

Behrend men get set for their first ever televised game this week

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The Behrend men's basketball team is playing their first televised game of the season this week. On Friday Jan. 27, they will take on rival Frostburg State at the Junker Center. Image sports will be broadcasting the game live at 5:45 p.m., with coverage beginning with the women's coaches' commentary. The Men's game will begin at 8 p.m. on channel 12 for Adelphia subscribers and on channel 20 for Time Warner Cable.

Hot off a 75-44 win over Hilbert at home on Tuesday night, the Blue and White should be ready to take on the Bobcats. Kevin Buczynski led the team with 22 points and 8 rebounds, while Senior Justin Jennings had a season high 4 steals in the match up; he is a 5-10 Guard in his senior year. Freshman Tom Newman and Sophomore Ben Gasbbarre, averaging 4.0 and 3.9 points per game respectively, will also start. J.J. Ferguson added 15.6 points per game averaging 65% and is a 6-4 senior from Clarion Limestone.

After the weekend of play, Penn State Erie remains in second place behind Lake Erie

College. However, they are only one game behind Lake Erie. With a two game winning streak, they should continue winning into the weekend. Frostburg State Senior Dan Ryley was a Division III leader in his last game with 9.3 rebounds and helped lead his team to a 107-83 win in their last game. A strong teammate Marcus McIntyre matched Ryley also recording a double-double in that game.

Following the Frostburg game on Friday, Penn State Erie will take on the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats at 6 p.m. in the Junker Center.

After only half of the season there is still a lot of basketball to be played, but the Penn State Erie team currently ranked 2nd is in good position.

The last time they met in Greensburg, Penn State Erie lost in a close 68-65 game. Daniel Waajid recorded 12 rebounds in that game, leading his team. More recently, Duke Cooper led the Bobcats with 22 points and six assists in their last victory. Daniel Waajid led the game

with 11 rebounds and contributed greatly to the Bobcat victory.

Next Tuesday night, Behrend will host

Medaille for their final regular season game of the season. In the most recent game between Penn State Erie and Medaille, Penn State posted a 69-29 victory. J.J. Ferguson scored 19 points, and Kevin Buczynski scored 10 points. The 6-7 sophomore also led the team with nine rebounds, eight of them on defense, and two blocked shots. Medaille is a strong team, and like all teams in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference is respected by head Coach Dave Niland.

After only half of the season, there is still a lot of basketball to be played, but the Penn State Erie team, currently ranked 2nd, is in good position. Last year's AMCC champions, the Lions have a good chance again this year. Medaille College's athlete of the week, Bill Gersits, will try to stop that. Averaging 8.3 points and 5.3 rebounds, he hopes to lead the Mavericks to a win. Medaille College is only 2-7 in the conference so far this season, but they look like they have the talent to turn it around.

Erie local and Collegiate Academy graduate James McNeil is a 6-4 sophomore forward who is his team's high scorer. He led his team in scoring in 11 of the games this season. He also scored 30 or more points in a game on three occasions. Medaille has the potential to be a strong team and a tough opponent for the Lions.



Jeremy Korwek/ THE BEHREND BEACON

Freshman guard Tom Newman shoots over a defender in last game. Newman helps the Lions with four points per game

Sports Trivia 101

Before Kobe Bryant's 81 point performance, Wilt Chamberlain owned or had a share of the top four individual points per game record. His performances of 100, 78, 73 and 73 were the top four until Kobe. Before Sunday, what player shared the fourth spot on the list of most points in a game with 73?

Last Week's answer: **Rick Nash** (answered by Dan Thiessen)

The answer will be posted in next week's Beacon issue. Email your answers to csl5005@psu.edu. The first person to answer correctly will have their name printed next week.

Good Luck!

LaFuria's power playoff picks

Favorite



By Christopher LaFuria
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Points

4

Underdog



This Week's Hits and Misses

Hits:

- **Kobe Bryant** (Guard Los Angeles Lakers): What else can be said about Bryant's 81-point performance this week? It seems as if Los Angeles has found its new scoring savior. Move over Wilt. The only question that remains is whether or not Bryant can lead the seventh-placed Lakers to the playoffs.

- **Marcos Baghdatis** (tennis): The unseeded Baghdatis has extended his unpredictable run at this year's Australian Open. After defeating number four-seeded David Nalbandian 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, Baghdatis, who is ranked 54 in the world, will play either Nicolas Keifer or number-one ranked Roger Federer in the finals.

- **Top 25 Killers** (NCAA men's basketball): South Carolina over number 4 Florida, Michigan over number 12 Michigan State, Marshall over number 13 West Virginia, and Seton Hall over number 14 N.C. State. Weird Wednesday!

- **Shaun Alexander** (RB Seattle Seahawks): Alexander carried the ball 34 times for 132 yards and two touchdowns against the Carolina Panthers en route to victory and a spot in Super Bowl XL.

