

Behrend Lions Men's Tennis 2009



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Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

2009 Season Preview

The Penn State Behrend men's tennis program enters the upcoming 2009 spring season with expectations of adding additional hardware to the Junker Center trophy case. Last season, the blue and white, under the direction of Head Coach Jeff Barger claimed the 2008 AMCC Championship. Behrend registered 13 conference tournament points to Penn State Altoona's ten, and held off the six-time champions. Behrend posted an 11-7 overall record and cruised to a perfect 6-0 mark in regular season league play.

Although Behrend has some line-up questions beginning the season, there is a strong desire to add to the collection of AMCC crowns from 1998, 2004, and last season.

Barger said, "At this point in the season, things are kind of up in the air," said the eleventh year coach. "We lost a number of players to graduation off our championship team and are still working to put together a new line-up."

After being tested early last season with a top notch schedule during spring training in Hilton Head, South Carolina, the blue and white utilized the experience to rally with an 8-1 mark to close out the regular season and then earn the conference's top prize.

"Our 10 returners have looked solid, but we still have some holes to fill," continued Barger. Behrend will have to move forward and attempt to replace senior graduate Trevor Dougherty who registered a school record 51 wins in singles play. Asked to step up to the task will be senior captain James Getty (Erie/Harborcreek). He was named the program's Rookie of the Year as a freshman and continues to elevate his game. Getty has worked for 17 doubles wins during his career and earned All-AMCC honors last season.

Also, providing veteran leadership will be a set of juniors in Kelly Manning (Sharpsville/Kenedy Catholic), Shane Mosier (Kersey/St. Marys), and Brad Nagel (West Alexander/McGuffey). Manning has claimed 11 doubles wins over his first two seasons and has the ability to play both the singles and doubles game. Mosier is prepped to have a breakout third season for the Behrend Lions and also has a Rookie of the Year title on his resume. Nagel was the Behrend Lions 2007 Most Improved Player and plans on stepping up into a starting role this spring.

A talented group of six sophomores flooded the program last season as rookies and made quite a splash on the AMCC. All will be expected to hit the courts with an improved game and meet the new expectations placed on defending the program's conference championship. Jacob Fling (Erie/Villa Maria), Jason Grosch (Warren/Warren), Elliot Blackstone (Wexford/Pine-Richland), Jon Henderson (Upper St. Clair/Upper St. Clair), John Michalko (Washington/McGuffey), and Erkin Nasirli (Baku/Baku Oxford School) will all be in the line-up mix. Blackstone is the headliner of the group. He claimed several postseason honors in 2008 that included being named both the AMCC Player and Newcomer of the Year. After setting school records for most single season singles and doubles wins, he was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. Henderson was another AMCC All-Conference performer and teamed with Blackstone to establish the new mark for doubles wins. Nasirli was tops in the league at third singles, earning All-AMCC recognition after going 12-3 in 2008, while Fling, Grosch, and Michalko are trying to find their way into the line-up after earning an important season of collegiate experience last year.

Four freshmen players make up the 2009 recruiting class and includes Markus Addison (Baltimore, MD/ Baltimore City), Peter Bissert (Pittsburgh/Seton LaSalle), Juan Santiago (Erie/Central), and Ryan Zippie (Hermitage/Hickory). Also returning after a year off due to injury is three-year letterwinner Brian Kaleta (Harborcreek/ Harborcreek). Kaleta is a former All-AMCC player at doubles for the Behrend Lions and adds both experience and depth to the 2009 roster.

