

BEHREND LIONS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PENN STATE BEHREND ATHLETICS

Baseball Captures Back-to-Back AMCC Championships and Advances to NCAA Tournament

Penn State Behrend finished off Penn State Altoona with a 7-2 win on day three of the 2009 AMCC Baseball Championship to claim back-to-back conference titles. Behrend defeated Pitt-Greensburg 16-2 and pounded Altoona 11-4 to advance to the championship round. With the title, Behrend also earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. In the AMCC title game, the blue and white build a 5-2 lead through six innings and made it 7-2 with runs in the seventh and eighth innings. Ben Cain (Venetia/Peters Township) pitched the final one and a third innings, getting a groundout for the final out, kicking off a jubilant pileup.

Fran Haus (Wexford/North Allegheny) got the win for the Behrend Lions, pitching seven and two thirds innings with three strikeouts, scattering seven hits, with two runs, neither of them earned. Eddie Kessler (Bethel Park/Bethel Park) led the conference champion Behrend Lions in hits, RBI, and total bases during the AMCC



tournament including two homeruns in the same inning versus Pitt-Greensburg. The sophomore went 7-12 (.583) with six RBI and a stolen base in three AMCC tournament games.

The Penn State Behrend Lions advanced to the NCAA Tournament Mid-Atlantic Regional for the second year in a row. On the first day the blue and white were beaten **continued on page 2**

Softball Wins Third AMCC Title in Four Seasons, Advances to NCAA Tournament



Rachelle Lawrence

The Penn State Behrend softball team made it back-to-back championships when the Behrend Lions captured the 2009 AMCC Softball Championship with a 2-0 win over Frostburg in the AMCC title game. Behrend took the title with its third tournament win in as many days, going 3-0 in the double-elimination tournament with wins over Pitt-Greensburg, Mt. Aloysius, and Frostburg State.

Starting pitcher, Emma Hahn (Smethport/Smethport) had it going early, throwing four strikeouts in the first two innings of play, and struck out two more in the fifth inning

to keep the Bobcats off the scoreboard. In the bottom of the inning Behrend freshman Amy Greene (Erie/Strong Vincent) led off with a double and scored when Lia Sorce (Glenshaw/Shaler) singled. Katie Whitby (Tyrone/Tyrone) followed with a double to put Behrend up 2-0.

In the seventh, Frostburg had runners on second and third with two outs. Behrend responded by bringing in ace Julie Koman (McKees Rocks/Montour) who got a fly ball to shut the door on Frostburg and **continued on page 2**

PENN STATE BEHREND SECURES PRESIDENTS' CUP FOR EIGHTH TIME IN NINE YEARS

For the eighth time in nine years, Penn State Behrend has concluded the year as the AMCC's most accomplished athletic program in conference competition. The Behrend Lions finished with 101.5 points and seven team championships, winning titles in baseball, men's cross country, softball, men's and women's swimming, and men's and women's tennis.

The Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference's ten schools compete for points in thirteen 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. Runners up were Frostburg State University with 86 points and one championship, and Penn State Altoona with 83 points and two championships.

89 BEHREND STUDENT ATHLETES NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE

Annually Behrend Lions student-athletes excel in the classroom. In the spring, 89 were honored with academic all-conference honors. To be recognized as all-conference student-athletes must earn at least a 3.2 grade point average each semester—a challenging task while balancing practice, games, and academics.

In addition, 20 Behrend student-athletes have been recognized by the National College Athletic Honor Society (NCAS). The society is designed to acknowledge varsity athletes who are also high academic achievers. Juniors and seniors on varsity squads with a 3.40 cumulative GPA or better are eligible, and once inducted become members of the Chi Alpha Sigma Pennsylvania Epsilon Chapter.

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start the celebration for the Behrend Lions. Hahn got the win, with ten strikeouts against two hits and no runs in six and two-thirds innings. Sorce had the top batting average in the AMCC Tournament, going 5-for-7 (.714) with three RBI and made several solid defensive plays in right field.

Behrend then traveled to Ithaca to compete in their third NCAA Tournament in the past four seasons. The blue and white went cold at the plate and bowed out of the regional after losing 5-2 versus Buffalo State and 1-0 to SUNY Cortland.

