

Softball opens AMCC season with wins over Pitt-Greensburg

Lady Lions get their first wins of season, move to 2-0 in conference

by Ben Raymond
staff writer

The Lady Lions got their conference season started right with a pair of wins against Pitt-Greensburg in the home opener last Saturday. The other two games against Medaille on Sunday were not as successful, but they still seemed to have some positive results.

The women spent a number of days focusing on their hitting, which seemed to be their big downfall in Florida, and were chomping at the bit to get out and show off their hard work.

After spending countless days in the gym practicing due to bad weather, the women's softball team was ready to get outside for some full field practice.

Last weekend the waiting was over and the Lions got to start their season with double headers against Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday and Medaille on Sunday.

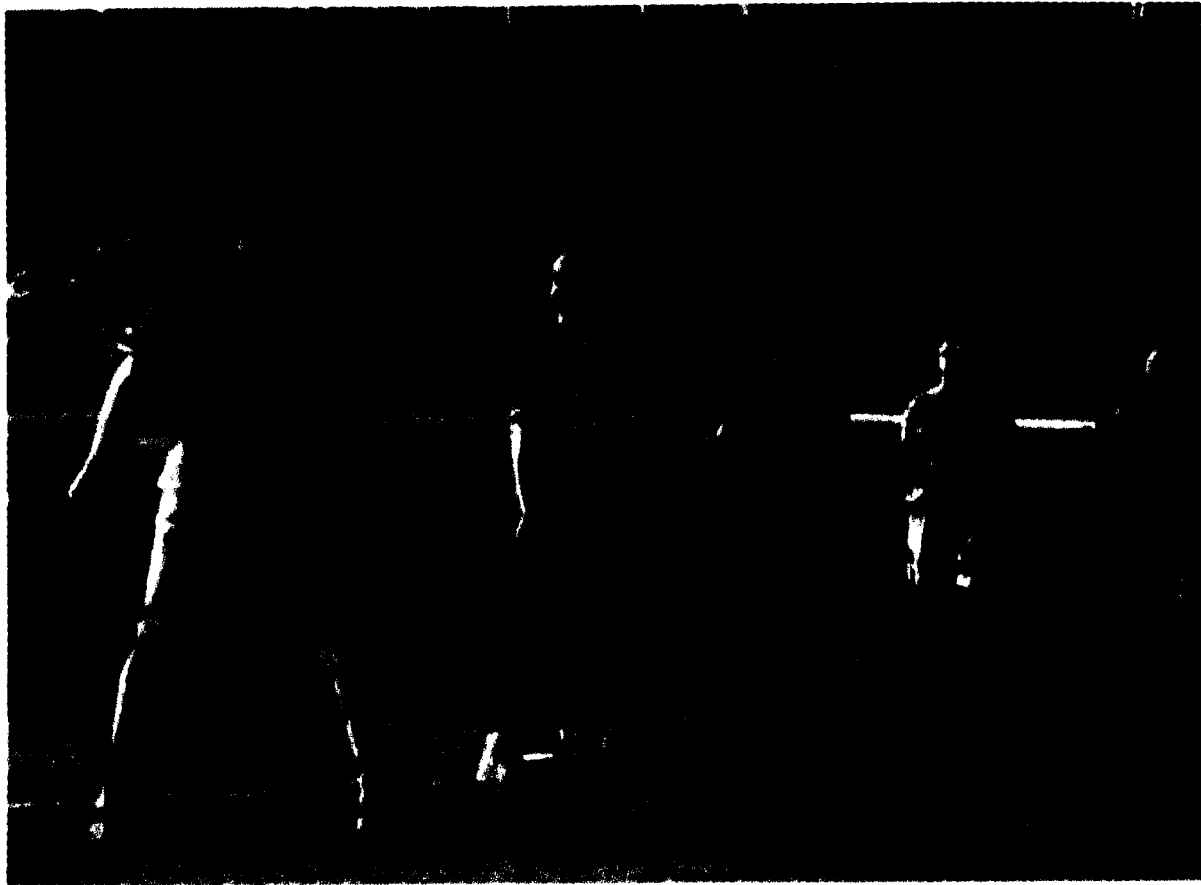
The Lady Lions came out swinging, and took their first game into extra innings edging out Pitt-Greensburg, 6-5.

