## **SPORTS**

# Familiar faces on campus Off to a running start

Former athletes return as coaches

#### By Laura Spencer staff writer

As the start of the 2004 fall semester begins so does training for Behrend's varsity sports. This year is particularly exciting with the return of two former standout athletes to the athletic department as staff. The Behrend Lions Athletic Department announced the hiring of James Curren and Tyler Wiand as assistant coaches.

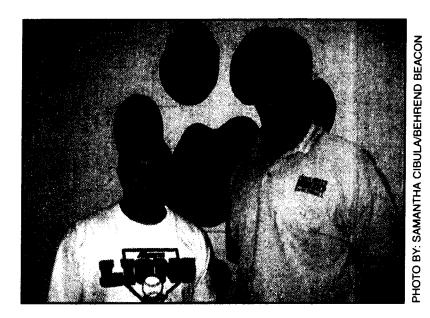
Curren will kick off his first year as men's basketball assistant coach and head golf coach for both men and women. He recently completed a stellar career as a member of the Lions basketball team, leading them to 74 wins, a pair of AMCC regular-season championships, and three consecutive post-season berths. As a four-year starter, Curren left Behrend as all-time leading scorer with 1,726 points. He was named AMCC Player of the Year and earned NABC all-region honors, each two times.

"It's defiantly different being in the office instead of on the court everyday," admitted Curren.

However, after being a leader on the team for four years, this gives Curren an edge on coaching. He is very enthusiastic about the upcoming season.

"I know most of the teams and players in the league and I think that will help when it comes to scouting and preparing for league play," said Curren. "I am really excited about this season because I will get to see things from a whole different perspective."

With Curren's leadership qualities and more than impressive accomplishments, the Behrend Lion's team is sure to have another impressive season.



Standout athletes, Tyler Wiand and James Curren, return as graduate assistants. Wiand will assist the baseball program and Curren will take over head coaching duties for golf while also assisting the men's basketball team.

As basketball season comes to an end and the weather clears up, that's when another Behrend graduate steps up to the plate. However, this season Tyler Wiand won't be behind the base.

Wiand will begin his first season as an assistant coach with the Behrend Lions after playing four seasons for the baseball team. Wiand was part of a team that posted the most successful four-year run in over forty years of baseball. It was Wiand's extreme versatility that made him stand out. He played catcher, second base, shortstop, third base, outfield and DH. In 2002, Wiand recorded the final out in the 2002 ECAC Championship game, an experience he looks forward to sharing with the newcomers on the team.

"Being on a very successful team

for four years just makes me want to pass that excitement on to the teams in the future so that they can share the same kind of joy that I experienced," said Wiand.

When asked how he feels about the difference in coaching and playing, Wiand responded by saying, "So far it hasn't felt that different, because we haven't officially started on field activity. I am sure by the end of this week that it will hit me that I can no longer spike up and compete anymore as we start our fall program."

Both assistants will be participating in the MBA program offered here at Behrend and will work towards getting their masters within the next two years. Curren and Wiand look forward to the opportunity to pass on their knowledge and love for their sports.

#### By Brooke Dodds staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Cross Country team traveled to Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa this past Saturday, to compete in the Fisher Invitational. Overall there were 51 runners in the men's race and 52 runners in the women's race. Colleges from around the area participated in the Invitational including Behrend, Bethany, Alderson Broaddus, Davis & Elkins, Gannon, Thiel, Westminster, and West Liberty. Alderson Broaddus took first in both men's and women's events. Behrends men's team took second overall while the women took third.

Senior Jess Knapp took second place in women's overall finishing with a time of 19:05. Knapp was named this weeks AMCC Runner of the Week after her performance in the Invitational. She was named the leagues Runner of the Year last season, and was chosen in the AMCC Preseason Coaches Poll to repeat this year.

Senior Claire Manelick also had a strong finish coming in 11th with a time of 21:18. Notable performances were also give by sophomore Willa Paterson, freshmen Leisl Soergel and Sara Lucas.

On the men's side, sophomore Brad Ruffo took fourth place in men's competition with a time of 27:15. He took the AMCC Runner of the Week honors for his performance as well. Sophomore Craig Davis finished 9th with a time of 28:41, and Senior Tim Schultheis came in 11th at 28:48. Sophomore Reuben Smith took home 16th and freshman Eric DiLuzio and Joe Wilcher finished 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> respectively.

"This was an early season, low-key meet," said head coach Dave Cooper.

The runners were asked to go out conservatively and pick it up in the later stages of the race in order to get used to the pace. It was a first experience for the teams nine freshman runners.

The school's Cross Country team started practicing August 26, a week before most students even began to pack their bags for another year at school. Like all of the sports teams here at Behrend, the Cross Country Team is very dedicated to their sport. Both the men's and women's teams share a common goal of finishing the season with an AMCC championship title. To be AMCC champions is a goal set at the beginning of the season, and is used as a motivational tool throughout the year.

"I expect that we will improve a lot as the season progresses," said Cooper. "I have a good working group of runners with great work ethics."

## Home tournaments: Sept. 10-12 Behrend Invitationals

#### Women's volleyball Sept. 10, 2004 Behrend vs. D'Youville, 2 p.m. Behrend vs. Geneva, 8 p.m. Women's tennis Sept. 10, 2004 Behrend vs. Alfred, 11 a.m. Behrend vs. Fredonia, 1 p.m. Playoffs, 3 p.m. Championships, 5 p.m. Womn's volleyball Sept. 11, 2004 Behrend vs. Shenandoah, 11:30 a.m. Behrend vs. Bethany, 3:30 p.m.



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	<b>BIRTH CONTROL</b>	
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