

# BEHREND LIONS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PENN STATE BEHREND ATHLETICS

## Men's Basketball Captures AMCC Championship and Advances to NCAA Tournament Second Round

Penn State Behrend captured the 2008 AMCC men's basketball tournament championship defeating defending-champion Lake Erie 57-54 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament with the league's automatic bid. In the first round of the NCAA Tournament Behrend rolled over Farmingdale State 83-62. The Behrend Lions then fell in the second round to #13 ranked and regional host Rochester 65-56.

In the AMCC title game in the Junker Center, the blue and white rallied from a five-point halftime deficit, clawing back during the second half. Behrend took the lead with seven minutes to play when senior Kevin Buczynski (Erie/Villa Maria) scored on back-to-back drives, the second off a terrific pass from Tom Newman (Erie/Northwestern) to lead 45-44. Lake Erie fought back to claim the lead and eventually go up three. Then with four minutes left, Behrend junior Drew Seker (Ellicott City, MD/Centennial) came off the bench to nail a clutch three-point shot to tie the game at 51-51.

Lake Erie came right back, hitting a clutch bucket at the three-minute mark to put the storm up two. Behrend responded, again from downtown as sophomore Adam Kaiser (Erie/Cathedral Prep) hit one of his four buckets from long-range to put Behrend up 54-53, with just over two minutes to play, electrifying the crowd.

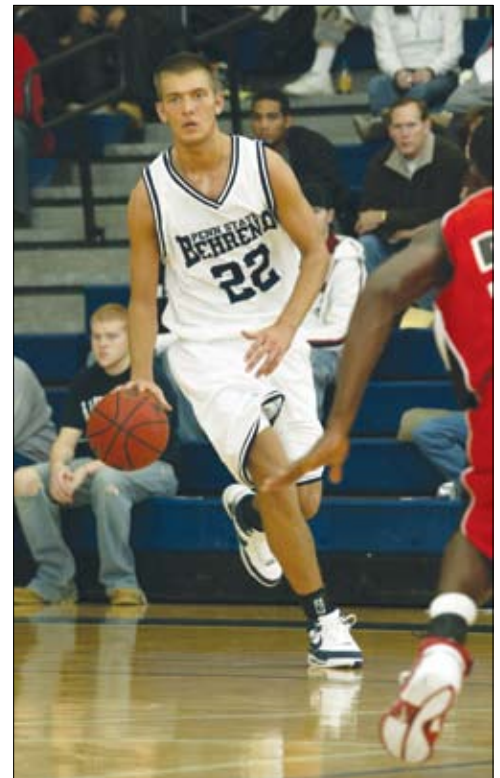
Lake Erie tied the game with one minute remaining at 54-54 on a free throw. Buczynski was fouled on the next possession and missed at the foul line on the 1-and-1, but hustled to grab his own rebound. Behrend's second all-time leading scorer went back to the line and connected to put

the blue and white up 55-54. After the Storm came up empty on the offensive end, Justin Kovac (Venetia/Peters Township) made them pay by hitting two clutch free throws to extend the lead to three with 16 seconds to play. Lake Erie missed a three point shot and in the ensuing scramble could not regain possession to try again as time ran out and the Behrend celebration began.

For Behrend, Buczynski, the 2008 AMCC Player of the Year, finished with 20 points, eight rebounds, and four big blocks in the win. Kaiser had 13 points including four clutch three point baskets. Newman finished with seven points, five boards, and four assists. Kovac and Dan Ziegler (Johnsonburg/Johnsonburg) each added six points for the blue and white.

After capturing the third AMCC Tournament Championship under coach Dave Niland, the 2008 AMCC Coach of the Year, the team made its fourth NCAA Tournament appearance. Behrend traveled to Rochester to take on Farmingdale State. Behrend saw five players reach double-figures and shot 56% for the game as the blue and white cruised to a 21-point victory. Leading the way was Buczynski who poured in 21 points to go with nine rebounds, five assists, and three blocks against the Rams. Kovac and Kaiser combined for eight of the team's 12 3-point baskets in the game. Each knocked down four from beyond the arc as Behrend made 12-of-24 from long-range in the game. Kovac finished with 14 points and five assists, while Kaiser also scored 14 to go with five boards.

Also in double figures for the Behrend Lions were Newman and David Gahan (Erie/East). Newman scored 11 to go with five boards, while Gahan chipped in ten



**Kevin Buczynski**

points and five rebounds. Ziegler came off the bench to connect for eight points and collected five rebounds.

In the second round Behrend lost 65-56 to the #13 ranked Rochester Yellowjackets, ending the most successful men's basketball season since the 1999-2000 team reached the Elite Eight. Seniors Buczynski, Gahan, Ziegler, Doug Straub (St. Mary's/Elk County Catholic), and Ben Gasbarre (DuBois/DuBois Central Catholic) concluded their careers as the Behrend Lions finished at 22-5.