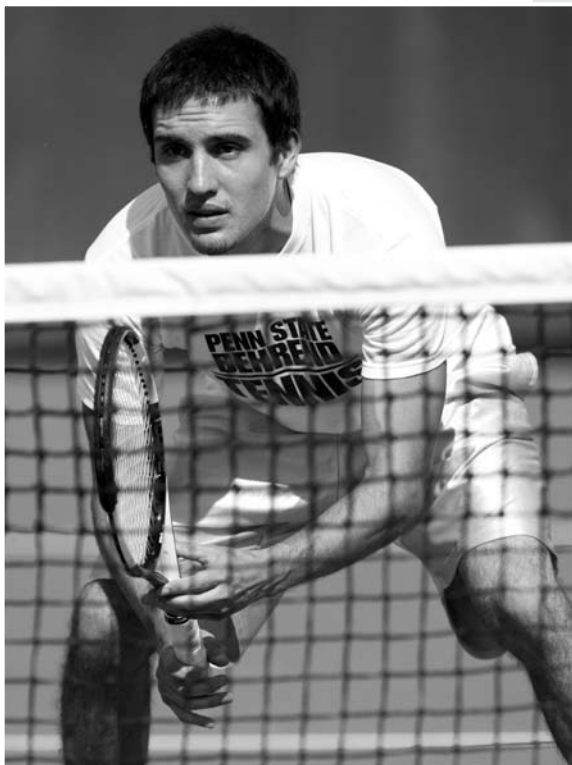
"We have a couple of freshmen that could compete for court time right away," said Barger. "This is a very skilled group, and at one point or another they all could push for playing time."

The 2009 schedule begins with a tough road match at Baldwin-Wallace on February 14. Then Behrend hosts a pair of President's Athletic Conference members in Waynesburg College and Grove City before making the trip south to Hilton Head, for their annual spring training trip. Behrend will play five matches during the spring training week. "Our matches in Hilton Head are always a highlight on our schedule because we play several talented teams from across the country," said Barger.

Upon returning the men will embrace a five match home stand, where they will play conference matches against Pitt-Bradford, Pitt-Greensburg, Frostburg State, and Penn State Altoona. The AMCC Championships will round out the 2009 season for the men. Championships are to be held on April 19 at the Oxford Athletic Club in Wexford, PA.

"The AMCC is wide open," said Barger. "Everyone is even at this juncture of the season with every team losing a couple key players from last season." In 2009, the AMCC will have five men's tennis teams as Pitt-Bradford added a team this year.

Coach Barger believes the blue and white has potential, but more work needs to be done before hoisting the AMCC Championship trophy. "We will need to get some good play from some non-starters from last year to win the league again," said Barger. "Hopefully in the middle of March we can get things figured out."



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The Behrend College
Junker Center
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Erie, PA 16563

Web Address

behrend.psu.edu

Telephone

814-898-6000

Founded

1948

Enrollment

4,600

Chancellor

Dr. Jack Burke

SportsLine

814-898-6163, press 1

Arena

Junker Center

Capacity

1,600

Nickname

Behrend Lions

Colors

Blue and White

Affiliation

NCAA Division III

Conferences

AMCC and ECAC

Director of Athletics

Brian Streeter 814-898-6379

Athletics Trainers

Jeff Webster 814-898-6340
Angela Meserole 814-898-7227
Deana Brink 814-898-6017

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Head Coach

Jeff Barger 814-898-6017
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Alma Mater
Fredonia State, 1984

Men's record at school
87-91 10 years

Women's record at school
133-54 11 years

Overall record
220-145

Team Information

Overall record last year 11-7
Conference record 6-0
Final conference rank First
AMCC Champions
Singles starters returning/Lost 3/3
Doubles starters returning/Lost 4/2
Letterwinners returning/Lost 12/3
First year of tennis 1968
Overall record 214-226

Media Information

College Newspaper

Behrend Beacon 814-898-6488
fax: 814-898-6019

Newspaper

Erie Times-News 814-870-1700
fax: 814-870-1808

Television

WICU-TV 12 814-454-5201
fax: 814-454-3753
WJET-TV 24 814-868-2424
fax: 814-864-1704
WSEE-TV 35 814-454-3500
fax: 814-459-3500



Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

Coaching Profile

Head Coach Jeff Barger

Tennis coach Jeff Barger enters his eleventh year as the leader of the Behrend Lions program. Barger has created an exceptional program that expects to compete year-in and year-out for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) championship.

