

SOFTBALL

Behrend Lions split double header against Westminster

KAELA BISHOP
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend women's softball team traveled to Westminster to win their first game 9-4 but lose the second, 1-10.

"When I see my teammates on the bases, I try to put the ball in play and make things happen," said sophomore Amy Greene. "Striking out only helps the other team."

During the first game, the designated hitter, Greene, lead her team with a strong bat. Greene went 3-for-4, drove in three runs, and scored one herself.

Greene said, "In the batter's box, I focus on getting a hit to help my team in any way I can." Junior Maddie Wieser batted in a run, scored one, and ended the game 2-for-3. On defensive, Wieser was able to turn a double play.

Freshman Kessi Osborne did not allow her inexperience to be a factor during the first game. Osborne displayed her skill level by batting a .500, scoring two runs, and driving in one.

Freshmen Julie Heintl and Brooke Tarasovich handled the Westminster offensive game. Heintl started on the mound and



Freshman pitcher Brooke Tarasovich earned the win in game one striking out four in the effort.

finished three innings. Tarasovich finished the last four innings earning the win.

Tarasovich only allowed three hits, one run, and struck out four.

The second game was a bit of a turnaround for the Lions.

Westminster played well offensively, attaining nine hits and ten runs in the five inning game. The Behrend women's offense facilitated their opponent by allowing four errors.

"Westminster came out and

really hit the ball," said Greene, "but our errors didn't help us either." Defensive errors were not the team's only weakness.

Greene scored the team's lone run during the shortened second game. Only Greene, Marissa Lisanti, and Jenna Yourish were able to get a hit. The Blue and White experienced difficulties at bat and running the bases as well.

"We made mistakes running the bases but we were able to learn from them," Greene said.

Emma Hahn pitched the first three innings. Hahn stuck out three but allowed four hits, six runs, and walked three batters. Coming in during the last inning was freshman Leah Dietrich who allowed five hits and four runs.

"We have taken what we could from this game," said Greene, "we are definitely ready for the next game."

The non-conference games have taken Behrend to an overall record of 7-9.



Sophomore Amy Greene led the team going 3-4 in the first game and batted in three runs in the process

TRACK AND FIELD

Track team takes fourth in the Wheeling invite

AMANDA STETZ
senior reporter

The Lions men's and women's team finished strong in the Bill Van Horne Invitational at Wheeling Jesuit University the weekend of March 26-27.

The men took fourth out of fourteen teams with a score of 90 points.

Standout performances came from Denny Kang, who set a new Behrend record in the pole vault, clearing 4.69 meters. This put Kang in the ECAC qualifying mark.

Success also came to Ronson Mazany, who took first in the triple jump, leaping 13.35 meters. He also placed second in the long jump (6.69 meters) and third in the high jump, where he jumped 1.85 meters.

Junior Mike Stark also had a great weekend, running the decathlon and finishing first. Although he had a great finish, Stark believes that there were setbacks to his performances.

"I competed hard through the first seven events, but then started to have some calf cramps which made me struggle to perform where I wanted to," Stark said. "I won the meet

but was disappointed on my overall point score."

Stark accumulated 5,649 event points at the meet.

The women also made an impression at the Invitational. They placed ninth out of seventeen teams and racked up 40.7 points.

Jenna Fatica ran impressively, who took third place in the 800-meter run, finishing with a time of 2:20.97.

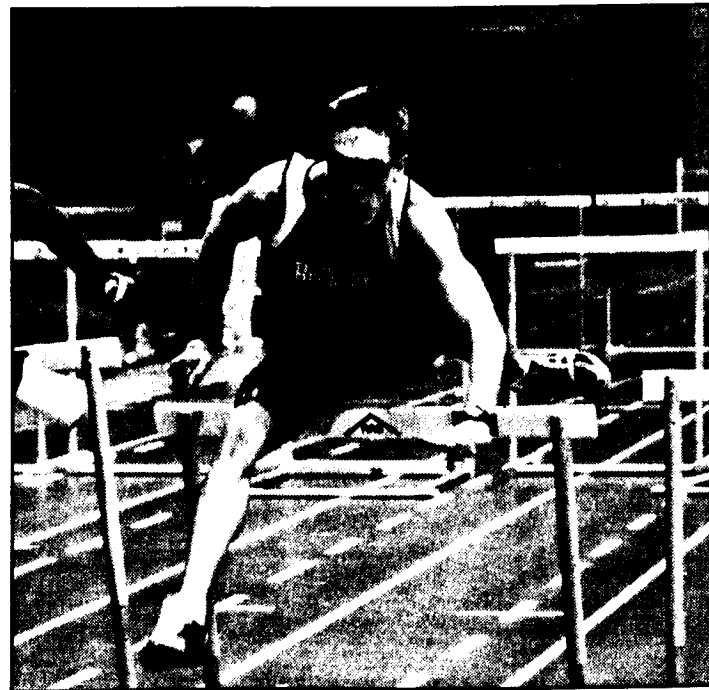
Victoria Harwood secured a second place finish in the heptathlon, finishing with 3,147 event points. Tanisha Wheatley also had a successful run in the steeplechase event, finishing third with a time of 12:55.12.

A change in the track and field schedule was made.

