

# BEHREND LIONS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PENN STATE BEHREND ATHLETICS

## Penn State Behrend Swimming and Diving Captures Third Straight AMCC Title

The Behrend Lions men's and women's swimming and diving teams continued their domination of the AMCC, with each team taking first place at the 2009 AMCC Championships in February. The women's team earned the championship with a score of 213, and the men prevailed with a score of 250 as each team captured its third consecutive league title.

The women's team was led by Krystal Kovach (Scott Township/Chartiers Valley). Kovach won both the one and three meter diving championships. Kovach started the meet off by winning the three meter championship with a score of 422.8. Kovach then took the one meter event with a score of 405.35. Anne Lawrence (State College/State College) had an outstanding meet with two first place finishes, winning the 100 yard butterfly and the 200 yard backstroke. Katie VanEpps (Pleasantville/Titusville) also had a strong showing by winning the 200 yard butterfly and placing second in the 200 and 400 IM.

The men's team was led by high-point winner Josh Weaver (Franklin/Franklin) who was responsible for 43 points at the championship meet. Weaver was terrific and finished first in the 100 yard freestyle, the 200 yard freestyle, and second to teammate Dane Dombrosky (Mt. Pleasant/Mt. Pleasant) in the 500 yard freestyle event. Weaver and Dombrosky then teamed with Steve Zomcik (Kersey/St. Marys) and Ben Strunk (Cogan Station/Williamsport) to capture four AMCC relay championships.

The men were also led by Steve Graves (McMurray/Peter's Township) who went on to be named the AMCC Men's Diver of the Year for the second time. He would capture the AMCC championship in one meter diving with a 332.25 score, outscoring second place by nearly 60 points. Graves was joined by Weaver, Dombrosky, Zomcik, and Strunk



on the first team all-conference.

Kovach was named AMCC Women's Diver of the Year for the second straight year and would go on to earn fourth place at the ECAC Championships in one meter diving. VanEpps was named first team All-AMCC in the 200 fly as well as on three relay teams

while Lawrence was named first team in the 100 fly and on three relay teams. Also earning first team recognition was freshman Hilary MacManus (Beaver Falls/Blackhawk), freshman Julie Cook (Warren/Warren) junior Danielle Wilson (Pittsburgh/Plum) and freshman Heather Vickery (Bradford/Bradford).

## Behrend Lions Lead in Chase for 2008-09 Presidents' Cup

After the conclusion of the AMCC winter sports season, the Penn State Behrend Lions lead the AMCC in the Presidents Cup standings. The Behrend Lions now have 76.5 points to lead the race. The blue and white hold an eight-point lead over both Frostburg State and Penn State Altoona who are tied for second place with 68.5 points each.

The Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference's ten schools compete for points in fourteen men's and women's sports, with points accumulated for each

team's finish during the AMCC regular season. The award is presented annually to the conference member with the most successful overall program in AMCC competition.

The Behrend men's and women's swimming and diving teams picked up conference championships this winter to grab first-place point totals for each sport. The blue and white will look to its spring teams to wrap up the 2008-09 Presidents' Cup, which would be eighth time in nine seasons for Penn State Behrend to earn the trophy.

PENN STATE



Erie The Behrend College

## **BEHREND'S "SPIRIT AGAINST CANCER" DANCE AND CHEERLEADING COMPETITION RAISES \$8,000**

**Penn State Behrend athletics was able to raise \$8,000 for the John Kanzius Foundation on Saturday, February 14 when they hosted the eighth annual "Spirit Against Cancer" Dance and Cheerleading Competition.**

**"The competition was another huge success," said Stacy Pondo, assistant to the athletic director. "It is a great pleasure to see the amount of people and teams participate. It is an overwhelming experience for such a great cause."**

**More than 1,600 people attended this unique event in the Junker Center, while 53 teams participated in the competition that ran from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dance and cheerleading teams from middle school, junior high, junior varsity, high school varsity, college, and all-star (open) squads participated winning awards in several categories.**

**"Spirit Against Cancer" was created in memory of Becky Hubler Decker. Her commitment to the community included serving as dance coach at Penn State Behrend, cheerleading coach at Edinboro University, she was captain of the Invaderettes dance team, and a member of the Buffalo Bills (Jills) dance team.**

**All proceeds from this special event will benefit the American Cancer Society. Over the past eight years more than \$50,000 has been raised to support the American Cancer Society from the event.**

## **Engel and Richardson Named to Women's Basketball All-Conference Team**

Penn State Behrend senior Natalie Engel (McDonald/Fort Cherry) and junior Rachel Richardson (Moon Township/Moon Area) were named to the AMCC all-conference team for their efforts this season.

