

# News



## Kiefer: on the road to recovery

RACHELLE THOMPSON  
*news editor*

When Kory Kiefer looks at a soccer field today, he still can't remember the day that changed his soccer career forever, but now he can at least remember someone's name.

Back in October during the men's soccer season, Kory Kiefer collided with an opposing player that left him laying motionless on the ground. As an ambulance took the unresponsive player away, his memory was unobtainable and the rest of his career was questionable.

Mark R. Lovell, who is an internationally recognized sports concussion expert and founding director of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program, told Kiefer the impact of his injury would result in a complete loss of short term memory. Also, he said that playing soccer again was risky and would put his life at risk. With this in mind Kiefer and his family decided it was the end of soccer for him.

"No, I will not play soccer again in my life. I have decided to end my career because it's not worth having lifelong problems or even death from

another concussion," Kiefer said.

As for doing physical activity Kiefer is currently up in the air on what he can and cannot do. His mother wishes her son would not do any type of physical activity. Kiefer said, "...if she could she would put me in a bubble."

His dad on the other hand is leaving that decision up to him. He told his son he wants him to be safe in whatever it is that he does, but he leaves that decision up to him.

As far as other physical activity goes, ever since Kiefer was young he has been a snowboarder. He wasn't as serious with it as he was with soccer. To him, it's something he can have fun with. Even though it's a risky physical activity he still does it, mentioning he has to have some fun in his life.

"Snowboarding, as any sport I really don't think about getting hurt, which is terrible I know. You think I'd be worried all the time. But I don't because if I do [worry] I won't perform my best," Kiefer said. "I worry about getting hurt. Yes, fear is always in the back of my mind, but I keep it that way or I won't have fun."

In regard to his education the memory loss was a factor in Kiefer's GPA

and class status. As of right now he is still working on finishing finals from last semester.

"Well with four classes and twelve credits, currently I have a 2.8 GPA that doesn't include my calculus course," said Kiefer. "I had to get my math grade deferred and I am taking a test and a final this Friday. Other than that, it went pretty well from what I remember."

Despite the doctor's prognosis of a permanent loss of short term memory, Kiefer has come a long way since the collision. At first, he had no short term memory at all.

"I notice little things here and there," Kiefer said. "I sometimes forget where I put things here and there and multi-tasking is still difficult for me."

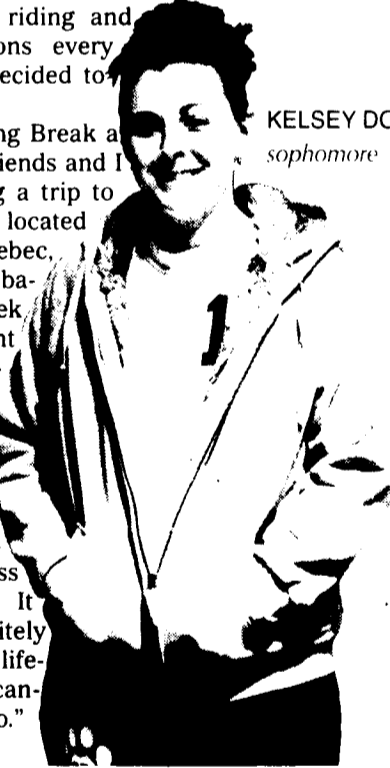
As far as his future is concerned, Kiefer is unsure of what holds for him. Soccer has been his life for many years and now he looks at things from a different angle. The retired player has considered pursuing his artistic ability in design as a career. He's going to miss playing the sport but is glad he spent his last season with the Behrend players.



Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon

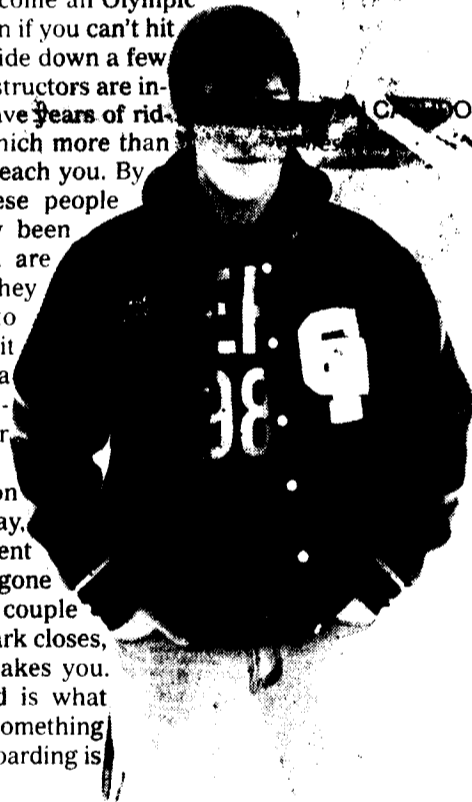
"Erie, Pennsylvania, snow on the ground, what is there to do? When scheduling classes this semester, there were new options under the Kinesiology section; skiing and snowboarding. If you were to turn on a television this time of year, you would be sure to see some highlights of the Winter X-Games. Watching the athletes one after the other pulling off flips, turns, spins, as well as other complicated maneuvers makes one just want to jump on a board themselves and try their hand at it. Well, it's just snow, right?"

"I got into snowboarding when I was about 13 years old. My first time on the slopes was when some of my friends took me to Hidden Valley with them one weekend. I ended up falling a lot, spent most of my time on my butt, and had bruised knees for the rest of the week. But my friends kept pushing me to stay with it and I ended up falling in love with the sport. When I am home in Pittsburgh, I go to either Hidden Valley or 7 Springs. When I am home in Erie I go up to Peak 'n' Peak. I actually take Behrend's snowboarding class there every Monday night as a one-credit course. I took it last year, too, but it was a lot of fun free riding and taking lessons every week so I decided to take it again. Next Spring Break a few of my friends and I are planning a trip to College Fest, located in Quebec, Canada. It is basically a week of straight snowboarding all day and going downtown at night with college students from across the country. It would definitely be a trip of a lifetime, and I can't wait to go."



KELSEY DONEGAN  
*sophomore*

Show up to Peak n' Peak every Monday or Tuesday depending on your schedule. Day one is obvious as to what is covered, the basics of standing up vertically, as well as some downhill riding. As your weeks progress, you will move onto some more difficult hills, and eventually end up on the terrain park if you choose to do so. How can you become an Olympic athlete on television if you can't hit some jumps and slide down a few rails, right? The instructors are incredible as they have years of riding experience, which more than qualifies them to teach you. By learning from these people who have already been through what you are going through, they make it simple to catch on to what it takes to become a "real" winter athlete, all within your one-hour lesson. When your lesson is over for the day, feel free to implement what you have just gone over for the next couple hours before the park closes, and see where it takes you. Winter at Behrend is what you make of it, try something new. Maybe snowboarding is your calling!"



"I wish I could say that I've played hockey all of my life, but I would be lying. I first started playing in 6th grade, when a friend of mine got me and my sister interested. The ice arena in my area decided to start a girl's hockey team for the Butler Valley Dawgs, so we decided to join. Neither my sister nor I knew a thing about hockey or skating. At first, we were terrible. After a year or so, our team and our skating abilities improved immensely. We traveled a lot since there weren't many teams in the area. Our first tournament was actually held here in Erie, the Sarah Backstrom tournament. After I got better at skating and understood hockey, it was actually fun for me. I usually played left wing while my sister played center and we were always on the same line. Normally my sister and I would pass the puck back and forth to each other and score. We were the "dynamic duo" as the coach would say. Unfortunately for us, the team dissolved after three years due to lack of interest and I stopped skating altogether. It wasn't until my first semester freshman year, that I was contacted to be on the co-ed team for Behrend. They held weekly practices and games in which I participated in and it was a lot of fun to skate again. The only thing I don't like is being the only girl on the team. I hope that someday Behrend can have its own women's hockey team. I have only skated for 5 years now and one thing that I have learned from hockey is to never underestimate yourself no matter what is in your way."



