

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo 2009



PENNSTATE



Erie

The Behrend  
College



[behrend.psu.edu](http://behrend.psu.edu)

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## 2009 Season Preview

The Behrend Lions men's water polo program is geared up for the start of the season. "I look forward to a strong showing this year," said Head Coach Joe Tristan. "We return three starters and have a dynamic freshman class joining our team." The program appears to be ready to make a run in 2009 and improve on its 5-14 mark from last season.

Expectations have been placed upon the shoulders of two standout seniors to lead the way. Jacob Bernstein (Sierra Madre, CA/Pasadena) and Robert Westhelle (Norwood, NJ/Northern Valley Regional at Old Tappan) were tabbed as team captains and will guide the team from the driver and goalie positions. Bernstein, who ranks on the career charts for assists, will change his role from field player to goalie and will add to the Behrend defense. Along with Bernstein, Westhelle will be relied on to stop shots on goal after registering a save percentage of 46% in 2008.

A pair of talented drivers add presence to the roster. Chris Graves (McMurray/Peters Township) and Ricardo Ortiz (Erie/McDowell) return as experienced sophomores. Graves was named the program's Rookie of the Year, while Ortiz was chosen as the Most Improved Player of 2008.

Newcomers to this year's team are Nick Loukides (Fountain Valley, CA/Fountain Valley), Colin McGarry (Annapolis, MD/Broadneck), Ali Khan (Lake Burich, IL/Steveson), Jake DesRoches (Fairfax, VA/WT Woodson), Ted Sopher (Pittsburgh/Bishop Canevin), Gabe Nolan (Summit, NJ/Summit), and Andrew Opalewski (Slippery Rock/Slippery Rock). Chris Dunleavy (McMurray/Peters Township) also joins the program, but is no stranger to the blue and white. He has performed for the swimming team in each of his first two years at Behrend. All of the first year players will get pool time as rookies. "This is a very talented incoming class," said Tristan. "They will strengthen both our offense and defense and help us contend for a strong finish in the CWPA."

The blue and white will begin the 2009 season traveling to compete at the Navy Open on September 5 and 6. They will enter the Junker Center pool for the first time on September 13 when they host a double header against Queens College and Salem International.

In early October, the Behrend Lions will again be heading to the West coast. "Our California trip will allow our program to play some of the best teams in Division III," said Coach Tristan. "This will help our program grow within collegiate water polo both locally and nationally." The blue and white will a couple national caliber squads while playing in the Claremont Invitational.

Postseason play begins when the blue and white head to Washington and Jefferson for the Division III Eastern Championships on October 24 and 25. Last year Behrend tied the program's best finish by earning a third place finish. The blue and white started out by smacking Connecticut College 21-12 in the first match. Behrend then dropped a decision to host Johns Hopkins and fell short against MIT, losing a hard fought 20-15 matchup. Behrend would rebound in its final match at the championships and secure a 12-9 win over Washington & Jefferson, to post a 2-2 record as two Behrend players were selected to the all-tournament second-team. After the Division III Eastern Championships, November brings the Southern Division Championships at Bucknell. The season could conclude with the NCAA championships in December.

**Quick Facts****Address**

Penn State Erie,  
The Behrend College  
Junker Center  
5103 Station Road  
Erie, PA 16563-0400

