

Should Be Exciting Tennis Season Starts

Coach Lauffer and the tennis team are looking forward to an exciting season, which will get underway Friday, March 31, at either the Billie Jean King Tennis Center or, weather permitting, on our home courts. Come on out and enjoy the action!

Below is a complete schedule of this year's matches.

Date	Opponent	BJKTC	Time
March 31	Allegheny	or H	3 p.m.
April 4	Geneva	A	1 p.m.
April 6	Thiel	A	1 p.m.
April 8	Malone	A	1 p.m.
April 13	Westminster	H	1 p.m.
April 15	Houghton	H	1 p.m.
April 20	Slippery Rock	H	1 p.m.
April 20	Slippery Rock	H	2 p.m.
April 22	Mercyhurst	A	1 p.m.
April 25	Grove City	3	1 p.m.
May 2	Edinboro State	H	2 p.m.
May 4	Cleveland State	H	2 p.m.
May 11-12	D-18 Tournay	H	

Killer Weed

NORML, National Organization For The Reform of Marijuana Laws, filed suit today in U.S. District Court seeking an injunction against further U.S. support or assistance to the herbicide spraying program in Mexico or other countries until all of the environmental and health-related consequences of the spraying have been properly analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The suit, filed in Washington, D.C., states that the U.S. government, principally through the Department of State, has encouraged and supported the spraying of highly toxic herbicides on marijuana and poppy plants in Mexico for more than two years, despite early warnings from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others that the program was too dangerous. Named as Defendants in the suit are the State Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Agency for the International Development, and the Department of Agriculture.

The suit focuses on the potentially serious health effects on U.S. citizens who unknowingly smoke paraquat-contaminated marijuana, noting that a recent government analysis of marijuana seized along the Mexican-U.S. border found up to 20 per cent of the samples contaminated. NORML states that the U.S. government was aware of a number of research findings showing that paraquat causes irreversible lesions (fibrosis) in the lungs of test animals, and still continued the use of paraquat for more than two years, knowing that U.S. marijuana smokers might be similarly harmed. The National Institute on Drug Abuse, of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, only recently began conducting tests to determine the extent of the hazard to those who smoke paraquat-contaminated mari-

juana. "How can our government in good conscience," asked NORML National Director Keith Stroup, "urge the spraying of marijuana with extremely toxic herbicides without first considering the health consequences to those who smoke it? At the least, the federal government has an obligation to insure that its actions do not harm the health of any of its citizens, including the approximately 15 million people who smoke marijuana," he continued. "This obligation does not disappear just because marijuana is classified as an illegal substance."

"A number of recent federal government reports and scientific studies have acknowledged that marijuana is a relatively harmless plant, and now, with the use of herbicides," Stroup said, "the United States government may be turning it into the 'killer weed' which it propagandized against in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's."

NORML Warns Consumers. NORML issued an urgent warning to consumers to avoid Mexican marijuana altogether until these herbicide spraying programs are stopped, and all the health and safety assessments have been satisfactorily concluded. Moreover, NORML said that any marijuana suspected of being contaminated with paraquat or other herbicides should be analyzed by a licensed pharmaceutical laboratory, such as PharmChem Research Foundation, 1844 Bay Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303, (415) 322-9941, before being consumed.

"Marijuana contaminated with paraquat cannot easily be detected by the consumer," Stroup said, "though some seized samples have been described as 'sticky and yellowish.' Since good quality marijuana is also gold in color, the potential for confusion is obvious. Consumers should not try to make this distinction themselves. The risk to their health is far too great."

Baseball Opens With Doubleheader

The varsity baseball team will open its season this year on April 4 against Slippery Rock in a double-header at Slippery Rock at 1 p.m. The team has high hopes of improving on its 11-10 record of last year. Behrend will play eight double-headers at home and six away, the first home games being played against Mercyhurst on April 11, starting at 1 p.m. (the starting time for all but one of the home double-headers).

The team took a trip to Florida between February 25 and March 7 so that they could have some practice outdoors. Rain forced the cancellation of some games, but the team did manage to play a couple of games against Florida schools as well as some intrasquad games and scrimmages. While the team had hoped to play some more games, Coach Stoner feels that the trip accomplished the purpose of allowing him a good look at the players to help him to decide who would start in the first games.

