

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Josh Fyffe finds a hot bat in Florida at spring training

ELESE MERKOVSKY
senior reporter

For those who have followed the Behrend men's baseball team, it would seem fitting that Josh Fyffe would soon be named Enterprises Rent-a-Car Athlete of the week.

After a successful Spring Break spent in Florida, the Lions' went 7-1 with Fyffe showing why he was picked preseason for AMCC player of the year.

He started in every game at shortstop and led in multiple categories at bat.

He had a batting average of .594 with 19 hits and 14 runs scored.

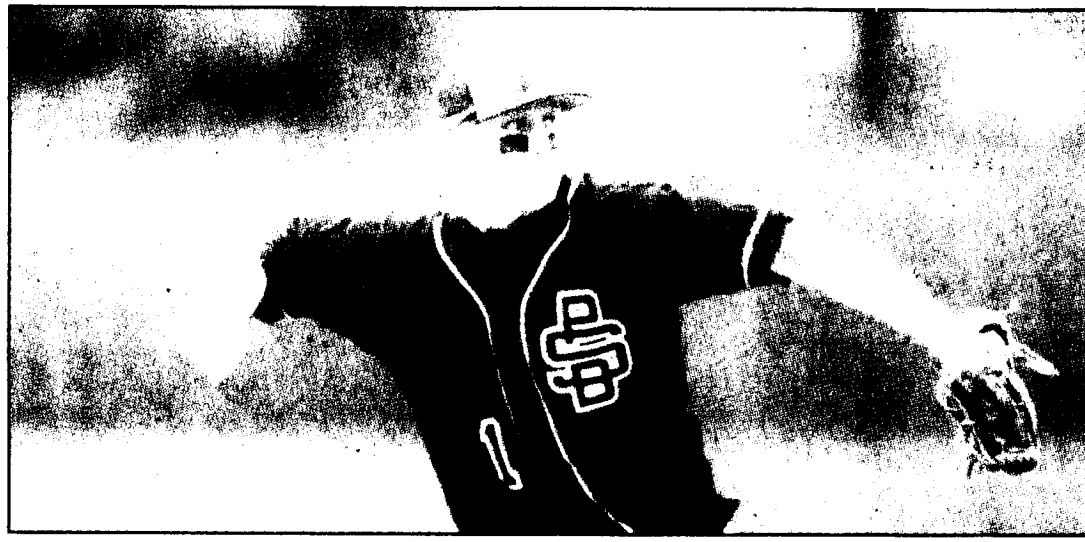
Fyffe hit three home runs and went on to drive in 16 runs while having a slugging percentage of over 1.000, along with stealing three bases. During the game versus Ursinus he had 5 hits, including a cycle. He

also received the AMCC athlete of the week for his performance in Florida.

"The best part about Florida is getting the season started," Fyffe said. "You practice in the gym for weeks waiting to get on that field. A lot of pressure is lifted off your shoulders after the first game, so I would say the best part is getting to get onto the field and shake the rust, it also helps that we always play well down there."

These awards are more to add to the long list that Fyffe has racked up during his time at Behrend.

Earlier this year he was named an All-American to go along with being selected to the ABCA Mid-Atlantic All-Region Team for the second straight season. He was picked as the 2009 ECAC South Region Player of the Year after being named 2009 AMCC Player of the Year and First Team short-



Senior shortstop Josh Fyffe earns the Athlete of the Week award after racking up a .594 batting average. psblions.com

greatly encouraged to pursue his love for the game by his family, especially his dad, who coached him from a young age.

"There are a lot of people who have inspired me, but if I had to pick one it would be my dad just because I grew up watching him play and coach," Fyffe said. "My dad always had me around the game, and always let me enjoy playing the game."

Fyffe and the rest of the Behrend Lions will continue their season next in Kentucky to face off in the doubleheader against Thomas More, Sunday Mar. 21.

Some other games that the fans will not want to miss would be the home doubleheader against Wooster, the national runners up last year which will be at home and the doubleheader against Frostburg later in the season.

stop.

