

The Behrend Beacon

Friday, November 21, 2003

# Men's Soccer team falls to defending champ Messiah in NCAA second round

by Ray Immekus  
staff writer

The men's soccer team's season ended abruptly last Friday in the first ever NCAA tournament appearance for the program.

Defending national champion Messiah College scored three goals in a 13 minute span in the final 20 minutes of the game to end Behrend's record-breaking season.

"The disappointing way of the game certainly allows us all to realize what a terrific season we had," said head coach Dan Perritano.

The Lions' defense, which was tops in the AMCC during the regular season with a .82 goals against average, held the Falcons scoreless for the first 70 minutes of the game.

Messiah's first goal, and eventual game-winner, came off the foot of junior forward Seth Lehman, and was assisted by freshman midfielder Andre Burkhardt.

Messiah sophomore midfielder Aaron Casper made the score 2-0 only four minutes later with an unassisted goal off of a loose ball.

The Falcons added an insurance goal in the 84th minute to put the game out of reach. Sophomore forward Brian Mohney netted a corner kick off a pass from freshmen forward Dan Wagner.

Behrend and Messiah played to a 0-0 tie in the first half, with Messiah out-shooting the Lions 4-0. The Lions did not record a single shot in the game, while Messiah managed 14 shots, 10 of which came in the second half. Behrend's senior goalkeeper Jake Hordych made five saves in what is his final game in a Lions uniform.

The Lions close out the season with a 14-5-2 record. Hordych broke Behrend's all-time shutout record earlier in the season, and finished with nine shutouts on the year. The Lions will also lose senior midfielder Andy Laver and senior defenseman/midfielder Jeff Morris.

Laver scored 10 goals and six assists this season, for a total of 26 points. Morris was a linchpin in a strong Behrend defense that allowed less than one goal a game this year. He was recently named Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week.

"We'll miss them, but each year we move on. We have a lot of very talented players returning," said Perritano.

Both players played a key role in what might be the most memorable season ever for the men's soccer program. The Lions' 14 wins is the highest ever for men's soccer team here at Behrend. On top of that was a 5-1 record in the AMCC conference regular season, and two playoff wins.

Behrend won their first AMCC championship



Coach Dan Perritano called the AMCC champion men's soccer team "definitely the best team I've coached here."

since 1999, with a 1-0 win over Frostburg State University on Nov. 8. The Lions beat LaRoche College 4-1 on Nov. 5 to reach the championship game.

"Yes, this is definitely the best team I've coached here," said Perritano, when asked how this team compared to other teams he has coached here at Behrend.

Twenty-three players will return next season, which has potential to be another memorable one. Competition in the AMCC is expected to stiffen next year with the addition of Hilbert College, Medaille College and Mount Aloysius College to the conference in all team sports.

## Men's basketball team eager to begin quest for AMCC title

by Kevin Fiorenzo  
sports editor

After coming very close to reaching the top of the AMCC last season, the men's basketball team is hungry for another chance to claim the conference title.

The Lions come into this season as the favorite in the AMCC. They were picked to finish first in the AMCC pre-season poll. They finished last season with a 20-9 record and were the AMCC regular season champions. In the AMCC tournament they were the runner-ups, falling to Pitt-Bradford in the championship game. The team also advanced to the ECAC Tournament, falling to DeSales in the second round.

The team is led by senior center James Curren. Curren is the defending AMCC player of the year and he led the Lions in points with 17.7 points per game as well as gathering 6.6 rebounds per game.

He is also one of four senior captains on the team, along with forwards David Hairston and Casey Ponsoll. Forward Mike Schodt is also one of the captains for the Behrend squad. Curren has already eclipsed the 1,000 points mark for his career while Hairston and Ponsoll are looking to reach that mark this season.

Other starters this season for Behrend will be junior forward Jared Clough while junior guard Tom Lulich will man the backcourt.

Lulich led the team last year in 3-pointers, making 43 percent of them and totalling 49 all together. Clough was also a key member of the team, averaging 5.5 ppg and 4.4 rpg.