- **Ben Roethlisberger** (QB Pittsburgh Steelers): El Capitan led the Steelers by completing 72 percent of his passes. Big Ben went 21-29 with 275 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions to lead his Steelers to face the aforementioned Alexander in Super Bowl XL.

Have a Hit or Miss for the week? Email your ideas to csl5005@psu.edu to have them posted.

Misses:

- **Isiah Thomas** (President New York Knicks): Thomas was accused of "demeaning and repulsive behavior" towards former senior vice president of marketing and business operations Anucha Browne Sanders. Thomas not only denies the allegation but also reacted in fury by saying, "I will not allow her or anybody, man or woman, to use me as a pawn for their financial gain."

- **Rob Babcock** (GM Toronto Raptors): After the Raptors' 14-29 start, president and CEO Richard Peddie uses Babcock as a scapegoat. Peddie said, "We recognize Rob's efforts to clear cap space and bring in young talent, but it's time to bring in someone with proven experience as an NBA general manager to take us to the next level." Peddie said.

- **Greg Ostertag** (Center Utah Jazz): After failing to attend Thursday morning, the Jazz suspended Ostertag indefinitely. Sources claim that Ostertag was irritated by playing less than ten minutes in the Jazz's 133-94 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics.

- **Sherrie Miller Daly**: The 30 year-old wife of professional golfer John Daly received five months house arrest for her involvement in a drug ring and illegal gambling. In November of 2004, Daly was charged with conspiracy to structure a transaction to evade the reporting requirement.

- **Denny Neagle** (former Pitcher Colorado Rockies): Neagle was sentenced to 40 hours of community service after eluding a six-month sentence for patronizing a prostitute. According to the woman, Neagle paid \$40 to engage in sexual acts.

NFL involved in referee controversy

By Danielle Brown
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NFL playoffs are the most exciting time of the year for many sports fans all over the United States. Millions of people are tuned in, watching in anticipation as their teams move closer and closer toward their ultimate goal: the Super Bowl. This year it was not just the other team that most of the players had to worry about. They also had to be concerned about the referees and whether or not they would make the right calls. This playoff season was by far one of the worst when it came to referees making game changing decisions.

One of the most memorable of the horrible calls made by the referees took place during the game in Indianapolis when the number one seed, the Colts, played the sixth seed, the Pittsburgh Steelers. When the Steelers were on defense, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning threw an interception to safety Troy Palomalu. Palomalu clearly had possession of the football, and both of his knees hit the ground. When he got up off the turf and began running, he accidentally kicked the ball out of his own hands. Palomalu quickly fell on the ball to recover his own fumble.

The call by the referees immediately following the play stated that Palomalu intercepted the ball, fumbled it and then recovered the fumble, which gave possession of the football to the Steelers.

The coach of Indianapolis, Tony Dungy, challenged the play, and with total disbelief by millions of people, the call was reversed, and the Colts got the ball back. Since this call made by the referees was so observably wrong, the National Football League made a formal apology and admitted their mistake.

There was also a controversial call made by the referees in the game played by the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots. Tom Brady, the quarterback for the Patriots, threw an interception to Champ Bailey late in the third quarter of the football game. Bailey ran it back 100 yards and was knocked out of bounds by Ben Watson just inside the one-yard line. Bill Belichick, New England's head coach, challenged this play because he thought that the ball was knocked out of bounds in the end zone, which would result in a touchback, giving the Patriots possession of the football. The call on the field was not reversed, so the Broncos got the ball back inside the one yard line, which allowed them to score

another touchdown making the score 17-6.

These two crucial calls were some of the bigger game changing decisions by the referees in the 2005-06 NFL playoffs. There were also some other instances where calls by the referees were visibly wrong. On many occasions there was noticeable pass interference that was not called. One example was in the Steelers-Colts game when Ben Roethlisberger threw the ball to Antwaan Randle El to get the Steelers into field goal range. Nick Harper, a defensive player for the Colts, tackled Randle El before the football was anywhere near him, but nothing was called. This play almost certainly caused the Steelers to put more points on the scoreboard, but Pittsburgh lost possession of the ball, and the Colts answered with a field goal on their next drive.

To much disbelief, the referees in this year's playoff games did not perform with the same quality as they have in the past. This makes many people wonder if this problem will continue into the upcoming seasons.

Hopefully this predicament will be solved, and football can once again be a competition between two teams and not the referees.

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Staci Banaszek
SPORT: Women's Track and Field
CLASS: Senior
DATE: January 23, 2006

Staci Banaszek (Erie/Harborcreek) has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week.

The senior led the Blue and White with a strong showing at the Slippery Rock Invitational. Banaszek set a new Behrend record in the women's high jump with a jump of 5'2". She also placed third in both the long jump and triple jump with jumps of 16'8" and 35' 10.5" respectively.

The Behrend Lions next meet is Saturday, January 28 at Case Western Reserve at 12:00 p.m.

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.