The spring of 2008 was a special year for the men's program. After returning home from spring training in Hilton Head, South Carolina, the program won eight of its next nine matches. Barger led the blue and white to the conference championship registering 13 points to Penn State Altoona's ten, while holding off the six-time champions. Behrend posted an 11-7 overall record and cruised to a perfect 6-0 mark in league play. Coach Barger also developed the league's Player of the Year in Elliot Blackstone.

After capturing the men's first title in 2004, the Behrend Lions earned a pair of runner's-up finishes before regaining the crown last spring. Barger's team appears prepared to defend last year's crown and looks to finish on top the AMCC once again in 2009. Barger has been voted the AMCC Coach of the Year a school record eight times and is the all-time leader in men's and women's coaching victories. In addition, he guided the men's team to an undefeated conference record five seasons ago en route to their first conference title. Barger has also led the women's team to claim four straight AMCC championships and an unprecedented eight AMCC titles in eleven seasons.

In 2007, he led the men's team to a 5-1 conference mark, tying Frostburg State for first place in the regular season. The men went on to finish third in the AMCC Tournament. Barger has posted an 87-91 overall men's record, while logging a 40-21 mark in the conference. His women's record stands an impressive 133-54 overall, while his team is an amazing 54-8 in the AMCC matches during that stretch.

In the fall of 2008, the Behrend Lions women's team leaped out to a 14-2 record and ran up another undefeated AMCC season while winning its fourth straight AMCC title. Barger was named the Coach of the Year after guiding Arica Christman to earn the 2008 AMCC Women's Tennis Player of the Year, and Stephanie Catron was named the Newcomer of the Year. In ten seasons, Barger has collected a record of 220-145 at Penn State Behrend. Previously Barger was the girl's tennis coach at Ripley High School for four seasons, and he was a letterwinner in tennis for the Fredonia State Blue Devils. He earned a degree in business from Fredonia State. He also serves Penn State Behrend as a lecturer of health and physical education.

James Getty Senior

Team captain ... helped program earn third AMCC title in 2008 ... very disciplined athlete and is coachable ... has strong tennis skills ... will again push for a starting spot this year in both single and doubles ... has logged 17 doubles victories for blue and white ... AMCC All-League Second-Team in third doubles in 2008 ... majoring in finance.



Jeff Barger



James Getty

Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

Player Profiles



Brian Kaleta

Brian Kaleta **Senior**

Hometown: Erie, PA
High School: Harborcreek

Returns to join Behrend Lions after injury sidelined him in 2008 ... brings a strong doubles game to program ... has registered wins for Behrend in both singles and doubles play ... adds depth and experience to the spring squad ... as sophomore named to All-AMCC squad ... majoring in biology.



Shane Mosier

Shane Mosier **Junior**

Hometown: Kersey, PA
High School: St. Marys

Prepared to have standout junior season as third year member of Behrend Lions tennis squad ... has strong serve ... assisted program in winning AMCC title last season ... earned Academic All-Conference honors for two straight season for blue and white ... named program's 2007 Rookie of the Year ... majoring in mechanical engineering.



Brad Nagel

Brad Nagel **Junior**

Hometown: West Alexander, PA
High School: McGuffey

Has improved in each of his two seasons with the Behrend Lions ... tremendous work ethic ... garnered All-AMCC Academic honors last year ... named Behrend Lions Most Improved Player ... has recorded decisions in 32 singles and doubles matches during his two years on the court ... majoring in accounting.



Kelly Manning

Kelly Manning **Junior**

Hometown: Sharpsville, PA
High School: Kennedy Catholic

Recorded 11 doubles wins in first two seasons for the Behrend Lions ... can play well in both doubles and singles ... great desire to go after every shot ... aided team's 8-1 finish to the 2008 regular season ... will challenge to be in the line-up this spring ... went 4-2 in AMCC doubles play in 2007 ... majoring in MIS.