"I try not to think about the All-American honor. If it's not in my head the weight isn't on my shoulders. I just stay loose and play like I always do. I do feel

honored though to be put on that list. There are a lot of great players on that list and even guys who aren't, and I thank everyone who has helped get to where I am, especially Coach

Benim and all the guys on the team," Fyffe said.

Fyffe has been playing ball for as long he as he can remember, playing in his first organized game at five. He was

SOFTBALL

Young talent flourishes in Clermont, Fla. tournament

KAELA BISHOP
staff writer

Penn State Behrend's softball team this may be young, but they are stacked with talent. They earned the AMCC title the previous two years and have been selected by the AMCC coaches, seven out of 10, to continue their streak of AMCC titles.

"Hard work, teamwork, dedication, and pure talent contributed to last season's success," said junior team captain Maddie Wieser. Last season, the team had an 18-0 record in their conference and an overall record of 33-8.

"I think this year's team will exceed that success," said Wieser. "We have a great group of young ball players with a real passion for the game."

Losing eight very experienced and talented players is tough on any team. This young team is determined to con-

tinue their success through to the conference championship. They will receive their leadership from two returning juniors, Beth Papalia and Wieser.

Second basemen Papalia gained varsity experience during 24 games last season, bringing in 17 hits and eight RBIs. Wieser, primarily playing first base, is a versatile player.

On the mound, she went 3-1 with an ERA of 2.73 last season. Also Wieser proved to be an offensive threat to any opposing pitcher, accumulating 18 hits and 21 RBIs.

The team leaders are confident in their team and drive every player to work hard.

"During each practice we push the philosophy of finish strong," Wieser said.

"Everyone gives their all, 100 percent during every practice," said soph-

omore Amy Greene.

Returning sophomores include outfielder Nicole Ganster who saw 23 games and drove in 12 RBIs. Also in the outfield are switch hitters Stacey Peterson and Brittany Simpson.

At third base is Ashley Gruber. As a freshman, Gruber batted .351, drew together 29 RBIs, stole five bases, and scored a total of 23 runs. Kayla Miller saw 12 games her rookie year and hit one home run.

On the mound, sophomore Emma Hahn had an ERA of 1.51, 91 strikeouts, and two no-hitters during her first year.

Hahn completed nine games, went 10-4, and left her opponents with a batting average of .136.

"Our team has amazing potential. I am really excited to see how far our team will go this year."

Maddie Wieser
junior team captain

Hahn has the most experience pitching on the team and is the favorite to win the AMCC Pitcher of the Year.

Greene is not only a threat behind the plate, she is also a dominant force in the batter's box. During her freshman year, Greene batted .409 with 45 hits, 30 RBIs, 16 doubles and six homers. Greene was named the AMCC Newcomer of the Year as well as the ECAC South Region Rookie of the Year.

Team unity will play a significant role, benefitting the team during their

2010 season.

"Our team as a whole improved greatly when it comes to communication amongst one another both on and off the field," Wieser said. "We are a young team so it is crucial for us to get along as well as we do."

The team will have many options when it comes to reliable players.

"Our team meshes well together and we have a lot of versatile players that can be depended on for multiple positions," said Wieser.

"Our team has amazing potential. I am really excited to see how far our team will go this year."

The Lions started off their season strong during their games in Florida.

The team went 4-4 and has already begun racking in the home runs. With such a dominating strength on both sides, the 2010 Lions are a tough team to face.

COLLEGE THURSDAYS

HURRY... VALID 2/25, 3/4, 3/11 & 3/25 ONLY

INCLUDES SPLASH ADMISSION AND A COMBO MEAL FOR ONLY

\$21.95

A \$34.90 VALUE

KARAOKE BY
DIGITAL HOUNDS

WET & WILD
FUN

PLAY IN OUR
ARCADE
(WE GOT SKEE-BALL)

COLLEGE ID
REQUIRED

BAR
SPECIALS

LION CASH
PLUS

SHORT
LINES

Splash
LAGOON

INDOOR WATER PARK

WATER PARK HOURS 3:30PM-8:30PM