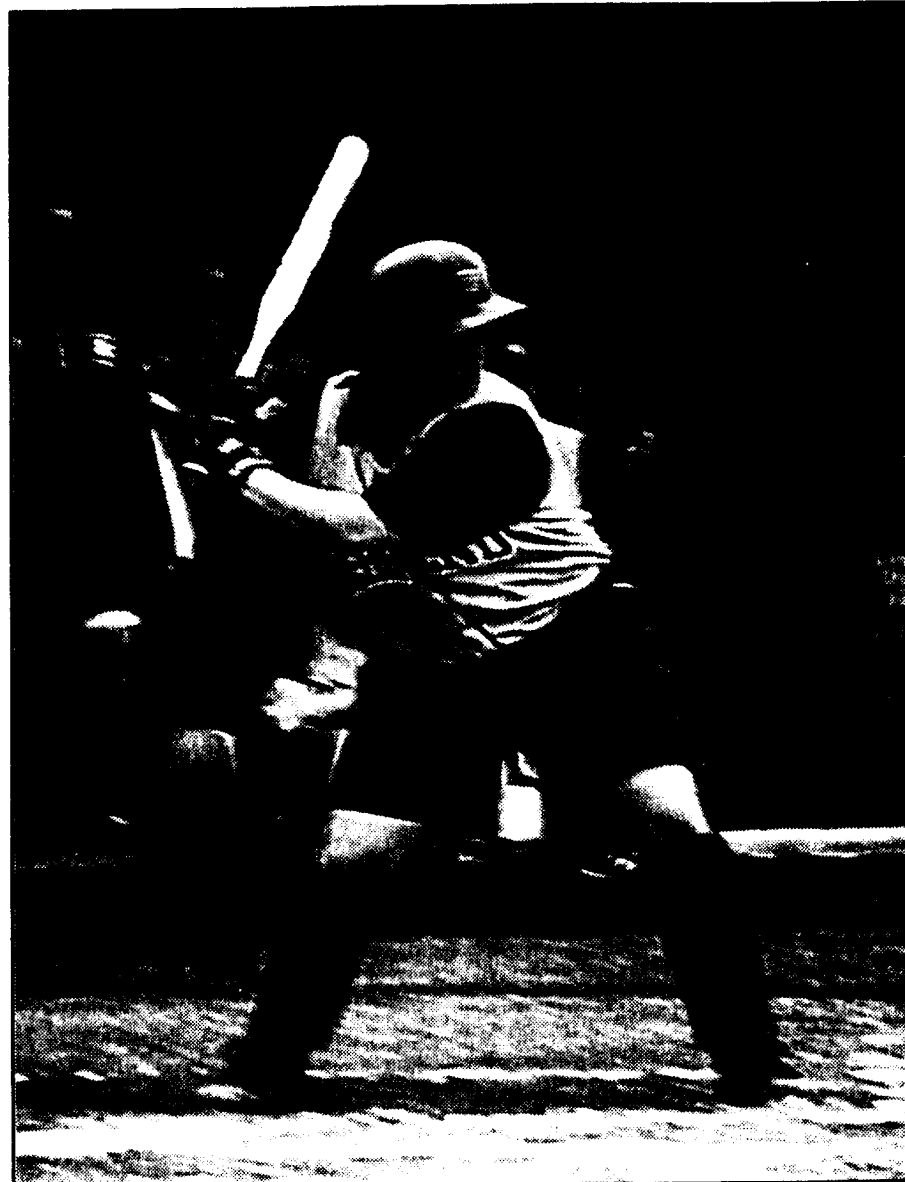
Thursday

Softball vs. Pitt-Bradford, 3
p.m.Intramurals
Schedule

Badminton

Men's, Women's, COED
Entries Due April 11
Play Begins April 14WE ARE
PENN
STATE

Softball drops home opener



Captain Cheryl Peterson looks to ignite the Lions' offense. Peterson earned first team all-conference honors in 2002 as designated hitter.

by Lauren Packer
assistant sports editor

Mother Nature doesn't like to cooperate with spring sporting

events, especially those in Erie. After having two away games against Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg postponed, the Lions opened up

their home season on Tuesday against Westminster.

In the first game, Behrend sent veteran Becky Corbin to the circle. Westminster hit Corbin hard and scored nine runs. The Lions' offense was cold and couldn't get started. Behrend lost 9-1.

Erika Mack put on a defensive clinic for Behrend at third base. Mack knocked down numerous grounders and speared a couple of line drives from Westminster.

When not at the hot corner, Mack is behind the plate where she feels more comfortable.

"I've caught since I started playing softball, so I'm much more familiar with catching. I didn't start playing third until last season, so I put more practice in at third," said Mack.

"At third, you never know what's coming at you, so you have to be prepared for everything."

In the second game, freshman Kim Raff kept Westminster off balance by using good movement with her pitches. The Lions' bats came alive and rallied, but they fell short again, losing 5-4.

"Offense is such an amazing part of softball, and as a team,

we have been lacking in that area. It's amazing what can happen when we get a few hits," said Corbin.

Continuing the defensive clinic started by Mack were infielder Charity Marsh and outfielder Brandy Polinick. Shortstop Marsh fielded a ground ball cleanly, stepped on second, and then fired to first for an unassisted double play. Polinick reeled in a ball hit deep with an over-the-shoulder catch.

Heading into this weekend, the Lions open their AMCC schedule on the road against 2002 AMCC runner-up Penn State Altoona. Behrend went 0-2 against Altoona last year.

This year, it's anybody's game. Behrend and Altoona are ranked near each other in almost every category in the AMCC. Behrend is equal with Altoona in team batting average. Corbin moved from third to second best ERA, while Raff shows improvement in each start.

"Though we've had a rough start, I still believe we have what it takes to be very competitive in the AMCC," said Corbin.

"When we play to our best ability, we can do some amazing things."

BEHREND SPORTS BRIEFS

BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Baseball

The Lions are 11-5 overall and lead the AMCC in scoring. Behrend averages over 6 runs per game.

Mitch Reckner leads the AMCC in hitting and RBIs. Reckner's average is .490 and he has 17 RBIs.

Softball

The Lions open the AMCC season against Penn State Altoona on Saturday.

Behrend is third in team ERA. The staff is allowing 4.46 runs per game.

NATIONAL SPORTS NEWS

Baseball

The Minnesota Twins announced that over one million 2003 regular season tickets have been sold.

This is the first time since 1994 that this has happened.

Basketball

Georgia head coach Jim Harrick resigned Thursday.

Academic scandal caused the Bulldogs to pull themselves out of the SEC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament.

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Allegheny
Mountain
Collegiate
Conference
**Athlete
of the Week**

PENNSSTATE
Erie



Ryan Deimel

SPORT: Tennis
CLASS: Sophomore
DATE: March 24

Ryan Deimel (Cathedral Prep/Erie) was named the AMCC Player of the Week.

This past weekend in Wayneburg, Deimel won all of his matches at both first singles

and first doubles, helping the Lions to a pair of team wins over conference rival Pitt-Greensburg and non-conference opponent Waynesburg.

"Ryan has played well for us, giving us a great player at the number one singles position helps out everyone

else," said head coach Jeff Barger. "Last weekend he played with two different partners and still won both matches."

Next up for the Lions will be an away conference match Saturday, March 29 at noon, against Penn State Altoona.