The Panthers could not recover, and the Lady Lions took control of the second game, giving them their second AMCC win. Behrend gave the Panthers a pasting by the count of 8-0.

The women had a lot of success making contact with the ball, including several shots with warning track power that just barely went foul.

"We had a ton of hits, we just need to work on getting our hits together rather than a few each inning. We left a lot of runners stranded on base," said senior pitcher Stephanie Covert.

"I think we need to work on getting rid of our one bad inning. It is completely a mental thing that we need to work on, but that comes with such



The Lady Lions opened their AMCC season with doubleheader wins against Pitt-Greensburg, 6-5 and 8-0. They are third in the AMCC in ERA at 3.27 and have a .236 team batting average.

a young team."

Although hitting in itself seems to be a decreasing obstacle for the Lady Lions, stringing those hits together seemed to be a little more challenging on Sunday.

They fell to the women from Medaille College on Sunday, 8-5 and 3-2. The losses have not left the Lady Lions in low spirits, however.

The Lady Lions seem to be really coming together as a team, and though they many of them may be young they all seem to have the drive to succeed.

"Our team has really great chemistry and we feed off of each other. We don't have to do anything to keep ourselves motivated. As long as one of us is,

the rest of us will be, too," Covert said.

"It's hard knowing how the rest of the season will go, since I am a freshman and I don't know the teams. I still think that if we work hard we will have a great season and do very well," said freshman pitcher Sandra Jaussi.

With a constant positive attitude from coaches and teammates, the improved batting and support from fans, the Lady Lions stand to do very well in the AMCC and overall this year.

The Lions host AMCC rivals Penn State Altoona on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Lake Erie College on Monday at 3 p.m.

PHOTO BY AMY FRIZZELL/BEHREND BEACON

Senior Spotlight: Tara Braden

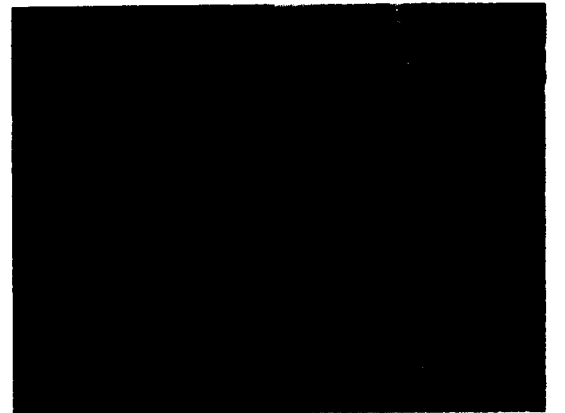


PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Name: Tara Braden
Semester: 08
Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology

Beacon: What is your favorite memory from swimming and water polo?

Braden: The ocean swim during Christmas training my junior year. It was a nice change from doing laps in the pool and I love swimming in the open water. In water polo, it was beating University Park at the Junker Center. It was such a huge upset to beat them. The game was being played on TV so we were all nervous.

Beacon: What's the best class you've taken at Behrend?

Braden: My production design lab has been the best class I've taken at Behrend. I was the only girl in the lab and my casting part was the only one to turn out.

Beacon: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Braden: I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going out on my dad's sailboat.

Beacon: Describe what it's like when you take your team out on the sailboat?

Braden: When I take my teammates out on the boat the wind either is too strong or barely blowing and at least one person always ends up getting seasick.

Beacon: How does being on the sailboat help you and your teammates to bond?

Braden: It helps to get to know people better. Being out on the water you learn who's afraid of the boat leaning over and stuff like that, then everyone laughs about it. You also have a lot of time to talk out there.

Beacon: You've made the switch from field player to goalie in your last season. What has the adjustment been like for you?

Braden: Playing in the goal is a big change from playing hole defense. For the most part I've enjoyed the change, especially not having to swim up and down the pool. I haven't enjoyed getting hit in the head with the ball.

