

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Mike Ferraro

SPORT: Outdoor Track & Field

CLASS: Freshman

DATE: March, 26, 2007

Mike Ferraro (Erie/Harborcreek) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week for the week of March 26. Ferraro started for the men's track & field team who kicked off their outdoor season on Saturday at the California University of Pennsylvania Invitational.

Ferraro took first place in the 100-meter dash with a new school record of 11.13 seconds in his first collegiate outdoor event. The time qualifies him for the ECAC Championships at the season's end. Ferraro went on to place second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.78 seconds. He then concluded his strong outdoor debut by teaming up with three others to take second in the 4 x 100 meter relay with another ECAC qualifying time of 44.24 seconds.

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

Behrend hockey player heads to Michigan for nationals

By Andy McLachlan
contributing writer

A Penn State Behrend student will try his best to become a national champion. Eric Thiessen, a freshman here at Behrend, is competing in the Midget AA 18 and under Ice Hockey National Championships, held in Michigan. Thiessen is a goaltender for the Butler County Bulldogs, which are based out of Mars, PA.

Thiessen, who is also a goaltender for the Penn State Behrend Ice Hockey Club, believes that his team truly has a shot at winning the title this year.

"It's a great group of guys we have and a lot of them were on the team last year when we reached nationals. With the way we have been playing, it's gonna be hard to beat us at nationals," Thiessen said.

Last year, Thiessen and the Bulldogs reached nationals for the first time in team

history. The Bulldogs made it to the finals and lost in double overtime to the Aspen Americans. With it being a year since the second place finish, Thiessen is trying to move on from the heartbreaking loss he suffered last year. "Well, it was hard to lose like that. We have moved on since the loss and understand that it was in the past and the present is now."

The young Thiessen came here from Penn State New Kensington after one semester and joined the Behrend hockey club in the middle of the season. He went 2-1-1 and started for the team in Behrend's playoff loss. Going into next season, Thiessen said he'd like to have a national championship under his belt.

"I think if we just have a good showing at nationals, it will help me going into next season."

Thiessen traveled to Michigan on Tuesday and will stay there through Saturday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Thiessen looks to gain national recognition in Michigan.

MLB season looks to be a thrilling one

By Andy McLachlan
contributing writer

Well, we are at the tail end of March and this means only one thing. It is time for Major League Baseball. Yes, the sport that has the marathon 162 game schedule is back and ready for another exciting year. This year stands out a bit more than past years, due to some interesting stories that are lurking around before the season begins.

Probably one of the biggest things to watch for before the first pitch on April 1 is if the controversial Barry Bonds will break Hank Aaron's career home run record. Currently, Bonds is at 734, which is 21 HR behind Aaron's mark of 755. Bonds turns 43 in July, and some writers are skeptical about how much more he can play. One small injury could cost Bonds his goal to become the home run king of Major League Baseball.

As always, the steroids issue is also being discussed. Since Commissioner Bud Selig took a stand on the steroid problem by having mandatory steroids testing, more players are being caught with steroids in their system and are being punished for their actions. On March 20, five pro baseball players, including one that is currently playing, were linked to a pharmacy that was busted for selling over-the-counter supplements. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim outfielder Gary Matthews Jr. and former players Jose Canseco, Jerry Hairston Jr., David Bell, and John Rocker were linked with other professional athletes to receiving supplements from the same doctor that could have been illegal substances. The situation is

still being investigated.

The other thing to watch for is the pitching of newly-acquired Boston Red Sox Daisuke Matsuzaka. The import from Japan is already considered one of the best pitchers in the league and the number one contender for the AL Rookie of Year Award. Matsuzaka, or Dice-K for short, has the right media coverage to be considered a modern-day Fernando Valenzuela, who was the 20-year-old pitcher in the 80s that took America by storm by winning Rookie of the Year and the Cy Young award.

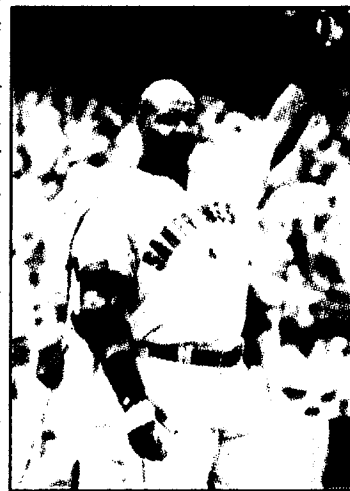
So, with Behrend being mostly mixed of Cleveland Indians and Pittsburgh Pirates fans, we wonder how they see their teams finishing this year. Dan Jaworski, a junior at Behrend, sees the Indians doing better than they did last year.

"I think last year was just a stepping stone for this year. They finished strong in 2005 and they have the talent and potential for a title run this season," Jaworski said.

The Pirates have had their share of heartbreak over the years, with a current streak of 13 straight losing seasons. Ryan Gallagher, a junior at Behrend and known Pirate fan, says that he thinks this could be the year the streak ends.

"We finally have the talent to do some damage, but it will come down to the young pitching."

The popular prediction for the World Series would obviously involve the Red Sox or Yankees. This writer believes that it will be the year of the underdog. World Series Prediction: Cubs beat Indians in 7 games.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bonds will look to break Hank Aarons HR record.

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