

# SPORTS

## The boys of summer kick off a new season with excitement

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The 2006 Major League Baseball season began on Sunday with a bang, and if the first few games are a barometer of what is to come, then this is going to be a very exciting season.

The reigning world champs from last year, the Chicago White Sox, began the season with a three game home series against division rivals the Cleveland Indians. Most opening day games are a bit longer than usual due to television coverage but this year's opening game lasted until after 2 a.m. due to a three-hour rain delay. The game was finished with the defending champs taking the first

game of the series 8-2. Many fans on the south side of Chicago have high hopes for their team to repeat as the World Series champs.

One major issue on everybody's mind this season is the use of steroids, mainly by San Francisco Giant Barry Bonds. Bond's first game started with the usual anti-Barry chants, but during the eighth inning, an angry fan threw a syringe on to the field in the direction of Bonds. Bonds picked it up and threw it away saying, "If that's what they want to do, embarrass themselves, then that's on them. That has nothing to do with me at all." Even in his home stadium at SBC, the roar of boos could be heard every time Bonds walked up to the plate.

On a more cheerful note, Ken Griffey Jr. moved up in the all time home runs list. His 537th, which

was hit during Wednesday's win against the Cubs, moves Griffey up to 12th on the all time list, passing long time Yankee Mickey Mantle. The home run also gave Griffey his 1538th RBI, which moved him ahead of another famous Yankee, Joe DiMaggio, for sole possession of 31st place.

One impressive streak that ended today was Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins' consecutive game hit streak. Rollins' streak, which was at an incredible 38 games, was the ninth longest streak in Major League Baseball history. The all time record held by Joe DiMaggio has stood uncontested for 65 years. Rollins hit streak was put on the shelf for the winter when his season ended while still on the streak, but he picked it back up in the first few games.

As always, the New York Yankees are a favorite to win the American League East and possibly the World Series as well this year. With the addition of lead off hitter Johnny Damon, although with much less hair, the Yankees have one of the strongest lineups in history and the gigantic payroll to prove it. Star pitcher Randy Johnson threw in the season opener, holding the Oakland A's to only two runs, while the Yanks racked up 15.

With only four teams with unblemished records left, the 2006 MLB season is looking like it's going to be tight all the way until the end. Will this year end with the Cardinals or Yankees on top or will some new team become the Cinderella powerhouse as the White Sox were last year? We will have to watch and see.

## Strong efforts lead track team

By Keith Golembiewski  
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The Penn State Behrend track and field team has been placing consistently well in the standings and strong efforts have kept the team moving forward. Dave Cooper, head track and field coach, explains "We've already qualified and broken records. Javelin and the 400 relay is within a second of qualifying. So really the positive thing is that we are capable of breaking records."

The team is being led by seniors, all of whom hold at least one school record; their presence has helped the group maintain its momentum. "They provide a lot of leadership. We have four jumpers this year, and they have been guides for the younger jumpers. In the throwing events, we have a lot of new throwers and Dan Mitchell, who is a league qualifier; we are fortunate to have seniors," said Cooper.

Now Cooper has his sights on the ECAC championships where over 100 institutions compete.

Last year, the Blue and White had their strongest placing, and with a core of returning athletes, the team hopes to out place their ECAC standings from last year.

Overall, the team has been making a group effort Cooper explained, "We have two relay teams, and they finish within a second of each other." The next invitation will consist of 15 to 20 teams and with most meets the team runs all of the events. At the division I and II levels fewer scholarship athletes are in competition. "Our next meet is division 3 and in the past we have ran against division 1 and 2 institutions."

This year marks the first time that the team will participate in the Mason Dixon Championships. The team hopes to place well.

**"We have two relay teams, and they finish within a second of each other."**

**-Coach Dave Cooper**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staci Banaszek jumps for Behrend this season as the Blue and White track team make noise.

Check out the Men's and Women's track and field teams as they take part in the Mount Union Invitational on Sat., April 8. Support the Blue and White.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane Rock has been one of the standouts for the men's track and field team this season.

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