

SPORTS

THIS WEEK'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

The Behrend Men's and Women's Indoor Track & Field travel to Case Western Reserve for their first meet of the 2009 indoor season at 10 a.m.

The Lion's Swim team faces Washington & Jefferson at 1 p.m. in the Junker Center for a televised meet.

The Women's (7-8) and Men's (10-6) Basketball team play a double-header against AMCC opponent, Frostburg State, at the Junker Center. The women's game starts at 1 p.m. followed by the men's at 3:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

The Women's Basketball team has an away game against Mt. Aloysius at 6 p.m.

The Behrend Lion's Men's Basketball team also travels to Mt. Aloysius and plays after the women's game at 8 p.m.

home games in bold

LAST WEEK'S SPORTS

All wins in italic text

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

M. Swim: Behrend 96 Gannon 114
W. Swim: Behrend 66 Gannon 120

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

M. Swim: Behrend 124 Penn St. Altoona 85
W. Swim: Behrend 109 Penn St Altoona 89
M. Basketball: Behrend 72 Franciscan 50
W. Basketball: Behrend 65 Franciscan 29

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

M. Basketball: Behrend 53 Pitt-Bradford 63
W. Basketball: Behrend 65 Pitt-Bradford 78

All scores based from Sports Calendar and individual team page results. If your sport is not listed and you feel that it should be, contact cis5060@psu.edu

INTRAMURALS INFO

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE EXTENSIVE BEHREND INTRAMURALS PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S BEING OFFERED NOW:

INTRAMURAL SPORTS:

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCCER:

SEASON STARTS: JAN. 16.

Friday nights from 6-8 p.m., an indoor soccer night for all skill levels. Pick-up games, may involve ladder play.

SUNDAY NIGHT LEAGUES:

SEASON STARTS: JAN. 18.

Will include several different events. Each Sunday will feature a new sport. No registration required, just show up and bring friends.

INTRAMURAL SWIMMING:

SEASON STARTS: FEB 3. DEADLINE: JAN. 23

Tuesday, Feb. 3 in the Junker Center pool. Meet begins at 8:15 p.m. Check-ins begin at 7:45. There will be nine different events, each with a champion.

3-POINT SHOOTOUT:

GAME DAY: JAN. 26, 27. DEADLINE: JAN. 26

Starts at 8:45 p.m. both nights. The tournament will be conducted in rounds until a champion is found.

THURSDAY NIGHT BOWLING:

SEASON STARTS: JAN. 29. DEADLINE: JAN. 29

Four bowlers per team. Teams will be found for individuals or partial teams. Games will be held at Eastway lanes on Buffalo rd.

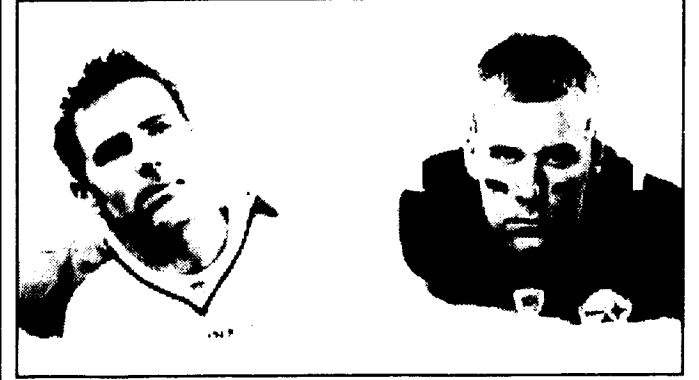
EUCHRE TOURNAMENT:

SEASON STARTS: FEB 2-15

Number of entries determines type of tournament. Various Monday through Thursday nights. Pre-registration preferred, but walk-ins will be allowed.

"Off the Wall"

Every once in a while, a thought comes along that you need to keep in your head. When former sports editor Connor Sattely gets one of those about the NFL, he writes this column.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Quarterbacks Kurt Warner (left) of Arizona and Ben Roethlisberger will match up on Feb. 1 when the two teams meet in Tampa, FL. for Super Bowl XLIII.

Does Defense Really Win Championships?

By Connor Sattely
sports editor
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Being a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, I get particularly tired of hearing the phrase "Defense wins championships" thrown around, especially this time of year. I don't mind it - Pittsburgh usually has a great defense - but its accuracy is debatable.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

So I set out to check the data. Do great defenses win championships, or is it an offense that makes the most difference?

