

SPORTS

Cheruiyot wins Boston Marathon

By Jessica Carlson
contributing writer

Despite the rain, the starting gun for the Boston Marathon still went off for the 111th time on Monday. Inspired by the 1896 Olympic Marathon in Athens, the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) brought the marathon to the states on April 19, 1897. The first race had 18 registered, 15 runners and 10 finishers. This year the race had 23,903 runners registered but only 21,454 picked up their numbers, most likely due to inclement weather caused by a recent nor'easter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Cheruiyot crosses the finish line to win his third overall Boston Marathon.

Kenya's Robert Cheruiyot, who is the record holder for the fastest time, took the championship for the third year in a row. Upon crossing the finish line last year in the Chicago Marathon, Cheruiyot slipped on the wet surface, hitting his head on the ground. His torso managed to bounce across the line, granting him first place. However, as a result of hitting his head he suffered a concussion and experienced dizziness eating and difficulty for a solid year, right up until to this year's marathon.

As for the women, Lidiya Grigoryeva of Russia came in first place with a time of 2:29:18. For the United States, Peter M. Gilmore finished in eighth place overall for the men, and Deena Kastor placed 5th for the women.

Originally, women were not allowed to run in the race. However, in 1966 one woman took a stand and made her mark in history by literally sneaking her way into the race. Roberta "Bobbi" Gibb became the first female Boston Marathon

runner when she waited in the bushes near the start until the race began; she finished 126th in the race. A year later, Katherine Switzer became the first woman registered to run. She registered as "K.V. Switzer" in order to hide the fact that she was a

female. The BAA tried, but was unsuccessful in removing her from the race, making her the first registered female to complete the marathon. The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) decided in the fall of 1971 to formally allow women to register and compete in marathons. In the following spring of 1972, eight women registered and finished the race.

Along with permitting women to race, the Boston Marathon is also the first organization to include a Wheelchair Division when it recognized Bob Hall as a participant in 1975. He was promised a Finisher Certificate if he completed the race in less than three hours. He finished with a time of two hours and 58 minutes.

In terms of media coverage, the Boston Marathon is the second largest single day sporting event, just behind the Super Bowl. The race is a total length of 26.2 miles and record times are 2:07:14 for the men and 2:20:43 for the women. For more information on the Boston Marathon, visit the BAA website at www.bostonmarathon.org

INTRAMURAL UPDATE

DEADLINES:

Badminton extended to Friday, April 20

RECENT NEWS:

Volleyball ended last week and team winners include:
Men's Volleyball Gold - Chick Magnets (picture below)
Men's Volleyball Silver - Denbow's Mom
Coed Volleyball Gold - Spikers
Coed Volleyball Silver - Zucchini's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Chick Magnets pose after capturing the Men's volleyball intramural gold bracket.

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

The Junker Center will close at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 due to the Lewis Black Concert. This includes the closing of the weight room, pool and gymnasium. The Junker Center will re-open on Sunday, April 22 at noon.

