

# SPORTS

## Men's tennis team victorious against two AMCC rivals

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Don't let their (5-7, 2-0) record fool you. The Penn State Behrend men's tennis team means business.

Fresh off consecutive conference victories over Pitt-Bradford (1-3, 1-2) and Pitt-Greensburg (0-4, 0-3), the Lions have their sights set on defending their 2008 AMCC championship.

"At this point in the season I feel pretty good about the team," says head coach Jeff Barger. "In some areas we are doing good but in others we have a ways to go. One good thing about the two matches we played [against Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg] is I got to rest some regulars and get some other guys into the action."

The Lions feature 10 impressive returning players from last year's championship team.

They are led by senior captain James Getty and sophomore Elliot Blackstone, who was named AMCC co-player of the year as a freshman.

The Behrend men began their season going 5-5 out of conference play. The team initially cruised to a 4-1 record

before traveling to Hilton Head, South Carolina over Spring Break to play top competition.

Though the team ended their Spring Break vacation winning just one out of five matches, it was partly due to the absence of sophomore Erkin Nasirli as well as Barger's decision to give all of his players the opportunity to play.

With everyone getting valuable in-game experience heading into conference play, the Lions are better prepared.

Blackstone was perhaps the most impressive Behrend player on the trip taking two doubles matches and going 3-2 against opposing team's best singles players.

Saturday afternoon the Lions hosted the Pitt-Bradford Panthers for their first conference battle of the season.

Blackstone conceded just one point to his opponent in the #1 singles match. Fellow sophomore Jon Henderson won the #1 doubles match.

In further doubles action, Behrend featured junior Brad Nagel and freshman Peter Bissert in the #2 doubles

match to win by a score of 8-3.

In singles action junior Shane Mosier slotted at #3, Henderson at #4, and junior Kelly Manning at #6 shut-out their respective opponents.

Overall the Behrend men would win their match against the Panthers by a 9-0 decision.

On Tuesday afternoon the Lions hosted conference rival Pitt-Greensburg in a match which they beat their opponent by a decisive 9-0 tally again.

In doubles action, the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats were no match for the dominant Behrend teamed pairs.

The Lions gave up only one game in doubles action to Pitt-Greensburg's #1 doubles team as Getty and Nasirli took their match 8-1.

Behrend's #2 pair of sophomore John Michalko and Manning produced a shut-out performance, as did Behrend's #3 team of senior Brian Kaleta and sophomore Jake Fling.

In singles matches the Lions would again drop just one game to the Bobcats.

Blackstone was victorious as he went 6-1, 6-0 in the #1 singles match. Meanwhile Mosier, Henderson, Nagel, Bissert, and sophomore Jason Grosch would each deliver shut-out performances.

Asked what he could possibly do to get better after such

great early success Blackstone did not hesitate to respond.

"I've got to take greater advantage of approach shots and my footwork is sloppy," said Blackstone.

Getty has confidence in his teammate and himself for the remainder of the season.

"We are a very close team and we are extremely competitive with each other," says Getty. "There is nothing worse than losing to someone at practice whether it's actual match play or a drill. That makes for some very spirited and fun practices. We just need to keep working hard at practice and stay away from injuries."

Blackstone feels that their goal is to repeat as AMCC champions.

"We have the ability to play with people at practices that are better than the people we are going to play during conference play. The main thing for us to be able to repeat as AMCC champions is perform the way we know we can at the tournament. I have all the confidence in the world that we can win it again."

Penn State Behrend's next match will be at home against (2-0, 1-0) Alfred University on March 27 at 5 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Sophomore Elliot Blackstone is ready for the serve.



Left: Junior Shane Mosier serves to his opponent.  
Right: Sophomore Jon Henderson prepares to strike the ball.

### THIS WEEK'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

The Softball team plays at AMCC opponent, Mt. Aloysius, at 1 p.m.

The Men's Tennis team plays a home match against Alfred at 5 p.m.

The Women's Water Polo team competes in the Junker Center against Utica at 8 p.m.

The Men's and Women's Track & Field start their outdoor season at the Bill Van Home Invitational in Wheeling, WV.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

The second day of the Bill Van Horne Invitational continues for the Men's and Women's Track & Field team.

The Women's Water Polo team plays Chatham at 12 p.m.

The Men's Tennis team competes against Frostburg State at 5 p.m.

The Baseball team has a home game against Mt. Aloysius at 1 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Taking on Penn State Altoona, the Men's Tennis team competes at home at 12:30 p.m.

The Softball team has their first regular season home game against Frostburg State at 1 p.m.

The Women's Water Polo plays Mercyhurst at 9 a.m. Following the Mercyhurst game, the team then competes against Gannon at 12 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 31

The Softball team has another home game against Pitt-Bradford at 3 p.m.

The Baseball team travels to Pitt-Bradford for a 1 p.m. game.

home games in bold

### LAST WEEK'S SPORTS

All wins in italic text

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 21

M. Tennis: *Behrend 9 Pitt-Bradford 0*  
Baseball (DH): *Behrend 3 Frostburg St. 2*  
*Behrend 4 Frostburg St. 2*

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 22

W. Water Polo: Behrend 2 Washington & Jefferson 14

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

M. Tennis: *Behrend 9 Pitt-Greensburg 0*  
Baseball: Behrend 5 Fredonia 6

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Softball (DH): *Behrend 13 Medaille 1*  
*Behrend 12 Medaille 0*  
Baseball (DH): *Behrend 13 Medaille 2*  
*Behrend 4 Medaille 4*

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

Rachel still holds onto first place after another week.

Conner has a one game lead over Christine. Nick is sitting in fourth place while Matt is in fifth.

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

#3 Syracuse vs. #2 Okla.	Syra.	Syra.	Okla.	Okla.	Okla.
#3 Kansas vs. #2 Mi. St.	Mi. st.	Kansas	Mi. St.	Kansas	Mi. St.
#12 Arizona vs. #1 Louis.	Louis.	Louis.	Lous.	Louis.	Louis.
#4 Gonzaga vs. #1 UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC

### NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

#4 Cal (a #1 Uconn	Uconn	Uconn	Uconn	Uconn	Uconn
#4 Pitt (a #1 Oklahoma	Okla.	Pitt.	Okla.	Okla.	Okla.
#6 Arizona St. (a #2 T. A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M
#7 Rutgers (a #6 Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Rutgers	Rutgers	Purdue

### NHL

Tampa Bay (a Washington	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.
Toronto (a Buffalo	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto
New Jersey (a Chicago	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.	N.J.
N.Y. Rangers (a Pittsburgh	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.	Pitt.
Philly (a N.Y. Islanders	Philly	Philly	Philly	Philly	Philly
Phoenix (a San Jose	San Jose	San Jose	San Jose	San Jose	San Jose
Nashville (a Detriot	Detriot	Detriot	Detriot	Detriot	Detriot
Minnesota (a Edmonton	Minn.	Minn.	Edmon.	Edmon.	Minn.

Season Totals:      **88-55**      **76-67**      **96-47**      **87-56**      **80-63**