

sports

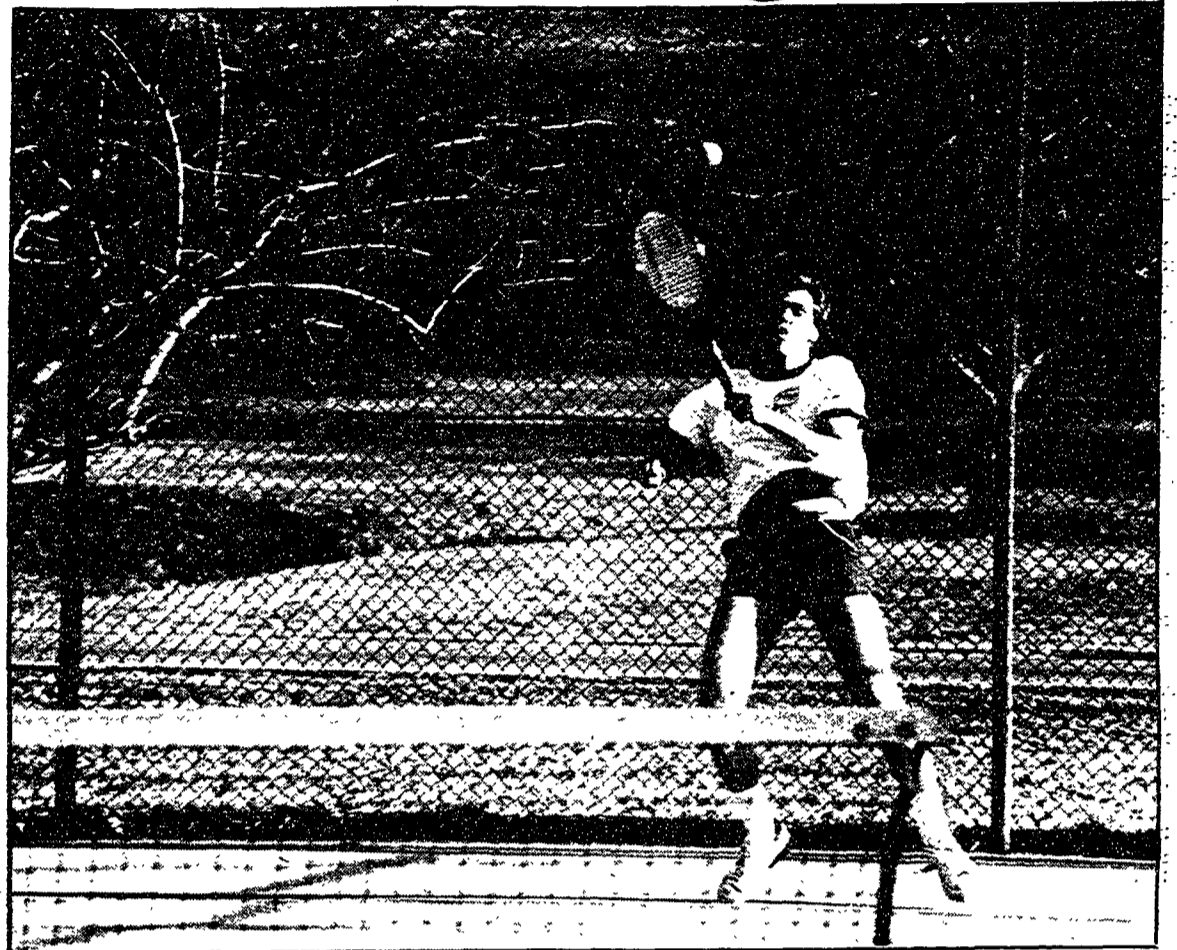
Men's tennis season in full swing

by Pat Schlip
 Collegian Staff Writer

Under the direction of third-year Head Coach Doug Walbridge, the men's tennis team is back in action and ready for action. Coach Walbridge feels that "with the talent that he has seen so far, the tennis team is looking for their best

season ever." The team roster consists of four freshmen: Eric Armes, Matt Brown, Russel Rowe, and Dan Sayer; three sophomores: Howard Cohan, Raj Jolly and Mike Veslany; and one junior: Tim Maus. (Cohan, Jolly and Veslany are all returning letter winners.) "They are all good athletes, and work very hard at practice. We

have a talented team and we are much stronger than last year's team," said Walbridge. Walbridge feels that Slippery Rock and IUP will be the two toughest teams that the Cubs will face this season. Walbridge is very optimistic about the season, and feels with the talent on this year's team they can easily go over .500.



Men's tennis player Mike Veslany works on his serve.

Photo by Wendell Bates

Men's Tennis Schedule

April	2	Thiel College	H	3 p.m.
	4	St. John Fisher	H	1 p.m.
	9	Geneva College	H	3 p.m.
	11	Westminster College	A	1 p.m.
	14	Gannon University	A	3 p.m.
	16	Indiana of PA	A	3 p.m.
	18	Allegheny College	H	10 a.m.
	21	Edinboro College	A	3 p.m.
	22	Malone College	A	3 p.m.
	28	Slippery Rock University	A	3 p.m.

