

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday

Track and Field @ Baldwin
Wallace Invitational TBA

Softball vs. Mt. Aloysius
(DH) 1 p.m.

Golf @ Allegheny
Invitational TBA

Sunday

Golf @ Allegheny
Invitational TBA

Baseball vs. Fredonia
(DH) 1 p.m. TV game

Monday

Men's Tennis @ Alfred
TBA

Tuesday

Men's Tennis @ Fredonia
3 p.m.

Baseball vs. Oberlin
(DH) 1 p.m.

Wednesday

Softball vs. Bethany
(DH) 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

Golf Behrend Invitational
@ Peek n' Peak, noon

Friday, May 2

Baseball, AMCC
Tournament TBA

Softball, AMCC
Tournament TBA

Water Polo @ Division III
Collegiate National
Championships
TBA

Softball trying to gain momentum for AMCCs

Contributed Article

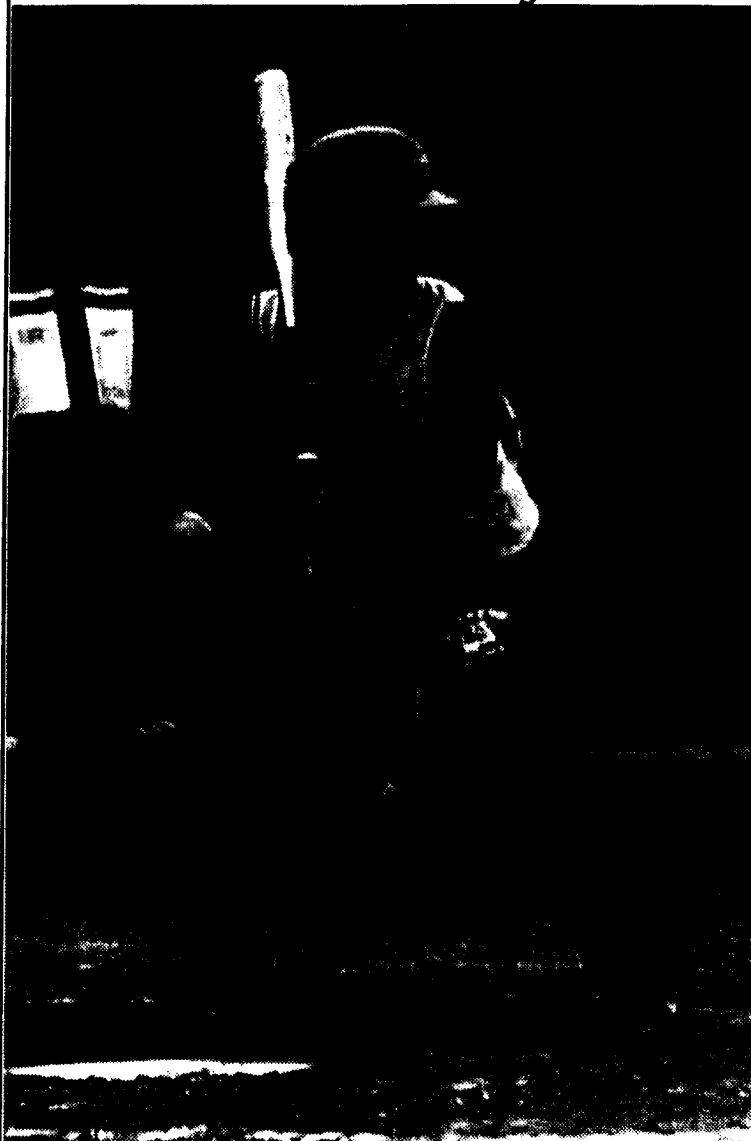


PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS/BEHREND BEACON

The Lions are turning things around just in time for AMCCs.

The Behrend Lions gained two victories over winless Lake Erie this week. The Lions demolished Lake Erie in the first game 11-2.

Following that amazing show they went on to outscore Lake Erie 12-3 in only five innings.

Earlier on in the week the team also defeated Hilbert in a doubleheader 5-2 and 12-3.

The five-game winning streak has helped to boost the team's morale after a rough start to their season. It is also by far the team's longest of the season.

The Lions now sit fifth out of seven teams in the AMCC standings.

AMCC action continues this weekend with the championships.

Penn State Altoona is ranked No. 1 going into this important event.

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER

This time, Brent Gabel got the win for Behrend with four innings of work as well as one hit, no runs, no walks, and three strikeouts. Gabel has a 6-3 record with a 3.80 ERA and 47 strikeouts. Jason Shaffer threw for the last half of the game with six hits, three runs, no walks, and six strikeouts. Shaffer is 4-1 with 39 Ks.

