

Women's basketball sits at fourth in the AMCC

By Sara Kamber
co-sports editor

The women's basketball team has cruised to a four game win streak. Last Saturday, the blue and white breezed by Pitt-Bradford in an easy 68-52 win and closed out the regular season home games on a good note, giving the seniors a chance to have one more game at home.

Sophomore Brittany Mays played one of her best basketball games of the season against Pitt-Bradford, notching a double-double for the night with 15 points and 10 boards. She also dished out five assists.

"A double-double from a guard in our offensive scheme is great," said Head Coach Roz Fornari of Mays' performance. "She is playing with a lot of heart and desire and is such a great competitor."

Sophomore Rachel Slomski and junior Nikke Pacinelli also came up big for the Lions, posting 12 and 10 points respectively. Sophomore Tenesha Aden and senior Amber Krumpke both had 9 a piece with 5 rebounds.

Saturday's game was Krumpke's first game back after missing the last few due to swelling in her knee.

"She seems to be doing great," said Fornari. "I think she

did a great job handling senior night, her first game back and it being such a big game. I was really happy for her to be out on the floor Saturday."

The blue and white shot 47 percent from the field and close to 50 percent in the first half alone. For anyone watching Saturday's game, one might have been reminded of the style of play the team displayed last year. That style and drive has appeared just in time for the post season.

"I think we played that game with a lot of heart," said Mays. "It was senior night, our last regular conference game (at home) and a must-win, so we have a few important factors laying on this game. Personally, the game meant a lot to me for many reasons and it was good to come out on top."

The team currently sits at fourth in the AMCC and has two more road games before the regular season ends. If the women hold onto the four-spot, they will host the fifth seeded team during the first round of the AMCC conference playoffs.

"There is always an advantage to playing at home and I know we'd all like to (host a tournament game), but if we have to travel and beat some one else on their floor, even better!"

said Mays.

A lot rides on the last two games of the season, which will be played on the road this weekend. Friday night, the team will travel to La Roche before visiting Lake Erie on Saturday. Behrend defeated both teams by 20 or more points earlier this season.

"It's hard to play on the road," said Fornari. "I don't think La Roche played as good as they could have against us in the last game. We just need to come out with the same energy and focus as we did that day and leave it on the floor."

With the quality of play the team showcased against Pitt-Bradford, there was a sense of excitement in the Junker Center that the women can bring a conference game home and possibly go on to win the crown. Any one who looks at the record books knows that Behrend basketball traditionally finish as strong. For most teams in the conference, they should be looking at Behrend as one of their greatest threats.

"It's the end of the season and we have nothing to lose," said Mays. "I think the next few games will go well. Hopefully, we'll get to host the first-round playoff game and have a chance at winning the tourney."

Men's basketball one step closer to AMCC title



Senior Tom Lulich tries to get a look inside against Pitt-Bradford in last Saturday's game. The men's team is duking it out with Pitt-Greensburg for the top spot in the league and will finish up regular season conference games this weekend on the road.

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

Revenge is a meal best served cold. The men's basketball team was licking its chops after a 63-51 pummeling of archrival Pitt-Bradford last Saturday night, upping their record to 16-6 overall and 13-3 in the conference.

The men's and women's squads' previous contests with Pitt-Bradford were both decided in the waning seconds of the game. This time around, Behrend destroyed Pitt-Bradford on the men's and women's side.

The momentum from the victory seemed to carry over to the men's game. Behrend controlled the contest from start to finish in front of a crowd of almost 1,000 fans on Senior Night.

Emotions were running high as seniors Joe Lucas, Jared Clough, Tom Lulich, Cam Mascara and Nick Paris were honored during warm-ups.

Behrend's defense baffled the Panthers' offensive schemes and limited them to only 17 points in the first half. The game was

pretty much out of reach by this point. A brief second half run by Pitt-Bradford got them to within eight, but that's as close as they would get. Chants of "Warm up the bus!" rang heavily from the "Front Row" fans, including Gary Bonanno, Hist 08.

"We like to get in the opposing players' heads when we taunt them," Bonanno said. "Other fans have caught on to what we do and have joined our chants. We've also noticed that some of the players have started to get annoyed when we yell things at them, such as 'Nice hair, number 20' in a sarcastic tone. It's kind of funny actually. We think it helps add on to the X-factor that home court advantage brings."

Behrend's shooting has not cooled off at all. They shot a scorching 54 percent from the field overall, and an amazing 47 percent rate from behind the arc. Jared Clough led the Lions with 12 points. Tom Lulich added 11 points and David Gahan had 10. Behrend is currently a half game behind Pitt-Greensburg in the conference for the top spot

in the AMCC. If they should end up tied after the regular season is over, here are the rules that decide which team would be the number one seed (if rule 1 can't decide the seed, then rule 2 will attempt to decide it, and so on):

1. Head-to-head competition (Note: If 3 or more teams are tied with identical records, head-to-head is determined by comparing the tied teams against each other. Example: Team A def. Team B twice, Team B split with Team C and Team A split with Team C. The head-to-head records would be: A 3-1, B 1-3, C 2-2, and thus the rank order within the 3-way tie would be A-1st, C-2nd, B-3rd)

2. Record vs. AMCC teams in descending order.

3. Overall conference road record.

4. Coin toss to be conducted by the Commissioner
Wish Behrend luck this weekend as they look to finish out their season against La Roche tonight and Lake Erie on Saturday. Both games are on the road.

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week



PENNSTATE
Lake Erie

Mays averaged 12.0 ppg, 8.5 rpg and 4.0 apg in a 2-0 week for the Behrend Lions. Against Pitt-Bradford last Saturday, she worked for a double-double scoring 15 points and grabbing 10 boards with 5 assists.

The Behrend Lions close out the AMCC regular season on the road this weekend with games on La Roche Friday and Lake Erie Saturday.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.

Brittany Mays
Sophomore
Women's Basketball
Keystone/Knox

SIGN UP FOR INTRAMURAL 4 V 4 COED VOLLEYBALL!

The deadline for Coed volleyball is Feb. 25 at 4 pm. If you are interested in signing up, contact Rob Wittman at 6280 or rww3@psu.edu. You can also register online at <http://pennstatebehrend.psu.edu/athletics/intramurals/entryforms.htm>. Don't forget about intramural swimming which will take place on Feb. 24 in the Junker Center Pool at 8 p.m. For those still interested, contact Rob Wittman.



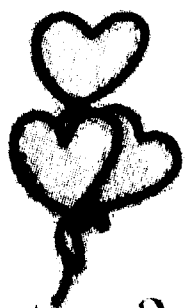
Check out Sports Page 9 to find out how much money the cheerleading and dance teams raised for the American Cancer Society.



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