**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**

CWPA and ECAC

**Director of Athletics**

Brian Streeter 814-898-6379

**Athletics Trainers**

Jeff Webster 814-898-6340

Angela Meserole 814-898-7227

**Sports Information**

Paul Benim 814-898-6322

prb3@psu.edu fax: 814-898-7570

Phil Pisano 814-898-6235

pap174@psu.edu 814-898-7570

**Head Coach**

Joe Tristan 814-898-7147

jpt12@psu.edu

Alma Mater

Eastern Michigan University, 2000

Eastern Michigan University, 1998

**Team Information**

Overall Record Last Year 5-14

Conference Rank Third

First Year of Water Polo 2000

**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

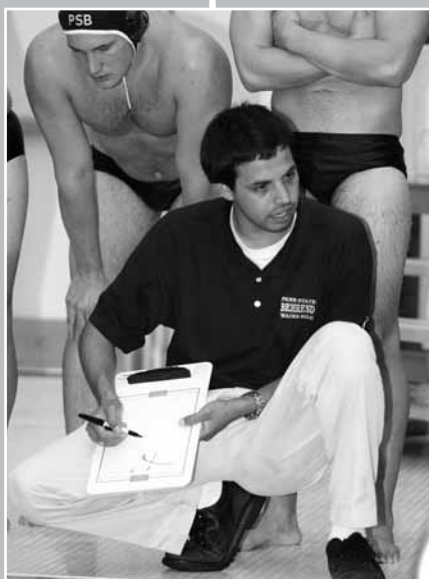
fax: 814-454-3753

WJET-TV 24 814-868-2424

fax: 814-864-1704

WSEE-TV 35 814-454-5201

fax: 814-454-3753



# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## Coaching Profile



### Head Coach Joe Tristan

Joe Tristan enters his seventh season as the head men's and women's water polo coach at Behrend. In the fall of 2008, Tristan led the men's program to its second third place finish at the Division III Eastern Championships after defeating Connecticut College. The 2007 men's team set the third most wins in school history. The blue and white were ranked eleventh in the nation in goals per game.

Tristan led his 2004 team into Behrend history with a fourth place finish at the Division III Eastern Championships and guided two players to the All-Tournament team. He also led Anthony Spoto to the Division III All-America Team and was able to take Spoto to the USA Senior Men's National 'A' Team Tryouts in Southern California. Last season the men finished fourteenth in the academic national poll, the highest the team has reached since the program began.

Coach Tristan is a member of USA Water Polo where he is currently a Level 3 coach. He is also a member of the American Water Polo Coaches Association. He was a coach at the 2004 USA National Goalie Training Camp and was a candidate for the 2005 World University Games Team as an assistant coach for Team USA.

Tristan joined the Behrend Lions after leading the women's club water polo program at Eastern Michigan University. He also was an assistant coach for the Great Lakes Water Polo Club in Ann Arbor, MI. From 1997-2002, Tristan was the head boy's junior varsity coach for Huron High School.

A native of Southern California, Tristan played water polo and swam for Earl Warren High School. He also played water polo for Tulare Water Polo Club and for Eastern Michigan in 1995-96. In 2000, Tristan competed and finished twenty-second in the United States Olympic swimming trials in the 200 meter freestyle. From 1998-2000 Tristan was ranked in the FINA Top 20 and the top 100 in the World in the 200 meter and 100 meter freestyle events. He currently is EMU's record holder in the 800 freestyle relay. Tristan was a vital part of a pair of EMU Mid-American Conference Swimming and Diving Championship teams.

While serving as a coach at Behrend Tristan will also serve as the assistant men's and women's swimming coach and instruct in the health and physical education department.

### Assistant Coach Anthony Spoto

Anthony Spoto begins his second season of coaching water polo at Penn State Behrend after completing a stellar four-year career for the blue and white.

In 1997, 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. During his career Spoto poured in a school record 247 goals. He is also the leader for single season goals with 76 as a senior, which broke his previous record of 75 during his freshman year.

In addition, Spoto earned CWPA All-Academic Team honors for his outstanding academic performance. He earned his undergraduate degree from Behrend, and is currently working on his MBA.



Anthony Spoto

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## Player Profiles

### **Jacob Bernstein** **Senior Driver #1/21**

Senior captain for blue and white ... Academic All-American ... member of Chi Sigma Alpha ... selected as program's leadership and scholarship award winner as junior ... ranked 14th all-time for assists ... as junior scored six goals with 16 steals ... earned CWPA Excellent Academic All-American honors as sophomore ... majoring in biology.



Jacob Bernstein

### **Robert Westhelle** **Senior Goalie #18**

Team captain ... currently ranked 7th all-time for career saves ... also ranks 12th for most saves in a single season ... two way competitor during sophomore season scoring six goals and stopping half of the goal attempts ... posted a 46% save percentage last year ... member of the Behrend varsity swim team ... majoring in accounting and finance.

