

MEN'S GOLF

Team travels to Hershey to compete in Nationals



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Junior Marc Neiswonger has a lot of tournament experience.

JOE VELLA
staff writer

The spring season went as fast as it came for the Penn-State Behrend golf team.

The team kicked off this spring season in wet and sloppy conditions, traveling down to Westminster College at the New Castle Country Club.

Sophomore Kevin Koerbel was the low man on the team, shooting an 82 as the team finished middle-of-the-pack in a 12-team duel on New Castle Country Club.

Windy conditions and tough pin placements was the story of the two day tournament hosted by Carnegie Mellon University on The Links at Spring Church. The team was again led by Koerbel, who carded a 78-81 for a total of 159, followed closely by senior Pat Petraglia, who turned in a 76 on the second day, improving his first day score by 10 after shooting an 86 day one. The Lions finished eighth out of 11 teams at the

end of the day.

Arnold Palmer's Latrobe Country Club played host to the St. Vincent Bobcat Invitational where the Penn State Lions finished sixth out of 14 teams, and finished with a grand total score of 324. St. Vincent ran away with the tournament on their home course, turning in an impressive 288 for the tournament.

The Lions were supposed to play host to an invitational at the Peek'n Peak lower course, but lack of interest around the conference forced head coach James Bowen to cancel the invitational.

It did however give the team a chance to finalize the roster for the Division-III National tournament in Hershey, Pa. May 8 and 9. The team will be represented by senior captain Joe Nelson, Petraglia, Koerbel, junior Marc Neiswonger, and freshman Zack Polanski.

"We're hoping Zack can play a big role and that freshy Koerbel can have a big finish to the

season coming off his runner-up AMCCs," Nelson said.

These five players will travel to Grove City on Monday to play in their invitational and

"The team is looking solid this spring, and we have improved in every tournament, but we are looking to take another step before we go to NCAAs."

Joe Nelson
Senior captain

will be the final tune-up before the big dance.

"Nationals are going to be awesome, especially since we are the first golf team at

Behrend to play in it," Koerbel said. "We are really looking forward to getting tuned up at the Grove City tournament and get some team chemistry."

The four round championships will be played on both the Hershey Links Golf Club and Hershey Country Club. After a practice round on both of the two host courses, the tournament will officially begin with round one on Tuesday, May 11 and finish that Friday.

Elizabethtown College will host the national tournament in partnership with The Hershey Golf Collection, an organization that coordinates local golf courses in the area.

This is the first time the golf team will travel to Nationals in school history and was only the second time the team won the AMCCs.

"The team is looking solid this spring and we have improved in every tournament, but we are looking to take another step before we go to NCAAs," said Nelson.



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Zack Polanski is the only freshman traveling to Nationals.

BASEBALL RECORD

Josh Fyffe: Behrend's batting king



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon
Senior shortstop Josh Fyffe has earned numerous awards this season as well as for past seasons. He is now the all-time hit-leader for Penn State Behrend baseball.

KAELA BISHOP
staff writer

This season, during the doubleheader against Hilbert College, senior shortstop Josh Fyffe went two-for-four during the first game and three-for-four during the second. The five hits were just enough to put Fyffe at the top. Jake Boyle has held the hits record for Penn State Behrend since 2002, which was 224.

Fyffe does not take all the credit for his success on the team.

"Coach Benim has been a big asset for me," Fyffe said. "He's definitely a good coach, and I have definitely gotten a lot better since I've been here. I give a lot of credit to the coaching staff that is with us now."

Each year, Fyffe has been able to improve and increase his numbers from the previous. In his freshman year, his batting average was .394.

He attained 56 hits and three home runs. Fyffe was named AMCC Newcomer of the Year, MVP Freshman, and he made the AMCC First-Team during 2007, showing outstanding potential from the start.

In his sophomore year, Fyffe accumulated 52 hits, three triples, and 11 doubles. During 2008 he was named AMCC Honorable Mention, Second Team ABCA-Rawlings Mid-Atlantic Region, and the Gold Glove Winner.