Instead of Bucknell, the Behrend Lions will go on to compete at Carnegie Mellon on Saturday April 10, where the Lions will face some of their greatest challenges.

"We are competing with the top teams in division three this weekend," Stark said.

"As a team, we are really strong. There are some great individuals on this team that have already broken records, set personal bests, and won meets this early in the season."



Junior Mike Stark finished first in the decathlon this past weekend.

BASEBALL

Behrend falters in high scoring affair

SEAN NEELY
staff writer

In game one of a four game week, Behrend would lose to the Washington & Jefferson Presidents on Tuesday.

The afternoon game saw plenty of action, as both sides combined for a total of 25 runs and 31 hits.

Behrend would jump out to an early and definite lead. Senior Jonathan Gray would lead the way for Behrend. He would serve as the catalyst for the offense, getting on base early and often.

From here, senior shortstop Josh Fyffe would triple in two runs. Behrend would not be denied. With the bases loaded, Behrend would answer with six more runs. Ryan Kragnes, Harry Latta, Geoff Lang, and Jonathan Gray would all contribute with runs-batted-in. Behrend would be out to a commanding lead, batting around the order once and scoring a total of 8 runs.

However, Washington & Jefferson would not go down without a fight. They nicked and dimed runs-in from inning to inning, and by the top of the sixth inning saw W&J strike back. Luckily, with the bases-loaded, freshman Jay Condit would hold W&J to only one run after being summoned from the bullpen.

Everything appeared to be smooth sailing for Behrend, as they went into the top of the ninth inning with the game in hand with an 11-10 score. W&J would strike with four runs in the top of the ninth. This would be the only time that Behrend would surrender their lead.

With the bases loaded, senior Frank Quirin would single in two-key runs. This would give W&J their first lead of the game. Behrend could not answer in the bottom of the ninth as Mike Kennedy



Junior second baseman Ed Kessler had two hits and walks in the teams effort this week.

would close out the game, and hold Behrend to a 1-2-3 bottom of the ninth giving W&J their 12th win of the season.

"The effort was here today, we just need to put together a complete game," Gray said. "For us, we must look ahead to tomorrow's game against Allegheny."

Head coach Paul Benim said, "We came out with some authority, but give W&J credit, they came back and outplayed us. For us, we must realize that our two of three opponents this week are NCAA tournament teams (W&J, Allegheny.) So our focus, and growth as a team, will need to be here this week."

Behrend attempted to bounce back fol-

lowing their disappointing loss to Washington and Jefferson on Tuesday. The following day, Behrend faced Allegheny College.

Behrend lost to the Allegheny Gators, as they would only manage three runs on seven hits. On the other side, Allegheny would score 10 runs on 12 hits.

Behrend, after their two-straight loses, would surrender their record to 13-7 overall (4-2 in AMCC Conference). Allegheny would improve to 13-6 overall.

Behrend still sits in a tie for second place in the AMCC Conference. They will now turn their attention to a doubleheader against Pitt-Bradford this Saturday.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kessi Osborne gets hot mid-season

ELESE MERKOVSKY
senior reporter

Not many freshman softball players can claim they start for their collegiate team the first day on the job, even more cannot claim they earned an honor for it halfway through the season.

Kessi Osborne was named Athlete of the week after going on a hot streak at the plate with successful times at bat, including a vital RBI in the win against Thiel, where runs were few and far between.

Osborne has helped lead the softball team to their success, with a .368 batting average early in the season.

After playing softball since the age of seven, playing at Penn State Behrend seemed like the perfect fit for Osborne. Osborne was not alone though in coming to Behrend; she had her twin sister Kali with her during the transition from high school to college.

"I started playing when I was seven years old, they had just

started a fast pitch league at our school at that time in my life so Kalli and I wanted to try it out," said Osborne.

Osborne enjoys the opportunity to play the sport she loves and represent the Penn State name.

"I chose Behrend because I've heard a lot of great things about their athletics and because it is, in my opinion, the best branch of Penn State," Osborne said. "The best part about playing for Behrend is representing another Penn State team, and trying to keep up with the great reputation we have."

Behrend has had a mediocre start early in the season with a 7-9 record leading into this week. The team is young, but they are closely bounded. Osborne has a close bond with her teammates, and enjoys the support they give each other.

"I love being with the girls on my team because they are my great friends and when I see them succeed, it makes me want to help out the team the

best I can," Osborne said.

Osborne, along with her teammates seemed to notice an increased closeness with her teammates after their trip to Florida.

"The best part about Spring Break was getting a lot of quality time with my teammates, because now they are the best friends I have," Osborne said.

Like many of the other spring sports at Behrend, softball took a Spring Break trip to Florida, for spring training.

Head softball coach Stacy Pondo saw the positive results based upon the experience gained in Florida.

"We have a young team right now and still have a lot to learn. However, they did grow as a

unit throughout the week.

In order to be successful, the team needs to put the bat on the ball on a more consistent basis.

The defense did come through in clutch situations," said Pondo to PS-Blions.com.

Osborne will continue to be a go to player for the Lions in their upcoming games at Pitt-Greensburg on April 10, and against Hilbert at home on April 13. These conference games will be detrimental in the Lion's hope to winning the conference.

"We all have team goals, which is to win our conference, win AMCC's, and make it through the NCAA tourney," Osborne said.



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon
Freshman Kessi Osborne