

SPOPTS

Behrend swimmers and divers sail past the competition

By Dan Mitchell
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend men's and women's swimming and diving teams are reaping the benefits of hard work. Both the men and women moved to 3-1 on the season, with wins in both of their last two meets.

Both the men and women traveled to Bethany November 4, and both teams came out with wins 79-66 and 94-68 respectively. The following week both teams again came out on top in the pool with big wins at St. Vincent College.

The Behrend Lions swimming and diving

teams have also had five swimmers and divers recognized in the last two weeks' AMCC honors.

On the men's side, both A.J. Kondash and Jacob Bernstein were recognized as AMCC divers of the week. Kondash received the award on November 6 for his outstanding diving against St. Vincent, winning both the one and three meter dives in the Lions' victory.

Bernstein was awarded AMCC diver of the week on November 13 after placing second in the one meter dive against St. Vincent. Both were the first Behrend divers ever to be selected as AMCC divers of the week by the AMCC committee.

Behrend's Joe Reese was awarded with AMCC

swimmer of the week on November 13. Reese took first place in two individual events as the team defeated St. Vincent. Reese won the 200 individual medley and the 200 butterfly and was a member of the winning 400 medley relay.

The women also had both a swimmer and diver named AMCC athletes of the week. Michelle Quail became the first woman in Behrend history to be named diver of the week for the AMCC on November 13, after a stellar week in which she scored 138.35 points in her first ever collegiate diving competition. Quail's performance is also the seventh best by a Behrend women's diver in school history.

The women also had an AMCC swimmer of the week last week. Colby Seibert was named AMCC swimmer of the week on November 13. Seibert received the award for winning both the 200 freestyle and 200 butterfly in the victory over St. Vincent. Seibert's time of 2:22.82 in the butterfly is the second fastest time by a female swimmer in Behrend history. Seibert is the first Behrend women's swimmer to be given the honor of being named AMCC swimmer of the week.

Both the men and women travel to Nazareth for a meet on Saturday, November 18.

Economic theory explains Steelers' woes

By Ed Miseta
Lecturer in Economics

The Steelers' fans must be wondering what has gone wrong. How can a team that won the Super Bowl in January come back a few months later and sink to the bottom of their division? Remember, this is basically the same team, minus Jerome Bettis, that performed a miraculous comeback in 2006, clawed their way through the playoffs and won a championship for the fifth time in team history. So what exactly went wrong?

It would be easy to point a finger at various players and accuse them of being the problem. Ben Roethlisberger is playing like a drunken Jeff George, while Joey Porter and the Steelers' defense seem to have more holes than my favorite pair of Sponge Bob boxer shorts.

Truth is, the answer to what ails the Steelers may lie in basic microeconomic theory. Economists note that when you consume an additional unit of any good, that additional unit will always bring you less satisfaction than the previous one. For example, eating one Big Mac will bring you a certain amount of satisfaction. When you eat a second Big Mac, you will still get satisfaction from it, but not as much as you got from the first one. Ditto for the third, fourth, and fifth ones. Economists believe this theory, known as the Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility, would even hold true for money. After all, if someone gives you 49 \$100 bills, will the number 50 be as meaningful to you as the first? If the Law of DMU holds true for every good, then it must also hold true for Super Bowl wins.

Ask any NFL player about their ultimate goal, and most would tell you it is winning the Super Bowl. There have been many NFL greats, however, who never managed to win a Super Bowl ring. Walter Payton, Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas, Bernie Kosar and Warren Moon are but a few. While most NFL players would give anything to have the chance to be called a world champion, once you achieve that honor, how great is the

drive and desire to become a second-time champion? Is there any doubt that the second Super Bowl ring will not bring a player nearly as much satisfaction as the first? And if that's true, how many players would be willing to put forth the same amount of effort to get the second one?

In fairness to the Steelers players, this is not to say that any of them are putting forth a lackluster effort. However, we all know that once you attain the title of world champions, every team will play you harder than they play any other team on their schedule. Becoming a repeat champion would almost certainly require a greater effort than winning the title the first time. And, if that second title will not bring as much satisfaction as the first one, is it surprising that teams often seem to come up short?