"I think maturity has really helped out, getting more mature within the last four years, being more patient, and confident," Fyffe said. "If I do have a bad game, I just let it go, slide it away, and start the next one."

Last season, Fyffe broke the RBI record, completing the season with 116. He had an aver-

age of .406, 69 hits, nine home runs, three triples, and thirteen doubles. He was named AMCC Player of the Year, ECAC Player of the Year, First Team All-Conference, Second Team ABCA-Rawlings Mid-Atlantic Region Team.

"I practice as much as I can," Fyffe said. "Everyday we swing and stay after once in a while. It's nice with the class that I'm with, the senior class. We're a pretty tight net. There's always three or four of us that stay after to hit. I know me, Dustin Dubensky, and Ryan Little are really close, and we help each other out as much as we can."

In his senior year, Fyffe's numbers have continued to rise. Currently, his batting average is .512, with 62 hits, six homers, six triples, and 10 doubles. Fyffe has already been named to the D3.com Preseason All-American Team.

As far as plans for after college, Fyffe would like to continue his involvement with college baseball.

"I really want to coach," he said, "I want to start fresh with my own program. I wouldn't mind starting here and then getting out of here, but I definitely want to coach the college level."

For the remainder of his senior year, Fyffe will continue to chase the all-time home runs record, also held by Boyle. Fyffe is well on his way with a career total of 18.

Fyffe said, "We have two more conference games that we have to win, so it's going to be exciting the rest of the season, and we're all looking forward to it."

Five games remain before the AMCC Tournament on May 8th.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Dubensky bats in 18 on hot streak



PSBLions.com
Senior third baseman Dustin Dubensky batted a .684 average this past week to help him earn the Athlete of the Week award.

SEAN NEELY
staff writer

Senior Dustin Dubensky powered the Behrend Lions to a 4-1 record last week.

Dubensky drove in 18 runs and scored six on his way to becoming Athlete of the Week.

"This spring I feel that I've contributed experience [to the team]," Dubensky said. "This being my fourth year, I know what is expected of our team. Our group of seniors have done well leading by example."

Leading by example is exactly what Dubensky has done, as he hit for .684 in 19 at-bats.

Dubensky's top performance came in game one of a conference match-up against Hilbert. Dubensky went 2 for 3 with six

RBI's and three runs scored. Then, in the second game of the doubleheader against Hilbert, Dubensky went on to have a four for six game with four RBIs.

In a non-conference match-up against Thiel, Dubensky registered one RBI and one run-scored.

He finished out the week against AMCC Conference opponent Mount Aloysius, having a handful of hits and seven RBIs.

"We have been having a pretty good season this year, making a run for our third straight Conference Championship," Dubensky said. "Our line-up is full with guys who have played at this level for quite some time."

Dubensky gives credit to the team around him, especially fellow senior Josh Fyffe, who was last year's AMCC Player of the Year.

"I got comfortable early this year and have been swinging it pretty well," Dubensky said. "It also helps when you're hitting behind Josh Fyffe."

"I get to see some pitches to hit, because people don't want to test him."

Dubensky's solid play last week solidifies him as one of the AMCCs leading clutch-hitters, heading up the league with 48 RBIs.

"We are coming up on the stretch run, and I think we have a lot more left in the tank," Dubensky said. "If we can get timely pitching and hitting, then we have a great chance of winning our third-straight Conference Title."

BASEBALL

High scoring Lions gearing up for AMCC tournament

ALEC ITALIANO
sports editor

The home stretch is coming for the Penn State Behrend Lions as only a total of seven games with four teams remain on the schedule.

The Lions started the week off well, scoring 17 runs in a win over Theil last Thursday at home. It was a slugfest of a game. The final score ended 17-11 in favor of Behrend.

The action started in the first inning as the Behrend Lions responded to Theil's first run in the top of the inning with four of their own. Junior catcher Harry Latta heightened the action with a two-run double that capped off a four run inning for the Lions. The majority of the runs came in the bottom of the third, pushing six runs across the plate.

After loading the bases for the inning, senior outfielder

Jon Gray put one over the fence for a grand slam and an eight-point lead for Behrend.

