

# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Photo by Thang Tran

by Rick Cain  
Collegian Sports Editor

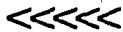
Congratulations to this issue's Athletes of the Week, Tom Partridge and Jennifer Mouris.

Sophomore Tom Partridge, the Lions' center fielder / pitcher, has just completed an incredible couple of weeks. In eight games, Tom had nine hits in 21 at bats with three runs and one RBI, for a .409 average. On defense, in addition to his fine play in the outfield, Tom pitched eight innings in relief giving up one run on three hits and a walk while striking out three.

Freshman Jennifer Mouris, the Lady Lions' third baseman / pitcher, has played superbly all season. While pitching one game and playing third in the other in each of the Lady Lions' double headers, Jennifer has hit well in the clutch and is a major factor in her teams success.

Both Tom and Jennifer will receive dinner for two at Barbato's in recognition of their performances.

Tom Partridge



Jennifer Mouris



Photo by Michelle Schneider

## PARTING THOUGHTS

by David Bruce  
Collegian Sports Editor

Since this is my last sports column, I thought it would be appropriate if I discussed several opinions, both good and bad, that I have formed in the past two years of covering Behrend sports.

-The improved play of the men's basketball team. Though the Lions did not reach .500, the program gained respectability and, in fact, has become a strong Division III team. Coach Zimmerman has recruited extremely well and the team should continue to improve in the future.

-The problems that have occurred during the planning of the new Behrend sports center. It was supposed to have been finished this spring, but due to financial problems ground has yet to be broken. This, of course, means that much maligned and overused Erie Hall must continue to serve the need for Behrend students for another seven years. Perhaps the basketball teams can play in the new bookstore.

-The excitement that former Behrend basketball star Randy Gorniak brought to Behrend. His uncanny ability to snare rebounds gave the basketball program a jump-start and gave Behrend some much needed publicity. And Randy's pleasant, easy going personality only further helped the situation.

-The efforts of the current Behrend coaches, most notably Mike Bari and Jan Wilson, to promote Behrend sports in the community. There has been a dramatic increase in not only the amount of press that Behrend sports receives (not an easy task), but also in the number of activities that are sponsored by Penn State-Behrend, such as sports camps, fund-raisers, etc.

-The extremely high turnover of coaches at Behrend; just in the past three seasons I remember Behrend having three baseball, two softball, two men's tennis, two women's basketball, and two women's tennis coaches. Though there were many different reasons these coaches had for leaving, a recurrent theme was money. Either the coaches were not paid enough, or their budget was woefully small. I don't pretend to know the answer, but with such a high turnover rate, it is hard to build a strong program.

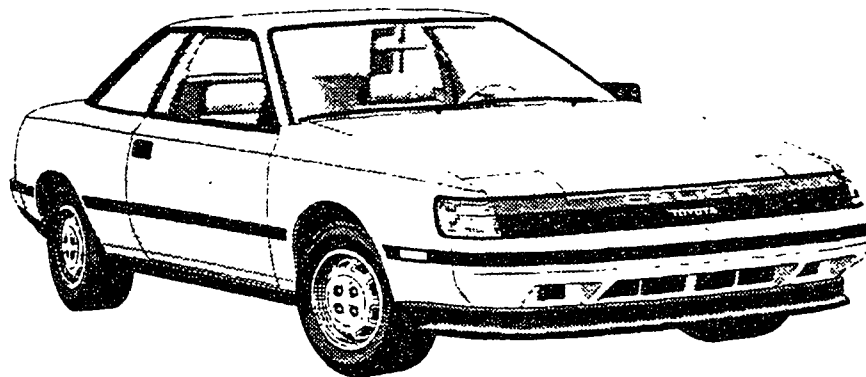
-The invaluable role that Sarah Rose, Behrend's athletic trainer, has played the last three years. Sarah has constantly worked 24 hours a day to make certain that Behrend athletes are both physically and mentally sound at all times.

-The pride that we all felt when former Behrend baseball player Tom Lawless not only played in the World Series, but slammed a three run, game winning homer.

-Finally, a personal opinion that I have had since I came here four years ago. The lack of appreciation that the Behrend community has for student athletes. Behrend athletes do not receive any scholarships which requires many of them to hold part time jobs in addition to studying and playing their sport. While many professors and coaches understand this situation, many others still do not. The point I am trying to make is that what these student athletes are giving to Penn State-Behrend is immeasurable, but what they receive in return is unmeasurable. I just wish that these professors and coaches would have a little more understanding when these student athletes miss a class or a practice. Lest we forget, it is the professors and coaches that are here for the students, not the other way around.

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