**Hometown: Sierra Madre, CA**  
**High School: Pasadena**



Robert Westhelle

### **Chris Graves** **Sophomore Driver #2**

Tabbed as water polo's Rookie of the Year as freshman ... also swims for Coach Jen Wallace and Behrend Lions ... chipped in seven goals in twelve games in 2008 ... varsity record holder for Behrend swimming ... majoring in plastics engineering technology.

**Hometown: McMurray, PA**  
**High School: Peters Township**



Chris Graves

### **Ricardo Ortiz** **Sophomore Driver #6**

Honored as program's Most Improved Player in 2008 ... worked in 16 games for Behrend last fall ... expected to be integral part of team's offense this fall ... has potential to be big time scorer ... majoring in political science.

**Hometown: Erie, PA**  
**High School: McDowell**



Ricardo Ortiz

### **Jake DesRoches** **Freshman Utility #13**

Rookie for Behrend Lions this fall ... will bring speed and a shooting threat to the line up ... served as captain for CMAC water polo program ... varsity letterwinner at WT Woodson in swimming ... majoring in business.

**Hometown: Fairfax, VA**  
**High School: WT Woodson**



Jake DesRoches

### **Chris Dunleavy** **Freshman Center #5**

Two year member of Behrend swimming team competing in both the 50 and 100 free ... majoring in electrical engineering technology.

**Hometown: McMurray, PA**  
**High School: Peters Township**



Chris Dunleavy

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## Player Profiles



Ali Khan

### **Ali Khan** **Freshman Driver #9**

**Hometown: Lake Burich, IL**  
**High School: Stevenson**

Talented freshman joining blue and white this fall ... earned four varsity letters at Stevenson in water polo ... tabbed with all-sectional and all-conference for two straight years ... also member of swimming team at Stevenson High School ... named Big Gun SHS Player of the Year ... majoring in biology.



Nick Loukides

### **Nick Loukides** **Freshman Driver #3**

**Hometown: Fountain Valley, CA**  
**High School: Fountain Valley**

Competed in water polo and swimming at Fountain Valley ... named team MVP for three seasons in polo ... selected to First-Team All-Sunset League for two seasons ... will add strength to perimeter shooting ... majoring in political science.



Colin McGarry

### **Colin McGarry** **Freshman Driver #4**

**Hometown: Annapolis, MD**  
**High School: Broadneck**

Member of both water polo and swimming teams in high school ... three year Member of Eastern Zone Cadet and Junior teams ... 2008 Junior Olympic Member for Naval Academy Aquatics Club ... majoring in plastics engineering technology.

### **Gabe Nolan** **Freshman Driver #7**

**Hometown: Summit, NJ**  
**High School: Summit**

Rookie for Coach Tristan ... adds depth to program at driver position ... swam for Coach David Pease at Summit High School ... majoring in history.

### **Andrew Opalewski** **Freshman Driver #14**

**Hometown: Slippery Rock, PA**  
**High School: Slippery Rock**

First year member of Behrend Lions ... four year member of Slippery Rock swim team ... adds speed to Behrend squad ... major is undecided.

### **Ted Sopher** **Freshman Driver #1A/10**

**Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA**  
**High School: Bishop Canevin**

First year member of Behrend water polo program ... dual sport athlete in high school ... adds versatility to blue and white's roster ... majoring in engineering.

