

# SPORTS

## This Weekend's Schedule

### Saturday, Aug. 30

Behrend's volleyball team will take on Earlham (2:00 p.m.) and Thomas More (4:00 p.m.) in the first day of the Thomas More invitational.

The men's soccer team will compete in the first day of the Herb Lauffer Memorial Tournament against Baldwin-Wallace and Utica College.

The cross-country team will compete in the Westminster Invitational at 9:30 a.m.

### Sunday, Aug. 31

The volleyball team will compete in two more games in the Thomas More invitational: Saint Mary's (9:00 a.m.) and Kenyon (1:00 p.m.).

The men's soccer team will finish up the Herb Lauffer Memorial Tournament with games throughout the day, with times and opponents determined by Saturday's results.

## Behrend intramurals kick off fall 2008

By Connor Sattely  
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When D.J. Bertolasio arrived at Behrend fairly sure that he wouldn't participate in any varsity sports, but when he heard about the school's vast amount of intramurals, he was immediately hooked.

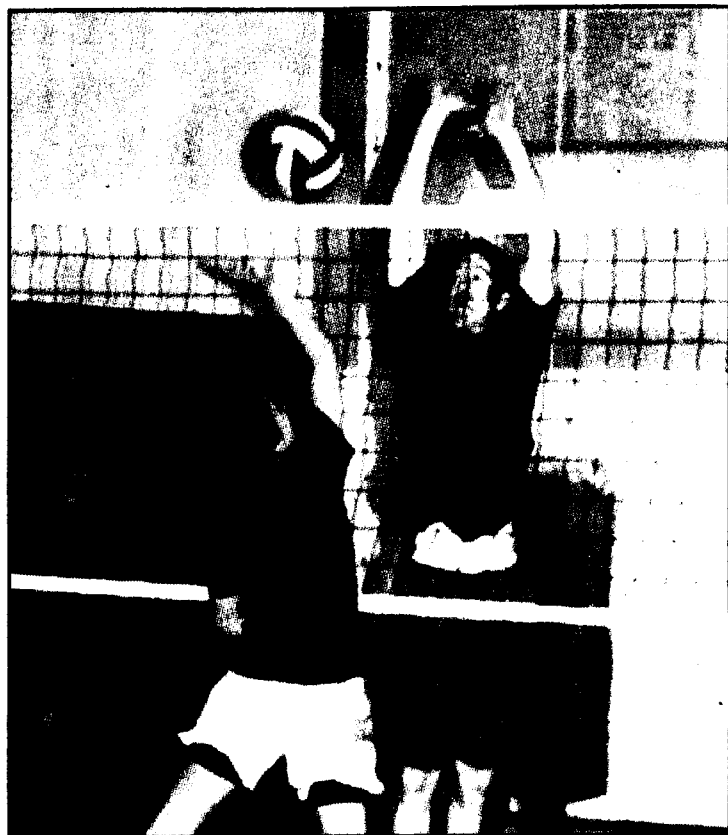
"I'm not too big of a sports guy," says Bertolasio, who participated in dodgeball and the intramural track meet.

"Intramurals are great because they're laid back. They're still competitive, and it's still great to win, it's just not that bad to lose. It's all for fun."

Robert Wittman, the coordinator of Intramural and Recreational Programs, would agree. After speaking with freshmen about the intramural programs at Behrend, he's already had an overwhelming response.

"I've had extreme dodgeball, which I had about 120 people sign up for," recalls Wittman. "Around 20 showed up for ultimate frisbee, and we had 11 show up for the golf tournament."

Intramurals at Behrend are often more popular than most people think. Last year, 62% of freshmen males living on campus participated in intramurals; 61% of females participated as well - only 131 freshmen females did not participate. Out



DANIEL SMITH, BEHREND BEACON

An intramurals volleyball participant in last year's intramural tournament.

of all the students at Behrend, including upperclassmen, 56% of males and 51% of females participated.

For Sophomore Alan Swanson, intramurals were a way to stay in contact with friends from his hometown. "We just called ourselves Seneca," Swanson said, referring to his High School north of Pittsburgh. "It was just me and a few high school friends that formed a

softball team."

Swanson, like Wittman, insists that intramurals are one of the best ways to meet people and have fun, especially for newcomers to the campus.

Behrend's intramural program spans a plethora of sports, including everything from basketball to walking to golf. There are also some recreational programs, including eight Behrend-run fantasy football leagues.

Wittman says that for many people, the goal of intramurals is to win the t-shirts that are handed out to winners of each sport every year.

"They kind of become a point of competition," Wittman says. "And it is competitive, but the main goal of everything is just to have fun. It's all about just showing up and having a great time getting some physical activity."

Wittman also formed a Facebook group, which is nearing 1000 members. "Behrend Intramural Sports" has hundreds of photos, videos, contact information, and important dates. It features videos of the belly-flop contest last year, the 3v3 basketball championship match, the winner of the home run shootout and more.

For Bertolasio, now a senior at Behrend, he can recall some students' reluctance to join in. He chose to take part in dodgeball and the intramural track meet.

"My suggestion is just to look at the list of intramurals. Pick one that looks cool, and just show up. Go give it a try, just do it."

