

## HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Nikki Kaschauer  
SPORT: Softball  
CLASS: Sophomore  
DATE: April 9, 2007

Nikki Kaschauer (South Park/South Park) has been chosen as this week's Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week. Kaschauer was a force at the plate as she helped lead Behrend softball to a 4-0 record last week.

Behrend swept the season series against Pitt-Bradford in a double-header on April 2. Kaschauer went 3 for 3 in game one, with a double, two runs scored and one RBI. For an encore performance in game two, Kaschauer blasted a game winning homerun over the left field wall to lift Behrend to a 3-2 victory.

In a doubleheader against Thiel on April 4, Kaschauer went 2 for 4 in game one with two runs and two RBIs. She would score two more runs in game two. Behrend swept Thiel 18-3 in game one and 7-6 in game two.

## Baseball team struggles to find rhythm

By Matt Waronker  
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend baseball team's toughest opponent so far this season hasn't been the opposing team. Instead, the Lions have found their strongest competition to be Mother Nature. With two sets of games already rescheduled so far this season due to overwhelming weather conditions, one in the past week alone, the Lions have had the weather forecast as fresh on their minds as the tendencies of opposing pitchers.

"It's been hard for us to find a rhythm because of the weather," said head coach Paul Benim. "Since our Florida trip, the weather has been real choppy. We're really hoping for some breaks in the weather. As a team we're still striving to find offensive rhythm and consistency and that can only come from playing. As soon as Mother Nature works out we'll be able to play some baseball."

Due to such unfavorable weather, Behrend took the field for the first time in a week on Tuesday April 10 at Washington & Jefferson. The results spoke volumes for a team that had yet to completely find their rhythm. Behrend suffered a 10-1 defeat at the hands of the hosting Presidents; however, despite the loss the team understands the positives that can be taken away from the game. Benim said, "It was good for us to get back out on the field, although the bottom line is that they were better that day than we were. It just wasn't our day."

The Lions began the game in a considerable hole and found themselves down 3-0 by the end of the first inning. Behrend was able to make their mark on the scoreboard when freshman shortstop Josh Fyffe crossed the plate in the top of the third inning. Defensively, the Lions had very few answers for Washington & Jefferson's offensive attack. The Presidents were able to score seven runs in the last five innings. Behrend gave up 13 hits in the nine-point loss.

Hoping to bounce back from the Washington & Jefferson



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Senior Andrew McNelly is up to bat.

defeat, Behrend prepares for, weather permitting, their second longest stretch of games this season. The Lions have seven upcoming games, all scheduled to be played over the span of three days. The team travels to Painesville, Ohio on Friday April 13, to play conference opponent Lake Erie. Following the doubleheader, Behrend will return to Erie to host Saturday's conference twin-bill against Pitt-Greensburg. The Lions will then cap off their seven-game stretch when they face Case Western in a double header on Sunday after the team participates in the annual Alumni Game. Both the Pitt-Greensburg and Case Western match-ups are scheduled to be televised.

Although the Lions have prior experience with such demanding stretches of games, coach Benim understands the importance of keeping the players fresh in order to be successful. Benim said, "Florida was our most demanding week. We played nine games in six days, so I don't want to say we're used to this, but we have done this before. We have great depth and to be able to do this we're going to need all of those guys to contribute."

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