## COLLEGIATE BASEBALL MAGAZINE RECOGNIZES FYFFE AND KOERBEL AS PLAYERS TO WATCH

David Koerbel, a junior from Central Catholic High School, and Josh Fyffe, a sophomore from Sharpsville High School are among an elite list of Division III Players to Watch in Collegiate Baseball Magazine.



**Josh Fyffe**



**David Koerbel**

Koerbel had an outstanding season last year posting a record of 5-1 in 11 appearances for the Behrend Lions. He led his team in innings pitched (53.1) and finished with an impressive 2.87 ERA, while striking-out 55. Koerbel was named to the 2007 All-AMCC squad.

As a rookie, Fyffe played in 39 games a season ago as shortstop and proved he could compete with the best. He batted an impressive .394 and led the Behrend Lions with nine doubles and 33 RBIs. He was also named the AMCC Newcomer of the Year.

The Behrend Lions finished with a record of 27-12 a year ago and finished a game out of first place in the AMCC regular-season. The blue and white were picked to finish first in the 2008 AMCC Baseball Coaches Preseason Poll.

## Behrend Repeats as AMCC Champions in Swimming and Diving

The Penn State Behrend men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured the AMCC titles for a second straight season with dominating performances at the AMCC Championships. The Behrend men ran away with the title, racking up 311 team points, and the Behrend women also cruised to the championship putting up 188 points.

For the men senior Dustin Fairchild (Corry/Corry), who was named AMCC Men's Swimmer of the Year, and sophomore Tom Weir (Rochester/Freedom) shared the honor of high point scorer. Fairchild won three individual events, taking first place in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, and the 200 breaststroke as well as helping his team in two winning relays (400 & 800 freestyle). Weir was first in the 200 IM, 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke, and was also a member of the winning 200 freestyle relay. Weir was named All-AMCC first-team in all of those events.

Behrend junior Sarah Breese (West Springfield/Northwestern) tied for high point scorer in the women's competition by winning three individual events. She captured the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 100 breaststroke, while taking part in four winning relays (200, 400, 800 freestyle, 400 medley). Breese was also named to the All-AMCC first-team in all of those events.

Behrend divers also came through at the championships. Freshman Krystal Kovach (Pittsburgh/Chartiers Valley) dominated in winning both the 1 meter and 3 meter board events. Fellow freshman Steve Graves (McMurray/Peters Township) took the 1 meter and 3 meter events in the men's competition. Kovach was selected as the AMCC Diver of the Year, while Graves was the AMCC Men's Diver of the Year.



**Dustin Fairchild**



**Steve Graves**



**Sarah Breese**



**Krystal Kovach**

Other Behrend winners from the championships included Shannon Strong (Buffalo, NY/Newfane), Joe Reese (Boalsburg/State College), and Ben Strunk (Cogan Station/Williamsport). Other women who earned spots on the All-Conference team in individual events were Strong, Danielle Wilson (Pittsburgh/Plum), Katie VanEpps (Pleasantville/Titusville), and Danielle Palski (Harleysville/Souderton). Other individual event all-conference men included Reese, Strunk, and Chris Graves (McMurry/Peters Township). Freshmen Strunk and VanEpps were the AMCC Co-Newcomers of the Year and Jen Wallace was selected as Coach of the Year.

## Anthony Spoto, Dustin Walker Pick Up Post-Season Awards

Penn State Behrend men's water polo player Anthony Spoto (Birmingham, MI/Birmingham-Seaholm) was named to the CWPA Division III All-American Team for his performance during the 2007 fall season. Spoto was one of only 22 Division III water polo athletes named as All-American. This was Spoto's second selection as he was also a CWPA Honorable Mention All-American as a freshman in 2004. Spoto poured in 76 goals during the 2007 season for the blue and white, breaking his previous single season record of 75 set in 2004. The senior leaves Behrend as

the all-time leader in goals scored with 247.

Penn State Behrend soccer goalkeeper Dustin Walker (Apollo/Kiski Area) was selected for the Division III Mid-Atlantic All-Regional second team for his outstanding performance during the 2007 fall season. Walker had a tremendous season, conceding only seven goals in 16 games. He ranked fourth in the NCAA save percentage category at .911, and eighth in the goals against average category with a .499 GAA. The sophomore was also named to the 2007 D3Kicks.com All-Region second team.

# Softball Picked Second in AMCC Preseason Poll

The Penn State Behrend softball team has been picked to finish second by the AMCC coaches in the 2008 Softball Preseason Poll. Defending-champion Pitt-Bradford was picked to finish first.