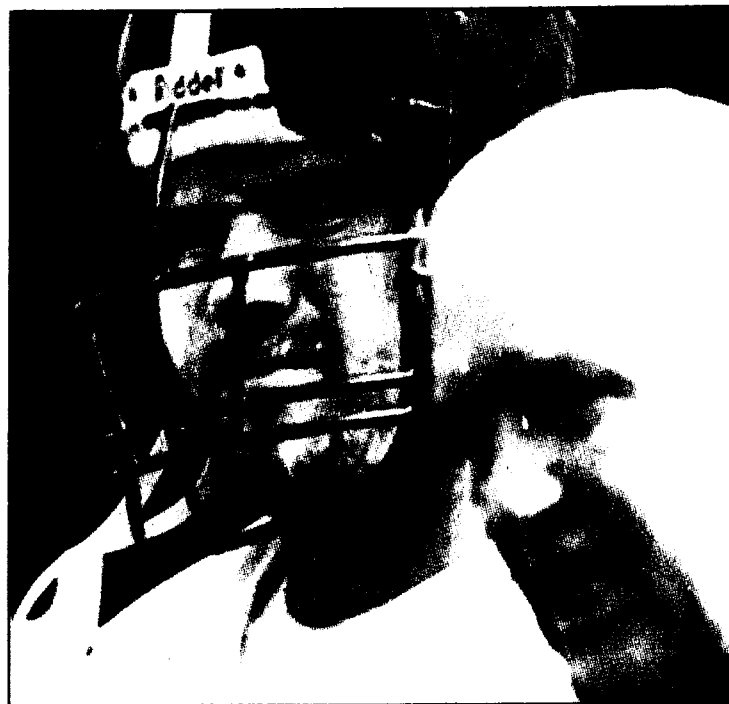
Students who are interested in joining intramurals can contact Rob Whittman at 814-898-6280 or by e-mailing him at [rwv3@psu.edu](mailto:rwv3@psu.edu).

## "Off the Wall"

Each week, sports editor Connor Sattely picks a widely accepted NFL view and disputes it in his editorial column, "Off the Wall." Think he's wrong? Let him know and your rebuttal might make next week's edition.

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### Myth: Alan Faneca's departure from the Pittsburgh Steelers hinders their offensive line.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steelers Guard Alan Faneca glances at last year's new offensive line coach, Larry Zierlein.

Could I possibly be inferring that by Alan Faneca, pro-bowler extraordinaire left guard leaving the Steelers lineup, the offensive unit could actually improve?

Let's begin with a little history. For a large part, Faneca's decision to leave the Steelers was over money. In his last year, he was scheduled to make \$3.25 million aside from a \$1 million roster bonus - much less than the average of \$7 million that other guards were getting paid around the league.

Faneca had many people's vote for MVP in Super Bowl XXI after creating an alley the size of a highway for Willie Parker to run through on his historic 75 yard touchdown run. He helped Parker, among others, reach team records in rushing yards. He made the Pro Bowl six times, and players like Hines Ward never hesitated to mention how much he served as a leader not only in the locker room, but on the field as well.

Russ Grimm, at the time assistant head coach and offensive line coach, was passed over to the coaching job for the relatively unknown Mike Tomlin. Joey Porter, a longtime friend of Faneca and fellow locker room leader, was unceremoniously dumped as the Steelers felt he wasn't worth his weight in salary cap room.

Faneca's response to this was, of course, one of outrage. In an interview, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported in May, his left hand was visibly shaking as he announced that it would be his last year as a Pittsburgh Steeler.

At that point, Steelers fans all over the world bemoaned a collective groan. Their stud player on the offensive line was leaving, and the mind-blowing 47 sacks the Steelers gave up in 2007 were sure not to improve.

Right? Wrong. Grimm left the team with Ken Whisenhunt to serve as Arizona's assistant head coach before last season.

In his place, the team hired Larry Zierlein to take over the offensive line, with Alan Faneca already having announced he was leaving. So, with Faneca unhap-

py and Zierlein a brand new coach, who do you think led the offensive line? Max Starks, a Steelers offensive tackle, knew where the power lay.

"Alan was the most tenured guy in our organization, so naturally you looked to him," Starks said. "Larry even looked to him. It was one of those things where Coach Zierlein came in and he was more like a moderator and kind of an intermediary guy. Alan was the one that kind of guided everybody."

That put the Steelers in the awkward position of a power struggle and a transition period of leadership. Faneca was "adamant," said Starks, about things being done his way. The newer recruits looked first to Zierlein. What resulted was a mixed-approach that sent Ben Roethlisberger to the ground more times than any quarterback in the league, except for unfortunate Lions quarterback John Kitna.

So, why does it improve with a six-time pro bowler leaving?

"Now, he's gone, and it's Larry's entire offensive line," said Starks.

With the entire offensive line on the same page, perhaps they will be able to protect their suddenly rich QB star.

The only problem that still remains is the question over the center position - Justin Hartwig versus Sean Mahan. The Steelers coaches, in taking this long to decide the starter of such a pivotal position on the offensive line, could have doomed the unit more than Faneca ever could have.

The Steelers will have to deal with that problem quickly before crucial division games in weeks two and four. But it will be a whole lot easier with the entire group speaking one language.

Submissions should be mailed to [cis5060@psu.edu](mailto:cis5060@psu.edu) and should contain no less than 250 words. All submissions will be considered for publication.

### Fitness Programs

"I Lift Weights" Club  
100 Mile Club

For both clubs, participants are awarded t-shirts for reaching athletic goals throughout the year.

### Recreational Programs

Fantasy Football	Sep 3
Friday Night Bowling	Sep 5
Sunday Night 3v3 Basketball	Sep 7
Eastway Mini Bowling League	Sep 11
Softball Home Run Derby	Sep 30

All programs are listed with registration deadlines.

## Behrend's Intramural Calendar

Event Name	Season Starts	Season Length
Team, Relay (M, W, CoRec)	Sep 3	4 wks
	Sep 5	1 day
	Sep 17	2 wks
	Sep 22	1 day
	Oct 6	4 wks