"But wait," you say. "There have been repeat champions in the past. The Steelers of the 1970s won several Super Bowls." That's true, but the NFL and its players have changed since then. There was a time when players played for pride, for their team, and for their city. That may have given players the extra incentive to win repeat titles. Unfortunately, free agency has created a class of players that are more concerned about their own stats and paychecks, rather than their team. The days of players spending their entire careers with one organization are over, and with it went that additional incentive.

Does the law of DMU mean repeat champions are a thing of the past? Not necessarily. The desire to win a Super Bowl will always be greater in players without a ring than in players that have one. For a team to win a second title, the solution is simple: Keep your core players intact, but fill other positions with talented players who do not yet have a championship. For the Steelers, that would mean discarding those players who might only have a few years left before retirement, as well as those with contracts that will soon expire. Replacing them with players who have the drive and motivation to win their first championship might be the ticket to more wins.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Economic theory may explain why the Steelers will not win the Lombardi Trophy this year.

Intramural Weekly Update



Rob Wittman/INTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES
Staff claimed the intramural dodgeball championship by beating TOE on November 1. Team members were (l-r): Jake Kowatch, Brian Hirschberg, Keith Cerroni, Keith Batchelor and Mike Barlett.

Recent Results:

Dodgeball finals took place Wednesday, November 1.

Staff defeated TOE to claim the men's dodgeball title in a best of three final. The Staff team was made up of Brian Hirschberg, Keith Batchelor, Keith Cerroni, Jake Kowatch and Mike Barlett.

Josh Hannold, Tyler Schmidt, Jory Giger, Ben Kuhn, Kathy Miaczynski and Jessica Patz of the Chick Magnets won the coed championship.

Deadlines:

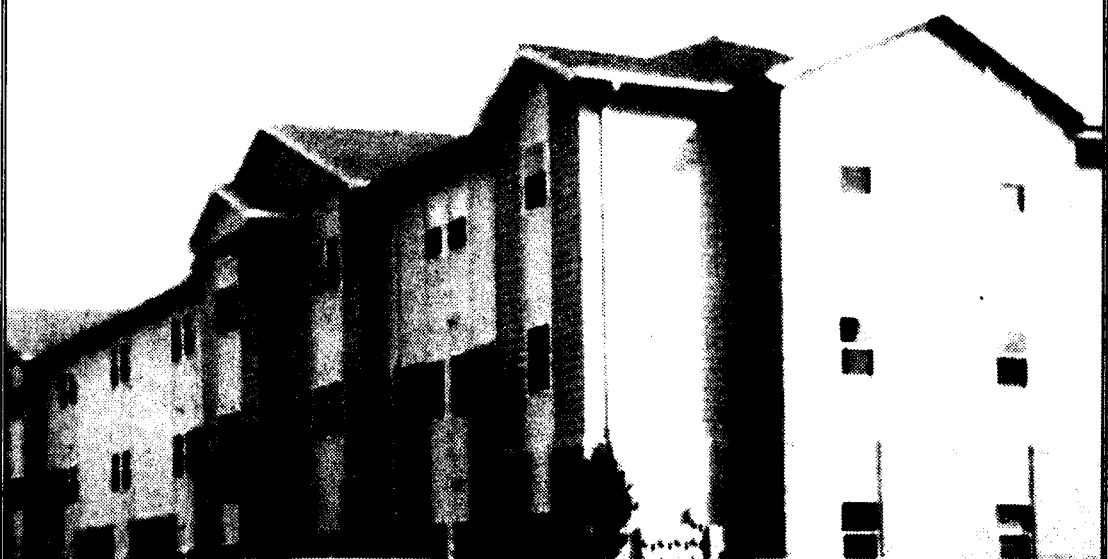
Indoor Soccer, Inner Tube Water Polo and Team Triathlon entries must be received by Friday, November 17.

Current Sports:

Balls Deep, Burning Lumber and Super Duper lead the men's competitive divisions of 3v3 Basketball. On the women's side, Voltz and Herbets are setting the pace. The season ends with the playoffs on Monday, November 20.

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Sports Trivia

Last Week's answer: On April 10, 1999, the Miami Heat held the Chicago Bulls to an NBA record 49 points, which is the lowest single team score since the introduction of the shot clock.

Sports Trivia will not be appearing in the final two issues of the Behrend Beacon this semester.

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