

Students search for a cure for the Super Bowl fever epidemic

By Jonny Evans
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Super Bowl fever is spreading among the students here on campus, and it is no surprise that a majority of students are fanatical about the Steelers finally being back in it. In a recent survey of around 200 students, 80 percent are cheering for the favored black n' gold. Die hard Steelers fans Scott Johannesmeyer and Matt Piatek of Lawrence Hall posted a "Steelers Our Father" on the outside of their door to support their team. Although the majority of students are in favor of Pittsburgh, there are Seahawks supporters lurking around campus. David Dubowski, a freshman here at Behrend, stated, "League MVP Shaun Alexander will lead the Seahawks to a thrilling victory over the deserving AFC conference champion Steelers."

The last time the Steelers were in the Super Bowl was January 1996, when they lost to the Dallas Cowboys 27-17. Three months later, the Steelers signed "The Bus" Jerome Bettis who later became the main face of the franchise. The big talk this year around the NFL is that this is Bettis's last season,

and it is not only fitting that he gets his first shot at the Super Bowl, but it is also in his home town of Detroit.

The Seattle Seahawks first stepped on the field in 1976 and have never made it past the first round of the playoffs let alone a Super Bowl. But the Seahawks, featuring NFL MVP Shaun Alexander, are hungry to bring a championship to the city of Seattle. Following Alexander's 132 yard two touchdown performance in the NFC Championship against the Panthers, he stated, "We have an unbelievable team, an unbelievable group of fans. Prayer works. I get knocked out and guys step up. One guy goes down and another guy steps up."

The Steelers are the first number six seed in the playoffs to ever make it to the big game, let alone being the first team to defeat the number one, number two, and number three seeded teams on its path. They went on the road to Cincinnati and ended their storybook season. Then they headed to Indianapolis to play a team that started the season 13-0, and they controlled the game from the beginning. Then, proving many fans and analysts wrong, the Steelers went into a sea of orange at Invesco Field in Denver, where the Broncos were 9-0 on the season and ended Denver's run at the championship.

Seattle ran the NFC this sea-

son, finishing the season with a record of 13-3, two games better than any other NFC contender. Running Back Shaun Alexander broke the NFL record for most touchdowns in a season (28) and led the NFL in rushing with 1,880 yards. However, fans and analysts are looking for the Seattle defense, led by defensive line end Grant Wistrom and linebacker Lofa Tatupu, to be the difference maker in the game. NFL and ESPN Analyst Rich Eisen expects Tatupu to be awarded the Diet Pepsi Defensive Rookie of the Year. "If he doesn't win it, then, well...I will never talk about the drafting of Diet Pepsi Machine ever again," he joked.

Students also expect it to be a good game and a close one. Student Jeremy Martin expects the Steelers to come out on top. "The Steelers have a little more power on both sides of the ball. I think that will push the Steelers slightly over the Seahawks," he stated. So among analysts' and fans' opinions, Super Bowl XL should be a great game.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steelers running back Jerome Bettis celebrates after another TD run. Bettis looks to finally win the coveted Lombardi Trophy.

Sports Trivia 101

The Pittsburgh Steelers last played in the SuperBowl in 1996's SuperBowl XXX. The Steelers lost to the Dallas Cowboys who won the game by the score of 27-17. Who was the MVP of that SuperBowl?

Last Week's answer: **David Thompson**

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 skillful SuperBowl selection

By Christopher LaFuria
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Favorite



