

SPORTS

Volleyball victorious over Thiel

By Mathew Turner
contributing writer

The Penn State Behrend Nittany Lions defeated the Thiel Tomcats in a non-conference match-up on Tuesday in three consecutive games 30-27, 30-22 and 30-15. This win marks the third in a row for the Lions who improved their overall record to 5-4.

The match seemed to be in a deadlock with both teams taking the lead from one another early on. The Lions rallied to win the first game 30-27. In the second game, it again was a seesaw battle with both teams claiming the lead for short instances. With the score tied 16-16, the Lions caught fire. They went on a 14-6 run that ended the game with a score of 30-22, and didn't look back from there. They opened the third game with a 14-4 run, in which junior AMCC player of the week Elaine Voltz served for seven straight points. Voltz also accounted for eight kills and 11 blocks.

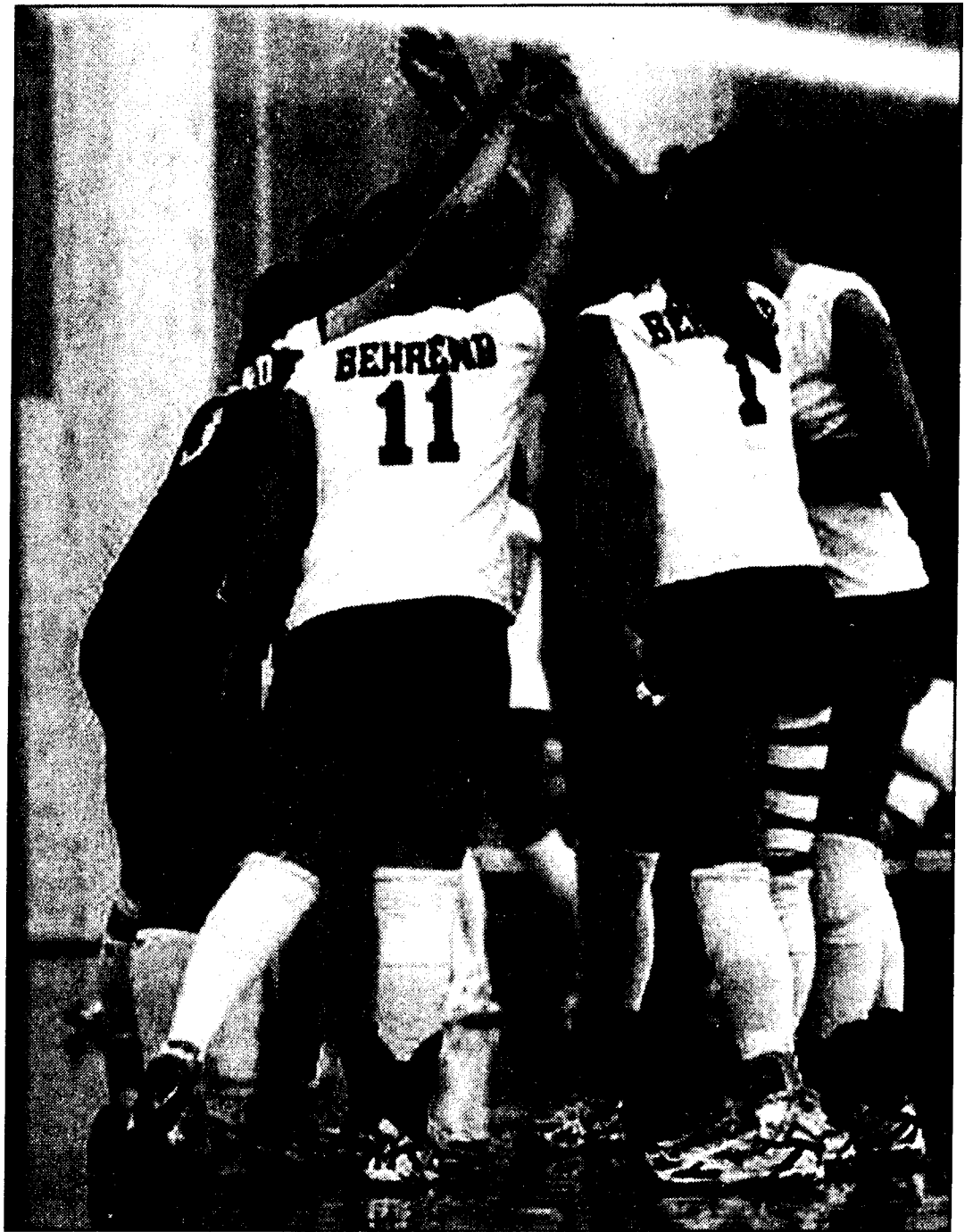
Senior setter Amanda Evans gave the Lions a

boost early on, contributing 35 assists, five digs, and three kills. Junior outside hitter Lisa Wagner also chipped in with nine kills and 12 digs.

When asked about what the team needs to work on, coach Phil Pisano replied, "We want to figure out which team we are, the team that only wins by three points in the first game, or the team that has the easy victory in the third."

The team has high expectations for this season, which is only reinforced by Pisano's comments, "We expect that we will be one of the top teams in the conference. We were in the conference championship last year, so our goal certainly is to win [the conference championship], and then go on to the NCAA playoffs."

Behrend continues on their journey for a conference championship this Friday and Saturday when the team travels to Westminster College for a tournament. The Lions then return home September 20 for another non-conference match with Buffalo State.



