

SPORTS

Men's water polo look to improve

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

Imagine going to play at one of the highest profile tournaments and you know your team is the only Division III college competing. That's the situation Coach Joe Tristan was faced with this weekend when his men's water polo team traveled to the big Navy Open Tournament for the second time in Behrend men's water polo history.

In the first game, Tristan's Behrend Lions were slated to play Navy's "B" team, the second string of the Division I team, ranked 11th nationally. The Lions put up an admirable fight despite arriving to their hotel at 2:30 a.m. on the same morning that they had to awake at 7:00 a.m. for warm-ups.

After the first quarter, the team was only down 3-2. In the third quarter, the long night took its toll as Navy pulled away and came out victorious, 14-4.

The Lions came up short again against Division II Slippery Rock by a score of 14-7. Despite the score, Coach Tristan was proud of his players effort in this game.

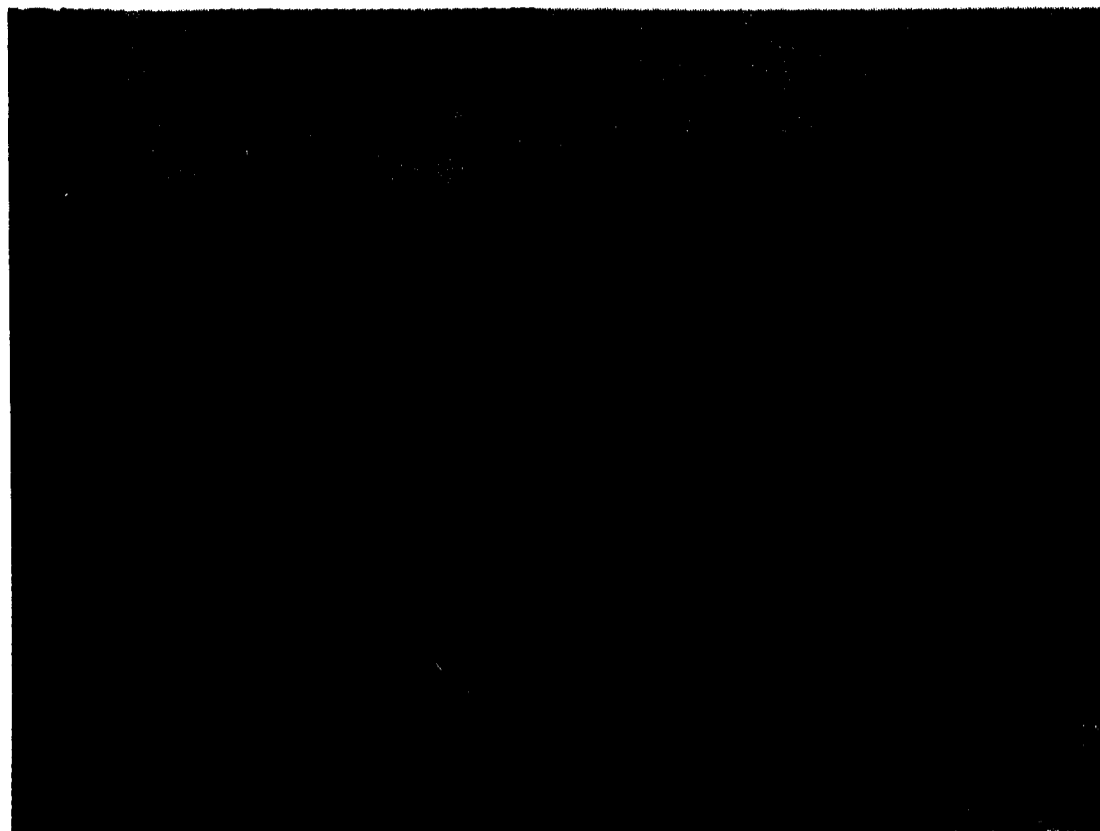
"I was proud of the guys in the season opener," said Coach Tristan. "I asked them to dig deep in the fourth quarter and go after three goals despite being exhausted."

The team came through by outscoring Slippery Rock 3-2 in the final quarter, an accomplishment Tristan notes as an important improvement over last year.

On the second day of the tournament, the Lions were up by five goals early in the game against Fordham University. Division I Fordham scored four goals in the fourth quarter in a come from behind win, 10-7.

