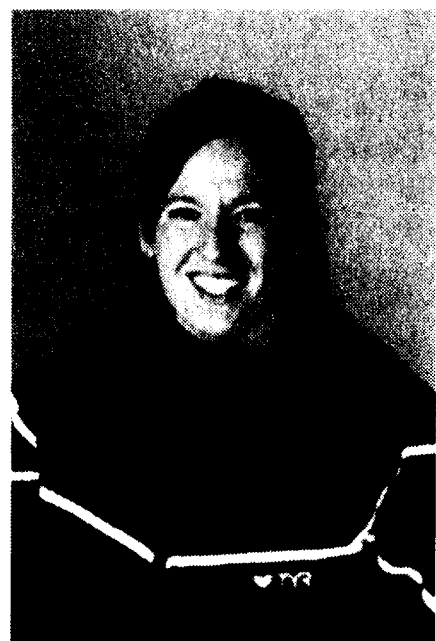
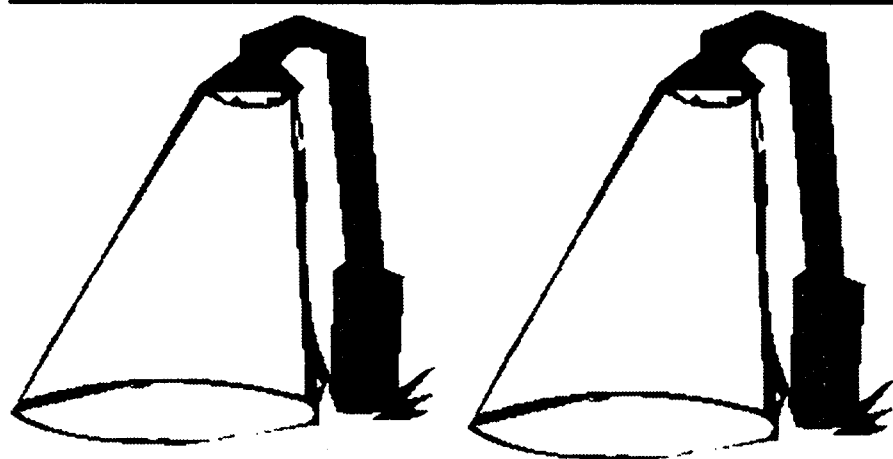


# SPORTS



Contributed photos

## Ashley Ordy Senior Volleyball Player

**Behrend Beacon:** What are your plans for after graduation?

**Ashley Ordy:** After I graduate in May, I am getting married in July. I am hoping to get accepted to a graduate program in either Denver, Chicago, or Boston for public relations in which I would like to start next fall, we'll see how that goes though!

**BB:** What is your favorite memory from your sport?

**AO:** As of right now it's winning AMCC's my freshman year, but I am hoping we will win it all this year and then that will become my favorite memory!

**BB:** What will you miss most about Behrend?

**AO:** My teammates, my friends, the parties, and the freedom!

**BB:** Do you think you'll play in the future?

**AO:** I haven't really thought about that to tell you the truth! I'll play recreationally because if not I would go crazy, but who knows what else.

**BB:** How uncomfortable is it to play in spandex?

**AO:** It's NOT AT ALL! I love it, I feel bad for basketball players having to play in those long mesh shorts. Needless to say, this year's spandex are shorter than usual, but I'm coping well.

## Nick McGrady Senior Men's Waterpolo goalie

**Behrend Beacon:** What is your favorite polo memory?

**Nick McGrady:** In a game against Slippery Rock, I blocked two four meter shots, and later against Mercyhurst, I scored two goals as the goalie.

**BB:** What are your plans for after graduation?

**NG:** I am considering either getting my masters or getting a job. I would like to go out and coach either a water polo team or the track team.

**BB:** What will you miss most about Behrend?

**NG:** I will really miss the athletics here. It's going to be weird without having morning practice or competitions to go to once next fall rolls around.

**BB:** Why does everyone call you Wookiee?

**NG:** It all started my freshman year in water polo. I was about 6'2" and 230 lbs. and I had long hair and a little bit of body hair. I was going about my business during practice one day, but my own thing usually involves making weird noises. One guy on the team started calling me Wookiee, like Chewbacca. It eventually caught on with the team, then the coach, then the track team, and now pretty much everyone up here calls me Wookiee.

