

## On Deck

# Behrend Athletic Events

### Saturday

Women's tennis, Behrend  
Invitational  
9a.m.

Men's Water Polo @ Bucknell

Invitational  
TBA

Cross Country, Behrend

Invitational  
11a.m.

Women's Soccer v.

Westminster  
1p.m.

Men's Soccer v. Westminster

3:30p.m.

Volleyball, Behrend

Invitational  
9a.m.

### Sunday

Women's Tennis v. Frostburg

9a.m.

Men's Water Polo @ Bucknell

Invitational  
TBA

### Monday

Golf @ Penn State Altoona

12p.m.

### Tuesday

Women's Tennis @ Fredonia

3:30p.m.

### Wednesday

Women's Soccer v. Hilbert

4p.m.

### Thursday

Golf, Behrend Invitational

@ Peak 'n Peek

12p.m.

Volleyball v. Lake Erie

7p.m.

Women's Tennis @ Buffalo

State

3:30p.m.

### Friday

Women's Tennis v. Chatham

4p.m.

## A new season for Behrend women's tennis

by Allen Lu  
staff writer

The women's tennis team began the season on a promising note with a strong win against Westminster and a hard lost at the hands of Waynesburg.

Among the players is a girl named Mindy Calvert. Her talents were not wasted last September 4<sup>th</sup>, when the girl's tennis team had their first match against Westminster.

The Tennis team faced a challenging opponent but they managed to win their first two doubles matches. Unfortunately, the team also suffered their first loss at third doubles.

After a win from sophomore, Amber Weckowski at first singles and freshman, Jenna Yankowski at fourth singles the score was 4-4. The deciding match was laid upon Calvert's shoulders.

Confident in herself, she managed to hold her ground. She was able to beat her adversary

This gave the team their first victory and marked a good start for the season. The Lions were very pleased that they beat Westminster after two tough losses to them last season. Many congratulations were given to Calvert, who won the deciding match that day.

Calvert is from the town of Warren and has been playing tennis ever since she was ten. A Business Administration major, she came to Behrend because of its short distance from home and the small size of the school.

"It's a very small team, with only six players, but we all get along really well and I just love them," said Calvert.

"The coaching is good too. I think that we can work on our doubles matches a little but other than that, I think we will have a very successful season."

Another big event in women's tennis revolves around Weckowski. Weckowski is from Forest Hills high school in Johnston, PA. She was recently named the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate

Conference Player of the Week for her great performance during the week of September 4<sup>th</sup>.

She is currently undefeated in number one singles and number one doubles playing with Calvert.

The girls played Waynesburg on the 6th and were defeated with a score of 2-7. Weckowski and Calvert came away with the sole win in doubles for the Behrend squad, also Weckowski in singles.

The team will host Chatham, Penn State Altoona, Fredonia, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and California State University of Pennsylvania among others in its annual Behrend Tennis Invitational on Saturday, September 13 starting at 9 a.m.

## Women's soccer kicks grass

by Rachel Lyon  
staff writer

Chalk up another win for the Lady Lions. The Behrend women's soccer team made Thiel College just another victim in Tuesday's 3-0 win. The Lions are red-hot to start out the 2003 soccer season winning their first four games.

Tuesday's victory can be attributed to kicks from Heather Crawford, Michelle Newland, and Jen Baker, which all hit the back of the net. Sophomore Ashleigh Dunsmore controlled the Lion's net with six saves.

Although the season has just begun, the Lions have already shown turn around since last season's 8-12 finish. Five games into the 2002 season, the Lady Lions posted a 2-3 record. This season has been a different story.

The successful start began at the end of August in the Herb Lauffer Memorial Soccer Tournament,

which took place at Penn State Behrend. The Lady Lions defeated Baldwin-Wallace 2-0 in the championship game thanks to a pair of goals from Michelle Newland. The sophomore's performance had Newland named tournament MVP. Sophomore Dara Neilsen kept Baldwin-Wallace out of the net with six saves. Penn State Behrend advanced to the championship by defeating Madaille in a 9-0 route.

Behrend defeated Alfred a week later 2-1 after Crawford put in the winning goal.

"We've created scoring chances," said coach Dan Perritano. "We've done a good job getting the ball to our goal scorers."

Both Saturday and Tuesday's wins came against non-conference opponents. Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference play begins later this month against Pitt-Bradford on September 24.

This year's Coaches Preseason poll predicts Frostburg State to "three-peat" as champion, with

Penn State Behrend predicted to finish 2nd, and La Roche close behind at 3rd. Although Frostburg State will be the team to beat, Coach Perritano wants to be knocking at the door at the end of the season.