Last year Behrend finished the regular season in third place behind Pitt-Bradford, with La Roche claiming the regular season AMCC title. The women went on to play in the ECAC tournament, where they would round out the tournament with losses to La Roche and Kean. The blue and white won the AMCC title in 2006.

Julie Koman (McKees Rocks/Montour) was named the Preseason Pitcher of the year while teammate Nikki Kaschauer (South Park/South Park) was named Preseason Player of the Year. Koman had an impressive 7-1 record in AMCC play last season, with a 0.75 ERA and limited league opponents to a .181 batting average. In 32 games she recorded a 19-6 mark and completed 20 total games. She was the AMCC Player and Newcomer of the Year in 2006.

Team captain Kaschauer led her team last



**Julie Koman**

year with a .438 batting average, 11 doubles and 39 RBIs. Kaschauer batted at .607 in conference play with 16 RBIs. She was named the AMCC Player of the Year last year as well as earning the ECAC Division III Southern Player of the Year award in 2007.



**Nikki Kaschauer**

## “Spirit Against Cancer” Dance & Cheerleading Competition Raises \$9600 for the American Cancer Society

Penn State Behrend athletics was able to raise \$9,600 for the American Cancer Society on Saturday, February 9 when they hosted the seventh annual “Spirit Against Cancer” Dance & Cheerleading competition.

The competition featured over 800 participants with schools coming from all over the region. Dance and cheerleading teams from middle school, junior high, junior varsity, high school varsity, college, and all-star (open) squads all participated in the event.

“It was really a wonderful experience for

everyone involved,” said Behrend athletic director, Brian Streeter. “It was a fun competition that drew over 2,000 spectators into the Junker Center for a great cause.”

“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, captain of the Invaderettes dance team, and a member of the Buffalo Bills (Jills) dance team.

## Basketball’s Andrus Picks up Conference and Academic Honors

Penn State Behrend’s Julia Andrus (Corry/Corry) was named to the 2007-08 AMCC Women’s Basketball All-Conference team. This is Andrus’s second time being selected for the All-Conference team.

Andrus led the Behrend Lions in scoring, averaging 12.5 ppg and racking up 337 total points this season. Her name is etched in numerous career record categories at Behrend. She is second in free-throw percentage, hitting 81.3% over her four years at Behrend. Andrus is also ninth in all-time scoring, fin-

ishing with 975 points over her career.

This season Andrus was honored by ESPN the Magazine as a selection for the All-District Academic Third-Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). This was her second consecutive year of being selected.

After defeating La Roche in the first round of the AMCC Tournament, the women were defeated by the Medaille Mavericks who went on to capture the title. Behrend finished its season at 14-13 overall and 11-7 in the AMCC.

### 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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## BEHREND LIONS HOME EVENTS

### MARCH 2008

Date	Event	Time
March 26	SB, Medaille* (DH)	3:00 p.m.
March 27	SB, Grove City (DH)	3:30 p.m.
March 27	JVBSE, Mercyhurst-North East	4:00 p.m.
March 28	MTN, Alfred	4:00 p.m.
March 29	SB, Mt. Aloysius* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
March 29	MTN, Frostburg*	5:00 p.m.
March 30	MTN, Penn State Altoona*	1:00 p.m.

### APRIL 2008

April 1	BSE, Pitt-Bradford* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 3	BSE, Grove City	3:00 p.m.
April 4	SB, Hiram (DH)	3:30 p.m.
April 5	WWP, Indiana	9:00 a.m.
April 5	BSE, Penn State Altoona* (DH)	1:00 p.m. (TV GAME)
April 7	SB, Thiel (DH)	3:00 p.m.
April 9	BSE, Lake Erie* (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 9	MTN, Pitt-Greensburg*	4:00 p.m.
April 12	SB, Pitt-Greensburg* (DH)	1:00 p.m. (TV GAME)
April 12	WWP, Chatham (Club Exhibition)	12:30 p.m.
April 15	BSE, Thiel	3:00 p.m.
April 19	BSE, La Roche* (DH)	1:00 p.m. (TV GAME)
April 22	BSE, Allegheny (DH)	2:00 p.m.
April 23	SB, Hilbert* (DH)	3:00 p.m. (TV GAME)
April 24	GOLF, Behrend Invitational @ Peak-N'-Peek	12:00 p.m.
April 27	BSE, Fredonia (DH)	1:00 p.m.
April 29	BSE, Washington & Jefferson	3:00 p.m.
April 29	MTN, Grove City	5:00 p.m.

## Do You Know ... Dave Honard?



Dave Honard is a seventh year staff member at Penn State Behrend. Honard is in his third year as the Behrend athletic department equipment manager. Dave's duties include responsibility for athletic equipment inventory, as well as facility preparation and maintenance.