## Hockey team defeated

By Brett Pollack  
staff writer

The Lions were out-skated in their first game of the season, by the Saint Vincent Polar Bearcats last Saturday.

"The first period was slow; we lost points there," said freshman Dan Theissen. "We got a lot of penalties in the first period."

The first goal of the game was scored by senior co-captain, James Wyble.

"It was our first period ever playing together; I was pleased to see how well we played," said freshman Andrew McLachlan.

Junior DJ Craven, and senior co-captain, Sean Salem, had goals in the second period. Theissen also had an assist.

"Sean stepped up, he really elevated his playing," said senior captain, Michael Fritts.

Theissen was put in the penalty box during this period for engaging in a fight against one of the Polar Bearcats players.

"The fight was over even before it happened," said Theissen.

"They were quick and fast, but beatable," said McLachlan. "You could tell they have been practicing longer, and been playing longer together."

In the third period, Salem scored another goal against Saint Vincent. Senior, Joseph Persang, scored against the Polar Bearcats defense. Freshman, Josh Grumski, also made his mark when he scored against the Polar Bearcats goalie.

The final score of the game was 10-6, Polar Bearcats.

"I felt the freshmen guys played really well," said Fritts.

"The guys gave a good effort", said freshman fan, Mike Tomko.

This Saturday, the Lions face off against the California University Vulcans at their place. The Vulcan's went 8-6 last season.

"They're a good hockey club, they play hard. We expect to come out victorious this weekend," said Fritts. "This game is going to get us focused on our goals."

"Coach Gates has prepared us well in skating for a full 60 minutes against the opposition," said Fritts.

With senior leadership from co-captains, Ryan Lang, James Wyble and Michael Fritts, the team is ready for a fight against the Vulcan's.

"The seniors are great leaders on and off the ice," said McLachlan.

Even though the Lions lost the first game, they are still gearing up for an exciting season.

# Lacrosse team looking forward to upcoming season

By Andrew McLachlan  
staff writer

While our varsity sports get underway, most of Behrend's intercollegiate club sports do not get the same coverage as our varsity sports.

Intercollegiate club sports are made for competition against other schools around the area. These competitive club sport programs have many characteristics in common with varsity athletic teams and, at times, club sports can serve as a cornerstone for future varsity programs as interest is demonstrated and funds are secured.

One of Behrend's club sports that is just getting underway is the lacrosse team. Even though the official season does not start until spring, the lacrosse team plays a few games in the fall to get ready for their regular season.

Returning veterans, including Ed Mesaros, the president of the lacrosse

club, Pat Wachter, Rob Covert, Craig Ferguson, Rob Mulshine, and Scott Soltis to give this young team leadership and some veteran presence.

Junior, Rob Mulshine, spoke very highly of the lacrosse team and is excited about returning to the squad this season.

"The team this year shows a lot more potential than in previous years and the older guys are taking the team a lot more serious," said Mulshine.

Mulshine also expressed that the new crop of youth coming into the club this year will breathe new life into the team. The combination of veterans and new talent should make the team a top contender in its conference.

The first-year players have really impressed most of the older guys on the team," said Mulshine. "They will surely help us in games this season."

The lacrosse team plays in the Empire West division of the National Col-

lege Lacrosse League. Behrend will be competing against Buffalo State University, Fredonia State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, and St. Bonaventure University in a very competitive division of the NCLL.

With the freshman class looking to be very promising, one freshman, Matt Ogden, is looking forward to the upcoming season.

"I am just excited about playing for the lacrosse team, and I think it should be a lot of fun," said Ogden.

Ogden is a midfielder on the squad and expressed the team's potential while looking back at the first practice.

"The team has really come together and is showing that we can compete against some of the tougher teams of the conference," said Ogden.

The lacrosse team will start its fall season off on Oct. 3 against arch rival Slippery Rock University.

## Volleyball wins first AMCC match



Sara Kamber/Behrend Beacon

The women's volleyball team prepared to take on Pitt-Bradford in their first AMCC match of the season.

By Alyssa Peconi  
staff writer

The past week has been a busy one for the Behrend women's volleyball team. Despite having six matches in a span of six days, while five of the six matches were away, the women have remained strong and improved their overall record to 8-8.

Starting their six-game run was last weekend's tournament in Delaware, Ohio. On Friday and Saturday, the women took part in the Ohio Wesleyan Volleyball Tournament. They faced four tough opponents in these two days: Hanover, Otterbein, Westminster, and Grove City College.

