

# SPORTS

## Men's Water Polo headed for playoffs

By Heather Heenan  
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Men's Water Polo team began practice in August, and "what a difference the men have made since then," said Head Coach Joe Tristan. Tristan feels there have been a lot of improvements in the athletes' abilities and is looking for a positive attitude heading into the playoffs this weekend.

This past weekend, Behrend held the annual District III Eastern Championships in the Junker Center. The tournament started on Saturday and finished up on Sunday. The University of Connecticut finished first, Washington and Jefferson College finished second, and Behrend finished in third place. According to Tristan, "this weekend the boys played well, regrouped and played better, and had fun."

Tristan says he is very pleased with the talents and strengths on the team this season. "The best part of coaching is to see how the athletes perform throughout the season from start to finish, and also see the athletes succeed," he said.

Tristan says he tries to get all the players involved in participating. The key players offensively this season are Anthony Spoto and Andre Prankevicius. Defensively, the key players are Vincent Brewer and Jacob Hayden.

The men have worked hard all season. They practice for two hours a day, and work on strength training and techniques to improve for the games.

Tristan also says he believes that one of his most important jobs is to teach the athletes about life. He says he believes athletics are just like a job. He wants to help his athletes understand to work hard in life and do what's best for them. When you work hard, you get promoted. Just like in Water Polo, when you work hard and show ambition, you get more playing time. Progression is the key to moving up and being successful.

We saw the Water Polo team meet their expectations so far this season. The team was very diverse, many of the athletes come from different states. There are only forty Water Polo teams in Pennsylvania, and in comparison, there are four hundred teams in California. There are two high school teams in the Erie and two in Pittsburgh. The hot spot for Water Polo is California.

Some of the teams that Behrend will play this year are Gannon, Mercyhurst, The University of Connecticut, Washington and Jefferson, and the Naval Academy. The biggest competition for Behrend this year as is always in the past is; Washington and Jefferson and George Washington, keeping with previous years tradition.

The men are looking to play well this weekend at the NCAA Playoffs. According to coach Tristan, "the men will train hard all week and give it all that they have in playoff's." This weekend the playoffs run Saturday through Sunday and are held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rodolphe Acelor cradles the ball during a match

## Hockey sizzles on ice

By Matt Waronker  
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Men's Hockey Club couldn't have asked for a better start to their season. After running the table at their annual Behrend tournament, the team entered league play with a full head of steam.

"The tournament gave us a lot of momentum," said senior President D. J. Craven. "Starting a season undefeated is the best you can ask for."

The Lions very quickly turned that momentum into a fifth consecutive victory against visiting Allegheny College. Junior Brad Alayon had a game high three goals and one assist, while junior Brysten Jones contributed two goals in the 9-2 win. Craven, senior Jon Romanelli, and freshmen Kevin Geibel and Aaron Marks each had one goal. Junior goalie Pat Laskey had eight saves.

After proving that they were untouchable on their home ice, the Lions took their 5-0 record on the road against league opponents Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and Robert Morris. The road, however, showed them little mercy, as the team recorded back-to-back losses. The Lions were defeated by IUP 5-2, and then by Robert Morris 8-5.

"We weren't focused for all 60 minutes of the game," said Craven. "In both games we started out slow and didn't play well until we were already in a three goal deficit."

Junior Dan Thiessen and Brysten Jones scored the team's only goals in the losing effort against IUP. Laskey had 12 saves in net. In the defeat to Robert Morris freshman Chris Simanic had a game high two goals. Romanelli, Thiessen and freshman Sean Bartlett each contributed a goal. Despite the losing effort, Laskey had a busy day in net stopping 36 shots.

Although the losses have been hard to swallow, the team is viewing them as learning experiences.

"I think we realized we have things we need to work on in all aspects of our game," said Craven. "We need to take it one game at a time, one period at a time, and one shift at a time."

The Lions plan to carry that same mentality over into the remainder of their four game road trip. Although the first two games resulted in tough losses, the team is optimistic about its upcoming schedule. The team will travel to Cleveland to face Case Western this Friday night, and then finish up the road trip October 29 against Alfred University.

"This weekend we need to come out firing on all cylinders and prove to ourselves that we can play competitively the whole game," said Craven. The Lions are back at home this November with games against Robert Morris, Edinboro, and the University of Pittsburgh.

## Sports Trivia

Next week kicks off the NBA regular season. Currently LeBron James holds the record for being the youngest player to ever record a triple double in an NBA game. Who is the oldest?

Last week's answer: Derek Jeter's four postseason records are most career postseason hits, most postseason total bases, most Division Series home runs and most hits in a postseason game.