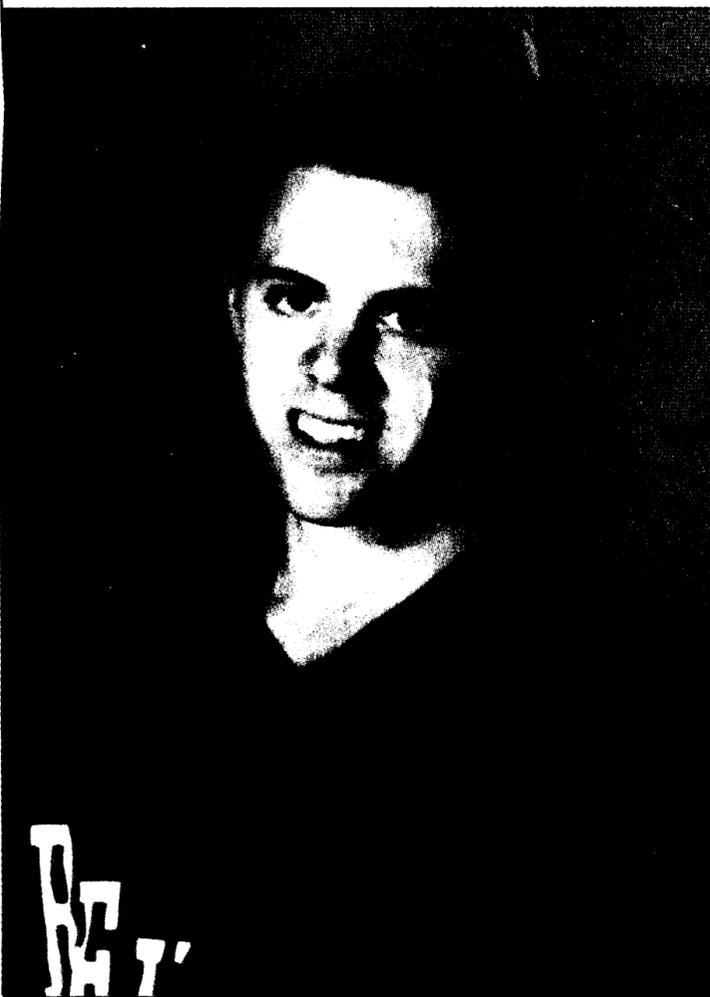
Underdog



Points

4

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: J.J. Ferguson
SPORT: Men's Basketball
CLASS: Senior
DATE: January 30, 2006

J.J. Ferguson (Summerville/Clarion-Limestone) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week.

The senior led the Blue and White to a 2-1 record last week with strong performances against three conference foes. Ferguson averaged 13.3 points and 4.0 rebounds throughout the three-game home stand. He shot an outstanding 11-23 from behind the arc during that stretch. J.J. ranks second in the nation in three-point field goal percentage shooting 52.4 percent.

The Behrend Lions returned to action Tuesday, Jan. 31 when they faced Medaille College at 8 p.m. at the Junker Center, before they travel to Mount Aloysius and Penn State Altoona over the weekend.

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

This Week's Hits and Misses

Hits:

- **LeBron James** (Guard, Cleveland Cavaliers): Amidst a challenging and rigorous NBA schedule, James took time out of his busy Tuesday to read to students at Raymond Elementary School in Maple Heights, Ohio. As a result of winning a reading contest, the students enjoyed a Dr. Seuss book read by James.
- **University of Florida:** After pursuing top-notch receiver Percy Harvin and highly coveted quarterback Tim Tebow, experts rank Urban Meyer and his Gators as the number one recruiting class for 2006.
- **Epiphanny Prince** (Murry Bergtraum High School): Prince broke Hall of Famer Cheryl Miller's scoring record by amassing 113 points in her school's 137-32. Prince compliments her intensity and consistency the entire game. The previous record was Miller's 105 in 1982.
- **Alexander Ovechkin** (LW Washington Capitals): After a stellar 11 goal, ten assist performance in 14 games, Ovechkin was the first player since 1995 to win the Rookie of the Month and Offensive Player of the Month awards. He also has 28 percent of the team's goals this season.

Have a Hit or Miss for the week? Email your ideas to csl5005@psu.edu or drop by the Beacon Office.

Misses:

- **Kendra Davis:** The wife of Knicks forward Antonio Davis has been charged with misdemeanor battery after allegedly throwing a cup of coffee out the window after someone yelled, what Davis recalls, a racial slur. The altercation came just after her husband was suspended for entering the audience during the Knicks-Bulls game.
- **Charlotte Bobcats:** With the injuries to Emeka Okafor and Gerald Wallace, the Bobcats have struggled thus far this season. After a 102-92 loss to the Atlanta Hawks, the Bobcats lost their franchise-record 13th straight game, bringing their record to 11-36.
- **Richard Norman "Chip" Williams Jr.** (NASCAR): Williams was arrested Tuesday and charged with statutory rape and soliciting a minor for sex over the Internet. Williams was allegedly involved with a 14-year-old girl via an Internet chatroom where sources say the offense took place. Williams is currently being held at Guilford County Jail where bond is set at \$1 million.
- **Greg Coleman and Durrell Williams** (Iowa State University): Both men were suspended from the Cyclones' football team after the two were arrested for assault stemming from a bar-fight last weekend. The suspension came after the athletes broke the student-athlete code of conduct.

Weekly Behrend Sports Calendar

Feb. 3, Women's Basketball	@ Mount Aloysius	6 p.m.
Feb. 3, Men's Basketball	@ Mount Aloysius	8 p.m.
Feb. 4, Indoor Track/Field	@ Mount Aloysius Invit.	11 a.m.
Feb. 4, Women's Basketball	@ Penn State Altoona	4 p.m.
Feb. 4, Men's Basketball	@ Penn State Altoona	6 p.m.
Feb. 7, Women's Basketball	@ Hilbert	6 p.m.
Feb. 7, Men's Basketball	@ Hilbert	8 p.m.
Feb. 9, Swimming and Diving	@ Grove City Invitational	TBA
Feb. 10, Swimming and Diving	@ Grove City Invitational	TBA

Make sure to support your Blue and White teams as they travel to their competitions!

Anyone interested in writing for the Beacon's Sports Page, please submit articles or ideas to csl5005@psu.edu. Write for us and become part of the winningest team in Penn State Erie.

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