

SPORTS

Men's tennis: team wins AMCC

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team first. They want to win for each other and that helps a lot. All of the guys did well. We had some illnesses and injuries and everyone stepped up to fill the voids left in the lineup."

Sophomore Elliot Blackstone, who was playing back in his hometown of Wexford, led the Behrend Lions by taking first in number one singles over Frostburg State's Greg Shedd. This year was the second year that Blackstone has won an AMCC singles championship as he did in 2008 for the number two sin-

gles.

"Last year was more important to me; the score of the tournament was a lot closer," Blackstone said. "I felt really good, especially since Frostburg had switched their one and two singles players so I had never played the guy from Frostburg before."

According to Barger, Blackstone moved from the number two singles and doubles this year and did an outstanding job.

Junior Shane Mosier won the number three singles and senior James Getty won the singles championship as he

took the number five singles.

"Our leadership this year from James Getty, a senior, also helped," Barger said. "He did his best to keep the guys focused."

The Behrend Lions captured two of the three doubles championships.

"Our doubles play has been better the last couple of years," Barger said. "It really helps to get those points."

Blackstone teamed with sophomore Jon Henderson in number one doubles winning 8-3. Junior Kelly Manning and sophomore John Michalko won the number three doubles

against Frostburg State.

Behrend ended the day with 22 points and was followed by Penn State Altoona and Frostburg State with 16 points apiece. Altoona was named runner up based on tiebreak criteria.

The criteria was based on the team with the most team points in conference matches in the regular season. Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg had eight and one team points respectively.

The Blue and White finished the year with a perfect undefeated conference record of 8-0 and 12-7 overall.

Changes in attitude have really helped everybody on the team raise their game, according to Blackstone.

"Our goal is always to try hard and play hard," Barger said. "Those things usually lead to wins. We want to keep the streak of match wins going. The guys will work hard in the summer and in the fall to get us to that point."

Blackstone has team goals and personal goals for next season.

"My goals for the team are another great season and another championship," Blackstone said. "I'm going to be focusing more on leadership and I'm just going to try to keep my game fresh and not get worse over the summer."



The men's tennis team poses with their AMCC champions plaque.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steelers: defeat Behrend Community All-Stars

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Dave Niland said. "The Steelers put on a good show and the fans were able to get some autographs."

According to Niland, about 700 fans were in attendance for the game which was a fundraiser for the men's basketball program.

"It was a good fundraiser, similar to years passed," Niland said. "It helps us cover a lot of the costs that we have in trying to stay on par with other programs. Fundraising is a big part of a Division III athletic program."

Six Steelers players came to Behrend including quarterback Dennis Dixon, safety Ryan Mundy, wide receiver Brandon Williams, defensive lineman Jordan Reffett, and former wide receiver and first round pick of the 1984 draft, Louis Lipps.

"This was my first time playing here," Reffett said. "It was cool to see the campus. It is a very beautiful campus."

The Behrend Community All-Stars consisted of Behrend students, staff, and alumni.

"We try putting together the team with the help of some other people in the department," Niland said. "We like to get students, faculty, staff, alumni and those who have supported us during the year involved."

The audience consisted of Behrend students along with people from the community and outside of the campus like younger children and their parents who love the Steelers.

"I thought it was a fun idea and something different to do," freshman Jodie D'Onofrio said. "And it was nice being able to watch some of my friends play in the game for Behrend."

The size difference between the Steelers and the Behrend players was a factor in the game.

"When we were watching [the Steelers] come out, there were a few shorter guys so I wanted to guard them," said Dr. Ken Miller, Director of Student Affairs. "But once you get close to them, you see that even though they are shorter, they are all muscle."

From the tip-off, fans could tell that both teams just wanted to have fun and enjoy playing the game.

"Playing is always a lot of fun and sometimes we get the chance to play five times a week," Reffett said.

Behrend put the first points on the scoreboard. Dixon responded with the first points for the Steelers to tie the game



Members of the Pittsburgh Steelers sign autographs for young fans.

Daniel Smith/TheBehrendBeacon

2-2.