E-mail your answer to Dan Mitchell (dgm147@psu.edu) or Jordan Gilmore (jtg178@psu.edu). The first person to answer correctly will have their name printed in next weeks issue along with the answer.

## PSU sports: It's all relative

By Dan Mitchell  
assistant sports editor

Penn State Behrend is one of two Penn State branch campuses to offer NCAA competition sports to its students, the other being Penn State Altoona. Both Behrend and Altoona are NCAA division III schools, and both are members of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). These highly competitive schools have had numerous AMCC championship games and NCAA qualifiers against each other.

The Penn State Behrend Lady Lions Volleyball team has lost twice to Altoona in the AMCC playoffs. "Both teams are at the top of the conference every year," stated Head Coach Phil Pisano. "Any time we are in the AMCC championship game the girls want to win, but when it's against Penn State Altoona, they seem just that much more pumped up."

The tennis team will also attest to having a grudge toward the Altoona squad. The women's team has been the AMCC champions five of the last eight years and runner up to Penn State Altoona two other years. The men's tennis team has not been so fortunate, coming up with only one championship team and being runners up six times, with the majority being to a strong Altoona team.

Behrend basketball Head Coach Dave Niland doesn't see any difference between playing against Altoona or against a school like Hilbert. "I have never used the word rivalry in my coaching career," said Niland. "I want my guys to play every game as if that team is the hardest

team on the schedule." Niland says he doesn't like to hype up one game or team just because they may be a rival. Niland says he does recognize the fact that his team and Altoona have only met once in the AMCC playoffs.

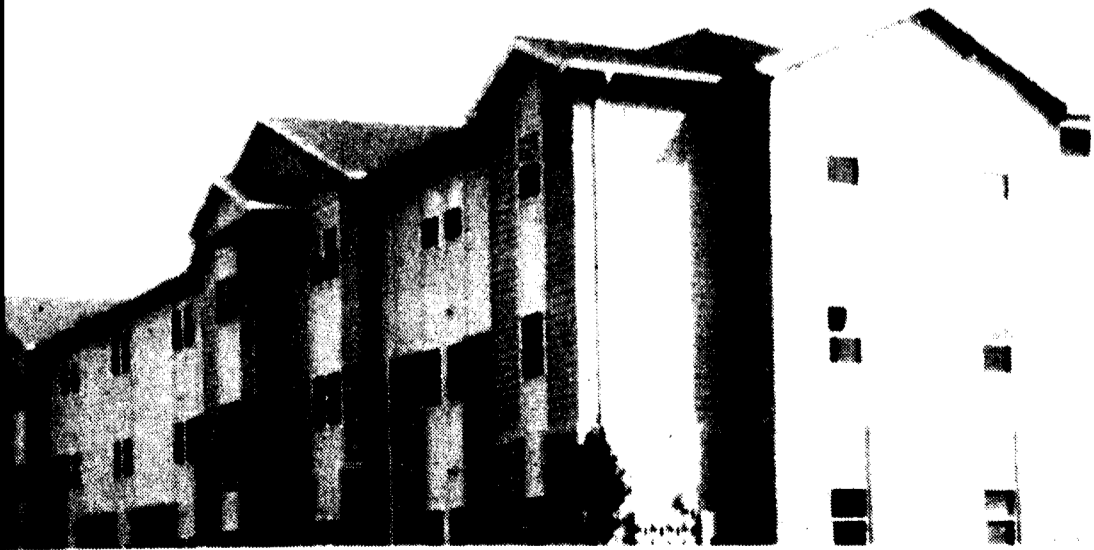
Behrend cross country coach Dave Cooper says he agrees that he doesn't really see much of a rivalry. "We run at meets with numerous schools each week, so it would be very hard to concentrate on beating one school with all the competition that's around you," Cooper said.

The Behrend men's soccer team has had its share of success in the AMCC, making it to the playoffs for the past nine straight years. But like a lot of sports, it seems that there is a new team at the top of AMCC to beat each year, and that is the team that everyone gets hyped up for. "Some years they are ranked better and some years we are ranked better. I wouldn't really say that it matters until we meet them in the playoffs; if we meet them in the playoffs, there isn't really a rivalry there," commented senior captain Sean Ruhlman.

Last year Behrend fielded 21 varsity sports and brought home five team AMCC championship titles and one individual championship title. Behrend also had five runners up in the AMCC. Thanks to these sports Behrend has once again brought back the President's Cup.

The Cup ranks each school's entire athletic department, and then is awarded to the highest scoring school in the AMCC. The Behrend Lions captured their fourth President's Cup in five years, last year. This makes Behrend athletic teams the school to beat.

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