Head coach Dave Niland said, "Our strength is that we have experience. I expect that we will play hard and smart every time we step on the court."

The Lions were also able to do well in recruiting this off season as there are several new players who will most likely see playing time. Freshmen forwards Ryan Lilly and Jon Katsiadis are some of the new players competing for minutes.

The Behrend squad is coached by Dave Niland, who is entering his 10th season as head coach for



Led by senior center James Curren, the men's basketball team is ready to begin its season Saturday against Medaille in the Behrend Tournament.

the Lions. He has recorded nine straight winning seasons and has accumulated a 158-85 record.

The Lions open their season Saturday against Medaille in the Behrend Tournament. The players know that they will have to play a very good game to come out on top.

Niland said, "They are a very athletic team and have recruited some very talented players. This will be a very difficult opener."

## Women's hoops prepares for opener tonight

by Kevin Fiorenzo  
sports editor

The women's basketball team is set to begin its season this weekend and make an attempt at claiming the AMCC title.

Last season, the Lady Lions finished with a 15-13 overall record, 10-2 in the AMCC, good for the conference regular season title. In the AMCC tournament, Behrend reached the title game but was defeated by a strong Pitt-Greensburg team in overtime. The Behrend squad also advanced to the ECAC tournament, where they lost their opening game against McDaniel.

Many of the women from last season's high caliber team will be returning this season. Four of the five starters will be back, with the lone exception being senior Danielle Bemis, who is graduating.

Leading the way for the Lady Lions will be its senior captains, guards Erica Mozdy and Carly Cochran. Mozdy made the AMCC All-Conference second team last year by averaging 8.2 points per game as well as 4.1 rebounds per game. Cochran made Honorable Mention while averaging 11.3 ppg and 5.2 rpg.

The Behrend frontcourt will be led by junior forward Amber Krumpe, who was a member of the AMCC first team after scoring 13.5 ppg and gathering 6.5 rpg. Krumpe's status for this season is still unknown, though, because she suffered a possible ACL tear and is awaiting word from doctors as to the extent of her injury. Rounding out the starting five will be junior guards Bambi Lewis and Norine Scida.

Head coach Roz Fornari said, "Our skill level at both the guard position and post positions has im-

proved from last year. Our post play will separate us from other teams."

Along with Krumpe, several other players have suffered injuries in the pre-season. Sophomore guards Danielle Freeburg and Jen Yaworsky both suffered broken hands while sophomore forward Shea Truby has a broken thumb. All three players played a significant amount of minutes last season and Fornari acknowledges that their injuries create a weakness for the team.

"We haven't had everyone in practice since the third day. We have lost some key players for several weeks and will need our depth as the season goes on," said Fornari.

While injuries will hurt the team, they are still very confident that they will compete for the AMCC crown.

Krumpe said, "This year we expect to repeat as AMCC regular season champs, to host the tournament, and to win the championship. We also plan to make it into post season play, preferably the NCAA tournament."

The Lady Lions will begin their quest for those goals tonight against Waynesburg in the Behrend Tournament. The women know that to win they will have to play very hard the entire game.

"We need to step on the floor and give 100 percent for all 40 minutes of the game," said Krumpe. "There cannot be any times when we lack desire and heart, because those are the times we let down, and we can't afford that."

Fornari said, "Even though we have a lot of adversity, I am confident we are going to do well. We have dealt with it well up until now and I would expect us to continue to get better."

Housing  
and  
Food Service

Athlete  
of the Week

PENNSSTATE  
Erie



Jeff Morris

Sport: Men's Soccer  
Class: Senior  
Date: November 17, 2003

Jeff Morris (Renfrew/Butler High School) was named this week's Beacon/Housing and Food Athlete of the Week

Morris, a senior defender, led a defense that kept the NCAA defending champions scoreless through 65 minutes of play when

Behrend played Messiah last Friday in the second round of the NCAA tournament. This was the first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament for the Behrend men's soccer team.

Coach Dan Perritano said Morris had a great career with the Lions. Morris was also part of the defense that helped to shut out Frostburg when Behrend won the AMCC championship on Nov. 8.