Penn State Behrend softball players dominated the AMCC All-Conference teams, earning 10 total selections to the team including all three top awards with Koman named Player of the Year, Greene named Newcomer of the Year, and head coach Stacy Pondo named Co-Coach of the Year. Pondo was also honored as the ECAC South Coach of the Year.

Koman earned her fourth straight selection to the All-AMCC First Team and was the ECAC South Player of the Year. Greene batted .409 with six homeruns, 78 total bases and a whopping .718 slugging percentage and was also named ECAC South Rookie of the Year.

Nikki Kaschauer (South Park/South Park) made the all-conference team for the fourth straight year. Rachele Lawrence (Warren Center/Northeast Bradford) made the all-



Julie Koman

conference team after batting .407 and leading the team in hits (46), RBI (33), and triples (6). Katie Whitby (Tyrone/Tyrone) was named to the all-conference first team for the fourth straight season. Hahn, Laura Frischkorn (Beaver Falls/Beaver Falls), Ashley Gruber (Burton, OH/Berkshire) and Beth Papalia (Warren/Warren) were named to the second team, while outfielder Allison Babish (Coraopolis/Montour) was a honorable mention selection.

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13-1 by The College of New Jersey and the season came to an end when Behrend left 17 on base and dropped a tough 8-5 game against Penn State Berks on day two of the regional to finish the season at 31-13.

The Behrend Lions placed eight players onto the AMCC All-Conference team including the player of the year, Josh Fyffe (Fredonia/Sharpsville), and the pitcher of the year, David Koerbel (Pittsburgh/Central Catholic). Fyffe, a junior shortstop, had a .406 batting average, drove in a Behrend season-record 58 runners, and smacked nine homers and was also the ECAC South Player of the Year.

Koerbel is the career leader in almost every category including wins (27), innings pitched (239.2), strike outs (251), and complete games (18). Koerbel led the blue and white to its second championship in as many years going 9-1 with a 3.56 ERA, set the single season strikeout mark at 83, and was named ECAC South Pitcher of the Year. Jon Gray (State College/State College) joins Fyffe and Koerbel as a first team All-AMCC selection. Gray led the team with a .432 batting average and tied the single season mark for runs scored with 59.



David Koerbel

The second team includes Andy Chrobak (New Castle/Laurel), Dustin Dubensky (Punxsutawney/Punxsutawney), David Miller (St. Marys/St. Marys), and Geoff Lang (Pittsburgh/North Allegheny).

Men's Tennis Repeats as AMCC Champions

The Behrend Lions won the 2009 AMCC Men's Tennis Championship this spring, marking the second year in a row and fourth time in eleven years that the blue and white have taken home the championship.

Elliot Blackstone (Wexford/Pine-Richland) led the Behrend Lions to the championship by taking first in number one singles, making it the second year that Blackstone has won an AMCC singles championship. For his efforts, Blackstone was voted at the AMCC Men's Tennis Player of the Year. Shane Mosier (Kersey/St. Marys) went home with the number three singles title to add to Behrend's 22 team points and was named first team all-conference. James Getty (Erie/Harborcreek) rounded out the singles champions as he took number five singles, earning first-team all-conference honors at that spot.

The blue and white captured two of

the three doubles championships. Blackstone teamed with Jon Henderson (Upper St. Clair/Upper St. Clair) in number one doubles winning 8-3. Kelly Manning (Sharpsville/Kennedy Catholic) and John Michalko (Washington/McGuffey) teamed up in number three doubles to prevail over the team from Frostburg State.

Behrend was followed by Penn State Altoona and Frostburg State with 16 points apiece. Altoona was named runner up based on tiebreak criteria (most team points in conference matches in regular season). The Behrend Lions finished the year with a perfect conference record going 8-0 and won 12 of 19 matches overall. Coach Jeff Barger was named the AMCC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year, the fourth time he was selected as the top men's tennis coach in the league



Elliot Blackstone

Penn State Behrend Announces Top Athletic Awards

This year's James Frye Male Athlete of the Year was awarded to baseball senior David Koerbel (Pittsburgh/Central Catholic). Koerbel is the most decorated pitcher in the history of the baseball program. After leading his team to back-to-back AMCC regular season and conference tournament titles, he was named the AMCC Pitcher of the Year for the second straight year.

