

Men's basketball falls in NCAA tourney

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

Men's basketball lost Thursday evening to Lebanon Valley in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The 71-53 loss comes after Behrend defeated Lake Erie and Pitt-Greensburg to win the AMCC title.

According to D3Hoops.com, the Lions were a huge underdog even though they were a higher seed than Lake Erie. Behrend was referred to as "a group of very average players at best" who can't shut down Lake Erie point guard Reggie Richardson. This mockery of the Lions seemed to get them fired up instead of getting to their heads.

In a very tight ballgame, Behrend prevailed, 56-55. Both teams were struggling to find the bottom of the net, but the Lions managed to find a way to pull it out with senior Tom Lulich making a clutch layup with 3 seconds left in the game.

Senior Jared Clough scored 17 points to lead the way for Behrend. Senior Cam Mascara continued to be a strong force of late off the bench by adding nine points. Senior Joe Lucas also had nine points.

Behrend managed to take Lake Erie's best player, Richardson, by storm (no pun intended). He only managed to score three points in 37 minutes.

The Lions were probably underdogs the next night also because they had to face the number one seeded Pitt-Greensburg squad on their home court. After trailing by 10 points at halftime, things looked bleak for Behrend. However, they managed a way to claw their way back into the game and win 52-49.

On a night that no Behrend starter scored in double digits, the bench decided to show why they could probably start for any other AMCC squad. Mascara, who continued his impersonation of And1's "Half Man, Half Amazing," scored 16 points. Freshman Kevin Buczynski, who has also been hot of late,



Head Coach Dave Niland (center) missed out on his 200th win in Thursday's loss to Lebanon Valley.

chipped in with 10 points and three blocks.

Behrend was able to shut down AMCC Player of the Year, Kevin Conlon, who played the whole game only scored six points and grabbed three rebounds.

D3hoops.com did not give Behrend a chance in the Thursday

night game. The opponents proved D3hoops.com right after Lebanon Valley took Behrend out of NCAA play. J.B. Byers scored 31 points in against the Lions which lead to the Lebanon Valley win and an end to the Lions' season.

ROB FRANKS/BEHREND BEACON

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week



Cam Mascara
Senior
Men's Basketball
Charleroi/Belle Vernon

Mascara led his team to the AMCC Championship title this past weekend against Pitt-Greensburg on the Bobcats court. In the 52-49 win, he had 16 points on 5 for 7 from the floor including three baskets from behind the arc. During the semifinals of the tournament the night before, Mascara scored nine points and knocked down two three-pointers.

His performance earned him AMCC Athlete of the Week for the final week in the league. This season he is averaging 14.4 ppg and 2.6 rpg.

The Behrend Lions (19-7) take on Lebanon Valley (19-6) on Thursday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament. If they defeat Lebanon, they will advance to the second round and play St. John Fisher.

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

Women's basketball falls

By Sara Kamber
co-sports editor

Despite a valiant effort by the Behrend Lions, the team was not able to defeat Frostburg State, the host of the AMCC tournament who went on to take the AMCC Championship title. The blue and white were only down by two at half, but a few mishaps gave them a loss in the semifinals, 53-63.

"I think we had some really strong efforts and our leadership was good," said Head Coach Roz Fornari. "It was a good defensive game; it really just came down to a couple of plays. We gave them the ball on an offensive rebound, turned the ball over at a crucial time and we had a nice charge that the official saw as a block. If those things go our way, who knows."

As a team, Behrend shot 43 percent overall and 46 percent in the second half. The blue and white were close in every statistical category you could look at for the game, with Bobcats shooting 45 percent. By no means was this an easy victory for Frostburg.

The Lions got contributions from all their key players, just like they needed too. Senior Amber Krumpke led the pack with 16 points and 9 rebounds.

"I felt like everyone played their hearts out in that game," said Krumpke. "There was a short spurt in the second half where we made a few mistakes and just never fully recovered from it."

"Our seniors left it on the floor which I think says a lot about how much they wanted that game," said Fornari. "I am proud of them for that. There is no give up in this group, especially in our seniors."

ECAC bid were announced, with Medaille earning the bid. The issue is that Medaille College is in New York. Although they are in our conference, they are not in the same region for ECAC's. In short, Behrend should have gotten a bid for our region but by some weirdness, Medaille is going instead.

The women's squad finished the season with a 17-10 mark. Sophomore Tenesha Aden earned second-team all-conference honors and sophomore Rachel Slomski made the honorable mention list.

"It was a season of some inconsistency and injury that hurt us on a daily basis," said Fornari. "Our players worked hard and I know our staff did."

Next year's team will have to work hard to replace the two departing seniors, Krumpke and Bambi Lewis.

Krumpke graduates leaving her mark all over the record books. She is seventh in field-goal percentage in a career at 58 percent, seventh in scoring over a season racking up 379 points and eighth in field-goals made in a season with 147.

"My teammates are my best friends and because of them it has been a great couple of years at Behrend," said Krumpke. "To next year's girls, win the AMCC championship and make it to NCAA's because there is no feeling quite like it."

Lewis has been a strong three-point shooter through out her career and comes in ninth for three-pointers made over a career with 59.

"Next year's team should know that no matter what happens, or how hard it is or how bad you might hate it, rely on your teammates," said Lewis. "Enjoy your time with them and always make sure you are having fun, even if you have to make your own fun."

The two seniors have been part of teams that have claimed two regular season AMCC championships, one AMCC tournament Championship, an ECAC bid and an NCAA bid.

Until next season, the team will be working to raise money for the Desert Classic to be held next December in Las Vegas. There will be 12 teams participating in the tournament. It will be important for the players to "stay positive and get better individually," in order to take back the crown and play like the championship team they can be.

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