Beacon: Where do you see yourself in five years?

Braden: In five years I hope to have a good job that paid for me to go to grad school, be married to Dario, and maybe planning a family.

Beacon: In five or 10 years, what's a story about your sports that you will still remember?

Braden: On our way to California last year for nationals, one of my teammates read her horoscope and it said she would have transportation problems. Our first plane was delayed two hours and our second plane the No. 1 engine stalled and restarted upon take-off. At the time this happened it wasn't funny, but now we all laugh so hard when the topic is brought up.

Beacon: How often do you read the Beacon?

Braden: I read the Beacon every week.

Baseball team recovers after loss to Frostburg

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor

The baseball team lost two games at Frostburg last Saturday, which put it at a 8-6 record.

In the first game, the Lions fell short by a 2-1 score. With the score tied 1-1 in the bottom of the eighth, Frostburg staged a rally and got the run it needed to pull out the win.

In the game, senior Tony Azzato had a double for the Lions. The winning pitcher for Frostburg was Mike Tiller, who had six strikeouts.

The losing pitcher from Behrend was sophomore Chris McCartney. He pitched 7.1 innings and gave up five hits and two runs.

In the second game between the two teams, the Bobcats again emerged victorious in a 6-0 rout.

Frostburg scored five runs in the bottom of the first and maintained control of the game from then on, eventually scoring one more run in the bottom of the fifth to get the easy win. The Lions had six hits in the game, but none were extra base hits. The winning pitcher for Frostburg was Brent Lutz, pitching 5.2 innings with five strikeouts.

The losing pitcher for the Lions was freshman Brian Hart, pitching 5.1 innings and giving up one run. The loss dropped the Lions to 8-7 overall and 1-3 in the AMCC.

The next day, the Lions traveled to Mount Aloysius for another doubleheader. In these two games, the Lions were able to improve on the previous day's events.

Behrend won the first game by a 5-4 score in



The Lions continue the conference season this weekend with a doubleheader at Pitt-Bradford on Saturday.

10 innings. With the score tied 4-4 going into extra innings, the Lions garnered one run to get the win.

In the game, sophomore Shane Elzer had three hits, one of which was a double. Senior Mitch Reckner, junior Vince Canzano and freshman Gabe Stephenson each had two hits.

Sophomore Greg Samson was the winning pitcher for the Lions, throwing for six innings with eight strikeouts and giving up two runs. The losing pitcher for Mount Aloysius was Bill Calcagni.

In the second game, the game was a low scoring affair, 1-1 after six innings. At this point the game was called because of weather and finished in a tie.

For the game, Azzato had two hits, one of which was a double. Elzer also had two hits in the game.

The winning pitcher for Behrend was sophomore pitcher Ray DeVaul, pitching all six innings with six strikeouts and giving up one run. The losing pitcher for Mount Aloysius was Joe Hinton.

The win and tie improved Behrend's record to 9-7-1 overall. The team is 1-3 in the AMCC, good for second to last in the conference.

The Lions are currently leading the conference in ERA at 4.17 and in triples with 14.

They are also second in runs scored, hits, RBIs and total bases.

Individually, the Lions are also leading in several categories. McCartney has the lowest ERA in the conference at 2.17. He also has thrown 15 strikeouts and has two wins.

Elzer currently leads the AMCC in triples with four and is batting .370. Senior Adam Best is seventh in the conference and leads the Lions in batting average at .372. He also has 16 hits and 10 RBIs.

The Lions' next game will be another AMCC contest as they take on Pitt-Bradford on Saturday in a doubleheader.

FILE PHOTO

PENNSYLVANIA
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Athlete of the Week



Lauren Packer

Sport: Softball
Class: Senior
Date: March 29, 2004

In a 2-2 weekend, the Lions softball team... batted .417 with six... lift the team to 2-0 in the AMCC conference. She... making the switch from women's water polo as a three-year starter and... Packer is second... team in batting... at .343 and... the team with eight RBIs... the sea-... blue and... will be a confer-... at home... Penn State... on Saturday... at 1 p.m.