

## Women's water polo sinks rival Mercyhurst

by Amy Frizzell  
staff writer

Over the weekend, the women's water polo team took on Washington and Jefferson, Indiana, Gannon and rival Mercyhurst at the Southern Divisional. The women swam away with losses to Indiana, Gannon and Washington and Jefferson.

The women put up a good fight in their game against Washington and Jefferson. The team took advantage of W & S's sloppy play in the first quarter and trailed just 3-2.

"For the first time Washington and Jefferson was afraid of us at their own home and we had them on a rope," said coach Josh Heynes.

The Lions were able to hold them off until the third quarter when Washington

scored six goals to take the lead and the win at 9-2.

"We just got rattled and could not recover," said Heynes.

Despite losing their first three games the team avenged an earlier loss from Mercyhurst, beating them 9-8.

The team pulled through, though, with two starters who were unable to play. Sophomore captain Christine Williams was out for her third ejection foul, while junior Tara Braden sat out due to foul trouble.

The women were tied 8-8 with 10 seconds left in the game. Sophomore Erin Troester scored the game-winning goal.

"Beating Mercyhurst was the confidence boost we needed," said captain Sarah McGarvey. "We deserved the win for hanging in there during rough games in the past."

"Troester really had a breakout game for us," said Heynes. "She played more that game than she had ever played."

The team will next compete at the Grove City Invitational on today and Saturday. The Lions will take on Salem International, Conn College and Utica.

"The invite this weekend should be a good warm up for us for Championships next weekend" said Heynes.

Division III Conn College and Utica will also be trying to snag a spot at nationals along with Behrend.

"Hopefully with wins over those two teams it will help our national outlook," said Heynes.

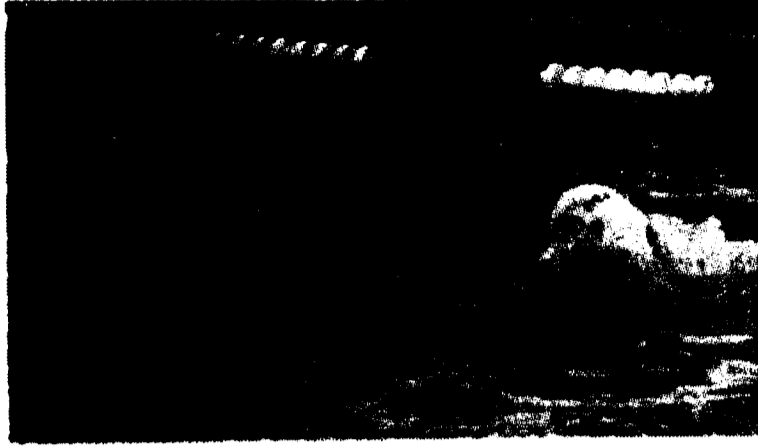
"We've been practicing while wearing weighted belts to prepare for the invitational," said McGarvey.

Because Washington and Jefferson and Gannon will not participate in the

invitational at Grove City, the team is looking forward to the opportunity to prepare so they are able to catch them off guard at the Championships.

"We are looking for a great

performance from each individual and from the team as a whole," said Heynes. "Our season could be only two weeks left or four more weeks. It all depends on how much intensity we play with."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior Hollie Stash and the rest of the Lions have set high goals for themselves this season.

## Lions continue their winning ways

by Kevin Fiorenzo  
staff writer

On March 27, the Lions welcomed Fredonia in a strong out-of-conference match up.

With a record of 8-6 in conference and 14-6 out of conference, Behrend started out strong, keeping Fredonia scoreless for the first three innings. The Lions managed to rack up a comfortable 4-0 lead after three innings.

In the fourth inning, though, Fredonia came storming back and tied the game.

Behrend responded in the bottom of the inning by accumulating three more runs for a 7-4 lead. Each team scored one more run, thus giving the Lions an 8-5 win.