Senior basketball player Tom Newman hit a three, but the Steelers answered back with three: consecutive three-pointers, two by Dixon and one by Williams. This put the Steelers up 8-18.

At the end of the first quarter, the Steelers had a commanding 10-25 lead.

Miller started a spark for Behrend at the beginning of the second quarter when he drained a shot from behind the arc and then a two point jumper which brought the Lions within seven points 20-27.

With 4:38 remaining in the half, Dixon soared through the air and threw down a slam dunk in his bright, black and gold basketball shoes.

Behrend cut the 15-point Steelers advantage to an eight point game at halftime 28-36.

"[the Steelers] are tremendous athletes," Miller said. "They are all fast and strong."

Miller also said that he felt the Behrend Community All-Stars were doing well in the first half and were having fun.

"We feel small and little out there," junior Colin Yaniga explained at halftime. "[The Steelers] are bigger than you expect them to be."

At halftime, fans swarmed the court to get autographs from the Steelers. Also during the half was a 50-50 raffle for an autographed Steelers football and Super Bowl program.

"I enjoy interacting with the fans and getting out," Reffett said. "We appreciate the fans and we want to give back to our fans."

The Behrend Community All-Stars came out strong in the start of the third quarter. Behrend student R.J. Golub's dish pass in the paint to student Mike Fairbank resulted in two points.

Newman then made two

shots from three point territory to bring the score to 38-40.

Miller hit another three-pointer which ended the third quarter with the score 44-51 in favor of the Steelers.

In the fourth quarter, Behrend senior basketball player Drew Seker drained a three followed by another three by Newman.

With Behrend only down by three points, the game became more serious and defense tightened up on both sides of the court.

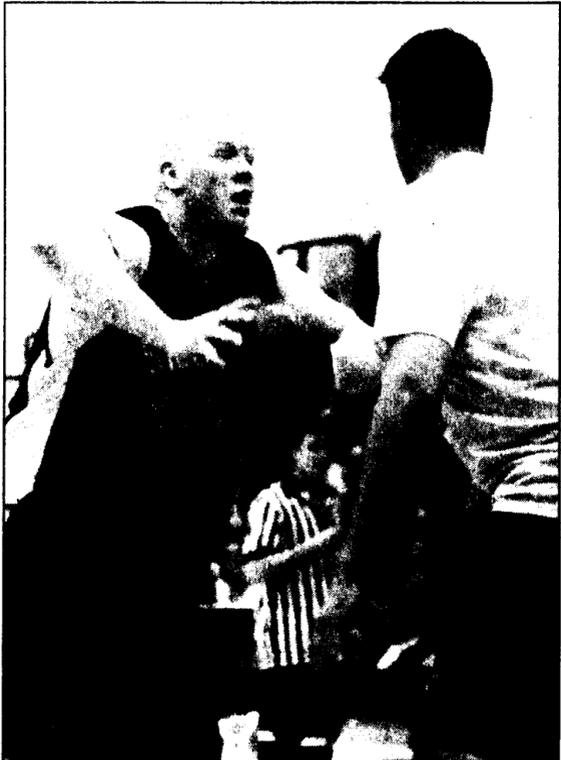
Yaniga tied the score at 62 apiece. Dixon converted on another three which secured the win for the Steelers. The Steelers won by one point, 68-

69.

"Naturally, we let them win," Newman said. "But it was a good show for the audience, and they were all rooting for the Steelers. It felt like an away game for the community all-stars."

Even though the Steelers were victorious, they proved that they are better on the football field when compared to the basketball court.

"It was a good experience, playing against professional athletes, but you could tell they are not professional in basketball," Newman said.



Second year Steeler Jordan Reffett looks for an open teammate.

Daniel Smith/TheBehrendBeacon

2009 Major League Baseball Update

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Starting pitcher Paul Maholm of the Pittsburgh Pirates

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The names of the 2009 MLB season are Alex Rodriguez, Randy Johnson, and Nick Adenhardt.

In local baseball news, the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cleveland Indians are looking to improve upon their 2008 seasons with young stars.

