

# SPORTS

## Behrend hosts 2008 Cross Country invitational

### CONFESSIONS OF A CROSS COUNTRY CONVERT

first-person account by Connor Sattely

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Students decked in clothing proudly displaying their school's colors. Adult fans traveling with their teams to support them on the road. Cheers and yells and support from groups of fans.

At first thought, this sounds like it could be a big-time football game at University Park, or even a Behrend basketball play-off game. In truth: it was the Behrend Cross Country invitational this past Saturday.

My first reaction attending my first cross country invitational was one of complete and utter

surprise. Literally hundreds of people were in attendance. Many were from Behrend, but many traveled with their team to support them in their own runs. Several times during the race, as I followed the athletes in their grueling runs, I had other schools' fans shouting in my ear.

"Go Mercyhurst," cried a man next to me. Glancing his way, I waited for the next Behrend athlete to appear on the stretch and yelled my lungs out, taking personal satisfaction in the subsequent silence of my neighbor.

The event was far more fun than I thought it would be, easily rivaling any other sports event on campus. The crowd, much more educated in the art of watching cross country, moved between several vantage points to cheer the runners. At one point, nearing the final stretch of the race, the athletes were expected to run up a steep incline. This was in the third mile - around at the point at which my heart would have exploded in my chest had I been running with the athletes.

It was there that many fans congregated, trying to provide

inspiration for their athletes as they neared the climb. Coaches yelled out times, instructions, and commands to runners, and fans screamed their loudest.

Behrend's Cross Country team, whose men finished second and whose women finished third overall, ran great races. Coach Greg Cooper reacted to the performance with optimism for the rest of the season. "We really

came together and came on strong in the end," says the second-year head coach. "We overcame some injuries and did really well as a team. We have some things to work on, and right now getting healthy is a top priority."

With more than five Behrend runners out with injuries and sicknesses, Cooper knew that the race would be a challenge. "It's never easy to replace someone," he says. "But our guys and girls stepped up and came together very well."

Andy Iams, one of Behrend's best runners, finished first for the school's men. He acknowledged that the course is one of the tougher that he's run on. "It can mentally break you down," says Iams, a cross country veteran. "You have to will yourself past the course, and pick certain places to speed up and slow down so you don't hit a wall."

Though this invitational was the last of the year at Behrend, Iams, like his coach and teammates, knows there are plenty of things to work on to improve.

Jenna Fatica, who finished eighth overall in the women's race and first for Behrend's team, views the course somewhat differently than some of her teammates. "It's a good race to get [personal records] on," says the sophomore. "It's actually a very quick course. Pretty tough, at times, but not the hardest." Fatica, who transferred to Behrend this year from Akron, hadn't ran a five-kilometer race since high school, but still managed to excel.

Behrend's cross country teams are scheduled for the next few weeks to travel to invitationals at Allegheny (Sept 27) and Pitt-Greensburg (Oct 4). Having the entire team healthy will no doubt keep Behrend in the winners circle for the rest of the season. Even more than that, the continued support of the fans that continue to cheer on Behrend will fuel the athletes to victory.

## "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.

By Connor Sattely

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### The rise of the two-QB system



Arizona Cardinal quarterbacks Matt Leinart (left) and Kurt Warner.

The "T-Formation." The "Power I." The "Ace formation." The "Tampa Two" defensive scheme. All represented major shifts in strategy in the NFL. Some, like Dungy's Tampa Two, were derived from schemes of championship professional teams. Others, and many current schemes used in the National Football League found their origin from college football.

In Ohio State's flop against USC, we briefly saw the brilliance of a well-executed two-quarterback system. The double QB system normally features a talented scrambler (in this case, freshman Terrell Pryor) and a comfortable-in-the-pocket, traditional quarterback (Todd Boeckman). The result has several pros and cons for teams willing, or forced, to use it.

The positive side of the double quarterback system was obvious in the first Ohio State drive. Pryor and Boeckman switched off on almost every play, each quarterback featuring a display of both throwing and running. Every time the defense grouped up to face a run by Pryor, he dropped back and usually experienced success in his throwing. Boeckman was more predictable. His rushing stats, according to ESPN, rounded out at a stellar eight attempts for -27 yards. His throwing stats were equally disheartening: he completed 14 of his 21 passes for two interceptions and only 84 yards.

And, as those of us who watched the game saw, Ohio State fell apart rather quickly. What developed early as a rhythm between the two quarterbacks dissolved into a pathetic offensive effort that only resulted in a field goal in the first quarter.

More case studies, such as in Michigan (Tom Brady and Drew Henson) and even in Florida several years ago (Chris Leak and then-freshman Tim Tebow) prove that with the right combination, the double playcaller system can be deadly. Until one of the quarterbacks starts to slack.

Therein lies the major problem in the NFL: quarterback consistency seems to sprout from a week-to-week start, and familiarization with his offense. With two quarterbacks, the offense is open to confusing playcalling, rhythm changing speed, and blown judgment calls.

