

Sporting View

This is the time of year for sports fans

by John Musser
Collegian Sports Editor

This is one of my favorite times of the year. And I'm not just talking about all of the fun I have preparing for finals. No, what I'm preaching today is of a much higher importance. This is that special time of year when all of the major sports have something important to provide to the fans.

For those that have survived the long regular seasons, the NBA and the NHL are finally playing the postseason.

So far the road to the Stanley Cup has been an exciting one for hockey fans. The Los Angeles Kings pulled a rare double, upsetting the defending Cup champion in the opening

Unfortunately for San Antonio, they play in a conference where several teams have legitimate chances at the title. Phoenix, Utah, Portland, and, uh, that other team that's kind of good. Oh, yeah, the Los Angeles Lakers. Put these team's names in a hat, and whichever one you draw out could easily be the west representative in the finals.

The east isn't quite as strong. Obviously, Detroit is the number one contender, but the Philly Sixers have been coming together lately and could pose some problems for the defending champs if the two should meet in the conference finals. Don't be surprised if that series turns into a hockey match.

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round two years in a row. Before this year's toppling of the Calgary flames from the high chair, the Kings and Wayne Gretzky outshot the Edmonton Oilers last year.

Then there is that traditional playoff match-up, Boston versus Montreal. For those who have never watched a Bruins-Canadiens series, well, you haven't lived much. This classic series epitomizes what the game is all about: just damn good hockey.

The NBA post-season, like hockey's, is much more interesting than games played during the regular season. Lets face it, when teams play four games in five nights, you can't honestly tell me that they will be able to go full throttle in each game. Yeah, that's right, I'm saying that most players don't come to play every night. And I don't blame them. An 82-game season is way too long.

The playoffs, though, are like a pair of new Nikes: they fit so well, you wonder why you put up with that old, hole-ridden pair of Kangaroos.

And this year, there is some new force to be reckoned with in the west. The San Antonio Spurs have unleashed the frustrations of seven losing seasons this year, winning 55 games and the Midwest Division for the second spot in the Western Conference. While David Robinson has received much of the attention and praise in this turnaround, the acquisition of Terry Cummings didn't exactly slow the Spurs rapid improvement.

will be dangerous could be the Chicago Bulls. The only question is, How far can Michael Jordan fly with all of his teammates' extra-baggage? The rest of the teams are merely ordinary, with perhaps Boston and Cleveland providing the only surprises.

But the excitement of playoff fever is not all that is catching this time of year. Baseball is back, with all of the excitement and dreams a young season holds. There have already been several good stories.

The incredible start of the Cincy Reds under new Manager Lou Piniella has been a welcome sight after the specter of the Pete Rose case haunted the team all of last summer. In fact, Rose is still hedging in on the team's headlines with the results of his tax evasion case. For some odd reason, the government believes Rose didn't report all of his earnings in the years 1984-1987. Is it possible that Petey didn't report his gambling winnings? Naaaah.

And, as of Monday, the Pittsburgh Pirates were in first place in the NL East, heading straight for a pennant and a World Series win. (Ed. Note: We apologize for John's obvious lack of objectivity, but then, I like the Buccos too).

Finally, there is the NFL draft, which garners as much interest as any championship game, if not more. Well, maybe not any championship game, but the draft certainly was more exciting than the Super Bowl.

Men's baseball Lions woes on the field continue

by Tony Viola
Collegian Staff Writer

"(This is) The most competitive team Behrend has had in the last four years," stated Baseball Coach Mike Bari on his young Lion squad.

Despite the improved quality of Bari's squad, the schedule the Lions play is laden with teams that have more talent. This helps to explain their record of 3-17.

One of these more talented teams, Allegheny College, traveled to play the Lions last Wednesday. The Gators beat the Lions by a score of 10-2 in a nine inning battle.

Scott Fleshman started for Behrend, pitching 5 1/3 innings. Fleshman gave up 12 hits and nine runs, with six of the runs were earned. He walked four batters and struckout two hitters.

