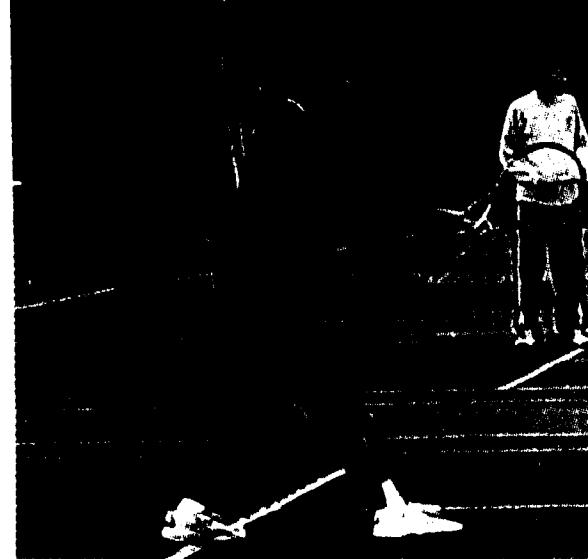


*The Behrend Beacon*

Friday, April 11, 2003

**Mens' tennis team takes down Alfred, Frostburg**

Michael Oey has helped the Lions to the top of the AMCC.

by Lyndsey Boor  
staff writer

Youth prevailed as the Behrend mens' tennis team walked away with a pair of victories last weekend. Behrend faced off against Alfred on April 4 and Frostburg on Sunday.

The team is comprised of freshmen, sophomores, and only one senior. Young blood didn't stop the team from winning its match against Alfred 7-2 and from beating Frostburg 5-4.

Freshman John Marini had a good week, ending up 2-1 in his singles and doubles matches. This was good for a Best of the Rest mention in the AMCC for the week.

"We needed a good performance against both teams and our team stepped up and played very well," said team captain Jacob Hillmann. "I was really impressed with Mike Oey. He was down in his match against Frostburg and came back to win."

Coach Jeff Barger wasn't completely in agreement, though.

"I'm happy with our performance against Alfred. We looked strong and played very well, but the game against Frostburg wasn't pretty. We definitely weren't ready to play and it was disappointing."

Barger was impressed with the performance of freshman John Marini.

"John played really well in both matches. He was rested and it showed. He won all his matches both Friday and Sunday," said Barger.

Even though the match against Frostburg wasn't as smooth as Barger would have hoped, the team will meet up against Frostburg again Saturday. Behrend also plays Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday and Penn State Altoona on Sunday.

The team's record is 9-2. Behrend hopes to keep winning and take home the AMCC championship that Penn State Altoona claimed last year.

**Hit or miss**  
**Lions win two in a row, lose next two**by Kevin Fiorenzo  
staff writer

Snow, April, and baseball don't exactly go together, but that is exactly what the baseball team had to deal with this past week. The only games played were against Pitt-Greensburg and Thiel thanks to inclement weather.

On Saturday, the Lions traveled to conference opponent Pitt-Greensburg for a doubleheader. In the first game, Greensburg got off to a strong start by scoring two runs in the bottom of the first.

Behrend was able to respond, though, in the next inning. Thanks to untimely errors on Greensburg's part, the Lions erupted for a four-run inning. The Lions never lost the lead, as they scored three more runs before emerging victorious by a score of 7-3.

"Those errors were crucial," said second baseman Tony Azzato. "That's when we had our big inning. They didn't do the little things and you saw what happened. We took advantage of it."

Aside from Greensburg's mistakes, Behrend also won because it got strong play from everyone, particularly outfielder Adam Best and pitcher Ryan Seyler. Best's bat was smoking throughout the game. He came away with four hits, including a triple.

A key ingredient for Behrend has been powerful pitching. That didn't change on Saturday, as Seyler played outstanding. He finished with a complete game and three strikeouts while giving up 11 hits and three runs. The win raised Seyler's record to 3-2.

In the second game, the contest took an unexpected turn. In the second inning, Pitt-Greensburg's coach was



ejected after he continually argued with the umpire's calls.

"From my understanding, it was because he was complaining about every pitch call," said Best. "Pretty much anything the umpire did that went against him, he complained. The umpire got tired of it so he tossed him."

Because the coach was ejected, the game was forfeited and Behrend got the win by a 7-0 score. Regardless of the events that took place, the players believe it was a legitimate win.

"Rules are rules and we have to play by them," Azzato said. "We weren't pleased that we won by forfeit, but in the end it was a win."

It was also an important win that raised

Behrend's record to 15-6 overall, 3-2 in conference. The Lions' next game was supposed to be a doubleheader the next day against Case Western, but because of the bizarre April snow, it was postponed. The same thing happened the next day when Behrend was supposed to play Lake Erie. That game was postponed to today.

On Wednesday, the team caught a break and was able to play its doubleheader against Thiel. Unfortunately, things didn't go Behrend's way. The squad got off to a good start by taking a 3-0 lead after two innings. The Lions maintained that margin up until the bottom of the sixth, when Thiel tied up the game.

In the final inning, Behrend scored three more runs and took a 6-3 lead. They seemed to have the game in their grasp. That was not the case, though. Thiel responded with an offensive blast, scoring four runs and taking the win from Behrend by a 7-6 score. The starter for Behrend was Tony Kordecki. He threw for 5 2/3 innings with four strikeouts, while giving up three hits, one walk, and three runs. Chris McCartney pitched 1 2/3 innings and yielded eight hits and four runs.

