

**Women's softball:**

**First win gained at Thiel**

by Robert Roth  
Collegian Sports Editor

Behrend women's softball has taken on an entirely new look this year as only one member returned from the successful 1985 squad. Coach Jan Wilson has had to start seven freshmen this year as she said, "they're out there in their first game and in the first few innings they're sort of unnerved but then they finally get going."

The ladies got going soon enough against Thiel to garner their first win of the season, a 12-11 late inning nailbiter, in which Wilson saw a 12-2 lead evaporate. "They held on and they played well that whole doubleheader—our pitchers did a really good job, it's the best I've seen them pitch," Wilson noted.

The first game that day against Thiel was the antithesis as not a single run crossed the plate for Behrend in a defensive duel which Behrend lost 1-0. "It was a really good game," coach Wilson related, "three batters up and three batters down for both teams almost every time."

Winning against Thiel should have a considerable effect on the inexperienced squad, as the first four games of the season against Clarion and Buffalo State resulted in three losses and a tie (because of darkness) Buffalo State. "The win against Thiel will help—not even the fact that it's a win, just that they all played well. There weren't a lot of errors—they only made two so that should help us do well in the future, Wilson commented." Also, this year the Cubs are going with two pitchers, a luxury not enjoyed in previous seasons and a positive move according to the coach, "One of our strong points so far has been our pitching, it's better compared to other years. Both pitchers, Lori McClellan and Rose Zuccolotto, are also providing some offensive

**Lady Cub wins award**

by Robert Roth  
Collegian Sports Editor

This past week Sue Holmes was named to the first team of the Women's Keystone Conference. Holmes played forward and center for the Cubs and broke the team record for rebounds which was a key factor toward her obtaining this high honor. The award will be formally presented at the sport's banquet to be held May 4.

The Behrend cheerleaders were recently selected to take part in a commercial for Knobloch Oldsmobile and Toyota. The squad, directed by Julie and Jan Espin, was selected by Tom Sanders, Knobloch general manager, whose son Chip Sanders, a former Behrend police officer, contacted Espin. It aired last Tuesday on WICU, WJET and the local cable adnet. Cheerleader Doni Cole did the speaking for the squad, and the commercial is scheduled to run approximately two weeks.

Also, after serving the athletic department as secretary for three years and organizing the cheerleaders for two, Julie Espin will be leaving Behrend to fill a managerial position for an auto parts firm in Monroeville, PA. We wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

spark as they lead the team in batting with averages of .316 and .267 respectively.

The problem for the ladies has been in producing runs, "our weakest area right now is getting hits, and stringing them together, and I think you see that with young players, but I see the girls getting stronger with each game," said Wilson.

On the defensive side Wilson assessed, "the team is solid up the middle—we have a good second baseman and shortstop, and were pretty solid in centerfield, and catching,—but they're all young."

The weather has played a minor role thus far forcing only the cancelation of games against Grove City. The practice regimen has not been adversely affected as Wilson said, "we practice an hour and a half to two hours daily, but the past couple of days I've been mainly working with the pitchers and catchers, we can do that in a gym when it gets colder."

Behrend athletic teams are now affiliated with the NCAA. However, the women's softball schedule is basically unaltered from last year, "I think as always Allegheny will be tough, Edinboro and Mercyhurst have some solid players and Grove City will come up with an experienced team, the schedule is basically the same from last year," said Wilson.

A captain has been named, Sue Holmes, whom Wilson feels, "will develop into one of the better catchers we've ever had, and she has a nice way with the pitchers, and a very good arm—she's a good leader." The key to gain a few more W's according to the coach Wilson remains, "if we begin to hit well and pitch the way we can I think we can surprise a few teams. The fundamentals are improving and we're hopefully going to progress as the season goes along."

**Behrend baseball:**

**Men garner initial win**

by Andy Seneta  
Collegian Staff Writer

"Behrend Ball" has caught on here in Erie, starring the newly appointed coach Joe Folga and his cast of determined and fiery diamondmen.

The mens' varsity baseball team has shown some competitive desire so far, and they have claimed two wins while dropping another in the last inning by one run, a heartbreaking loss to California in the Cubs' opener.

Coach Folga now has the task of tightening his Cubbies' belts and putting his team into battle against some tough competition. The Cubs face St. Vincent and Point Park on the road next week. Then they will return once again to face Clarion on Saturday, April 19.

Coach Folga says, "We have good chance to get a few wins against Vincent and Point Park on the road and we hope to take the doubleheader at home versus Clarion.

The Cubs have been playing

some solid ball so far, with hitting being their strength. It has been led by Joe Cereza, Ray Duerr, Lance Arbison and Fred Turba. Folga also noted that, "We're getting some power from Mike Angelo too."

The Behrend men have been also been getting some good pitching out of Mike Lynd (1-0) and Dale Whaler (1-1). But the first-year coach stated, "We're sore in the pitching department after our first two men."

When asked about other weaknesses Folga related, "fielding has been good so far, but it needs improvement, because errors have cost us more than one game."

Statistics also reveal that the men are starting strong in the first games, scoring 28 runs while allowing only 26 and this has led to the claiming of two out of three openers. But they are losing steam in the second game of the doubleheaders. They've only produced four runs while giving up a whopping 29 runs in the nightcap.

Folga speculates, "the only thing I can think of is there has been a mental letdown in the second-half of the doubleheaders."

When asked about how he feels his team is performing at this point in the season compared to his expectations Folga said, "I thought we'd be doing better than what we have been at this time. But I guess we'll have to take it gradually." On an optimistic note he stated, "We've shown we can play with the Division II schools our size and we're looking ahead to playing against schools our size when we meet some Division III foes later in the season."



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