

Behrend softball enjoying a prosperous start

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The Penn State Behrend softball team is enjoying one of the best seasons in the team's history. Currently the team is on their second streak in which the team has won 11 games in a 12 game span. The team could not be hotter as they roll on towards the end of a fantastic season. The Behrend Lions softball team has cruised their way to an impressive 22-4 record with only a handful of games remaining.

As the season heads towards the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) Tournament, the Behrend softball team is holding on to a 9-1 record in AMCC games. The girls swept the Medaille Mavericks on Wednesday in a two game set. With these two wins, the Behrend Lions remained undefeated at home in eight games.

In the first game of the double-header, freshman Julie Koman took the mound. Koman earned nine strikeouts in a shutout game on her way to her eleventh win of the season. Freshman Katie Whitby reached home three times while freshman Lindsay Baughman knocked in 2 RBIs. The Lions took the first game of the series 8-0. In the second game of the doubleheader, junior pitcher Sandy Jaussi pitched the team to an 11-7 win which was called in the sixth inning due to thunderstorms. The freshman duo of Katie Whitby and Rachelle Lawrence both hit homeruns and drove in 3 RBIs each.

Junior pitcher Sandy Jaussi said, "Our freshmen have been incredible for us this year, especially Whitby, Baughman and Koman." The team has been thriving off of the help that they have got this year from their 14 freshmen. Junior Kristin

Macha said, "I wasn't sure how the season was going to go during fall practice with all the new faces around. It has been a very exciting experience this season, having so many good people join the team."

Right now the team is in a three-way tie for first place in the AMCC. They are driving hard in order to win home field advantage during the AMCC Tournament.

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believes that the season still has a long way to go. "I do not see the season ending any time soon. We have a really good team this year and I plan on going pretty far and hopefully make the NCAA Tournament."

The team, which is still undefeated at home, plays a doubleheader against AMCC rival Mt. Aloysius. The game will also be the team's senior



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON

Kelly Houghton waits in the on-deck circle as she gets ready to hit against an AMCC opponent. Houghton and the Lady Lions are currently fighting for the AMCC title.

game which will honor the only senior on the team this season, Jill Wooldridge. Jaussi named the special occasion, "National Jill Day" because it is so rare to have only one senior to commemorate. The first game of the doubleheader will take place at the Behrend softball field and begin at 10 a.m.

Men's tennis struggles to maintain consistency this season

By Ben Raymond
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The Behrend Lion's Men's tennis team is looking to finish their season strong on April 23 in Wexford at the AMCC championships. The Lions faced some struggles earlier in the year but are now finding their stroke that should carry them through to next year.

With only one senior, the young team has taken on a lot of responsibility and has had to really step up their game. The Lions started off the season with several tough losses, which only increased their determination. Their first big win came at home on March 18 against the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats with a score of 8-1.

They showed their ambition and proved that they were no joke when they defeated rivals Frostburg State on April 1. From there the determined Behrend team won its next match by pummeling the Pitt-Greensburg team for the second time this year.

Since then, the Lions have suffered several tough defeats against fellow commonwealth campus Penn State Altoona and neighbors to the south Slippery Rock University. While this year's team may have had a bit of trouble they will be returning the majority of their roster including two juniors, eight sophomores, and a pair of freshmen.

"We have a lot of new players on the team this year," said Head Coach Jeff Barger who is in his 9th year at Behrend. "Our lineup is still uncertain in a few areas, but we have a real shot at being very strong if things work out." This came after their 2005 season where the Lions finished with a strong conference record of 5-1 and an overall record 11-8.

There were a lot of close calls and hard luck matches, but the Behrend men never lost their spirit. They have tasted success and are hungry for more as they prepare for the conference championships on Sunday, April 23. They enter the conference finals with a record of 3-3 and an overall record of 3-14.