On Tuesday, the Lions hit the road again to play Fredonia. Things looked good for the squad with a 3-1 lead going into the bottom of the sixth. Fredonia came out with bats blasting, though, and accumulated nine runs in the sixth and seventh innings. Behrend tried to stage a rally in the final innings, but four more runs weren't enough. Fredonia won the game 10-7.

Errors were once again a glaring problem for the Lions. They racked up five more in the game against Fredonia. The offense continued to perform, though. Reckner and outfielder Tim Stafford both had a double and Shane Elzer had a triple.

The pitchers were unable to contain Fredonia's offense. Tony Kordecki pitched for 5 2/3 innings with five hits, five runs, four walks, and two strikeouts. McCartney pitched 1 2/3 innings and gave up four hits, five runs, one walk, and had two strikeouts. Ray DeVaul finished the last inning with one strikeout.

The loss dropped the Lions' record to 23-9, but didn't affect their AMCC record, where the team is performing very well. Lepionka was named the AMCC Player of the Week. He batted .500 with 12 RBIs, hitting .373 with 38 hits and four homeruns.

Reckner and outfielder Adam Best are the owners of the top two batting averages in the league at .474. Reckner also has 54 hits, four home runs and a league-leading 47 RBIs and five triples. Best has 45 hits and 21 stolen bases, best in the AMCC.

As the season winds down, games increase in importance. Next up for Behrend are twin bills against Fredonia and Oberlin on Sunday and Tuesday.

The Lions hope to also give their best effort every game because at this point in the season, every game is extremely important.

"We have to maintain a high level of play for each entire game from here on out," said Seyler. "Consistency is very important and players need to step up in key situations. Everyone on the team has to be involved."

Intramurals heating up as year comes to a close

by Scott Soltis
Sports Editor

The races for intramural point system champions are heating up as the year draws to a close. The point system is a year-long tally of how teams did in all intramural sports for the year.

Teams get points for entering teams and individuals in sports, wins in the events, and bonuses for championships.

There are 17 sports for teams to earn points in throughout the year.

The point system is split up into four divisions: fraternity, independent, women's, and coed.

Gone is the residence hall division that was very tightly contested last year. Lawrence Hall beat out perennial champs, Almy Hall by approximately 14 points. To put it into perspective, that is just three wins in individual bad-

minton where teams can enter up to 15 individuals.

With residents constantly moving from location to location, it is hard to sustain interest in hall intramurals.

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has its division pretty much locked up with 1,741 points. In a distant second is the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity.

The other three divisions are still up in the air with two sports remaining. Both badminton and soccer are underway, and it is in these sports that the champions for the year will be crowned.

In the highly contested independent division, Fockers a 213-point lead over Super Delta Five. The Fockers, Super Delta Five, and the XXX Men have been in a tight race throughout the season. There are a lot of points to go around between all of the entry points, win points, and championship points.

Eleven teams in total collected points in the independent division and is the largest and most competitive division.

The Fockers and XXX Men have been competing with each other for a few years along with the now defunct Outta the Blue. The members of last year's Outta the Blue team started the year as Monkey's With Guns, but later merged with the Fockers.

This is Super Delta Five's first competitive intramural year, it is in races in the women's and coed divisions as well as the Independent.

The women's division is also very tight. The sorority Theta Phi Alpha currently is in the lead with 665 points followed by the women of Super Delta Five, 548 points.

With 50 points going to the women's singles badminton champion and 50 going to the doubles champs, 100 points

is not a very comfortable lead.

Finally in the coed division, Super Delta Five is currently in the lead with 764 points. The Almy Hall coed team is nipping SDS's heels at 755 points. So, every win in soccer and doubles

The champion teams from each division will receive t-shirts for all of their members as a reward for their hard work. With the popularity of intramurals remaining steady, and friendly rivalries between teams developing, it looks like tight races will become a trend in the near future.

Johnson plans to outrun a jinxed Penn State history

By Rick Gossett
The Dallas Morning News(KRT)

There is so much to like about Penn State running back Larry Johnson — size, speed, productivity and versatility. Superlatives gush from behind the closed doors of NFL draft rooms.

But there's one overriding negative that hovers over his draft status. His alma mater. The NFL has grave concerns about those Nittany Lion runners.

Johnson is the top-rated halfback on many an NFL draft board. And well he should be. He's 6-1, 228 pounds, runs a 4.45-second 40-yard dash and is coming off one of the greatest seasons ever by a college running back.

