

SPORTS

Students hopeful about future of rugby

By Ashley Bressler
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Rumors of a new rugby club at Penn State Erie have been buzzing around campus, and the status is finally out. According to Brian Streeter, Penn State Behrend Athletic Director, there has been no official paper work filed that secures a spot for a men's or women's rugby club for the upcoming academic year. As of right now rugby is simply a student formed group, but there are high hopes of improving the standing of rugby at Behrend.

Rugby enthusiasts can be found practicing in the field behind the Behrend apartments two to three days a week. The majority of the male players are former high school football players, but according to involved student sources, there are at least three male players who have real experience playing rugby. Brian Perfilio, biology major, commented on the hopes that Rugby will soon be an actual club sport. Even though they currently practice on the small field behind the apartments, they would like to have the privilege of practicing and playing

games on the Behrend Fields.

Streeter did not have promising comments about a rugby club for next year. Streeter said, "Right now they are just a bunch of kids playing the game on their own. We'd love to have them as a club, but because rugby requires a lot of field maintenance much like football does, we just can't at the moment."

Just like any university sponsored organization, there are qualifications in order for a group to become a club sport, and, unfortunately, the rugby group does not meet those requirements. This does not in any way mean that all hope is lost, and the ground work is definitely being done.

Perfilio says, "We have Heather Jones, the new biology professor helping us learn the game. She played rugby at Cornell University and wanted to get a team together, so she put up

fliers and we all showed up to play."

With the faculty involvement of Jones, the rugby team has a better chance of being approved as a club sport. In the meantime, they plan to continue to practice, learn the rules of the game and encourage other students to get involved. Perfilio said, "We definitely have athletes because most of us used to play football, but basically we're all just learning the game as we go. We need more girls interested to fill a team. Anyone who's interested, just come out and we'll teach you how to play. We have a lot of fun." If approval is ever given to the rugby groups they hope to play schools including Allegheny, Slippery Rock, Clarion and La Roche. Only time will be able to provide the outcome of the aspirations of a Rugby club. We can all see them succeed in gaining the approval and privilege of a real Penn State Behrend Club Sport.

"We'd love to have them as a club, but because Rugby requires a lot of field maintenance much like football does, we just can't at the moment."

-Brian Streeter

Behrend Sports Schedule

April 15	Track and Field	@ Slippery Rock Invitational	10 a.m.
	Softball	Mt. Aloysius (DH)	10 a.m.
	Baseball	@ Mt. Aloysius (DH)	1 p.m.
April 17	Golf	@ Grove City Invitational	1 p.m.
	Baseball	Thiel (S) w/ JV	1 p.m.
April 18	Baseball	Pitt-Bradford (DH)	1 p.m.
	Softball	@ Pitt-Bradford (DH)	3 p.m.
April 19	Softball	Grove City (DH)	3 p.m.
April 20	Baseball	Fredonia (DH)	2 p.m.
April 22	Track and Field	@ IUP Invitational	10 a.m.
	Softball	@ Penn State Altoona (DH)	1 p.m.
	Baseball	Penn State Altoona (DH)	1 p.m.
April 23-24	Golf	@ Allegheny Invitational	TBA

AMCC spring sports standings - 2006

Baseball						Softball						Men's Tennis					
AMCC			Overall			AMCC			Overall			AMCC			Overall		
School	W	L	W	L	Streak	School	W	L	W	L	Streak	School	W	L	W	L	Streak
Pitt-Brad.	10	0	18	7	L1	Frost. State	9	1	15	9	W2	Altoona	5	0	7	3	W3
Frost. State	8	2	17	9	L1	Pitt-Brad.	9	1	24	4	W13	PSB	3	3	3	13	L1
La Roche	7	3	15	10	W2	PSB	9	1	22	4	W5	Frost. State	2	2	5	5	L1
Altoona	6	6	15	11	W2	Lake Erie	6	1	15	9	W7	Pitt-Green.	0	5	1	9	L3
Mt. Aloys.	5	7	10	14	L2	Pitt-Green.	4	6	5	19	W1						
PSB	4	4	13	7	L1	Medaille	4	8	13	17	L4	Come out and support your Blue and White in their events! Check out the schedule for Behrend Athletics.					
Pitt-Green.	4	6	8	17	L2	Altoona	4	8	6	10	L1						
Medaille	4	8	6	18	W1	La Roche	3	7	14	9	W4						
Lake Erie	3	7	9	17	W2	Hilbert	2	7	4	14	L5						
Hilbert	1	9	1	19	L8	Mt. Aloys.	1	11	4	13	L5						

Sports Poll - Take your pick!

Which of these perennial favorites do you think will fail to make the playoffs this year?

- a. New York Yankees
- b. Boston Red Sox
- c. St. Louis Cardinals
- d. Atlanta Braves
- e. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Take your pick for your favorite, or least favorite, team to advance to the 2006 MLB playoffs. Email your choice to csl5005@psu.edu to vote! Have your chance to be heard in the Behrend Beacon.

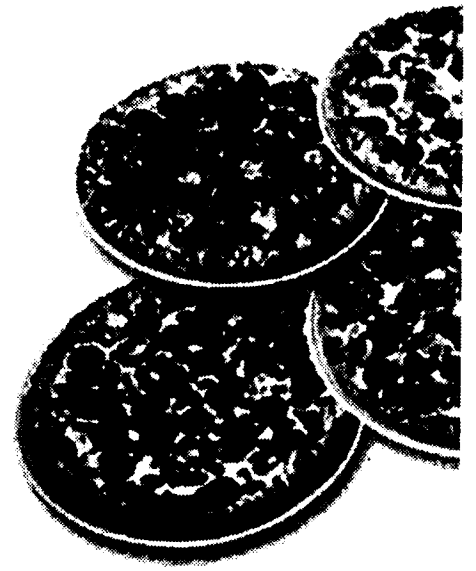
This is your last chance to be a part of the Behrend Beacon for the 2005-2006 academic year. Submit your articles or ideas to csl5005@psu.edu or stop by the Beacon office in the lower level of Reed Union Building to get involved. It is never too late to get involved with the winningest team on the campus of Penn State Erie.

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