The team then traveled to Mt. Aloysius in Creston, Pa. in a doubleheader against the Mounties.

The Lions dropped the first game 14-5, but then battled back to split the day, as they won the second game 8-6.

The team then went on a slight skid, losing to Allegheny College at home this past Tuesday 8-6 and then dropped the first of two games Wednesday to Medaille 8-2 in a televised game.

However, the Behrend Lions were able to pull out a 10-5 win to halt the skid in the second game of the doubleheader against the Medaille Mavericks.

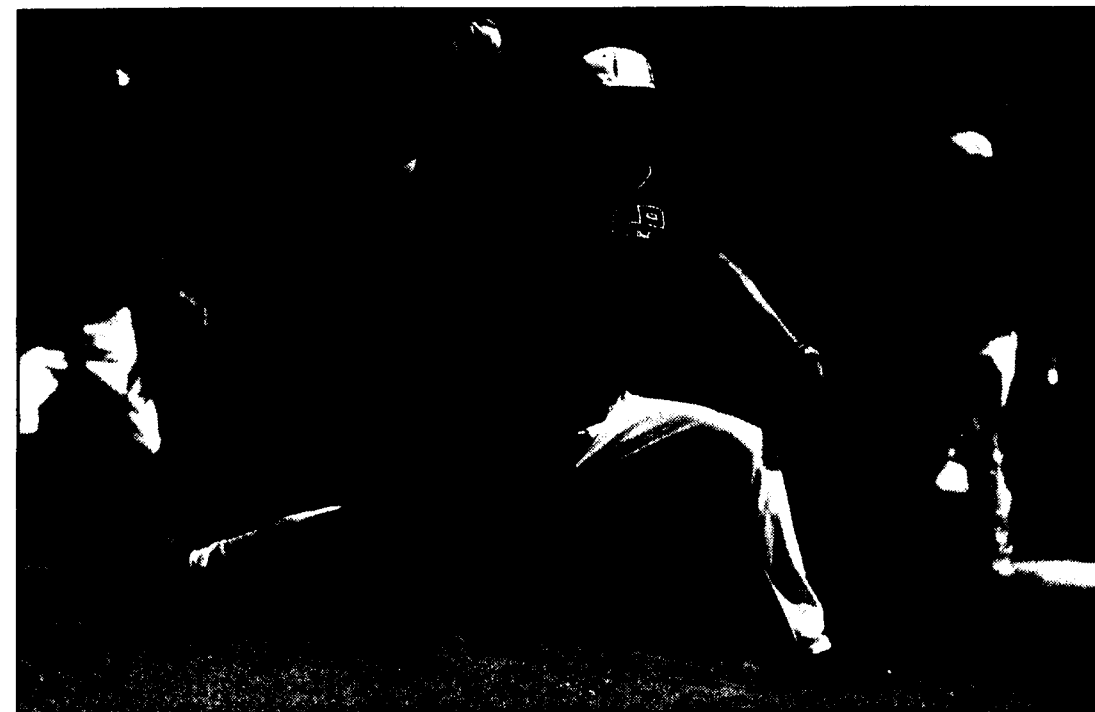
Senior Dustin Dubensky was the player of the game. His shot to right field scored two and then scored himself to claim a 4-1 lead in the first inning.

He later tripled and scored again, representing six of the 10 runs for Behrend.

There was also a lot of success here for the individuals on the team as senior third baseman Dustin Dubensky was named Athlete of the Week during the past seven days, and senior shortstop Josh Fyffe became the all-time hit leader for Behrend baseball.

The Lions are back in action this weekend hosting Franciscan college for a doubleheader on Saturday. They will finish up the season with two more double-headers on the road against D'Youville and Frostburg State respectively and wrap up their home stand with a single game against Fredonia on Wednesday Apr. 28.

After taking the week off for finals, the AMCC tournament starts May 8, and if they make it through the AMCCs, Nationals begin on May 19.



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon
Junior pitcher Andy Kountz has provided help from the bullpen, pitching six innings in the last two weeks. He gave up one hit, one earned run and struck one out in the effort.