Inexperience may hamper the soft ballers

by Angela Papaleo
 Collegian Staff Writer

With the weather getting nice again we'll be observing the transition from indoor sports to outdoor sports. We'll go from gymnasiums to ballparks, from basketball to baseball. The women's softball team will be actively participating. Practices began back in January. The first game is April 1st against

Thiel College here at 2 p.m. The season will end May 2nd. Probably the best competition the team will encounter will be at a tournament held at Ohio Northern University on April 24th and 25th. This is the first time ever for the women. It will be a round robin elimination with approximately 5 games each, weather permitting. Here the girls will be faced against 4 top 20 teams in the nation, such as: 1 ranked Allegheny College and 2 ranked Ohio Northern University.

One weakness the girls have is in-

experience. Aside from the 2 returning varsity players (Sue Holmes and Lisa Butch), the team consists of all freshmen. This is also the first year for coach Ann Burbules who is a Mercyhurst graduate. She regrets that she doesn't have an assistant coach, but hopefully will next year. "It's difficult for me to make a prediction concerning the team's upcoming season because I don't know what type of competition we're up against," says the coach.

The best asset the team has is its

defense. "All we need is a few games under our belt," states coach Burbules. So to prepare for their season the girls have a scrimmage against Gannon University on March 25th. The coach's most important goal is to have the team play as a unit, not individually. "I want to make things happen, not wait for the batters; they need to run a lot," she says. Coach Burbules wants the girls to be mentally and physically prepared.

The team got off to a slow start,

because of the collision of basketball season and baseball. There was a lapse in time where they were short some members. Plus the team has been overwhelmed with injuries: crutches, broken noses, black eyes, etc. But the team is hanging in there and ready to play.

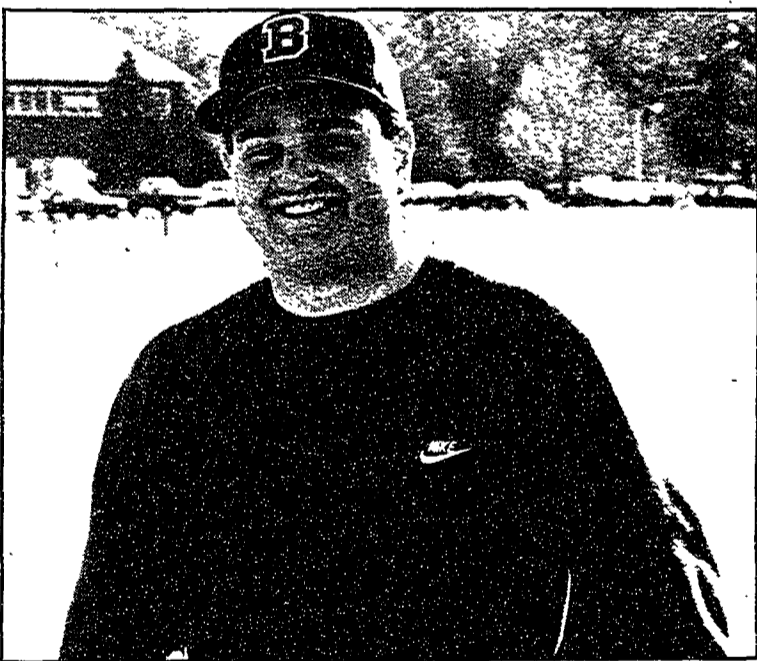
One problem with women's softball at Penn State-Behrend is that they are Independent—that is, they don't belong to a conference. This makes it difficult to get a bid in the play-offs. Playing in a conference would also give the girls a goal—to

win the conference title. The women hope to have a fund raiser to help pay for new sweat suits and jackets. This is due to the amount of money being put towards paying for the tournament.

The women's softball team has a difficult schedule awaiting them. They must overcome their inexperience as well as set a new standard for the team. But there is much dedication and talent on the team and they're ready to accept the challenge.

Behrend's best on the diamond

by Sue Holmes
 Collegian Sports Editor



Baseball coach Michael Bari

photo by Wendell Bates

Behrend's Best takes a different twist this issue in honoring first-year Women's Softball Coach Ann Burbules and first-year Baseball Coach Michael Bari. Burbules and Bari bring to Behrend a great knowledge of their sport as well as a tremendous amount of enthusiasm.

Burbules is a 1983 graduate of Mercyhurst College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education and a minor in coaching. While at Mercyhurst, Burbules participated on the women's softball and volleyball teams as well as being an active member of intramural sports. Burbules has coached junior varsity girls' basketball at St. John's School and has served as a softball coach for Erie's summer recreation league. She is currently employed as an Adult Education instructor with the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit in Edinboro. She teaches math and reading to clients at the Stairways Mental Health Center.

An Erie native, Michael Bari graduated from Mercyhurst Prep High School and West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education and a minor in psychology. He also earned a Master's of Education degree from East Stroudsburg University.

During his collegiate career, Bari played the infield for the Wesleyan Bobcats. Bari was an assistant coach for two seasons at East Stroudsburg and his main job was working with the pitching staff as well as recruiting new student athletes. Bari brings to Behrend a winning attitude and has high expectations for a very successful campaign. "I know that our team can go over .500. We are a young team with a lot of talent," said Coach Bari.

Burbules and Bari will receive a dinner for two compliments of Barbato's Restaurant in Wesleyville for being chosen as one of Behrend's Best.



Women's softball coach Ann Burbules

photo by Wendell Bates

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