

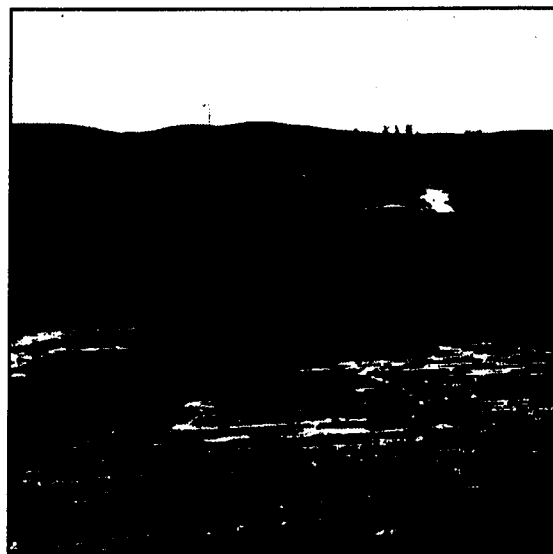
SPORTS

It's Muddy Night Football in Pittsburgh

By Jess Carlson
staff writer
jlc5018@psu.edu

ESPN's Monday Night Football with the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. the Miami Dolphins quickly turned into a dirty mess after 1.5 inches of rain fell onto Heinz Field in a short period of time prior to kick-off. It was one of the sloppiest games in NFL history. After 59 scoreless minutes of football, the Steelers slipped by the winless Dolphins 3-0 and extended their undefeated record at home this season, when kicker Jeff Reed put away a 24-yard field goal with 17 seconds left in the game.

Since the game's end, there has been a constant buzz of criticism about the poor field conditions and how it could have been prevented. The NFL, amongst other people, would like Pittsburgh to consider other surface alternatives such as "FieldTurf". Many of the players think otherwise. "I need the grass. I like the mud. I like the sloppiness," cornerback Ike Taylor said. "I'm used to it. Mr. Rooney, can we please keep the grass? I don't want no FieldTurf. It's bad on your knees."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
There was no difference between this field and Heinz Field on Monday, Nov. 26

as the Steelers. To a point, I agree, but only because I feel that Pitt deserves (aside from their losing record) a field of their own to play on, but again the fact that Pitt played on the same field as the Steelers two nights before the flood had no bearing on how the field was on Monday. Let me reiterate, the rain was the ultimate cause of the mud bath, not the five games that were played that weekend before the Steelers.

Want to know where the money came from to build both Heinz Field and PNC Park? The answer: taxpayers. If you are from Allegheny County, a county in the south hills of Pittsburgh, you know that taxes are high. As a result, you get two brand new beautiful stadiums that have gotten a lot of use thus far. People deserve to see high school and college games being played on the field as well as professional games. Would you rather pay a lot of money towards something that eliminates a home field advantage, cause more injury and only gets used approximately ten times a year or would you rather see around double that number of games played by different teams at different levels, putting the field to use? If the field gets torn up, so be it, it's football. "Everybody wants to see the field looking pretty," Hines Ward said. "But that [grass] gives us a home-field advantage. You've got to learn how to play on it. For us, there's a lot more injuries on turf." Both Troy Polamalu and Santonio Holmes did not play Monday because of injuries they received from playing on turf the week before against the New York Jets.

Think about it; the Steelers have played nine home games including preseason this year and up until this point have the field conditions been such a big issue. This was a one-time occurrence and yet it still ended, as it should have, with a Steelers victory. No matter the score, a win is a win.

This Weekend's Schedule

Friday, Nov. 30

Behrend Swimming: @ Fredonia Blue Devil Invitational, 6 p.m.

Behrend Hockey: vs. Case Western Reserve, 9:35 p.m.

Mercyhurst Ice Arena

Saturday, Dec. 1

Behrend Swimming: @ Fredonia Blue Devil Invitational, 10 a.m.

Behrend W. Basketball: vs. Frostburg State, 2 p.m. Junker Center

Behrend M. Basketball: vs. Frostburg State, 4 p.m. Junker Center

Sunday, Dec. 2

Behrend Swimming: @ Fredonia Blue Devil Invitational, 10 a.m.

