

# SPORTS

## South paw slicer



**Athlete Of The Week: Melissa Barger**

by Hal D. Coffey  
*News editor*

The Athlete of the Week has been described by her coach as "hotter than a red chilli pepper." Melissa Barger has lived up to Behrend women's tennis coach Dan Gallegos' comments by

posting a 10-2 overall record. For her excellent start, Barger has been selected Athlete of the Week. Barger (sophomore biology and math major) was a key member of last year's record-setting team, but she believes this year's squad may reach even higher.

"We have a very good chance of having a winning record this year," Barger said. "Maybe even finally a victory over Allegheny (College)."

The Armstrong Central graduate was recruited by Coach Gallegos, but she believes that he knows what her priorities are.

"I came to college for an education first and tennis second. Coach understands that," Barger said. "But that doesn't mean I don't give 100% on every single point."

Barger proved that this past weekend in a tri-match with Thiel College and Waynesburg College. She won both of her singles matches (10-2, 10-1) with ease. She then combined with Rhonda Dennison to win two doubles matches (10-2, 10-4) to complete a four-win day.

Gallegos credits his recent success to her service game.

"She's got a big lefty slice serve that could cut up an Arctic iceberg," Gallegos said. "She uses her head and her racquet to dice up her opponents like a Quisnart."

Barger believes the closeness of the team helps contribute to their success.

"The team is great. All of the girls get along really well on and off the court."

Barger is very involved off the court, while she maintains a 3.2 GPA in the honors program. She is a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, Lambda Sigma honor society, and biology club.

## Lady Netters start strong

by Paul Young  
*Collegian Staff*

Last year's edition of the Penn State Behrend's women's tennis team finished the season with a won-loss record of 8-7, their first winning season in the college's history.

That type of performance led to even higher expectations for the '93-'94 campaign. So far, with five wins in their first six matches, the lady aces are not disappointing.

Leading the way once again is sophomore Annmarie Faso of Wexford, PA. She set the record this past year for the most singles wins in a season, posting an outstanding 18-3 mark.

Undefeated in her first six singles appearances, Faso's mission to surpass her productive freshman outing is well underway.

Returning to this year's young but seasoned squad are sophomores Jennifer Puerto, Melissa Barger, Holly Olarczuk, and Rhonda Dennison. They are joined by first year players, junior Amber Palmer, and freshmen Shelly Pearson and Melissa Kelly.

The Lady Lions are led by fourth year coach Dan Gallegos, who has witnessed tremendous improvement in both the men's and women's tennis programs during his first three seasons.

Coach Gallegos strongly believes that what the women's team lacks in experience and natural talent will be surely compensated, and even surpassed, by their "enthusiasm and strong work ethic."

The lady netters began with two victories over Fredonia in one week, defeating them each time by identical 7-2 match scores. In both matches the outcome was decided after the six singles matches, rendering the final three doubles events meaningless.

Next came Buffalo State and a 5-4 setback, their only loss at this point. The Lady Lions had their chances and they are looking forward to meeting them again at home later this month.

The women followed up their defeat with great poise, beating Thiel 5-4 the very next day. Once again, they took five out of six singles matches to post a convincing win.

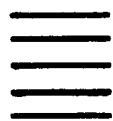
Finally, the women's team travelled to Greenville, PA to compete in a tri-match with Thiel and Waynesburg. They lost only one match the entire day, drubbing Waynesburg 8-1 and blanking Thiel 9-0.

The Lady Lions' next match is against Alfred University this Saturday, here at Behrend.



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