Elliot Blackstone

Elliot Blackstone **Sophomore**

Hometown: Upper St. Clair, PA
High School: Pine-Richland

AMCC's Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year in 2008 ... team's Most Valuable Player ... First-Team All-AMCC as freshman ... set single-season record for singles victories with 19 and for doubles wins last year with 14 ... will play number one singles and doubles ... majoring in science.



Jacob Fling

Jacob Fling **Sophomore**

Hometown: Erie, PA
High School: Villa Maria

Could push for additional court time in the regular line-up this spring ... named to AMCC All-Academic squad a freshman ... competed in three singles and three doubles matches as a first year player for the Behrend Lions ... major is English.



Jon Henderson

Jon Henderson **Sophomore**

Hometown: Upper St. Clair, PA
High School: Upper St. Clair

Behrend Lions Most Improved Player after posting 11 singles wins ... earned All-Academic honors from AMCC ... First-Team All-AMCC in singles and doubles ... set single-season record for doubles wins last year with 14 ... majoring in Finance.

John Michalko
Sophomore

Registered a year of experience in 2008 with the Behrend Lions tennis program ... versatile enough to play both singles or doubles for the blue and white ... good serve abilities that are used to his advantage ... has good upside ... majoring in engineering.

Hometown: Washington, PA
High School: McGuffey



John Michalko

Erkin Nasirli
Sophomore

Tabbed program's Rookie of the Year ... AMCC Player of the Week for March 31, 2008 ... All-AMCC in third singles and third doubles ... racked up 12-3 singles mark for blue and white last year ... will compete in singles and doubles ... majoring in business.

Hometown: Baku, Azerbaijan
High School: Baku Oxford School



Erkin Nasirli

Jason Grosch
Sophomore

Tabbed to AMCC All-Academic Team as a first-year player ... earned a valuable year of collegiate experience last season with the Behrend Lions ... has terrific work rate ... always looking to improve his game ... majoring in software engineering.

Hometown: Warren, PA
High School: Warren



Jason Grosch

Markus Addison
Freshman

First year rookie for Coach Barger ... great talent ... covers the court well ... strong serve and forehand ... with some work can make a difference this spring ... number one and number two singles player in high school ... selected team MVP ... majoring in biology.

Hometown: Baltimore, MD
High School: Baltimore City



Markus Addison

Peter Bissert
Freshman

Strong serve and all court game ... very good singles game ... will compete to get in the Penn State Behrend line-up early in 2009 ... excelled in tennis and swimming in high school ... majoring in mechanical engineering.

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
High School: Seton LaSalle

Juan Santiago
Freshman

Hard working player ... has improved greatly during fall season and early spring ... nice stroke and knows the game ... will see plenty of court time this spring for Behrend Lions ... played in PIAA District 10 tournament ... majoring in accounting.

Hometown: Erie, PA
High School: Central

Ryan Zippie
Freshman

Could earn court time this spring ... solid all-around player ... can play both singles and doubles for blue and white this season ... quick around the court ... will see some action in 2009 ... as senior guided team to District 10 Region 1 title ... majoring in finance.

Hometown: Hermitage, PA
High School: Hickory

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference 2008 Results

Conference Record

Regular Season

Penn State Behrend _ 6-0

Penn State Altoona _____ 4-2

Frostburg State _____ 2-4

Pitt-Greensburg _____ 0-6

AMCC Tournament @
Oxford Athletic Club
Wexford, PA

Penn State Behrend _ 13

Penn State Altoona _____ 10

Frostburg State _____ 4

Pitt-Greensburg _____ 0

All-Conference Teams

First-Team

Jake Fleet _____ First Singles

Penn State Altoona

Elliot Blackstone _____ Second Singles

Penn State Behrend

Erkin Nasirli _____ Third Singles

Penn State Behrend

Jim Palmer _____ Fourth Singles

Penn State Behrend

Jon Henderson _____ Fifth Singles

Penn State Behrend

Nick Erb _____ Sixth Singles

Penn State Altoona

Greg Shedd _____ First Doubles

Frostburg State

Matt Chisholm _____ First Doubles

Frostburg State

Elliot Blackstone _____ Second Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Jon Henderson _____ Second Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Stephen Penn _____ Third Doubles