Frankly, looking at the past eight year's Super Bowls, it seems to be tipped in the direction of defense. The average Super Bowl winner's post-season defense ranking is 4th out of 12, while the average loser rolls in at an average 5.5 out of 12.

For offense, though, it's backwards: teams that won ranked, on average, 7.5 out of 12, while the losers ranked 5th. Only two teams (the 2005 Steelers and the 2006 Colts) even ranked in the top 5 of offenses during the post-season in which they won the championship.

So, it seems that we have our answer: teams with better defenses can outweigh their own offense and tip the championship in their favor.

Something wasn't sitting right, though: teams with better defenses went 4-4 in the past 8 years (2000-2008).

So, is it offense or defense? Or, perhaps, could it be balance?

That, too, doesn't match up; many teams have great defenses while their offenses sputter; other teams simply aim to outscore opponents while their defense watches from the sidelines.

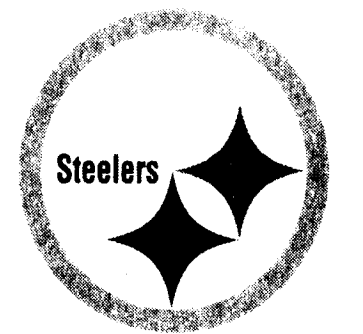
The simple conclusion that one must come to for any game in the playoffs, let alone the Super Bowl, is that oft-uttered phrase, "This is the playoffs. Anything can hap-

pen." When I was just starting out as a sports fan, at the age of six, my dad remarked, "On any Sunday, any team can beat any team."

Now I see what he meant. Can a 6th seed Steelers team win three straight road games to take the Super Bowl? Yes. Can the New York Giants come out of nowhere, sneak into the playoffs, and defeat arguably the best regular-season team in the history of football? Yes.

As we go towards this very interesting match up of "Cinderella story" and "Defensive juggernaut," don't let yourself be drawn in by general rules and vague promises. Defenses don't win championships. Offenses don't win championships. Nor do special teams, great coaches, or a combination thereof.

This year and any year, the Super Bowl will be decided by who plays better on that given



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

day. That's the beauty of the system. If the worst team in the league plays good enough on one day, they can beat the best team in the league.

Who will win the Super Bowl, the Pittsburgh Steelers or the Arizona Cardinals?

Whoever team plays better on February 1st will walk away with a ring; don't let anyone else tell you differently.

Submissions should be mailed to cis5056@psu.edu and should contain no less than 250 words. All submissions will be considered for publication.

After the first week of the new start, there is a three-way tie for first place by Connor, Rachel, and Nick. Christine follows closely behind while Matt was not off to a good start as he is one win below the .500 mark.

Want to play?

Email cen5056@psu.edu for a list of next week's games to see if you can "beat the experts".

Beat The Experts

	Connor	Matt	Rachel	Christine	Nick
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL					
#1 Wake Forest @ #2 Duke	Wake	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke
#3 UConn. @ #19 Notre Dame	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.
West Virginia @ #4 Pitt	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.
DePaul @ #11 Marquette	Marq.	Marq.	Marq.	Marq.	Marq.
#13 UCLA @ Washington St.	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA	UCLA
#23 Gonzaga @ Loy. Marymount	Gonzaga	Gonzaga	Gonzaga	Gonzaga	Gonzaga
Indiana State @ Bradley	Ind. St.	Ind. St.	Bradley	Ind. St.	Bradley
Drake @ Creighton	Drake	Drake	Creighton	Drake	Drake
New Hampshire @ Vermont	Vermont	Vermont	Vermont	N.H.	N.H.
NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL					
#1 UConn. @ Cincinnati	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.	UConn.
#24 Rutgers @ DePaul	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers	Rutgers
#4 Notre Dame @ Villanova	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	N. D.
Pittsburgh @ Syracuse	Syracuse	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.
Dayton @ Charlotte	Dayton	Charlotte	Charlotte	Dayton	Charlotte
#21 Xavier @ Rhode Island	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier	Xavier
#2 N. Carolina @ #13 Maryland	N.C.	N.C.	N. C.	N.C.	N.C.
#6 Auburn @ #15 Tennessee	Tenn.	Auburn	Auburn	Tenn.	Tenn.
L.S.U. @ Kentucky	L.S.U.	Kentucky	L.S.U.	L.S.U.	L.S.U.
Season Totals:	12-5	8-9	12-5	11-6	12-5