Behrend Hockey: vs. Edinboro, 6:35 p.m. Igloo Ice Arena

Behrend Hockey Upsets Pitt-Johnstown

By Ryan P. Gallagher
student life editor
rpg5006@psu.edu

Before the Behrend hockey team could go home for Thanksgiving break, they had to play a tough Pitt-Johnstown team. It was obvious that Behrend's minds were on hockey and not turkey, with an 11-2 victory over the Ice Cats of UPJ.

Junior Brian Hammel scored a hat trick in the victory. This was Hammel's fourth hat trick of the year, which led him to be currently tied in leading the team in goals with 22 on the season. Senior Brysten Jones had his best game of the year, scoring two goals and three assists. Senior DJ Craven had another impressive game, scoring two goals and recording two assists.

Senior Dan Thiessen and sophomore Chris Simanic each had a goal and two assists. The Craven-Simanic-Thiessen line has been one of the most impressive lines in the College Hockey East, scoring in all but one game this season. Currently, Simanic leads the CHE in points, while Craven is third and Thiessen is fourth.

Freshman Josh Horvath had a goal and two assists and senior Andrew McLachlan also added a goal. Freshman Eric Thiessen had 26 saves in a winning effort. Behrend out-shot UPJ 38-28. Behrend improved to 11-2-1 overall and 6-1 in the CHE, while UPJ fell to 11-4, 1-1 in the CHE. With big wins over UPJ, Penn State Altoona, and Robert Morris, Behrend stayed ranked fifth nationally in the Atlantic region of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA).

With Behrend off to their best start in the CHE,

the players have to keep their eyes on the prize. "We go into every game expecting a win, no matter who the opponent is," says Jones.

Winning is starting to become a trend for the Behrend hockey team. This is their third consecutive year where the team will have a winning record going into Christmas break and are in contention to clinching their third consecutive CHE playoff appearance.

The team will host two games this weekend. On Friday, Nov. 30, the team will play former CHE rival Case Western Reserve at 9:35 p.m. at Mercyhurst Ice Arena. Behrend split with Case Western last year and look to win the series this year.

Then on Sunday, Dec. 2, Behrend will play arch rivals Edinboro at 6:35 p.m. at the Igloo Ice Arena. Behrend already defeated Edinboro 14-2 this season at Behrend's home tournament.

Intramural Deadline Update

5v5 Basketball
Deadline is Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.

If interested contact Rob Wittman @ rww3@psu.edu.

ACHA Atlantic Rankings

Team	Record	Pre.
1. California of PA	13-3-0	1
2. Albany	12-1-0	2
3. Fredonia State	15-0-0	3
4. Penn State Delco	9-0-1	7
5. Penn State Behrend	11-2-1	5
6. Farmingdale State	9-2-0	5
7. Pitt-Johnstown	11-4-0	4
8. Hofstra	8-4-0	8
9. Fairfield	7-3-0	--
10. Penn State Altoona	7-5-0	10

Beat The Beacon Experts

Email asm5006@psu.edu or mbw5028@psu.edu by Saturday at 9 a.m. to enter your picks. Winners will receive gifts from the Behrend Beacon Staff.

NFL	Andy	Chris	Ryan	Muska	Matt	Lenny
Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Arizona vs. Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland	Cleveland
Buffalo vs. Washington	Washington	Washington	Buffalo	Washington	Washington	Washington
Tennessee vs. Houston	Houston	Tennessee	Houston	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Philadelphia vs. Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Indianapolis vs. Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
Minnesota vs. Detroit	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota	Detroit	Detroit	Detroit
Chicago vs. New York Giants	New York	New York	New York	New York	New York	New York
Tampa Bay vs. New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans	Tampa Bay	New Orleans
Tie-Breaker	(+24)	(+18)	(+17)	(+21)	(+27.5)	(+28)
New England vs. Baltimore	New England	New England	New England	New England	New England	New England
NCAA						
Missouri vs. Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Missouri	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Missouri	Oklahoma
LSU vs. Tennessee	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU
West Virginia vs. Pittsburgh	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia
Virginia Tech vs. Boston College	Virginia Tech	Boston College	Boston College	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
UCLA vs. USC	USC	USC	UCLA	USC	USC	USC
Totals:	88-62	96-54	84-66	94-56	92-58	0-0