Engel had a great year for the Behrend Lions as she led the team averaging 14.0 points per game and knocked down 40 three-pointers, moving her to eighth all-time in the Behrend record books. Engel was also named to the ESPN The Magazine All-District Academic First-Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Over her four year career Engel has tallied 757 points, 135 steals, and 202 assists.

Richardson was an honorable mention selection for the blue and white who averaged 12.2 points and 4.9 rebounds throughout the 2008-09 season. Richardson finished in the top 30 in the nation in steals per game at 3.4. The



**Natalie Engel**

blue and white ended the season with a 69-60 loss to Medaille in the AMCC tournament and finished the season with a record of 13-12.

## **Kaiser and Potter Selected to Men's Basketball All-Conference Team**

Men's basketball juniors Adam Kaiser (Erie/Cathedral Prep) and Adam Potter (Pittsburgh/Mt. Lebanon) were named to the AMCC All-Conference team for their play this season for the Behrend Lions. Kaiser was named to the first team while Potter was a second team selection.

Kaiser has had an outstanding junior campaign for the blue and white. He led the team in scoring at 13.6 points per game and led the AMCC in 3-point field goals made with 80 for the season. Kaiser also added 49 assists and 29 steals. Potter was a workhorse down low for the Behrend Lions. He averaged 13.2 points and 6.0 rebounds per game. Potter also led the team in field goal percentage, making 50.4 % on the season while starting all 28 games. The blue and white reached the ECAC tournament semifinals before fall-



**Adam Kaiser**

ing to tournament host Cabrini and finished the season with a record of 18-10.

## **Behrend's Jon Bacon Named to ACWPC All-American Team**

The Men's Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) recently released the 2008 All-American teams. For the fourth time in Behrend school history a member of Coach Joe Tristan men's water polo team was named as an All-American. Sophomore Jon Bacon (Glendale, CA/Crespi Carmelite) was named to the Division III All-American team at the two meter position. Bacon was placed on the

team as an honorable mention selection.

Bacon was named to the Division III Eastern Championships second team after a 12 goal performance in the tournament. On the season he scored 32 times while dishing out nine assists. In his career, Bacon has played in 46 games for the blue and white. He has scored 46 times on 146 shots from the two meter position.

# Behrend Baseball Program Earns Preseason Attention from CB and D3Baseball.com

The Behrend Lions produced a tremendous baseball season in 2008. The team's record of 34-12 were the second most wins in school history, and the squad won the AMCC championship while advancing to the NCAA Regionals for the first time in school history.

The team was selected by league coaches as the preseason favorite to repeat as AMCC Champions. In addition, Collegiate baseball magazine and D3baseball.com recognized both the program and several players in anticipation of another terrific baseball season.

Seniors David Koerbel (Pittsburgh/Central Catholic) and Ben Cain (Venetia/Peters Township) as well as juniors Josh Fyffe (Fredonia/Sharpsville) and Dustin Dubensky (Punxsutawney/Punxsutawney) have been recognized in the Division III list of Players to Watch in Collegiate Baseball Magazine.

Koerbel had an amazing 2008 season that saw him take home the AMCC MVP and Pitcher of the Year honors. He led the team in starts with 11 and complete games with seven. He posted an 8-2 record overall, a 2.82 ERA and 73 strikeouts. Koerbel was ranked nationally in ERA, wins and strikeouts and has been

tabbed All-AMCC for three straight seasons.

Cain came out of the bullpen to lead the team in appearances with 16 and games finished with 14. Cain had a 5-0 record to go along with an AMCC leading five saves. The most amazing stat might be his miniscule ERA, which was 0.76 and an opposing batting average of .190.

Fyffe, Behrend's shortstop, put up another great statistical season to go along with his first in which he was named AMCC Newcomer of the Year. He hit .333 with 25 RBIs for the Behrend Lions. He led the league in walks with 30 and runs scored with 46. He was also selected as the program's Golden Glove award winner last year. Fyffe also has been a member of the All-AMCC squad for two straight seasons.

Dubensky produced an outstanding sophomore campaign which saw him go into the Behrend record books. The third baseman hit .365 and a team-high 46 RBIs which was second in the league. Dubensky hit a single-season school record 23 doubles last year and was ranked fifth nationally. Dubensky was named to the All-AMCC team for his play last spring.