Behrend's final game was an exhibition game against Northeast Zone, where the blue and white fell 14-4. This game allowed Tristan to try new things with his team to see which worked better than others.

Leading the team on offense was Sophomore



Men's water polo hits the pool in preparation for their upcoming tournament at Bucknell University. Photo by Sara Kamber/Behrend Beacon

Brandon Thiel and freshmen Anthony Spoto and Andre Pranckevicius. Thiel had four assists while Spoto had three. Spoto also had 11 goals while Pranckevicius contributed eight.

Spoto further impressed by causing 11 of Behrend's 30 "kickouts" which enabled the team to score 10 out of 30 goals while on a 6 vs. 5 advantage; similar to a power play in hockey.

Freshmen Vincent Brewer and Rodolphe Acelor, contributed as well with sound play.

Despite starting the season with a 0-3 record, Tristan is confident and proud of his team who he feels has picked up where it left off last year. "Last year's team was great. This year's team is better. There is a friendship between the team members and individual performance is not em-

phasized."

Tristan and his team noticed an empty spot without sophomore Justin Ryder. Ryder, who is Behrend's men's water polo leading scorer, was out with a concussion.

"We've got to prove ourselves to the big dogs, and we are so far," said Tristan. "I want other coaches to know that if you take us lightly, we're gonna burn you."

The Lions will travel this weekend to Lewisburg for the Bucknell Tournament. On September 11, Behrend plays Grove City and Toronto University.

On Sunday, the team looks forward to their morning match vs. Gannon and looks to defeat Bucknell's "B" team later that afternoon.

Men's golf on par

Women's team has strong individual performance

By Samantha Cibula
sports co-editor

Tiger Woods might be struggling to find his swing but the Behrend men's golf team has its swing in check. The men headed to the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg September 7 for the first tournament of the season.

The men played each hole of the season opener as if they were imitating the world's number one ranked golfer, Vijay Singh.

Each team brought five golfers, but only the top four scores counted. After the match the top scores were tallied. The Behrend men finished second out of nine teams. First place went to St. Vincent College a Division II team, by a mere five strokes.

Not only did the men take home an impressive second place but the team score of 294 was an all-time best for Behrend at this tournament. Last season the men's golf team didn't break 300. The score sets Behrend up with expectations for a great season.

"It was one of the best scores for Behrend at the tournament," said freshman Kevin Grignol. "One of our season goals will be to go out and win tournaments and possibly knockoff a few local Division II schools."

Adding to the men's second place finish was freshman Alex Kiproff. Kiproff shot an astounding round of golf landing him a fifth place in the individual rankings. His score of 71 led the team to a second place finish.

"I'm very excited about this year," said head coach James Curren. "We have good veteran leadership as well as strong underclass talent."

The women also had their season opener at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Tournament. Although the women's golf team is weak in numbers they had a strong individual showing at the tournament.

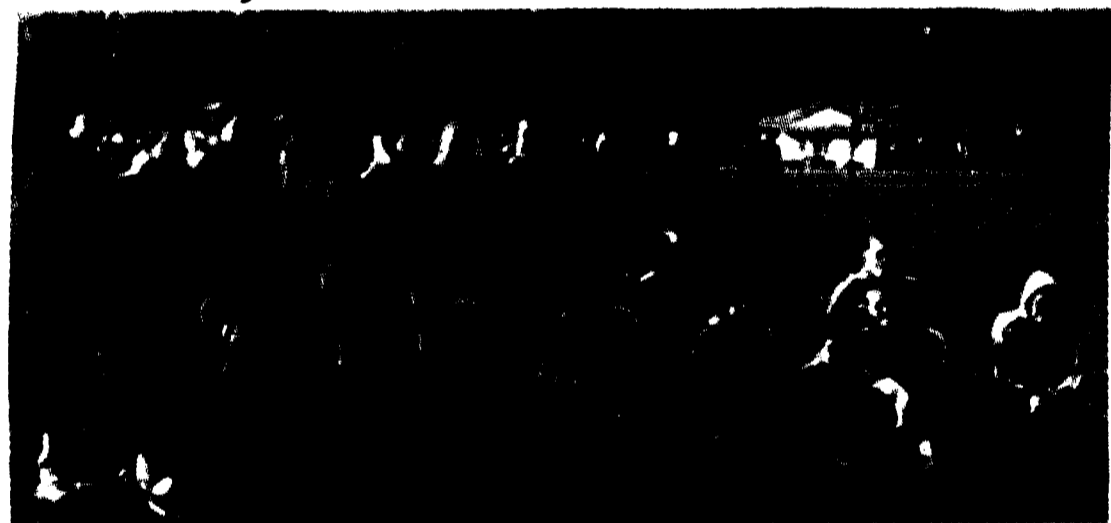
Representing the Behrend women were sophomores Shelley Leonard and Brittany Gray. Lacking in numbers, they didn't place in team competition but shined in individual scoring. Leonard shot an impressive 80 taking the individual first place.

