

Tough season for the Behrend nine

by Michael Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

The weather conditions aren't the only thing that's been rough for the Behrend baseball team this spring; their 4-26 mark will attest to that. But despite the record, Coach Mike Bari and his diamond crew have braved the weather and everything else to stay together as a team unit.

Back in the beginning of March, the baseball squad made an early spring run down to Florida for training. When they returned up north, they were forced to continue their training indoors because of uncooperative weather.

"We made great strides in Florida, but the weather up here set us back a few weeks and really hurt us," Coach Bari commented. As a result, the schedule was backed up and the Cubs were faced with playing frequent back to back doubleheaders, which became a hardship for the players. Suffering the most was the pitching. With only six pitchers, Coach Bari found it difficult to give each one his three to four day rest.

"They (the pitchers) are not getting the rest they need, there are a

Amongst those standouts is Reese Wetzel, a freshman shortstop from lot of sore elbows and shoulders," said Coach Bari.

One member of the pitching staff, Scott Fleshman, has come through.

"Scott has met the tough pitching demands that has kept us in ball games," Coach Bari added.

Other contributing factors to the club's rocky season are that they are a young team (12 out of 16 players are freshmen) and they haven't much depth (23-24 players needed on the roster).

Coach Bari still feels he can get something out of this season; "Our goal was to be above .500. Since that is not possible to accomplish now, Coach Bari hopes to play .500 ball the rest of the way, "We can go over ten wins." Coach Bari went on to add, "I want each individual to continue to improve. Attitudes have changed for the better, the program is right where we want it to be."

There has been some bright spots on the roster including some personal improvement that the ballclub's manager has hoped for.

Harborcreek. "He has improved immensely at shortstop, one of the top prospects in Division III-very smooth," said Coach Bari of his infielder. Wetzel has proven to be effective at the plate as well with a .349 batting average.

The big lumber has been provided by another freshman, from New Castle, Bob Druschel. With a .353 average, he leads the team in most batting categories. Druschel is presently making a run for three school records. He is on the verge of breaking the RBI record (he has 20-the record is 27); he is two shy of the doubles record (he has 6 the record is 8); and he has found his way around the basepath to homeplate 24 times; the record for runs scored is 32. "A big producer," Coach Bari stated.

For Coach Mike Bari, it has been a season of bad breaks; "When we hit the ball, it's to someone, when they (the opponents) hit it, it finds a gap in the field." The Behrend Skipper went on to add that, "I'm pleased with the attitudes, they're a great bunch of guys and have given their heart and soul. That's what it's about, doing your best."



Freshman pitcher Bob Duma throws against Washington and Jefferson. photo by Wendell Bates

Team handball tryouts

University Relations Penn State and the Department of Exercise and Sport Science has agreed to host a Clinic and Team Tryouts in this region of the country for the United States Team Handball Federation. Both the clinic and tryouts will be held on Saturday, May 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the White Building Gymnasium

on the main Penn State campus.

Dr. Gary Barrette, Eastern USTHF Coordinator, will be conducting these proceedings. He is encouraging all interested athletes (particularly "basketball types" who move well and have good coordination) to try out for the national team. He stresses the point

that prior experience in team handball is not necessary.

Should you have any questions you may call; R. Scott Kretchmar at (814) 863-4493 or Dr. Barrette at (516) 294-8700, ext. 7360, both at University Park. Or at Behrend you may contact Sue Holmes at 898-6879.

NBA playoffs at a glance

by David Bruce
Collegian Staff Writer

As the N.B.A. season finally comes to an end, most head coaches have begun to prepare their teams for the games that truly matter; the playoffs.

The favorites in this year's tournament are Los Angeles, Boston, Atlanta and Dallas; the four division leaders.

The Lakers waltzed through the regular season, with only Dallas giving them any consistent trouble. The ability of Magic Johnson to become L.A.'s offensive leader will give them the extra boost they did

not have in last year's playoffs.

Though injury plagued, the Celtics still managed to cruise through the season. Their only race was with Atlanta over home-court advantage in the playoffs. Boston boasts the best starting five in the league, led by Larry Bird and Kevin McHale. However their bench is weak and Boston has had trouble on the road all year.