On Feb. 7, Sports Illustrated revealed Yankees third baseman Rodriguez tested positive for anabolic steroids in 2003. Two days later Rodriguez admitted to taking a substance called "boli" from 2001 to 2003. His story included an eccentric tale of how his cousin, Yuri Sucart, injected the drug into one another twice a month for approximately two and a half to three years.

According to ESPN.com Rodriguez said, "We did everything to keep it between us...I knew we weren't taking tics."

What's most bothersome about A-Rod's admission is he would not come out and just utter the words "I cheated, I'm guilty." Instead he sidestepped the obvious and endlessly claimed he did not understand the seriousness of his actions.

The faces of baseball over the past decade include Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, and Rodriguez. It is sad to say they each cheated their way to mega stardom.

Now moving on, 45-year-old San Francisco Giants' pitcher Randy Johnson is one healthy season and 192 strike outs away from becoming only the second player in baseball history to record 5,000 strike outs. The other is Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan who struck out 5,714 batters. Johnson has some catching up to do.

Another ball player entered this season looking to make history: New York Mets outfielder Gary Sheffield. He already made his on April 17 when he hit home run number 500 to become the twenty-fifth player in history to reach the 500 club.

In local baseball news, the Pirates and Indians have started the season in contrasting and surprising ways. Through April 22 the Indians are a disappointing 6-10 and the Pirates have jumped out to a 9-6 record.

The Pittsburgh Pirates are finally giving its fans something to hope for. The Pirates have shown to be a scrappy bunch of veterans and youngsters hungry for competition.

Leading the Pirates pitching staff is an up and coming ace by the name of Paul Maholm. Since June 2008 Maholm has given up more than three runs in just six out of 24 starts. So far the Pirates pitching staff has thrown an impressive four shutouts.

The Pirates will hope that center fielder Nate McLouth can continue anchoring a less than formidable line-up in 2008. Catcher Ryan Doumit's wrist injury, which will likely keep him out of play for over two months, won't make McLouth's job any easier.

Before the season is over Pirates fans should have a taste of what is to come with

several of their young prospects. In the minors the Pirates have two top prospects: an infielder Neil Walker and outfielder Andrew McCutchen. They should be called up before the season's end.

The Indians entered the season with redundant questions surrounding their pitching staff. If the first three weeks of the season are any indication it is that the questions are mounting as the potential answers dissipate. 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee is supposed to be the ace, but he has gotten off to a slow start. Aside from Lee the only pitcher likely to stick in the five man starting rotation is Fausto Carmona. The Indians are in deep trouble if they can only run out two legitimate starters every five days.

Cleveland will sport a formidable line up. Catcher Victor Martinez, right fielder Shin-Soo Choo and center fielder Grady Sizemore will anchor the line up. Sizemore has gradually improved each year in the majors to quietly become one of the best all-around players in the game.

One player in the Indians organization to look out for this year and those to come is left fielder Matt LaPorta. LaPorta was acquired in trade last year that sent C.C. Sabathia to the Milwaukee Brewers. He is one of baseball's top prospects.

On April 9 Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Nick Adenhardt passed away along with two close friends in a car accident on a night that foreshadowed a bright career for an even better young man. Adenhardt pitched six scoreless innings in his 2009 debut, which was attended by his father and three close friends. He will not be remembered so much for his performance that night as he will be for promise he had as a person.

Hours after the game ended Adenhardt, 22 years old, asked his father if it was okay if he went out to celebrate the night with the same three friends. His father obliged, and out into the night he went.

As the four young people, one of which was Adenhardt's girlfriend, traveled though an intersection another motorist fatally hit them. Only one of his friends survived the crash.

Adenhardt's life ended too shortly, though memories of him will live on forever.

Despite certain fame Adenhardt was always humble and giddy to be living out his dream in the majors. At a young age he aspired to be like Cal Ripken Jr., but his knack was for pitching. His friends and family described the joy and aura that surrounded Adenhardt wherever he went.

His mother wrote in a letter to her deceased son, "When you called me after the game, the accomplished tone in your voice and the satisfaction in your words is something I had longed to hear from you," the letter stated. "The joy you brought to us on and off the field will be in our hearts forever."