ALYSSA CHODKOWSKI  
*sophomore*

## OBS Chemistry labs to receive \$4.2 million facelift

JEFF KRAMER  
*copy editor*

The existing chemistry labs in the Otto Behrend Science Center will undergo renovations beginning April 12 through August 2010, according to John O. Ream, Director of Operations at Penn State

Behrend. The buildings planned have not been renovated since they were built in 1963 as the Otto F. Behrend Science Building. When asked, students expressed major interest in the plans. "I'm definitely glad they're doing this. If they want to have anybody majoring in chemistry

here they should definitely renovate," said Nate Carter, sophomore English major. Ream says that the renovation project will provide reconstruction in two intro chemistry labs, an organic chemistry lab, an advanced chemistry lab, a prep area, a chemical storage room and an instrument room. In addition to this, the building

will see a new roof, and rooms will get new lab hoods and benches, interior finishes, and other finite touch-ups, said Ream. "They need to have chairs. My room didn't even have any chairs. Whenever you finished the lab you would have to stand there and write your answers. It always pissed me off," said

Dan Augustine, a sophomore Civil Engineering major. Though the project will cost an estimated \$4.2 million, Ream looks forward to it. "[They] are being renovated to enhance the students' educational experience," he said.

## Anti-Balconite group deleted

CONNOR SATTELY  
*editor-in-chief*

A controversial Facebook group, "I hate BALCONITES," shut down late last Friday night. Ken Miller, the Director of Student Affairs, said that the school had no part in the final shutdown of the site.

## SGA endorses recommendation to raise Activity Fee

CONNOR SATTELY  
*editor-in-chief*

Penn State Behrend's Student Government Association has endorsed a recommendation to raise the Student Activity Fee (SAF) at the college. The increase, expected to be \$10 over the next two years, only must be approved by the Penn State Behrend Board of Trustees in order to take effect. SGA President Bradley Kovalcik believes that the benefits far outweigh a little extra from each student.

"It's minimal to the students while being able to provide a ton of money," he said. The money from the SAF is used for funding for student organizations. A \$10 increase over two years would result in around \$90,000, Kovalcik estimates.

"We don't desperately need the money - there were just a lot of things that could have been funded but weren't because of budget constraints." Ken Miller, the Director of Student Affairs, stresses that all

of the money stays here. "All of that money is used for programming on-campus, at Behrend," he says. Miller says he expects the Board of Trustees to take action on approving the increase later this Spring.

The idea for the increase came from the Student Activity Fee Board, which is a University-wide board. Members of that board solicited the opinions from SGA presidents of all the campuses, then made a recommendation to increase the fee. Behrend's SGA then endorsed that recommendation, moving it on to the Board of Trustees. With a \$10 increase, Behrend students will be paying \$84 per semester to the Student Activity Fee.

"We did not contact Facebook," he said. "We went to the owner of the group and asked him to take it down, but I don't know whether Facebook, or the owner got it off of there." As far as school policy, Penn State Behrend cannot "force" a student to take down a Facebook page, Miller says, unless it's a violation of the Code of Conduct. In this situation, no punitive action has been or will be taken. "A person has a free speech right to express themselves," Miller said. "The university will get involved when there is content that is either threatening or discriminatory in nature, or violates the Code of Conduct."

### ABOUT THE STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE (SAF)

- Used exclusively for on-campus programming
- Each campus has its own allocation committee which decides where the money goes
- Three tiers for a campus to choose: \$54, \$64, \$74 per semester from each student.
- Behrend chose the \$74 tier.
- The increase will up the tiers to \$64, \$74, and \$84.