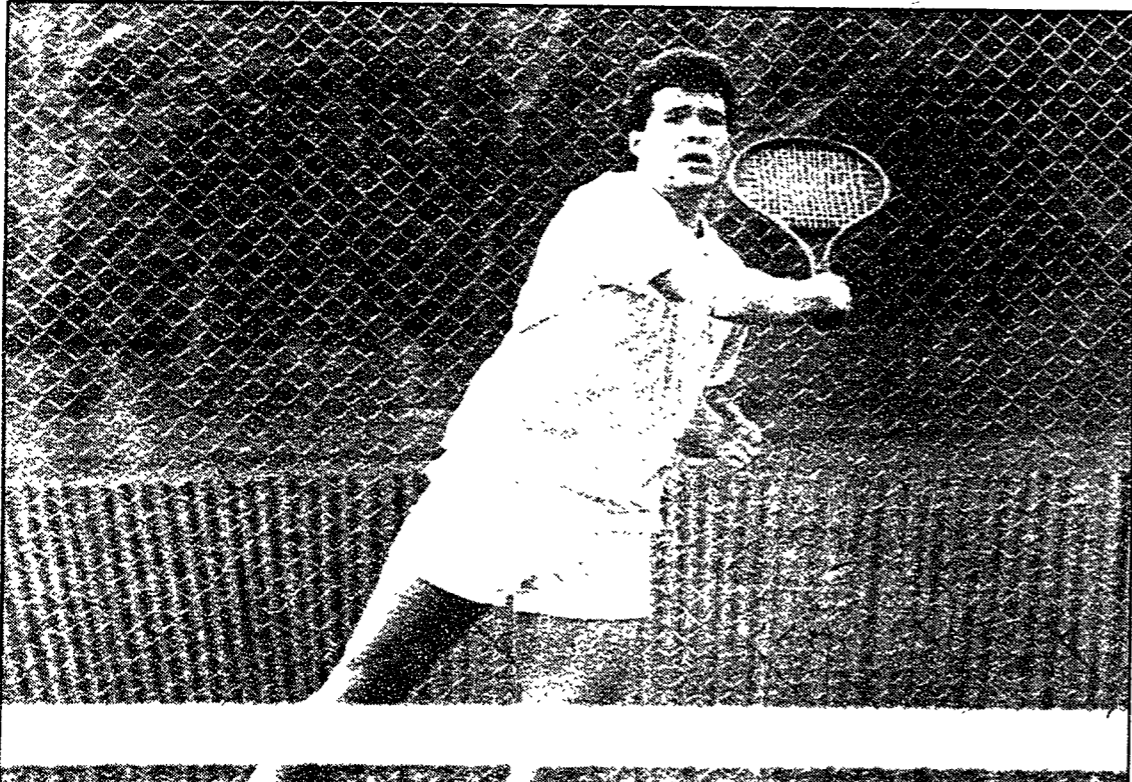
The Hawks earned a spot on the list of favorites with their aggressive, confident and exciting style of play. Led by Dominique Wilkins, Atlanta also boasts stars such as Kevin Willis and Doc Rivers, a truly formidable guard.

The Mavericks also ran away

from the rest of the division this season, but they garnered more press for their handling of the Lakers, the only team to really do so. The increased consistency of Mark Aguirre has put Dallas over the hump.

While favorites tend to dominate more in the N.B.A. than in the N.F.L. or Major League Baseball, there are two underdogs that have a real chance to win it all; the Detroit Pistons and the Philadelphia 76ers. Both teams have a superstar player (Isiah Thomas fr Detroit, Charles Barkley for Philadelphia) who could dominate in the playoffs.

Men's tennis ends



Men's Tennis player Dan Sawyer backhands the ball. photo by Wendell Bates

by Pat Schlif
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend Men's Tennis Team ended their season on April 28th with a match against Slippery Rock. They sport a 1-8 record, with their only win coming against Thiel.

"We have played inconsistently...one day someone will play well and the next day someone else will play well," stated coach Doug

Walbridge.

In recent play, Howard Cohen and Dan Sawyer have won four matches, and Mike Veslang posted an excellent win against Westminster.

"Our doubles game is definitely better than our singles game," said Coach Walbridge. In fact the team's match record in doubles play is 11-16.

Coach Walbridge also said that while this year's squad is young, they will lose all their players ex-

cept Matt Brown. However, four players are expected from Washington D.C. next fall.

Next year's schedule will consist of 13 or 14 matches, including and overnighter in Rochester. Also, Coach Walbridge is trying to switch the tennis program from N.A.I.A to N.C.A.A.-Division III. This will enable the tennis team to play more equally sized school.

Hopefully this will give the Behrend tennis program an added boost in the next few years.

High and outside

by Sean Weaver
Collegian Staff Writer

Swinging level and hard, reaching far and wide and running 'round and 'round. This is the essence of a good fastpitch softball player, and Behrend's intramural teams go at it again this year to strive for excellence in the sport.

Play got underway on April 13 when teams took to the field at 5:10 p.m. The long-time all men's event

was accompanied this year by three women "soft-batters." The teams were signed up on a "first come first serve" basis and the event took the first ten to sign up to compete. The restriction is due to the long length of time required to play one game and the rapidly approaching finals week. As of the second week of play the league standings, (as of April 22,) are:

League A w League B w
Staffulty 2-0 WDHAN 1-0

Bulldogs 2-1 Shooter 1-1
ROTC 1-1 Skins 1-1
Doojee 1-2 Gerbil Slayers 1-1
Rigor Mortis Poonmasters 0-1
and the Stiffs 0-2

Games will continue throughout the rest of the semester until all teams have played four games. So as the semester comes to an end so will the IM fastpitch softball season. And both will soon decide their participants accomplishments and defeats!



Intramural fans Lori O'Connor and Jill Donahue photo by Wendell Bates



Anne Hatton pitches during an intramural softball game. photo by Wendell Bates