

Lions on ninth life

by Joe Mottillo
Collegian Staff

"Our defensive effort," said Lion's men's basketball Coach Fred Paulsen when asked about any type of constant in this 10-12 season.

"We've been very inconsistent offensively," noted Paulsen "We've been in 12 games that were decided by six points or less and we are only 4-8 in those games. We didn't make the big play."

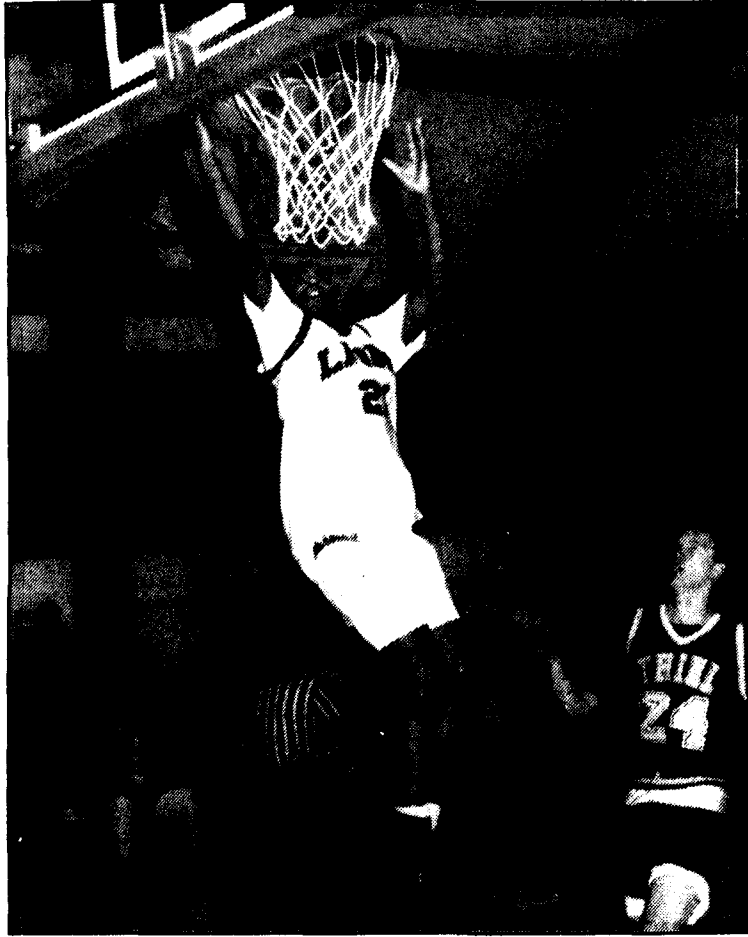
For the Lions to reach the ECAC playoffs, Paulsen feels the team has to play strong in their final three games, all of which are on the road.

"We have to handle playing on the road. The opposing crowd, the gym and the referees," said Paulsen.

Some of the things the ECAC Committee looks at are strength of schedule, and an above .500 record.

"Being there last season and seeded #1 is in our favor," commented Paulsen on last season's 2nd Place Finish in the ECAC playoffs.

The Lions most recent game was on February 10 against Keuka. Behrend won 75-68 in their final home game of the season as Stephen Respress and Tim Cook Played their final



Arnel Balcita/Photographer

Aiming High: Senior Stephen Respress goes up for two against Thiel earlier in the year.

game at Erie Hall.

"Stephen is a major league athlete. He always comes up with the spectacular play and is

difficult to guard because he can play both inside and outside," said Paulsen of Respress who is averaging 12.3 points and 5.2

rebounds per game.

"Tim always gives 100%. When he plays, he picks us up defensively. He's an inspiration on the court," Paulsen said of Erie-native Cook who is the only player on the roster to have more steals than turnovers, 32 to 29.

Asked how to sum up the season if the Lions don't make the playoffs, Paulsen said "It won't be a failure. Not being in a conference, you have to be nearly perfect to make the NCAA's. If we don't make the ECAC's it won't be a failure because that is by invitation."

If the Lions win their final three games, they'll finish 13-12. The committee will also see then that the Lions won their final four games and that their three game winning streak was only interrupted by a 48-45 loss to nationally ranked Buffalo State.

Lions' Notes: Through 22 games, the average point difference has been 63.5 for the opponents to 63.3 for the Lions. Seniors Cook and Respress lead the team in free throw percentage at 77.4% and 75.4%. Sophomore Steve Berger leads the team in 2 point field goal percentage at 51.7%. The last season game for the Lions is February 23 at Keuka, a team who the Lions defeated in their last outing.

Wilson honored

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On February 3, women's volleyball coach, Jan Wilson was honored at the second annual Women in Sports banquet. The banquet was held at Rainbow Gardens.

Wilson was honored for her contribution to women's athletics in the Erie area. "I feel that what I contributed, you really can't measure in a win-loss record, but in making a difference in women's lives."

The inscription on the plaque reads, "Women's Sports Foundation Award, Jan Wilson-Volleyball, Softball and Tennis. For outstanding contribution in women's sports."

Athletic Director Herb Lauffer said, "We're very pleased to see members of the Erie community honor her for her achievements over the years."

Wilson has been coaching at Behrend for 21 years. The last 17 of which include volleyball in which she has amassed the most wins in Behrend volleyball history with 269. She has also coached softball and tennis while she has been here.

"I really like working with students. Just trying to do better each year," is what Wilson said when asked what has kept her coaching for as long as she has.

"I look forward to the new group of kids each year," commented Wilson.

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The Collegian Staff

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