Looking at the history of the two-QB system in the NFL, the most recent example that comes

to mind is Arizona. Matt Leinart and veteran Kurt Warner combined for several impressive performances, including a victory against Pittsburgh's previously impressive defense.

Then, a few weeks later, Leinart went down with a broken collarbone and the system was caput.

However, this was a system born out of necessity and failed competition. Though Offensive Coordinator Ken Whisenand put the two stars to good use, it was simply because they had no singular star to hand control of their team to. For example, if Peyton Manning were on the team, they would have started him rather than have him share time with Warner.

What if, though, the system were born out of an attempt to usher in a new era of change in the NFL? The idea of Tim Tebow entering a situation like Indianapolis, to follow the previous example, brings up several interesting scenarios. Dungy and his staff could use Tebow much like he was used in his freshman year at Florida: using Tebow as an option or draw runner would allow Manning to reenter the game and pick apart stumbling defenses reeling from Tebow's ground attack.

This can be used with any NFL team and with any combination of skilled quarterbacks. However, the entire system must depend on the healthiness and continued success of both players. If one slacks, the other struggles. If one gets hurt, the other gets the offense shoved upon him.

But with a shift in strategy can come a shift in preparation. Work in both quarterbacks in preparing plays for the next match's defense. Combine their efforts - maybe include both players in the same play for some option passing trickery.

The next development in strategy? Look for the two-quarterback system to make a long-lasting appearance in the NFL as college runners look for jobs at the next level. And remember this column when Tebow is grabbed in the fourth round and used to bring in a new era of professional football.

*Submissions should be mailed to cis5060@psu.edu and should contain no less than 250 words. All submissions will be considered for publication.*



DANIEL SMITH / THE BEHREND BEACON  
Behrend sophomore Jenna Fatica.



DANIEL SMITH / THE BEHREND BEACON  
Behrend junior Andy Iams.

### This Weekend's Schedule

#### Saturday, September 20

- Behrend's Mens Soccer Team(3-4) will take on Waynesburg at 1:00 p.m. Waynesburg enters with a 3-4-1 record after a 1-2 loss to LaRoche college on Thursday and a 2-0 win over Hood College last Saturday.
- The Behrend Women's undefeated Tennis team(7-0) will face Oneonta at 11:00 a.m. and La Roche at 3:30 p.m. Oneonta boasts a 4-1 record after a win to Hartwick on Sept 17.

#### Thursday, September 25

- Behrend's Women Soccer Team(1-4-1) will face Allegheny(1-4-1) at 4:30 p.m. at the Behrend fields.
- Behrend's golf teams will host a Behrend invitational at Peak N' Peek at 12:00 p.m. In last year's invitational, the Blue and White finished fourth overall: Daeman and Lake Erie finished in the top two spots with Westminster's score only four lower than Behrend's.

## Beat The Experts

And by "Experts," we mean "People who publish a newspaper weekly."

We were pretty bad last week.

But we were better than Behrend's football fans.

That includes you.

Try to out-pick us; send a list of your weekend picks to cis5060@psu.edu.

NFL	Connor	Matt	Rachel	Ryan	Chris
Miami @ New England	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.
Dallas @ Green Bay	Dal.	Dal.	G.B.	Dal.	Dal
Arizona @ Washington	Was.	Ari.	Wash.	Ari.	Ari.
Jacksonville @ Indy.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.
New Orleans @ Denver	Den.	Den.	Den.	Den.	N.O.
N.Y. Jets @ San Diego	S.D.	N.Y.J.	N.Y.J.	N.Y.J.	N.Y.J.
St. Louis @ Seattle	Sea.	Sea.	Sea.	Sea.	Sea.
Carolina @ Minnesota	Min.	Car.	Min.	Car.	Min.
Oakland @ Buffalo	Buf.	Buf.	Buf.	Buf.	Oak.
Cleveland @ Baltimore	Cle.	Balt.	Balt.	Balt.	Cle.
Tampa Bay @ Chicago	Chi.	Chi.	Chi.	T.B.	Chi.
Tic-Breaker Pittsburgh @ Philly	+4 Phi.	+4 Pitt.	+3 Phi.	+6 Pitt.	+18 Phi.
<b>Last week:</b>	<b>7-5</b>	<b>8-4</b>	<b>*10-2</b>	<b>7-5</b>	<b>7-5</b>
* denotes winner					
NCAA					
Temple @ PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU
Alabama @ Arkansas	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala
Wake Forest @ FSU	Wake	FSU	FSU	FSU	FSU
LSU @ Auburn	LSU	Aub	Aub	Aub	LSU
Georgia @ Arizona St.	Georgia	Az. St.	Georgia	Georgia	Az. St.
<b>Last week:</b>	<b>*5-0</b>	<b>*5-0</b>	<b>4-1</b>	<b>*5-0</b>	<b>4-1</b>
* denotes winner					
<b>Season Totals:</b>	<b>25-9</b>	<b>20-14</b>	<b>24-10</b>	<b>21-12</b>	<b>19-15</b>