

# SPORTS

## Athlete Spotlight: Geoff Lang

Week of March 16, 2009

By Christine Newby  
sports editor  
cen5056@psu.edu

Geoff Lang grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa. and has been playing baseball since age five.

He continued the sport at North Allegheny High School, where he was a four-time scholar athlete and a WPIAL All-Star in his senior year.

Currently, Lang plays right field for the Behrend Lions and has been a major factor and contributor during the 2009 season.

The Lions had a successful spring training in Ft. Pierce, Florida as they went 7-1. The Blue and White tallied huge offensive numbers which included 89 runs, 117 hits, 17 doubles, four triples, and seven homeruns throughout the eight games.

"We feel good about where we are," said Lang. "Being 7-1 is a good start, but we still have a long way to go. It is a long season, but if we keep working hard as a team I am very confident we will end up where we want to be in May."

Over the eight game span in Florida, Lang had a .433 batting average, going 13-for-30. He contributed two triples and an inside-the-park home run throughout the week. He also hit two home runs, had four RBI, and went 3-for-5 in a one run loss to the number twelve ranked St. Scholastica Saints.

Lang and junior Jonathan Gray are tied for the team lead in RBI with 14.

Lang has set high personal goals and expectations for himself.

"My personal goal for this year is to be a clutch player," said Lang. "I want to play a big role for our team this year. A successful year for me would be to hit above .400 and play solid defense all year long."

In addition to personal goals, Lang knows that the Behrend Lions will succeed as a team.

"Our team goals for this year are to win the AMCC regular season title, the AMCC Conference Tournament, and then win the NCAA Regional Tournament," said Lang.

"Last year we made it to the NCAA Regional but lost our first two games. If we get back there this year, I know that we will make some noise and surprise some teams. With the pitching, hitting, defense, and senior leadership we have, we are a good enough ball club to make it to the College World Series."

Head coach Paul Benim enters his seventeenth season at the position for the Lions.

"Coach Benim talks to us each game before we take the field to mentally prepare us," said Lang. "He always knows what to say to fire us up and make us hungry for a win."

Benim has helped Lang with many aspects of his game.

"Coach Benim has improved so many areas of my game," said Lang. "The biggest thing he has helped me with is making sure I am relaxed on the field. He always tells us you can't play tight. We are all grateful to have such a knowledgeable coaching staff and that is one reason why this year we are going to be so successful."

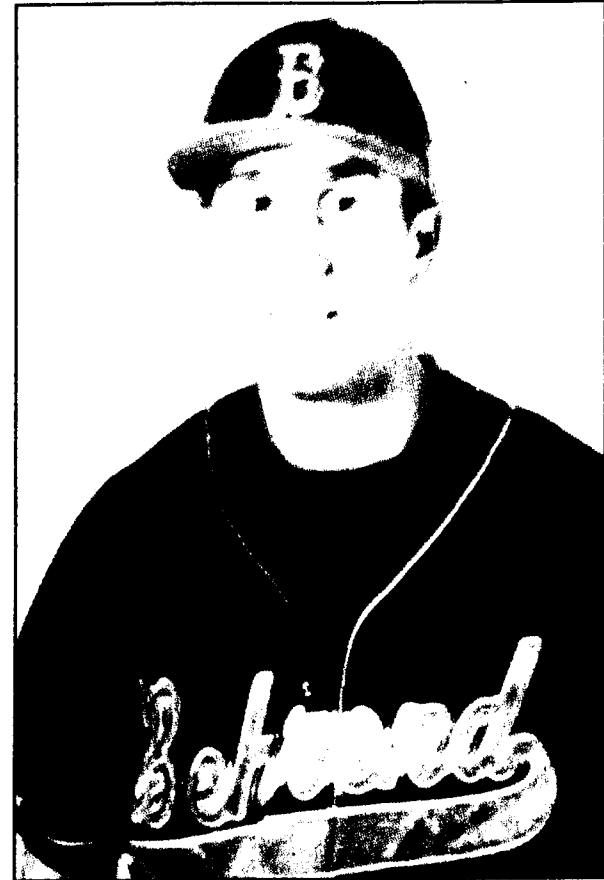
The Behrend Lions travel to Frostburg State on March 21 for a 1 p.m. game. On March 24, the team plays at Fredonia.

The first home game for the Blue and White is Wednesday, March 25 against AMCC opponent Medaille at 1 p.m.



Sophomore right fielder Geoff Lang takes a swing at the plate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR  
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Geoff Lang**  
Baseball  
Sophomore

Interested in writing  
sports for *The  
Behrend Beacon?*

E-mail Christine Newby at  
cen5056@psu.edu or Nick  
Blake at npb5041@psu.edu

## Athlete Spotlight: Ronson Mazany

Week of March 2, 2009

By Christine Newby  
sports editor  
cen5056@psu.edu



ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR  
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Ronson Mazany**  
Track & Field  
Sophomore

Sophomore Ronson Mazany was a standout three sport athlete throughout high school as he played basketball, football, and track and field.

Born in Jamestown, NY and growing up in Ashville, NY, Mazany started track and field in his sophomore year of high school.

In basketball, he received the Offensive MVP and was a member of the 2007 Chautauqua County All-Star team. Mazany was also awarded the Offensive MVP in football along with being a member of the All-State team. In track and field, he set school records in the long jump, triple jump, and high jump and also earned three varsity letters.

Mazany continued his success from high school to the college level where he competes in the long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin, and decathlon for Behrend. The decathlon consists of ten events: the 100 meter, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400 meter, 110 meter hurdles, discus, javelin, and 1500 meter.

Mazany, a management major, has no rituals or superstitions before he competes in his events.

"No rituals or superstitions for me. I just come out ready to do my best," said Mazany.

The Behrend Lions placed third at the Marietta Open with 103 points which put them just 10.5 points behind second place Marietta.

Mazany won the long jump and triple jump events as he recorded 6.62 and 13.67 meters respectively. He qualified for the ECAC meet for both events.

"Everyone did amazing [at the ECAC Championships], and it was awesome hanging out with all of them [teammates]," said Mazany.

The ECAC Championships were held in Boston, and over 100 Division III schools were represented. Mazany took fifth place in the long jump with a jump of 21 feet 7.25 inches. He set a Behrend record in the triple jump with a leap of 44 feet 8 inches which placed him tenth.

He has two main goals that he wants to accomplish in the upcoming outdoor season.

"I plan on improving on my current record in long jump," said Mazany. "And to do as well as I can in the decathlon."

The outdoor track & field season starts March 27 as the team travels to West Virginia to compete in the Wheeling Invitational.

### Penn State Behrend Cheerleading

Tryouts for the 2009-2010 Season