The Lions came out with a slow start on Friday in their first match, losing to Hanover in five games, 1-4. However, on Saturday, the women turned the tables and after a long, hard day, the Lions were victorious in two of three matches.

Their first match on Saturday against Otterbein ended in a loss 0-3, which dropped their overall record to 5-7. Nevertheless, the girls did not lose hope.

They fought hard to come back in the next two matches, beating Westminster in the best of four games, 3-1 and sweep-

ing Grove City 3-0.

Sophomore middle hitter, Elaine Voltz, who was recently named to the All-Tournament team, said that she was proud that her team came back on Saturday to overcome their difficult loss on Friday to Hanover.

"We came out on Friday night to play, but we weren't as aggressive as we usually are."

"By Saturday, we picked up our game and won two games against some tough teams," Voltz said.

After a few days of rest, the women were back at it again. The team traveled to Grove City College for a match on Tuesday night where they played hard, but were defeated in four games by a score of 1-3. This left the team with an overall record of 7-8 for the season.

However, on Wednesday night, the girls played host to Pitt-Bradford in their first AMCC match at the Junker Center. Crowds of students, family and various fans packed the Junker to cheer the women's volleyball team to victory. The girls posted yet another shut out, defeating rival Pitt-Bradford 3-0, which improves the teams' overall record to 8-8 and 1-0 in the conference.

Voltz commented on the teams' feelings of excitement during their first

home game. She also felt that those feelings were reinforced due to the tremendous support from the crowd.

"Everyone on the team was so excited for our first home game because we finally had more than a few fans there to cheer us on, and it was even better since it was our first conference game. We wanted to come out and play like BEASTS and all of us did," said Voltz.

The Lions upcoming schedule looks just as busy as last week. This weekend, the team will travel to Penn State Altoona on Saturday for a match at 1 p.m. This match will be very important because it is the second conference game in the Lions' schedule this season.

Next week, the women will visit Herbert University on Tuesday, Oct. 5. Then they will return home to face Fredonia on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Junker Center and will remain at home for another match on Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. to play their third AMCC match against La Roche College. Also, an Alumni game is scheduled to be held on that Saturday at a time yet to be announced.

So, come out and show your support for the women's volleyball team at the Junker Center next week during their home stand.

## Cross country team continues to make great strides

By Brooke Dodds  
staff writer

Our Behrend cross country teams went to Allegheny this past weekend,, Sept. 25 for the Allegheny Classic Invitational in Meadville. Allegheny College is the location of this year's 2004 NCAA Regional Meet that will be held in November.

Out of the 19 teams in the men's division, Behrend finished in ninth place. Sophomore Brad Ruffo came in 12th place out of 206 runners, finishing with a time of 27:04. Senior Tim Schultheis, finished 37th in 27:56. Other men to be recognized for finishing with a great times are freshman Eric Diluzio coming in at 28:22 and junior Harry Balwick with a time of 28:33.

Our women's team finished ninth out of 21 teams, a place where Coach

Cooper expected his team to be.

Senior, Jess Knapp, finished 12th with a time of 23:09. Sophomore, Leslie Gentile, logged a time of 24:22. Other women who had a good race were Leisl Soergel, with a time of 25:20 and Claire Manelick, finishing in 25:29.

The colleges that competed in the Allegheny Invitational were Carnegie Mellon, Allegheny, Elizabethtown, Dickinson, Ohio Wesleyan, University of Scranton, Kenyon College, Denison University, Frostburg State, Susquehanna University and Oberlin College. There were even more colleges to name from around the area.

Our Behrend cross country team has run at Allegheny every year, and this year our runners times were faster than they were last year.

"The teams have been training very hard and will do better when they rest

up for the meets towards the end of the season," said Cooper.

Cross country is a very dedicated sport that takes a lot of practice in order to improve. It is a sport that requires individual goals in order to achieve personal bests. All of our runners here at Behrend put a lot of effort into their practices and strive for their best run each week.

Both our men's and our women's teams were recognized by NCAA Region coaches in this week's regional rankings. Our men were predicted to finish at 11th place and our women at 13th.

"Coach has been pushing us to our limits these past couple of weeks and I think we will have a lot more room to improve when we start to taper," said Knapp. "Everyone is running great considering they have been training through the meets."