Contributed Photo

The Behrend volleyball team gathers for a quick huddle to prepare for their upcoming match.

WEEKEND SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday, September 16, 2005

- Women's Tennis, vs. Chatham, 4 p.m.
- Volleyball, at Westminster College Tournament, TBA

Saturday, September 17, 2005

- Men and Women's Cross Country, Behrend Invitational, 9 a.m./10 a.m./11 a.m.
- Women's Soccer, at Mount Union, 2:30 p.m.
- Men's Water Polo, at Slippery Rock, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 18, 2005

- Men and Women's Golf, at Pitt-Bradford, 1 p.m.
- Men's Water Polo, at Washington & Jefferson, noon



Contributed Photos

Sophomores Leslie Gentile and Eric Diluzio look to lead their squads in this weekend's Behrend Invitational. Both the Men and Women's team finished second in the 2004 Invitational.



Cross Country refuses to slow down

By John Bigus
staff writer

Men and Women's Cross Country teams have been running 40 to 50 miles per week since the beginning of June. After the first meet last week, Brad Ruffo was named AMCC Runner of the Week, jump-starting the season with a personal victory. The Men's team has consistently been ranked second only to Frostburg State.

"This year's goal is to finally get them," Coach Cooper said.

Veterans of last year's Women's Championship team haven't slowed down, either. At the core of a new team of athletes are

last year's Sara Lucas and Leisl Sorgel. "They've put in a tremendous amount of training," reports Cooper. "Since they've come back, they've reached a new level."

The goal in Cross Country is to score the lowest and the ranks athletes achieve in finishing races determine their point score. The first five team members to arrive determine a team's score: the earlier team members arrive, the lower that team's score. Stamina and speed rule this competition.

This Saturday, September 17, is the Behrend Invitational. Penn State's team competes from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Behrend Fields.

Terrell Owens has me T.O.'d

By Chris LaFuria
sports editor

There's something about a player who blatantly spikes a football inside the opposing team's insignia that really angers me. I find that cheerleaders should be the only ones to have the privilege to carry pom poms. Furthermore, there is a certain time period allotted to sign autographs and it doesn't include grabbing a Sharpie after a touchdown. For those of you that have been dwelling in television-deprived adobes, I'm talking about Philadelphia Eagles' wideout Terrell Owens.

Terrell Owens is one of the most natural wide receivers this game has ever seen. He can act as a decoy to open up the running game and can go long for a 50-60 yard completion. However, his mouth and his ego soar higher than their team namesake. After receiving \$7.5 million in the 2004 season, Owens told CNBC in an interview that he needed a new contract to "feed his family." Even with the recent natural disaster and rising prices, \$7.5 million is more than enough to raise a family.

Owens may not be the first person to mock and ridicule his opponents, fans and even his own team, but he is the first player in any professional sport that makes the world want to take a timeout. After scoring a touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens, Owens decided it was a good idea to mimic the dance done by Ray Lewis after a big play was made. In the early portion of training camp, leading into Week One of the season,

Owens possessed all of the headlines in the newspaper and was on the lips of every sports fan in America. I could spend an entire day or even two discussing how pathetic and immature Owens is, but my aim is to reach the media and newspapers to take a timeout. During the media's coverage of Terrell Owens, the major football fans missed out on coverage of many other important stories. Many might have missed the suspicious but interesting return of Ricky Williams to the Miami Dolphins. Some fans may have missed the tragic death of 23-year-old Thomas Herrion of the San Francisco 49ers. Finally, die-hard fans that track their teams may have missed coverage of their squad due to an "important" interview with Owens. Like bad reruns of Friends, interviews of Terrell Owens seem to litter the television screens of American households.

Muhammad Ali was known for his ego. Ali would stroll up and down the boxing ring, flailing his arms and yelling, "I shocked the world!" The difference between Ali's ego and that of Owens is that Ali was the Heavyweight Champion of the world and Owens is purely heavy weight on an overrated Eagles' squad. A leader and a true champion does not get sent home from practice because of a catfight with a teammate.

Furthermore, genuine men can complete an interview without the aid of an agent, answering questions for the subject. It doesn't matter if Owens signed a waiver, making him responsible for any injury endured in the Super Bowl.

Michael Jordan played in a pivotal playoff game with the flu and rose above what was physically expected of him.

In a 2004 interview with Playboy Magazine, Terrell Owens was given the topic of his ex-quarterback Jeff Garcia. Acting like a junior-high bully, Owens hinted that he thought his former teammate was indeed gay. First off, T.O., it takes a real man to respect another's sexual orientation. Second, just because you couldn't help your former team have a decent record, doesn't mean you need to assume far-fetched concepts about others.

Even though Owens may have a bad reputation as an egotistical, pompous jerk, there is hope for him. With a loaded offense and many weapons surrounding him, Owens may have the utilities to overcome what harm he has done to his name. All T.O. must do is start catching the ball, finishing plays in the end-zone, and collecting rings for the Eagles, or whatever team has the cap space to deal with him.

Fellow sports fans, I am making a plea that Terrell Owens receives less airtime than David Spade. Players such as Peyton Manning, who is heading towards a record-breaking career, Tom Brady, who outshone Owens in the Super Bowl and Ben Roethlisberger, who is coming of a Rookie season to remember, should be covered way more than Owens. Let's leave Owens to suffer from his own ego and not boost his ego more by giving him newspaper articles of himself to cut out. Let's take a timeout from T.O.