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## 2008 Results

Date	Opponent	Score	Record
Sept. 13	@ Rochester Invitational vs. Colgate (Exhibition) _____	W 16-2	
Sept. 13	@ Rochester Invitational vs. Shadows (Exhibition) _____	L 8-21	
Sept. 13	@ Rochester Invitational vs. Adirondack (Exhibition) _____	W 12-11	
Sept. 14	@ Rochester Invitational vs. Wesleyan (Exhibition) _____	W 15-2	
Sept. 18	<b>Mercyhurst College</b> _____	<b>L 4-13</b>	<b>0-1</b>
Sept. 19	@ Washington and Jefferson _____	L 9-14	0-2
Sept. 20	@ Salem International _____	W 14-3	1-2
Sept. 26	@ Gannon _____	L 12-21	1-3
Sept. 27	<b>Mercyhurst</b> _____	<b>L 9-15</b>	<b>1-4</b>
Sept. 27	<b>Salem International</b> _____	<b>W 9-4</b>	<b>2-4</b>
Oct. 3	@ Claremont Invitational vs. Occidental _____	L 5-16	2-5
Oct. 3	@ Claremont Invitational vs. Fresno Pacific _____	L 3-16	2-6
Oct. 4	@ Claremont Invitational vs. Concordia _____	L 5-22	2-7
Oct. 4	@ Claremont Invitational vs. University of La Verne _____	L 7-11	2-8
Oct. 17	<b>Gannon</b> _____	<b>L 7-14</b>	<b>2-9</b>
Oct. 18	<b>Washington and Jefferson</b> _____	<b>L 6-8</b>	<b>2-10</b>
Oct. 25	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ Johns Hopkins vs. Connecticut College _____	W 21-12	3-10
Oct. 25	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ Johns Hopkins vs. Johns Hopkins _____	L 5-20	3-11
Oct. 25	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ Johns Hopkins vs. MIT _____	L 15-21	3-12
Oct. 26	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ Johns Hopkins vs. W & J _____	W 12-9	4-12
Nov. 8	@ Southern Division Championships @ Princeton vs. Washington & Jefferson _____	L 7-8	4-13
Nov. 8	@ Southern Division Championships @ Princeton vs. George Washington _____	L 4-14	4-14
Nov. 9	@ Southern Division Championships @ Princeton vs. Salem International _____	W 14-5	5-14

Home Games in **Bold**

# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## Career Leaders

### Goals

1. Anthony Spoto	247	2004-07
2. Andre Pranckevicius	148	2004-06
3. Justin Ryder	71	2003-04
4. Matt Pluta	67	2007-08
5. Brandon Sieber	56	2002-04
6. Carl Ward	53	2002
Mark Ostrzeniec	53	2000-01
8. Andy Hanhauser	49	2001
9. Steve Schleicher	46	2002-05
Jon Bacon	46	2007-08

### Assists

1. Andre Pranckevicius	62	2004-2007
2. Steve Schleicher	56	2002-05
3. Anthony Spoto	41	2004-07
4. Dario Kis	35	2000-03
5. Brandon Sieber	31	2002-04
6. Keith Meehan	29	2006, 08
7. Andy Hanhauser	26	2001
8. Vincent Brewer	25	2004-present
9. Matt Pluta	25	2007-08
10. Brandon Thiel	24	2003-05

### Steals

1. Steve Schleicher	136	2002-05
2. Vincent Brewer	133	2004-06
3. Andre Pranckevicius	111	2004-06
4. Dario Kis	101	2000-03
5. Ben Atkins	94	2001-02
6. Nick McGrady	83	2001-04
7. Brandon Sieber	81	2002-04
8. Anthony Spoto	79	2004-07
9. Carl Ward	66	2002
Jon Harding	66	2000-01

### Saves

1. Nick McGrady	679	2001-04
2. Keith Yaegle	383	2007-08
3. Leandro Azevedo	315	2005-06
4. Brian Vallor	131	2000-02
5. Conor Powers	106	2005
6. Robb Christensen	96	2001
7. Robert Westhelle	79	2006-08
8. Brian Kustra	48	2003-04
9. Chad Holzshu	39	2000-01
10. Keith Meehan	10	2007-08

### Drawn Ejections

1. Anthony Spoto	194	2004-07
2. Andre Pranckevicius	105	2004-06
3. Justin Ryder	83	2003-04
4. Steve Schleicher	62	2002-05
5. Mitchell Dwelley	45	2006-07
6. Jon Bacon	43	2007-08
7. Mark Ostrzeniec	39	2000-01
8. Rodolphe Acelor	34	2004-06
9. Andy Hanhauser	33	2001
10. Vincent Brewer	28	2004-06



# Welcome to Penn State Behrend

**P**enn State Erie, The Behrend College, offers its 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, 96 percent of those graduating seniors would recommend Penn State Behrend to friends considering college.