Behrend, which has not had a losing season for three years, should have one of its strongest teams this season. The entire pitching staff, one of the strongest in the nation last year, is returning this year. The pitchers last year led the nation in lowest ERA (1.92) for an NAIA school playing 30 games or less. Senior Al Maki (1.44) was ninth in the nation for those pitching more than 50 innings and sophomore Todd Kresge (also 1.44) was ninth for those pitching less than 50 innings. Junior Scott Veith (2.62) and sophomore Joe Ely

(2.62) also return from last year's fine pitching staff, which will be helped by the addition of freshmen Bill Strain and John Greulich.

Last year's team suffered from a low team batting average (.238) but some of the best hitters have returned. Senior Tom Lawless will provide both batting strength and leadership. In his first three years at Behrend, he batted .321, .448, and .328 respectively. As a sophomore he was eleventh in the country (NAIA) and first in the region (which includes thirteen states) in batting average, and he was District 18 all star shortstop. While his batting average dipped as a junior, he was nonetheless voted to the second team of the district as a shortstop and stole thirteen bases in fourteen attempts. Coach Stoner expects John Klochak, a freshman, to be a strong backup for Lawless.

Junior Pat Davis, who was second on the team last year with a .377 batting average, is likely to start at first base this year. Two freshmen, Mark Legenzoff and John Gruelich, may also see action at first base.

While the Florida trip helped Coach Stoner to make some decisions about who would start at some of the other positions, there is still a great deal of competition for them, and some changes are bound to occur over the course of the season.

Only freshman Kevin Doty had played catcher in high school among team members, but freshman Gerry Simon showed strong promise at that position

during Spring practice, and both are expected to play quite a bit during the season, especially since the position is very demanding and the schedule is composed entirely of double-headers.

Sophomore Mark Work and freshmen Mike Mixon, Regis Powers, and Jamie Teschner are battling for the second place position. Sophomore Micky Schrim and freshman Gerry Simon are competing for third base.

Junior Greg Milkovich (lf), sophomore Joe McCormick (cf), junior Mark Rafalowski (rf), and a sophomore Steve Murawski (rf) have the inside track on the outfield positions. Other players battling for outfield positions are juniors, Joe Mack, Bill Strain (who might also be the designated hitter), sophomores Pete Angstadt and Jeff Kenski, and freshmen Tom Shilenberger and Bill Marmion (who can play nearly any of the positions). Steve Ratkowski is also on the roster, but has suffered some arm troubles.

Behrend this year has two seniors and five juniors on the team as well as quite a few sophomores. This is the most experienced team that Behrend has ever fielded. If the pitching remains as good as it was last year and the batting improves, Behrend may have a good shot at qualifying for the first time to compete in the district championships. The team welcomes our support; so let's help them to a fine season.

Varsity Baseball

April 4	Slippery Rock	A	1 p.m.	April 22	Gannon	A	1 p.m.
April 6	Thiel	A	1 p.m.	April 25	Westminster	H	1 p.m.
April 11	Mercyhurst	H	1 p.m.	April 29	Edinboro State	H	1 p.m.
April 13	Geneva	H	1 p.m.	May 2	Grove City	H	1 p.m.
April 13	Geneva	H	1 p.m.	May 4	Point Park	A	1 p.m.
April 13	Geneva	H	1 p.m.	May 6	Fredonia State	H	1 p.m.
April 15	Houghton	A	Noon	May 9	Malone	A	1 p.m.
April 18	Allegheny	H	2 p.m.	May 12-13	Youngstown State	H	1 p.m.

Barbato's ITALIAN RESTAURANT



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Pizza Shop

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Dunlop Tires

25-40% off
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Jeff Barlow or
Jeff Lose

The Behrend Apathy Club
met last Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
but none of the
members attended



"Here! Take this!" Robin (last name unknown at time of publication) receives Dobbin's pie in her face from Nancy Goldberg.

photo by Robin Baaljing