

Spring Sports Looking Forward To Time In The Sun

Women's Softball

by Andy Seneta
Collegian Staff Writer

The 1986 Behrend women's softball season will soon be underway. The ladies have been practicing for two-weeks now and coach Jan Wilson is optimistic about the upcoming season: The Cubs have switched from the NAIA Division III to the NCAA Division III, where Wilson feels the schedule could prove to be little tougher. The 1985 season ended with the lady Cubs posting a 6-11 mark which was good enough for a second-place finish in their division. Wilson hopes to finish at 500 percent this season, but she states, "It's too early to tell at this point in the season."

Coach Wilson feels, "there are some big shoes to be filled this season with the graduation of the Stasenko twins, Missy and Mindy. Beside the loss of the twin diamondwomen, Wilson has only one returning player from last season's squad, she being second baseman Kathy Fox."

Wilson said, "I have a number of quality girls I am looking at." Among the hopefuls are Roni Gelletta, Ginny Rasthuter, Sue Holmes, Tammy VanBuren, Traci Duncan, Dorothy Righter, Kim

Audette, Sue Walchack, Lisa Butch, Rose Zuccolotto and Lori McClellen.

Coach Wilson also remarked, "It'll be nice having two pitchers, in Rose Zuccolotto and Lori McClellen, this season. Last season the Cubs were forced to go through the entire season with just one pitcher."

"Basically, I have only had a limited opportunity to look at the girls," Wilson related. "Our practices have consisted of mostly conditioning, agilities, throwing and hitting out of the batting cage." Wilson feels, "Every team we'll face will be strong this season. Our strengths will be in our pitching and also for the first time in a couple of seasons, our hitting. Our weakness will be the lack of experience coming from our young players."

With the first game of the season less than two weeks away, you can be sure the lady Cubs will be hard at work tuning up their skills and strategies for their first game of the season with Clarion. The Cubs will travel to the Eagle's home field on April 1, and return home on April 3 for the home opener against Buffalo State.

Men's Baseball

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It's that time of the once again, putting on the uniforms, picking up games of pepper, and that familiar crack of the bat. Yes all of the major league baseball teams are working out in sunny Florida or warm Arizona. Unless of course you're one of the dedicated Behrend athletes who are forced to stay inside of Erie Hall until better weather prevails.

Coach Mike Folga says, "we've worked on general conditioning prior to starting actual baseball workouts on March 10. Right now we're working out in Erie Hall on our fundamentals. We're hitting, fielding and throwing, but due to limited space we can't do it as I'd like. Hopefully we'll be outside soon."

This being Folga's first year as the mentor of the Cubbies, he has a few goals he would like to see fulfilled. When asked about what he is attempting to do this year he stated, "to upgrade Behrend's baseball program, instill a winning attitude, become a good com-

petitive team and hopefully put a few more W's in the win column."

With these goals in mind, Coach Folga has a good crew returning to the program from last season: Ray Duerr, Pat Hunt, Lance Harbison, Mike Angelo, Dave Bruce, Joe Ceresa, Dale Wehler, Denny Pauline, Steve Tunall and Mike Utzig. They will all be counted on to carry the load for the optimistic Cubs.

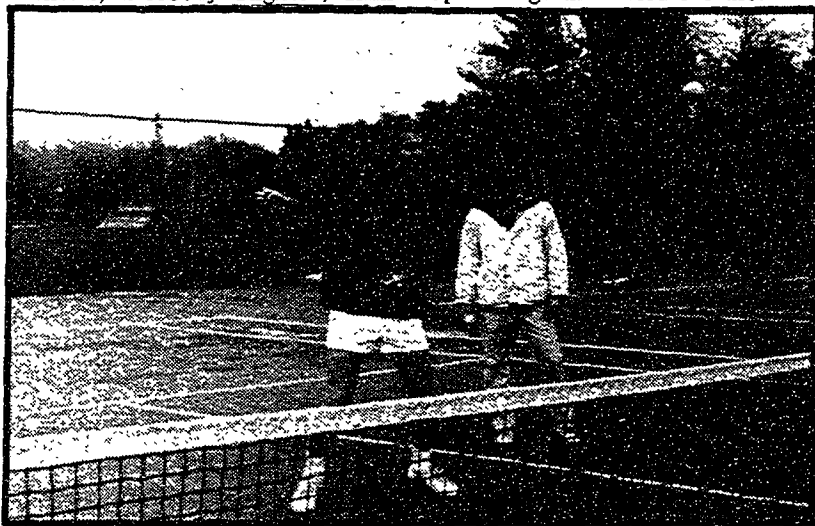
Folga also has five new prospects whom he feels will add to the overall strength of the team. Two players are from the nearby Erie County League, Kirk Kelly and Tom Kopec and from the Pittsburgh area diamondmen Fred Turba, Dave Jansen and Bob Yount will be sure to see their share of action during the season.

Folga feels, "By the time we play our first game we'll probably have 17-19 practices. hopefully we'll be able to get 5 or 6 practices outdoors before our first game against California of Pa. on March 29."

The coach also commented on

the schedule Behrend will play this season. "We play a very competitive schedule. Teams like Clarion, California of Pa., Point Park, St. Vincent, Edinboro and Mercyhurst are all scholarship programs. As you know Behrend has become a member of the NCAA Division III. I'd like to see us replace some of these teams with Division III opponents where I feel we would be very competitive. For a non-scholarship program I feel fortunate to have some of these athletes on our roster."

In closing Folga stated, "I think we have a sound team, well-schooled in our fundamentals. If we have our members and make the routine plays we'll have a much better team than last year's. I think we're going to surprise some people with what we can do. As far as the players go, they seem to be enthusiastic and ready to play. They work hard during practice and know what they have to do to win." Right now all we need is some sunshine in Erie, Pa.



Second-year tennis coach Doug Walbridge looks on while Mike McMullen volleys at the net.

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