Matt Palisin pitched next picking up 2 2/3 innings. Palisin got hit once and let one unearned run score. He also walked and struck out one slugger.

Ray Cerqua pitched the last inning for the Lions. Cerqua struckout one batter and gave up only one hit.

From the batter's box, Paul Benim hit a double in the third

inning to drive in Kirk McKinney, who reached first on a base on balls. The double also drove home Mark Van Horn, who hit a single and stole second base.

Offensively, Bari said that his team lacked confidence at the plate. Behrend managed only four hits the whole game.

Last Thursday, the Lions also played a doubleheader against Gannon University in Erie.

In the first game, Behrend took a 6-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh, but they would go on for a disappointing 7-6 loss.

Cerqua started for the Lions, throwing six innings, giving up five runs on six hits. He also struckout four while walking two batters.

Palisin came on in the seventh, faced one batter, and walked him. Freshman Alex Horwath pitched 1/3 of an inning, allowing two runs on two walks. Darin Wotus closed the game for Behrend letting up a hit before getting the final out.

Offensively in the first game, Kirk McKinney got a hit in three out of four at bats as he scored two runs and drove in one. Scott Frantz swatted two hits, including a triple, and also drove in two runs. Cerqua also hit a triple and scored for the Lions in

the fifth inning.

In the second game, Behrend's offense was nonexistent in a 4-0 shutout. The Lions only had two hits in the game. John Terrill collected one of those hits when he ripped a double in the sixth inning. The other Lion's hit came in the fifth inning when Tim Cook singled.

Wotus pitched a complete game for Behrend, allowing three earned runs on nine hits. Wotus didn't have any strikeouts, but he did walk one Gannon batter.

The Lions wind down their season Thursday at California State University, Friday at Mercyhurst, and Saturday at LaRoche College.

NOTES: For the season, Cerqua is hitting .428 and might finish with the record for best batting average in a season. He also needs 14 hits in this last week to tie the number of hits in a season....Wotus was the big find on the mound for the Lions. Although his record is 1-5, the mound ace boasts a 2.91 earned run average. Why the poor won-loss record? Lack of offensive support. Behrend isn't scoring when he is starting. He has four complete games this year.

They're off!



photo by Rick Brooks

On your mark: Captain McCarthy, Behrend's ROTC commander, starts off last Friday's 5K on the right foot

ROTC sponsors 5K run

Despite heavy rains last Friday evening, 37 determined runners ventured out on the hilly and muddy 5000 meter course. The top male finisher was Norm Sweet, who crossed the finish line in 18 minutes and 42 seconds. For the women, Janet Adams took top honors with a time of 24:57.

Top finishers for Behrend were Kyle Blakeslee (22:06) and

Charles Burchard (22:30). Blakeslee was the first Behrend student to cross the line, while Burchard was the first faculty member to complete the course.

The race run by Behrend ROTC was part of the Wellness Awareness Week activities. The event netted 62 dollars toward the Diehl Elementary School's playground project.

Netters finish up

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decision was made that he keep that commitment.

The result was that when Nazereth decided that they wanted to play the match, Grignol would have to move up his lower seeds. Smith, Mitch Janowski, Joe Spangler, and Mike Schell all played up a spot against Nazereth. Despite this handicap, the Lions still played well, with Smith defeating Andrew Harris. Schell nearly won his match, but ended up losing in the third set after taking the first set and leading 4-3 in the second.

The netters still had a chance to win the match, but they couldn't afford to lose any of the three doubles matches. Schmitt-Keenan was the only successful duo in doubles play, winning 6-1, 6-2. The other two contests were close, but Nazereth pulled out both to win the event.

Despite the team's seventh loss, Grignol was pleased with the play of his team. "We had some real tight matches," said Grignol. "It could have gone either way."

NOTES: The Nazereth loss dropped the Lions to 2-7....Monday's game with Indiana has been re-scheduled for tonight. The home match begins at 7 pm....Grignol's squad finishes the season with Slippery Rock (home) tomorrow at 3 pm and St. John Fisher (away) Saturday.