"I was very impressed with the ladies performances as well as the mens," said Curren. "I'm looking forward to a strong season for both the women and men."

The men return to action at Lake Erie September 11 while the women will not return to the golf course until September 16 at the Penn State Behrend Invitational

Soccer teams off to strong start

Men win Herb Lauffer Tournament, women fall in second round



After winning the 2003 AMCC Championships the men's team received its' first ever bid to NCAAs, where they played defending national champs, Messiah.

By Kimberly McCray
staff writer

This past weekend both the men's and women's soccer teams kicked off the 2004 season. Both teams competed in the annual Herb Lauffer Tournament held at Behrend. The tournament was held on Saturday September 4 and Sunday September 5.

The men got off to a great start with two quick wins. On September 4 the team defeated Hiram with a score of 1-0. Near the end of the second half, sophomore Stan Kaweesi- Katongole scored the only goal to win the game.

The following day, the men finished the tournament with another win against Baldwin Wallace. Again, they came through with a score of 1-0.

At the beginning of the second half, senior Eric Nyberg scored a goal off of an assist from juniors Brian Blaszczyk and Dan Bash.

Even though Baldwin Wallace dominated the shots during the game with a 20-to-5 ratio, Behrend came out on top. Bash received the title of the 2004 Herb Lauffer Tournament Men's MVP.

Last year the team finished with a 13-4-2 regular season record and are looking forward to the 2004 season being just as rewarding. The men return to the field on September 11 at Westminster.

The women's soccer team opened the 2004 soccer season with a 1-1 record. The women competed against Alfred on day one of the tournament. The women were victorious with a final score of 3-0.

In the opening minutes of the game junior Heather Crawford scored an unassisted

goal to give Behrend the lead. The goals didn't stop there. The women scored the next two goals at the end of the first half.

Freshman Julie Quail is accredited with the two unassisted goals. The Lady Lions scored all three goals in the first half and were shutout in the second. However, a strong defense kept Alfred out of the goal the entire game.

In tournament action the next day, the women suffered a tough 1-2 loss to Baldwin Wallace. Baldwin took the lead when they scored an early goal in the eighth minute taking control of the game.

At the beginning of the second half, Crawford received a red card, setting the Lions back a player for the remainder of the game.

The game remained scoreless until freshman Emily Miller answered back with a goal of her own. The goal came in the sixtieth minute off an assist from junior Michelle Newland.

Unfortunately, Baldwin Wallace added to their lead in the remaining minutes of the game resulting in an upset for the Behrend women.

This season the women are looking to build off last year's record of 12-7-1. Carrying them will be a team comprised of veteran experience and leadership as well as strong newcomers. The women will be lead by first-year coach Patrick O'Driscoll.

With new additions to the team, the women are looking forward to making another AMCC run. The team's next game is scheduled for September 11 at Westminster.

Intramural deadlines

Sand volleyball Sept. 13
(mens, womens, co-ed)

Tennis Sept. 13
(mens, womens, co-ed)

Cross country Sept. 24
(mens, womens, co-ed)

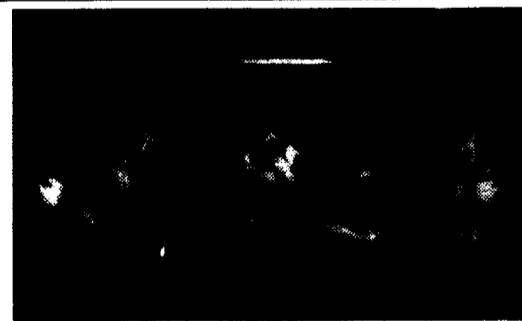
Flag football Oct. 1
(mens, womens, co-ed)

Register online:
pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/athletics/intramurals

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