Excitement of NHL playoffs goes unseen

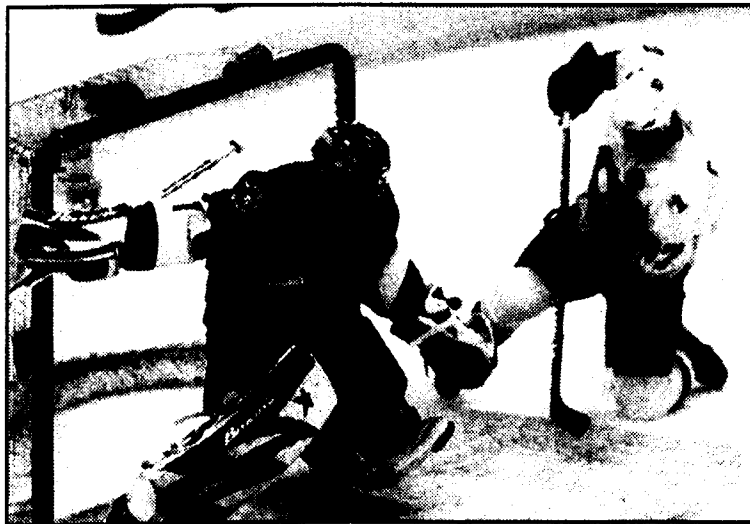
By Andrew McLachlan
contributing writer

With the NHL playoffs finally getting started, hockey fans are finding themselves frustrated with the lack of coverage on television, in particular ESPN. Since the split between ESPN and the NHL, coverage of hockey on ESPN has decreased, to the point of not even being mentioned during the show SportsCenter. Now, with the NHL being shown on the channel Versus, how do hockey fans get the coverage that they

Tour de France. ESPN let one of the most familiar professional sports go, due to the increased popularity of poker and bowling.

After being dropped by ESPN, the NHL saw its popularity decrease and television coverage on ESPN almost vanish. Even during the excitement of NHL playoff hockey, ESPN focused on MLB baseball, the NFL Draft and the NBA playoffs. The sport has suffered dearly due to this and will have a hard time competing with other professional sports with the lack of coverage.

Brett Hull, former NHL great and now commentator for NHL on NBC, has made it clear that he is upset about the lack of coverage on television. "People don't even know that we're on. That's a huge problem. We're at the mercy of Versus, NBC, ESPN, CBS. Unless two of them want to show hockey, the NHL is screwed." Hull is also upset about the coverage that is currently on his station, NBC. "You need to have some sort of pregame or postgame show so we can sit down and talk about trade deadlines and other issues."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Crosby scores the winning goal in Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

In the summer of 2005, the NHL lockout finally ended after losing a full season due to contract disagreements between the owners and the players association. After the agreement was settled between both sides, it was announced that the NHL was to be dropped by ESPN. The NHL then agreed to a television contract with the unknown OLN (Outdoor Living Network), which was known for showing coverage of the

too. Long time hockey fan and Behrend junior Dan Thiessen has had a hard time seeing any coverage. "Hockey is the greatest sport in the world, so why is it losing coverage over non sports like poker? It just doesn't make any sense."

To see playoff highlights or playoff coverage, you can look for games that are being played on the channel Versus, formerly OLN, or NBC on the weekends.

Fans are having a hard time with the lack of coverage

Marijuana marrs NFL draft

By Christopher LaFuria
editor in chief

Three of the top 10 NFL draft picks for the 2007 draft have admitted to using marijuana in their collegiate careers. Georgia Tech wide receiver Calvin Johnson, Clemson defensive end Gaines Adams, and Louisville defensive tackle Amobi Okoye, admitted to using the drug. However, none tested positive for the drug in any NFL-related tests.

These admissions came as a result of an interview session at the Indianapolis scouting combine. According to The Sports Xchange, videotapes of these interviews were sent to each of the NFL teams in the league. There is no report as to whether these admissions hurt each player in the draft. Johnson is still ranked No. 1 in the draft according to NFLDraftScout.com, Adams is ranked No. 7, and Okoye is currently No. 10.

These events have the league continuing to question the amount of players in the NFL who use marijuana for performance and leisure pur-

poses. In 2005, Randy Moss went on HBO and admitted that he uses marijuana and has throughout his entire career. When asked if he currently uses the drug, Moss said, "I might. I might have fun. And, you know, hopefully ... I won't get into any trouble by the NFL by saying that, you know. I have had fun throughout my years and, you know, predominantly in the offseason."

In 2006, Ricky Williams was suspended for an entire season for marijuana use. He tested positive for the drug, leading to his suspension. Like Moss, Williams had no regret and was not apologetic for his marijuana use.

While some NFL teams may view this as a sign of a troubled player or a detriment to the team, others view this as a sign of the player being honest. During the interview process, players are asked to be as honest as possible and to hide nothing.

Draft experts say that the teams are still in pursuit of their top picks and will not allow these admissions to affect their decisions.

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Get involved on campus! Write for the Behrend Beacon!

The Beacon is currently looking for sports editors and sports writers for the Fall 2007 semester.

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