Penn State Altoona

Nick Erb _____ Third Doubles

Penn State Altoona

Second-Team

Greg Shedd _____ First Singles

Frostburg State

Matt Chisholm _____ Second Singles

Frostburg State

Jared Rute _____ Third Singles

Penn State Altoona

Sean Graydon _____ Fourth Singles

Penn State Altoona

Stephen Penn _____ Fifth Singles

Penn State Altoona

Trevor Dougherty _____ Sixth Singles

Penn State Behrend

Jim Palmer _____ First Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Miles Boyea _____ First Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Jared Rute _____ Second Doubles

Penn State Altoona

Andy Brunhuber _____ Second Doubles

Penn State Altoona

James Getty _____ Third Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Erkin Nasirli _____ Third Doubles

Penn State Behrend

Individual Honors

Co-Player of the Year

Elliot Blackstone _ **Penn State Behrend**

Jake Fleet _____ Penn State Altoona

Newcomer of the Year

Elliot Blackstone _ **Penn State Behrend**

Coach of the Year

Jeff Barger _____ **Penn State Behrend**

Athlete-of-the-Week

3/10 Youssef Abdelwahab

Pitt-Greensburg

3/17 Elliot Blackstone

Penn St. Behrend

3/24 Jake Fleet

Penn St. Altoona

3/31 Erkin Nasirli

Penn St. Behrend

4/7 Matt Chisholm

Frostburg St.

4/14 Elliot Blackstone

Penn St. Behrend



Welcome to Penn State Behrend

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, offers more than 4,600 students the learning opportunities and resources of a major research university in a student-centered environment. The college offers thirty-four bachelor's, six associate, four pre-professional, and two graduate programs with twenty-two minors in four schools—the Sam and Irene Black School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School of Science—plus a nursing program.

Penn State Behrend is ranked among the top public colleges and universities in Pennsylvania by *U.S. News & World Report* on a number of important measures, including student-to-faculty ratio, SAT scores, first-year student retention rate, and graduation rate. More than 75 percent of our students who go on to graduate with Penn State degrees complete their degrees at the college. According to recent student surveys, ninety-six percent of those graduating seniors would recommend Penn State Behrend to friends considering college.

Our 725-acre campus features more than 50 buildings and is recognized as an arboretum through membership in the American Public Gardens Association. More than 1,650 students live in on-campus residence halls, suites, and apartments in buildings all named for commanders and ships that took part in the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

Campus life is enriched by more than 110 clubs and organizations. The athletic program features twenty-one NCAA Division III varsity teams—ten for men and eleven for women—as well as intramural and club sports, and student fitness activities.

As part of a land-grant institution, Penn State Behrend is uniquely positioned to advance the economic, social, and intellectual welfare of northwestern Pennsylvania through research and outreach. Annually, the college funds nearly \$250,000 in undergraduate research opportunities. Outreach efforts include more than two dozen centers, programs, and initiatives for business and industry, area school students, and the community.



Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

2008 Results

Date	Opponent	Result	Record	AMCC
February 9	@ Baldwin-Wallace _____	L 0-9 _____	0-1	
February 16	Waynesburg _____	W 9-0 _____	1-1	
February 29	Grove City _____	L 1-8 _____	1-2	
March 9	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. University of Charleston _____	L 3-6 _____	1-3	
March 10	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Northwestern of Minnesota _____	W 5-4 _____	2-3	
March 11	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Defiance College _____	L 4-5 _____	2-4	
March 12	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Eastern Nazarene _____	W 6-3 _____	3-4	
March 13	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. University of Texas @ Dallas _____	L 0-9 _____	3-5	
March 14	@ Hilton Head, S.C. vs. West Liberty _____	L 2-7 _____	3-6	
March 25	Pitt-Greensburg* _____	W 9-0 _____	4-6	1-0
March 28	Alfred _____	W 6-3 _____	5-6	
March 29	Frostburg* _____	W 7-2 _____	6-6	2-0
March 30	Penn State Altoona* _____	W 7-2 _____	7-6	3-0
April 3	Juniata _____	L 2-7 _____	7-7	
April 4	@ Pitt-Greensburg* _____	W 9-0 _____	8-7	4-0
April 5	@ Frostburg* _____	W 7-2 _____	9-7	5-0
April 6	@ Penn State Altoona* _____	W 6-3 _____	10-7	6-0
April 13	@ AMCC Championships* @ Oxford Athletic Club, Wexford, PA _____	W 1/4 - 13 pts		
April 15	Bethany _____	W 7-2 _____	11-7	

Home Matches in **BOLD**

*Indicates AMCC Match

Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

2009 Roster

Name	Yr.	Hometown/High School
Markus Addison _____	Fr. _____	Baltimore/Baltimore City
Peter Bissert _____	Fr. _____	Pittsburgh/Seton-LaSalle
Elliot Blackstone _____	So. _____	Wexford/Pine-Richland
Jacob Fling _____	So. _____	Erie/Villa Maria
James Getty _____	Sr. _____	Erie/Harborcreek
Jason Grosch _____	So. _____	Warren/Warren
Jon Henderson _____	So. _____	Upper St. Clair/Upper St. Clair
Brian Kaleta _____	Sr. _____	Harborcreek/Harborcreek
Kelly Manning _____	Jr. _____	Sharpsville/Kennedy Catholic
John Michalko _____	So. _____	Washington/McGuffey
Shane Mosier _____	Jr. _____	Kersey/St. Marys
Brad Nagel _____	Jr. _____	West Alexander/McGuffey
Erkin Nasirli _____	So. _____	Baku/Baku Oxford School
Juan Santiago _____	So. _____	Erie/Central
Ryan Zippie _____	Fr. _____	Hermitage/Hickory



Behrend Lions Men's Tennis

2009 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
February 14	@ Baldwin-Wallace _____	1:00 p.m.
February 21	Waynesburg _____	3:00 p.m.
February 27	Westminster _____	4:00 p.m.
March 6	Grove City _____	4:00 p.m.
March 8	@ Spring Training Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Charleston _____	5:30 p.m.
March 10	@ Spring Training, Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Emory & Henry _____	12:00 p.m.
March 12	@ Spring Training, Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Eastern Nazarene _____	12:30 p.m.
March 12	@ Spring Training, Hilton Head, S.C. vs. West Liberty _____	5:30 p.m.
March 13	@ Spring Training, Hilton Head, S.C. vs. Trine _____	8:00 a.m.
March 21	Pitt-Bradford* _____	3:00 p.m.
March 24	Pitt-Greensburg* _____	2:00 p.m.
March 27	Alfred _____	5:00 p.m.
March 28	Frostburg State* _____	5:00 p.m.
March 29	Penn State Altoona* _____	12:30 p.m.
April 3	@ Pitt-Greensburg* _____	12:30 p.m.
April 4	@ Frostburg State* _____	10:00 a.m.
April 5	@ Penn State Altoona* _____	10:00 a.m.
April 9	@ Pitt-Bradford* _____	4:00 p.m.
April 19	AMCC Championships* @ Oxford Club - Wexford, PA _____	9:00 a.m.

*AMCC Match
Home Matches in **BOLD**