In the next game, the Lions must have been discouraged because they couldn't get any run production. Thiel won by a commanding 8-0 score. The starter for Behrend was Brent Gabel. Unlike his

**Adam Best**

(pictured left)

**Stat Box**

<b>Batting Average:</b>	.476
<b>First in AMCC</b>	
<b>Hits:</b>	30 Second on Team
<b>RBI:</b>	11 Fifth on Team
<b>Runs:</b>	31 First on Team
<b>Stolen Bases:</b>	First in AMCC

most recent starts, he and the team were unable to contain Thiel's offense. He pitched for 3 2/3 innings with two strikeouts and gave up five hits, six runs, and three walks. Also contributing to the contest were Chris McCartney, Shane Elzer, and Matt Szynanski.

What significantly hurt the Lions were errors. The Lions committed two in the bottom of the fourth, the same inning they gave up four runs to Thiel.

"We took them too lightly and they handed it to us," Best said.

The losses to Thiel dropped Behrend to 15-8 overall. The Lions' next games are on today and Saturday against Lake Erie and Mount Aloysius, respectively. A game against one of the top AMCC teams, Pitt Bradford, is also looming.

"Lake Erie has been struggling but we cannot take them lightly," Gabel said. "Bradford is having a good year and we just hope that we are ready mentally and physically and be there to play baseball."

"We just need to be ready for them. We need to play our game and go out and beat them," said Best.

**Water polo picks up two more wins**by Lauren Packer  
assistant sports editor

Ask Christine Williams how many times this season she's been bit by her opponent. Or, ask hole set Sarah McGarvey how many times this season she's had her suit ripped off.

The women are finding out the hard way what college water polo is about.

During the Grove City Invitational this past weekend, Behrend was to play Salem International in the last action of the day. The game never materialized. In Salem's previous game, a player repeatedly punched her opponent. Salem was forced to suspend its player one game, leaving it one player short of a full team, and giving Behrend a 5-0 forfeit win.

But that wasn't all the drama Lions encountered on the weekend. In game-one, the Lions battled against rival Grove City. The Wolverines shut down the Lions 6-3 in a highly anticipated rematch.

"We started off the game strong and ran with them until the fourth quarter, but the game sort of got away from us," said Erin Troester. "Defensively, we are 100 percent, but offensively, we aren't quite there yet."

In game two, Behrend squared off against Connecticut College. It took the Lions two overtime periods to down the Camels, 5-4.

"It was our first overtime game of the year. It's good to know we can go six periods," said head coach Josh Heynes. "It shouldn't have done six periods though. We stayed strong and overcame some obstacles caused by both ourselves and the refs."

"The overtime win really boosted our spirits and let us realize that making nationals is still a possibility," said junior Tara Braden.

Williams scored four of the five goals and goalie Lauren Packer blocked 73 percent to lead the Lions to victory.

Behrend's last action of the day came against Queens. The Lions held a lead for much of the game but couldn't hang on for the victory.

"We ran with them until the last 30 seconds," said Heynes. "We ran with a Division I team. We knew these games would be tight."

Behrend travels to Bucknell for what could be the last tournament of the season. If the 11 seed Lions can upset seeds 9 and 10, otherwise known as rivals Washington & Jefferson and Grove City, then a national championship bid could be awarded.

"It's a very positive outlook. The brackets fell into our hands and we should see our rivals," said Heynes. "For a third year team, we have a very viable shot at making it to nationals."

**Softball team skid****increases to six**by Lauren Packer and Scott Soltis  
assistant sports editor and Sports editor

21-0. Sounds like the score of a football game right? Wrong.

La Roche College visited the softball team this past weekend for a doubleheader and downed the Lions 21-0 in the first game. The AMCC undefeated Red Hawks cruised easily to victory with an offense that couldn't be stopped. The Lions' pitching staff worked only five innings in the loss as the game was cut short by the 10-run rule.

In game two of the doubleheader the Lions gave a much better performance. Behrend was able to push across four runs across the plate but it still wasn't enough. La Roche continued its offensive onslaught to push nine runs across, winning 9-4. This loss extended the Lions' losing streak to six games.

The month of April has been especially rough on the pitching staff so far. The squad has allowed 46 runs in just four games. Adding to the team's woes has been a dismal offense that's scored only five runs in those games.

The Lions are currently fourth out of the six teams in the AMCC. Their 2-6 overall record is better than Frostburg, who is 1-3 and Pitt-Greensburg and Lake Erie, who have yet to win a game this year. The AMCC is looking to be top-heavy so far this season, with Altoona, Bradford, and La Roche dominating.

In comparison to the 2002 squad, 2003's squad has some catching up to do. Through April 11 of last year, Behrend posted a 8-19 overall record, 6-2 in the AMCC. This year, the Lions are 4-16 overall, 2-6 in the AMCC.

The Lions offense is not producing. Behrend has scored only 58 runs so far this season and the defense has allowed 135 runs.

The Lions tide may be turning. In the six remaining doubleheaders of the regular season, Behrend squares off against only two AMCC opponents, Frostburg and Lake Erie. Frostburg sits just below the Lions in the AMCC standings, while Lake Erie is at the bottom. They also will have the home field advantage in four of the six games.