Behrend continued to get solid pitching with good performances from Chad Hein and Matt Symanski. Symanski pitched three innings with one hit, four runs, four walks and one strikeout. Hein threw for six innings and gave up five hits, one run, and one walk. He also struck out three. The Lions also got help from outfielder Mitch Reckner, who had two doubles. If anything hurt Behrend in this game, it was six errors.

The Behrend squad next met Frostburg in a doubleheader. The first game was completely owned by Frostburg. They exploded in the first inning for six runs and didn't let up, scoring four more in the top of the third.

The Lions didn't have any answers for Frostburg and managed to score only one run. Frostburg went on to win by a commanding score of 13-1. Errors once again were a problem for the Lions, as they made four.

Ryan Seyler started the game for Behrend. He threw three innings and struck out three, while giving up six hits, 10 runs, and three walks. Steve Pflugh and Ray DeVaul also made their contribution to the team's mound stats.

The second game of the day was more to Behrend's liking. The Lions never gave Frostburg a chance and scored at least one run in each of the

first five innings. Frostburg managed to score one run in the final inning, but the game was out of reach at that point. Behrend went on to win by a 12-1 score.

"Our team has been very resilient all year. They bounced back and played extremely well in game two," said coach Paul Benim.

The star of the game was Lions' pitcher Brent Gabel, who pitched a complete game with eight strikeouts. He gave up six hits, one run, and four walks. For his work, Gabel was named the AMCC and ECAC South Region player of the week. He is currently leading the AMCC in wins (four) and has 38 strikeouts, a 2.99 ERA, and two complete games.

"Our pitchers are continuing to throw well. They have really stepped it up," said Reckner. "Right now we have confidence with any pitcher that steps on the mound."

Another doubleheader was on the schedule for Behrend on Tuesday, this time at Fredonia. In the first game, Behrend controlled the tempo throughout. Like their previous game, the Lions exploded early on. They scored nine runs in the first two innings, putting the game out of reach.

Fredonia managed to score two runs and Behrend also scored twice more. The final score was 11-2. Once again, pitching was key for Behrend. Jason Shaffer threw a complete game with nine strikeouts and gave up four hits, two runs, and two walks.

"Jason Shaffer was terrific on the hill," said Benim. "Offensively our crew drove the ball and had numerous quality at bats, especially when it mattered."

The second game at Fredonia was a hotly contested matchup. In the first two innings Behrend took a 3-0 lead. In the bottom of the second, Fredonia responded with two runs, cutting Behrend's lead to one. The Lions scored another run in the fourth, but lost their lead in the bottom of the inning by giving up four runs. Going into the sixth inning, Fredonia had a 6-4 lead.

Behrend was not intimidated. The Lions scored twice in each of the final two innings and went on to get the win, 8-6. The Lions got solid pitching throughout from Chris McCartney and Tony Kordecki. McCartney threw for three innings and gave up two hits, one run, and two walks. Kordecki went for four innings and had four strikeouts along with giving up eight hits, three runs, and three walks.

The first game loss to Frostburg on Saturday

notwithstanding, Behrend had an extremely successful week. Their pitching is looking very strong and the team's hitting continues to excel. Outfielder Adam Best is batting .462 and has 24 hits and 15 stolen bases. Reckner is batting .438 with 28 hits and 20 RBIs. Also contributing is second baseman Tony Azzato with 18 RBIs. The team is playing well and justifiably has lofty goals.

"Our goals would be to win the conference and move on from there," said Reckner.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lions have been an offensive machine this season.

## Netters dethrone AMCC champs Altoona

Lions take lead in conference



PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

Sophomore Ryan Demiel has been a force for the Lions.

by Scott Soltis  
sports editor

The men's tennis team scored a big win last weekend when it defeated last year's AMCC champ, Penn State Altoona. At that point, the team was on a seven-game winning streak, and had not lost since Feb. 22. This was a big win for the Lions not only because of this season's inter-university rivalry, but this was the first win posted against Altoona.