Johnson became the first Big Ten back to rush for 2,000 yards. He led the NCAA in rushing and won the Doak Walker Award as college football's top ball carrier. His average of 8.0 yards per carry is the best of the 10 2,000-yard rushers in NCAA history.

The NFL would love to declare Johnson as the next Franco Harris, the greatest of all Penn State runners. But there are three solid reasons for skepticism: Blair Thomas, Ki-Jana Carter and Curtis Enis.

They represent the recent history of Penn State run-

ning backs. All were top-five picks in NFL drafts: Thomas second by the New York Jets in 1990, Carter first by the Cincinnati Bengals in 1995 and Enis fifth by the Chicago Bears in 1998. All failed miserably. There wasn't a Pro Bowl appearance or 1,000-yard effort in their combined 15 NFL seasons.

Thomas played seven years for four teams, rushing for 2,236 career yards and seven touchdowns. Carter played five years with two teams, rushing for 1,055 yards and 19 touchdowns. Enis played only three years with the Bears, rushing for 1,497 yards and four touchdowns.

In hindsight, all were draft-day mistakes. The NFL is reluctant to repeat that mistake with another Penn State running back. So Johnson could slide out of the top five, out of the top 10, maybe even out of the first round.

That would be the mistake, Johnson cautions. He's different from Thomas, Carter and Enis.

"I'm the only Penn State running back who had only one full starting season," Johnson said. "Those other guys had more wear and tear than I did — two or three seasons where they started and took most of the pounding."

"My case was different. We had a good quarter-

back, and it opened up things for me, so I didn't get knocked around a whole lot."

Johnson has a valid point. He enters the draft with 167 fewer college carries than Carter, 294 fewer than Enis and 335 fewer than Thomas. So his body will be fresher in the NFL than those of his predecessors.

Carter was a two-year starter who left Penn State after his junior year. Enis also was a two-year starter who left school early. Thomas was the only one who stuck around to complete his eligibility. Counting 1988, when he was awarded an injury redshirt, Thomas spent five years on campus and finished as the school's No. 2 all-time rusher.

Johnson also spent five years on campus but didn't start until his final season. Which feeds the skepticism if he had special traits, why didn't coach Joe Paterno start him before then?

It's not like Paterno didn't know what he had in Johnson. His father, Larry Johnson Sr., coaches the defensive line on Paterno's staff, and Larry Jr. played his high school ball in State College. He was a 2,000-yard rusher as a senior in high school, too.

Yet Johnson was never coddled as an elite player and that's one of his best selling points to the NFL. He developed into a football player at Penn State,

not just a running back. He did it all for the Nittany Lions before becoming an All-America catching, blocking, returning kicks, blocking kicks and covering kicks.

"That's going to help me big time, because I never did stop playing special teams, all the way through my senior year," Johnson said. "The NFL is looking for more than somebody who can just run and catch. They're looking for someone who can contribute in all areas. I believe I can."

Johnson posted four of the NCAA's top 10 individual rushing games last fall, paced by his 327-yard performance against Indiana. He slapped 279 yards on Michigan State in one half, sitting out the second half of the season finale against the Spartans. His 2,015 yards was the ninth-best season in NCAA history.

"It comes down to what you do on the football field," Johnson said.

And no Penn State running back not Enis nor Carter nor even success stories like Harris, Lydell Mitchell or Curt Warner ever brought the credentials to the draft table that Johnson brings.

BEACON SPORTS BRIEFS

BEHREND SPORTS SCENE

Baseball

The Lions stand atop the AMCC with a conference record of 9-2.

Senior Keith Lepionka aids Lions in overcoming Pitt-Bradford with two home runs and 12 RBIs.

Junior Mitch Reckner leads the conference in batting average with .474 and RBIs with an average of 1.52

Softball

The Lions are on a 5 game win streak with a conference record of 4-8.

Freshman Kim Raff, included in this week's Best of the Rest, claims two wins over Fredonia and Hilbert.

Becky Corbin leads the conference in saves, and with rounds out the leaders in triples with an average of .11 per game.

NATIONAL SPORTS NEWS

NHL

In the Stanley Cup playoffs, the Tampa Bay Lightning knocked out the Washington Capitals and take on New Jersey next.

Philadelphia Flyers take out Toronto Maple Leafs in first round. They will face Ottawa Senators in the second round.

NBA

Playoffs start out with a series tie in the East, with Indiana and Boston at 1-1.

Also tied in the East are New Jersey and Milwaukee, both with one game.

The series in the West are also tied, with Minnesota and Los Angeles Lakers both with one game.