David Koerbel

## Behrend Softball Selected to Repeat as Conference Champions

Defending champion Penn State Behrend is the coaches' choice to win its fourth AMCC championship and third in four years.

Julie Koman (McKees Rocks/Montour) was selected as the Preseason Pitcher of the Year. The senior righthander is a three-time first team all-conference selection. She was a key component of the Behrend Lions AMCC championship seasons in 2006 and 2008. In 2008 Koman led the league in all major pitching statistics, finishing the year with a 1.60 ERA with 156 strikeouts in 161.2 innings pitched, and was nationally ranked in wins and hits allowed. She posted a record of 20-6.

The blue and white will return eight seniors from the 2008 championship team. Three-time first team all-AMCC member Katie Whitby (Tyrone/Tyrone) returns from a season in which she batted .388 with 57 hits, seven triples and two homeruns. Nikki Kaschauer (South Park/South Park) was a second team all-conference selection in 2008. She led the team with a .405 batting average and started last season with a 20 game hit streak. Kaschauer also led the AMCC in hits with 60 while scoring 34 runs and knocking



Nikki Kaschauer

in 34 RBI.

The Behrend Lions will begin the 2009 season over spring break week in Clearwater, Florida. The AMCC kicks off conference play on Saturday, March 21, and the championship will be May 1-3 at the site of the top seed. The winner of the tournament will receive the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

## Yes ...

### I WANT TO BE A BEHREND LIONS SUPPORTER!

- Lions Club.....\$1,000.00
- Lions Den.....\$500.00
- Lions Trainer.....\$250.00
- Coaches Club.....\$150.00
- Players Club.....\$100.00
- Blue Club.....\$50.00
- White Club.....\$25.00
- I waive all membership premiums and tickets and may claim a tax deduction.
- Unrestricted Athletic Department
- Sport Specific \_\_\_\_\_
- Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_  
(For gifts of \$250.00 or more)
- My company will match my gift. A completed form is enclosed.

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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## BEHREND LIONS HOME EVENTS

### MARCH 2009

Date	Event	Time
March 21	MTN, Pitt-Bradford*	3:00 p.m.
March 24	MTN, Pitt-Greensburg*	2:00 p.m.
March 25	BSE, Medaille (DH)	1:00 p.m.
March 27	MTN, Alfred	5:00 p.m.
March 27	WWP, Utica	8:00 p.m.
March 28	WWP, Chatham	12:00 p.m.
March 28	MTN, Frostburg State*	5:00 p.m.
March 28	BSE, Mt. Aloysius* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
March 29	MTN, Penn State Altoona*	12:30 p.m.
March 29	SB, Frostburg State* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
March 29	WWP, Mercyhurst	9:00 a.m.
March 29	WWP, Gannon	12:00 p.m.
March 31	SB, Pitt-Bradford* (DH)	3:00 p.m.

### APRIL 2009

April 2	BSE, Fredonia (S)	2:30 p.m.
April 4	SB, Penn State Altoona* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 8	SB, Franciscan* (DH)	3:00 p.m.
April 11	BSE, Pitt-Greensburg* (DH), TV Game	1:00 p.m.
April 14	SB, Westminster, TV Game	1:00 p.m.
April 14	MTN, Notre Dame	4:00 p.m.
April 16	SB, Washington & Jefferson	3:00 p.m.
April 18	SB, La Roche* (DH), TV Game	1:00 p.m.
April 22	BSE, Hilbert* (DH), TV Game	1:00 p.m.
April 23	MWGOLE, Behrend Invitational @ Peak-N'-Peek	12:00 p.m.
April 25	ATHLETIC ALUMNI DAY	ALL DAY
April 25	BSE, Bethany (V/JV)	1:00 p.m.
April 29	BSE, Fredonia, (S)	3:00 p.m.

## Behrend Women's Cross Country Earns All-Academic Team Award

The Penn State Behrend women's cross country team was recently selected as an USTFCCCA (United States Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association) Division III All-Academic Team. For a team to be considered for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Team award, they must have competed and compiled a team score at an NCAA Regional

Meet. The team must also have a minimum 3.10 team cumulative grade point average.

The Penn State Behrend women earned the honor with a team GPA of 3.218 for the 2008 fall semester. Coach Greg Cooper's women have made this an annual award, earning the honor four of the last five seasons.