This year's Cheryl Ramsdell-Anderson Female Athlete of the Year winner was softball pitcher Julie Koman (McKees Rocks/Montour). She is the most successful pitcher in the history of the Behrend Lions softball program, led the blue and white to three NCAA Tournament appearances in her four seasons, and was a four-time AMCC All-Conference player.

Also awarded annually is the John Zahner Scholar Athlete Award, which is given to the male and female student-athletes who have best combined academic and athletic achievements. In addition to contributing in the field of play, the athletes must earn at least a 3.40 in the classroom. This year's male scholar-athlete award was presented to senior baseball player David Miller (St. Marys/St. Marys). Miller was also recognized this spring with an ESPN Academic All-America First-Team honor. The female scholar-athlete was awarded to senior women's basketball player Natalie Engel (McDonald/Fort Cherry). Engel was named to the ESPN The Magazine All-District Academic First-Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America this past winter.

This year's Herb Lauffer Leadership/

Scholarship Award winner was senior men's basketball player Tom Newman (Girard/Northwestern). The recipient of this award best exemplifies the qualities of former Behrend coach and athletic director Herb Lauffer: to be a leader, an excellent student, and a sincere, genuine person who strives to make everyone around them better.

The Faculty Athletic Council Service Award winner is Andy Iams (Harrison City/Penn Trafford). This award is given annually to the student-athlete who is most dedicated to service at Penn State Behrend. Iams, the current president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, participated in numerous community service and leadership activities this year.

Hartzler Competes at NCAA Track and Field Championships

Penn State Behrend's Bryson Hartzler (Belleville, PA/Indian Valley) competed in the high jump at the 2009 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships, hosted by Marietta College in Ohio. Hartzler, who became the third Behrend athlete ever to compete at the NCAA Championships, cleared a height of 1.93 meters (6'4") on his way to a 16th place finish.

A sophomore, Hartzler qualified for the championships by clearing a height of 2.05 meters (6'8.75") at the team's first outdoor meet. The clearance broke the school record of 1.95m (6'4.75") that Hartzler set in 2008. Each of the college's three competing athletes have traveled to the outdoor NCAA championship meet within the past six seasons. Previous competitors are Staci Banaszek (high jump; 2006) and Dan Mitchell (javelin; 2004, 2006, 2007).

Coach Cooper said, "Bryson ranks right



up there with Staci and Dan as one of the best athletes to ever come through the Behrend track and field program. His continued improvement, along with our team's continued improvement, will only lead to an increase in great performances like this, and very soon an All-America athlete."

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BEHREND LIONS HOME EVENTS

JUNE 2009

June 6	JV Boys Basketball Team Camp
June 8-12	Boys & Girls Soccer Day Camp
June 13-14	Girls Basketball Shoot-Out
June 15-19	Boys & Girls Soccer Day Camp
June 15-19	Boys & Girls Swim Camps
June 19-20	Boys Basketball Team Camp
June 22-26	Boys Basketball Day Camp
June 22-26	Girls Softball Day Camp
June 28-July 1	Grandview Resident Basketball Camp

JULY 2009

July 6-8	State Champs Volleyball Day Camp
July 6-10	Boys & Girls Soccer Day Camp
July 13-17	Girls Basketball Day Camp
July 19-20	Boys Basketball Team Camp
July 20-24	Boys Basketball Day Camp
July 27-31	Boys Baseball Day Camp
July 27-30	Boys & Girls Little Dribblers

AUGUST 2009

August 3-7	Boys Baseball Day Camp
August 3-7	Girls Basketball Day Camp

**For camp registration and brochure go to behrend.psu.edu "click" on ATHLETICS

Herb Lauffer Memorial Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE, FRIDAY, JULY 31, SHOTGUN START, 1:00 p.m.

The Herb Lauffer Memorial Golf Tournament has become one of the most eagerly awaited events on the Penn State Behrend calendar. And why not? It's a great time, on a great golf course, for a great cause.

It's fun, it provides valuable support for Penn State Behrend athletic teams, and it's in honor of longtime Athletic Director Herb Lauffer.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Putting Contest

Throughout the round.

Golf Scramble

1:00 p.m.

Dinner

6:00 p.m.

All events at Lawrence Park Golf Course.

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