"That was our first win against Altoona since they joined our conference. It felt very good," said coach Jeff Barger.

Now that that monkey is finally off the team's back, they can focus on winning the AMCC title.

Behrend beat Altoona by a final score of 6-3, losing only in No. 3 singles, No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles. Barger is very pleased with his team's singles performances. "I feel confident with most of our singles at the time but we still have some work a head of us as far as how we are going to play certain opponents."

Sophomore Aaron Whiting was a standout for the team, winning both his singles and doubles matches against Altoona. This performance earned him an AMCC 'Best of the Rest' mention for the week.

The team was no longer able to ride the momentum when they reached Edinboro on Wednesday. The Lions were crushed by Edinboro 8-1. Fortunately, this was an out-of-conference match to a D-II school, so it was easier to take.

The team is currently in first place in the conference with a 2-0 AMCC record and an overall record of 7-2. The Lions look to begin their next streak with Friday, Saturday, and Sunday games. The Lions will host the Behrend Invitational beginning Saturday at 9 a.m.

## Track team places well in first outdoor action, despite bad weather

by Scott Soltis  
sports editor

The Lions ran well at their first outdoor meet of the season held at Clarion University. Behrend ended the day with four first-place finishes on the men's side and three winners for the women.

Highlighting the day were ECAC-qualifying performances by Isaiah Meek in the 110 hurdles and Staci Banaszek in the high jump.

The eight-team invitational took place on a cold wet day that slowed down several events and forced the cancellation of the pole vault.

"The pole vault wasn't contested because of the rain," said head coach Dave Cooper. "We were disappointed that we didn't get to do the vault, as it's one of our strengths."

Behrend made due with the events that the weather permitted. The team especially excelled in the field events. Aside from Banaszek winning the high jump, Laura Packosky took first place in the discus, and Shane Rock won the triple jump. Rock also captured fifth in the long jump.

Placing in the throwing events for the

men were Nick McGrady and Nick Peth, who took third and fourth in the javelin, and Chad Atwood was fourth in the discus.

On top of her outstanding high jump performance, Banaszek also took fourth in the triple jump and sixth in the long jump.

In the track aspect of the meet, the men's hurdlers had an outstanding day with Meek winning both the 110 and 400. Taking second in the 110 was Dave Masilunas, followed by Ben Nosko in fifth and Dennis Scheurer in sixth. Distance runner Clayton Kirshner made an impressive debut in the 400 hurdles, finishing in fourth place. Fifth and sixth were occupied by Nosko and Scheurer.

Also having a stellar day for the men was Jason Kuntz, who placed in four events, taking third in the 100, fifth in the 200, and second in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. Joining Kuntz on the 4x100 were Meek, Rock, and Chris Laugelli. Others earning second on the 4x400 were Meek, Mike Barlett, and Floyd Mattie.

The cross country/track athletes of both sexes performed well at Clarion. Jess Sarver beat Jess Knapp by one

second in the 1500 to take first and second. The duo also placed third and fifth in the 800. Men's cross country runners Barlett, Mattie, and Brian Wheeler took first, second, and sixth in the 800. Wheeler also placed third in the 1500.

Also, Tim Schultheis took fourth in the grueling 5,000, and Kirschner took fourth in the distance/obstacle course hybrid called the 3,000 steeplechase.

Finally, another outstanding performer on the women's side was Nik Mineweaser. Mineweaser took fourth in the 400 hurdles, fifth in the 100 hurdles, and fourth in the 4x100 with Nichols, Van Tassel, and Urbansky. She also took fourth in the 4x400 with the help of Sarver, Manelick, and Van Tassel.

The team performed very well considering that a large part of the field was D-II athletes. However, coach Cooper is looking forward to sunnier days.

"The conditions were wet and cold but our performances were very good for this early," the coach said. "This week doesn't look much better weather-wise, but it's a scored meet so I look for us to do well, as we have tough competitors on the team."