The Lions are taking the time between matches to get ready to bounce back and serve up great competition. Behrend junior Jim Palmer is being honored under the player of the week section on the AMCC website www.amccconf.org. The conference championships are being held at the Oxford Athletic Club in Wexford, Pa. The action starts up at 9 a.m.

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Dan Mitchell
SPORT: Track and Field
CLASS: Junior
DATE: April 3, 2006

Dan Mitchell (Bloomsburg/Bloomsburg) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week.

The junior qualified for a return trip to the NCAA Championships this spring with his throw of 193'6" on Saturday at Mount Union. The throw is currently the sixth best this year in NCAA Division III. Mitchell currently holds the school's javelin record with a throw of 196'7" back in 2004. He was the first ever Behrend participant at the NCAA Championships in 2004.

"It is gratifying to see Dan's hard work paying off," said head track and field coach Dave Cooper. "He had a disappointing season last year due to an injury to his throwing arm, but he's back on track now."

The Behrend Lions' next meet is Saturday, April 15 at the Slippery Rock Invitational. The Blue and White then participate in the IUP Invitational on April 22 and finish up with the Baldwin-Wallace Invitational on May 5-6. The BCAC Championships will be held on May 18-19 and the NCAA Championships will be held on May 25-27 at Benedictine University in Illinois.

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

Fan Question- MLB 2006

Barry Bonds is on the brink of breaking the MLB record for homeruns in a career. If he can amass 756 homeruns, he will pass Hank Aaron for the all-time record. With the scandal involving steroids and other performance enhancers, many believe that Bonds should not be added to the record books. If Bonds can break the homerun record, should there be an asterisk next to his name?

Water polo season cut short

By Nick Underhill
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Bobby Knight, the coach of Texas Tech's college basketball team has an old saying that goes, "Any good coach knows when it's time to call it quits," and that's just what women's water polo coach Joe Tristan did. His team became plagued with a variety of illnesses and injuries, and he felt that he would jeopardize the future of the program if he continued to put his girl's health at risk.

The decision came after their match against Gannon on March 22. "We sat down and had meeting, and the girls agreed that it wasn't in their best interest to compete, their health was at risk...[and] there was no way that we were going to be able to make a 100 percent effort against our opponents." Tristan explains, "We figured let's end the season now, lets get back and get it together for next season," Tristan explained.

Tristan felt that it just wasn't fair for his girls to jump in the pool and compete. He says that they just couldn't keep up with their opponents, there were several times that they even had to play a woman down because so many players were sidelined. "They put forth that effort to be athletes, to compete, to be warriors. I can't ask anymore of them. They did everything they could." He said, "This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made in my life, but next year were going to be back in that pool, back in the water, and will be

ready to play." Tristan explains that his girls did everything they could to salvage their season, whether they were at the doctor's office or on the trainer's table every week, but it proved to be impossible to overcome all of their troubles.

The team wasn't very deep this season, which was a major factor in determining the fate of their season, and Tristan encourages anyone who is interested in playing to come see him. "Any female athletes, not even athletes, just students, that want to play water polo or swim, come on out." He goes on to express some of the positive aspects of being part of his team, "It's a great sport, its fun, it keeps you in shape, you'll

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-Joe Tristan

be part of a varsity sport, and you can score some goals just like soccer."

The ladies didn't net too many wins before the verdict of their season came down, posting a record of 2-13. They focus more on gaining experience and

just look to be competitive against the best competition available. Both of their wins came against Division One foes, Carthage and Utica, and they have done fairly well against others such as Michigan, who only beat them 5-3. "The focus is just on player development, and the goal is to be competitive, we can do this and not have a winning record."

Sports Trivia 101

Ricky Henderson holds the career record for 1,406 stolen bases in his career. The most difficult base to steal in baseball is home plate. What Major League Baseball player holds the record for stealing home plate, doing so 54 times in his career?

Last Week's answer: The famous Behrend alum who hit a three-run homerun in the 1987 World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals was Tom Lawless (Answered by Stephen R. Oyler).

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!