Our 725-acre campus features more than fifty 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 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. Those outreach efforts include more than two dozen centers, programs, and initiatives for business and industry, area school students, and the community, and the college funds nearly \$250,000 in research opportunities for undergraduates every year.



# Penn State Behrend Athletic Facilities

## Behrend Fields

The college's soccer teams compete on the Behrend Fields, located northwest of the baseball and softball complex and across the bridge over Trout Run.

The complex comprises four multi-purpose athletic fields and a putting green. The facility was created in 1988, thanks to a pacesetter gift of \$1.4 million from an anonymous donor. The fields are also used for intramurals and course instruction. They accommodate a variety of play configurations, including flag football and softball.

Other outdoor facilities on campus include lighted tennis courts and sand volleyball courts.

## Junker Center

The growth of athletics at Penn State Behrend has led to the development of new indoor facilities. The \$10.2 million Junker Center, which opened in the spring of 2001, comprises 72,800 square feet, including outstanding volleyball and basketball facilities.

The center features three all-purpose courts and a gymnasium seating 1,600, an eight-lane swimming pool, three-lane running track, jumping pits, aerobics room, locker rooms, offices, and a variety of exercise equipment. The fully equipped Jageman Fitness Room provides a variety of exercise equipment for students, faculty, and staff.

## Baseball and Softball Complex

Penn State Behrend's baseball and softball complex, located adjacent to the main campus entrance, ranks as one of the region's best facilities.

Each field features a built-in irrigation system, seventy-foot in-ground dugouts, batting cages, bullpens, scoreboards, a full warning track, permanent fences, a concession stand, and scorekeepers' stations.



# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## 2009 Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
1A/10	Ted Sopher _____	Driver	Fr.	6-4	Pittsburgh, PA/Bishop Canevin
1/21	Jacob Bernstein _____	Driver	Sr.	5-9	Sierra Madre, CA/Pasadena
2	Chris Graves _____	Driver	So.	5-10	McMurray, PA/Peters Township
3	Nick Loukides _____	Driver	Fr.	5-11	Fountain Valley, CA/Fountain Valley
4	Colin McGarry _____	Driver	Fr.	6-1	Annapolis, MD/Broadneck
5	Chris Dunleavy _____	Center	Jr.	6-1	McMurray, PA/Peters Township
6	Ricardo Ortiz _____	Driver	So.	5-9	Erie, PA/McDowell
7	Gabe Nolan _____	Driver	Fr.	5-10	Summit, NJ/Summit
9	Ali Khan _____	Driver	Fr.	5-11	Lake Burich, IL/Stevenson
13	Jake DesRoches _____	Utility	Fr.	5-8	Fairfax, VA/WT Woodson
14	Andrew Opalewski _____	Driver	Fr.	6-2	Slippery Rock, PA/Slippery Rock
18	Robert Westhelle _____	Goalie	Sr.	6-1	Norwood, NJ/Northern Valley Regional



# Behrend Lions Men's Water Polo

## 2009 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
September 5	@ Navy Open vs. Navy _____	8:00 a.m.
September 5	@ Navy Open vs. Toronto (Exhibition) _____	2:15 p.m.
September 6	@ Navy Open vs. Queens _____	9:50 a.m.
September 6	@ Navy Open vs. Concordia _____	1:20 p.m.
September 13	<b>Queens</b> _____	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
September 18	@ Gannon _____	7:30 p.m.
September 19	@ Mercyhurst _____	11:00 a.m.
September 19	<b>Washington &amp; Jefferson</b> _____	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
October 3-4	@ Claremont Invitational _____	TBA
October 10	<b>Salem</b> _____	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
October 11	<b>Gannon</b> _____	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
October 17	@ Salem _____	12:00 p.m.
October 17	@ Washington & Jefferson _____	7:00 p.m.
October 24	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ W&J _____	TBA
October 25	@ Division III Eastern Championships @ W&J _____	TBA
November 1	@ Bucknell _____	TBA
November 6	@ Southern Division Championships @ Bucknell _____	TBA
November 7	@ Southern Division Championships @ Bucknell _____	TBA

Home games in **BOLD**