

SPORTS



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon
A Behrend water polo player shoots for a goal.

Behrend Intramurals in full swing

by Connor Sattely
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This time of year, Intramurals Coordinator Rob Wittman is a very busy man.

Over half of Penn State's on-campus students participated in intramurals last year. After only a month and a half of the program, the number of students turning out to participate is steadily growing, and most sports are even more popular than they were last year.

Ultimate Frisbee, which is brand new this year, has six teams enrolled that are currently engaged in matches amongst each other. Softball and sand volleyball, also in the midst of their season, have experienced leaps in participation. Last year, 25 teams participated; this season there are already 32 teams playing.

Flag Football, which is starting now, has many teams signed up, two of which will consist of students who didn't have a team to play on.

"We don't try to make things hard around here," says Wittman. "I try to make any signups as easy as possible."

E-mails sent out last week encourage students to simply reply to the e-mail with their name and a team name, and they can sign up for almost anything.

"Get in the system, get signed up, and you can get your people organized for the sport before it starts," says Wittman.

The Behrend Intramurals program also includes several wildly successful recreational programs. The "I Lift Weights" club, which is brand new this year, has had 144 people join. The "100 Mile" club, which rewards runners who reach a yearly 100-mile mark, has 210 individuals participating.

Other sports are finding success as well. Bowling at Freeway Lanes was capped at 16 teams; some students were turned away due to space consideration. Three-on-three basketball, says Wittman, already has around 20 teams.

With deadlines approaching for the remainder of fall intramurals, and many sports still available, Wittman would encourage any student to get involved with intramurals as soon as possible.

October Intramurals Deadlines

Sport	Register by
Dodgeball	Oct. 10
Bowling(full)	Oct. 24
3v3 Basketball	Oct. 24
4v4 Coed Indoor Soccer	Oct. 31

Water Polo update

BEHREND MEN REBOUND FROM LAST WEEK'S LOSS

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International.

With two back-to-back matches, the Behrend team must have prepared by some type of physical warm-up or psychological preparing scheme, right?

"Actually, we had a barbeque," recalls Yaegal, who would score two goals for Behrend in the second match of the night. "We played frisbee and grilled some burgers; we just tried to stay as loose as possible."

While the team still entered the game with the right mindset, the players knew that staying loose between the two games was the best way to enter their matchup.

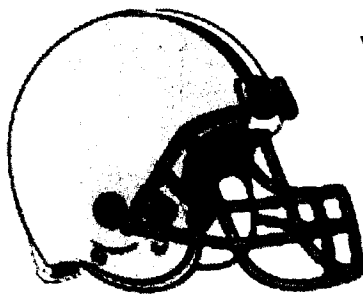
The Behrend Men's Water Polo team is scheduled to take their yearly trip to California this weekend, where they will engage teams in conference play. An annual occurrence, this year's trip will have the team driving to Buffalo and taking a flight to California. The pools in California's water polo matches are slightly larger than Behrend's, by regulation in the state's play. To prepare, the Lions are swimming extra distances in practices and getting used to more endurance play.

With sights set on a successful run at the championship, the men's team has a successful program to work from. Ranked fourteenth nationally amongst all-academic teams in 2006, a list including Penn State University and Harvard, the program has its sights set high for the remainder of their season.

"Where's the game!?"

WHO DECIDES WHAT NFL GAMES ARE SHOWN IN ERIE?

by Sam Curti
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For NFL fans, watching their favorite teams compete is a pastime that cannot be missed. When the Steelers played the Philadelphia Eagles, Steeler fans in Erie were disappointed to discover that the game was not televised. The day left many Behrend students wondering who decides which games are shown in a town with three sports loyalties.

Gary Drapcho, current sports director of the CBS affiliate, WSEE-TV, recently sat down with me to discuss the issue of televised NFL games. Erie is located in a diverse area for sports fans, Erie, being centralized between Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, often brings about the question of which games hold precedence.

"The scenerio is that we have to show Buffalo Bills away games. We have to show those because this is considered a Buffalo Bills market," says Drapcho. "The NFL has declared Erie to be part of the Buffalo viewing area because of proximity. However, not all Buffalo Bills games hold precedence over Steeler or Browns games.

"We don't have to show any of [Bills] games at home. We ask for games. When the Bills are playing at home, we'll ask for a Steelers game, or we'll ask for a Browns game, something along those lines," says Drapcho.

Often times, WSEE is blamed for the inconvenience of the game scheduling. In reality, WSEE has little control over which games can be aired.

"The fans always seem to blame the TV station and never the NFL, when really, it's the NFL that is behind all of this. [Bills owner] Ralph Wilson won't give up on Erie being a Buffalo Bills market. If he ever did that, it would be easy," says Drapcho. "It's the NFL, not necessarily CBS or WSEE, we just kind of get caught up in the middle of it."

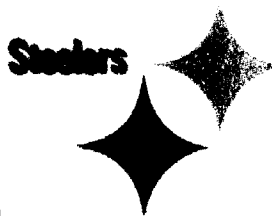
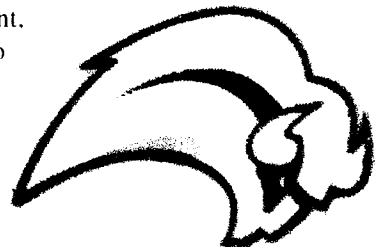
WSEE is not obligated to televise Buffalo Bills home games because of NFL regulations and restrictions regarding marketing. "[The NFL] doesn't want home games broadcast, because they was people to go to the home games. As a matter of fact, there is another NFL rule that states if the home game isn't sold out, it won't be shown in the Buffalo market. Bills games, we could pick them up if we want to. But again, we understand we are in the middle here, so when the Bills play a home game, we ask for Steelers or Browns or both," says Drapcho.

All of the games which will be televised in the Erie area are scheduled before the NFL season starts. When asked if

the NFL can change the schedule anytime they want.

Drapcho acknowledged the League's power in those decisions. "Pretty much... what they can do is ask us to show a certain game. There have been instances in the past where we have wanted a Browns game and they have been bad and the CBS will assign another game to our market and we have to say 'Okay, we don't want that game. We still want the Browns game, we still want the Steelers game.' We try our best and we try to get as many games as we can, kind of equal."

The WSEE director also mentioned his relief in being able to talk about the situation. "It's nice being able to explain this, because a lot of people don't understand," he says. "They think we are just flipping around, when there is a lot of marketing involved."



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