The last time Behrend captured the AMCC crown it came in 2000, as part of a four year reign as champs. Currently sophomore forward Holly Greiner and Senior midfielder/forward Erin Mauer are tied for 3rd overall in the AMCC in scoring.

Neilson leads the league with two shutouts and sophomore midfielder Stephanie Bowen and Newland are named as AMCC players to watch.

"We have some talented freshmen," said sophomore Amanda Charney.

The new class of freshmen joins an already very experienced and talented veteran squad led by seniors Mandy Gestale, Andrea Krahe and Erin Mauer. Charney also points out that the team has "great support for each other."

## Men's water polo begin to rebuild

by Adam Massaro  
staff writer

Sports teams rebuild from year to year—the men's water polo team is just beginning to lay the foundation.

With a squad comprised primarily of green freshman, new head coach Joe Tristan is faced with the arduous task of building a program from the ground up.

These are not unfamiliar waters for Tristan, who coached the Eastern Michigan women's club water polo program in their inaugural season.

Tristan acquired the team weeks before the beginning of the season, as previous head coach Josh Heynes resigned. Heynes had coached the team since the program's inception three years ago.

At Tristan's disposal for this reconstruction, are building block freshmen Justin Ryder and John Elleston, two out-of-state recruits. Elleston and Ryder are just two of the 11 incoming freshman that will suit up for the team this year.

"The mindset is excitement," said Ryder. "The young players who have never played before, want to learn and get better and of the players who have played before it is the excitement of potential."

Albeit, the heavy lifting, will fall on the shoulders of team captains Nick McGrady, Eric Phillips, and Dario Kis.

Kis will be called upon to galvanize the offense from his driver position—the only member of the team, who has played since the inception of the program three years ago.

The Lions finished 6-21 last year with a southern championship win over Mercyhurst. This year's

squad remains optimistic in surpassing that mark.

"I think we will do OK (this season), winning 9 games or more is a realistic goal. Improvement is the big key," said Ryder.

The building process began immediately for the Lions, as they squared off against stout competition in the Grove City Invitational. Crawling away with a 1-2 record, the team found themselves in a hole early on, after a hard fought 9-12 loss to Grove City College.

"We played great against Grove City. We started slow in the first quarter, but we were able to readjust and give Grove City a run," said Tristan.

"The tournament showed the players are doing their best and practicing the fundamental basics."

Rebounding with a 12-19 win over Mercyhurst, the Lions stayed afloat.

However, cross-town rival Gannon dominated the waterways, sinking the Lions in a 2-13 shellacking, to complete the invitational.

"It was a good measuring point for us. We played against a really good team in Gannon," said Elleston. "It showed us where we stand and where we need to go."

Unfortunately, that maturation process could not come quick enough as the team faced Gannon in a regular season, home rematch. Gannon played the Lions in similar fashion to the Grove City Invitational match, pitching a 0-15 shutout.

With the loss, the Lions are 1-3 in the first leg of the season.

## Cross Country Runs Away with One

by Courtney Straub  
news editor

On Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003 the Behrend men's and women's cross country teams started their season with an invitational at Thiel College. Both teams came home with a victory.

"Saturday's wins at the Thiel College invitational were a good sign of things to come this season," said Dave Cooper, Cross Country Coach.

This year the men's team has a 15-member squad. The women's team only has eight members which leaves them vulnerable should injuries occur.

Nevertheless both the men's and women's teams strengths lie in a balance of talented freshmen and talented and experienced upperclassmen.

"I was very pleased with the performances of both the men's and women's teams."

The men's team captured their victory with 24 points, followed by Westminster with 35 points. The women's team captured their victory with 45 points, followed by Seton Hill with 59 points.

For the men's team, Brad Ruffo set a course record with 27:20.1. For the women's team, Jessica Knapp set a course record with 24:46.9. On Saturday Sept. 13, 2003 Behrend will be hosting an invitational. Fifteen teams will be competing.

"We hope to be in the chase for the top three places," said Cooper.

The men's and women's goals for the season are to recapture the AMCC title from Frostburg State and make an improvement in the NCAA Regional standings.

# AMCC

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PENNSSTATE



Amber Weckowski

SPORT: Tennis  
CLASS: Sophomore  
DATE: September 8

Amber Weckowski (Forest Hills HS/Johnstown, Pa) was selected as this week's AMCC Athlete of the Week.

This past week, Weckowski went undefeated in both singles

and doubles against Westminster and Waynesburg.

The team's will next participate in the Behrend Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 13.