Lions get new look



Arnel Balcits/ Collegian photo coordinator

Cleaning the glass: Freshman foward, Ron Derian, grabs a rebound in practice as the Lions prepare for their opener at Keuka.

by Joe Mottillo Collegian Staff

The 1993 look of the men's basketball team is a completely different one from last year.

"Our overall style of play and change of personnel is the biggest difference," said first year coach Joe Shapiro. He continued, "Byron Thorne and Donnie Plyler

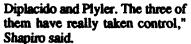
are really playing well and providing leadership.

Shapiro said that some of the strong points of this year are work ethic, intensity, unity and perimeter play.

"The team unity has gotten a lot better since the beginning of the year," said Chad Sutton.

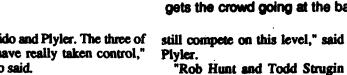
"We've had some surprises at point guard with Sutton, Matt

The Behrend basketball will open it's season Saturday With Keuka. only four returners head coach in Joe Shapiro, fans can look forward to a look from the cagers this year.



Point guard was one of the Lions weaker spots last season when Plyler got hurt and Johnny Hawthorne was the only player to handle the point.

"I'm about 90% right now. I don't think I'll be as quick as I used to be, but I feel that I can



play," said Shapiro. Offensively the Lions will be fast breaking, and defensively

are the forces inside. The team is

adjusting well to the new style of

they'll usually be picking up full court. This will be a very different approach compared to last year's half-court offense. Another big change is in

personnel. Not only is Shapiro new, but so are eight of the players and Assistant Coach Chris Gilmartin. The Lions' returning players

are Plyler, Thorne, Hunt and Jose Fortuno. The Lions lost leading scorer Stephen Respress (4 years), Johnny Hawthorne (transfer) and Tim Cook (graduation).

Arnel Balcita/ Collegian photo coordinator

This is a basketball: Senior swingman, Byron Thorne, gets the crowd going at the basketball openhouse last week.

"I'm a little concerned with our full court offense when we see pressure," said Shapiro.

He has really been pleased with the teams concentration and the team's free throw shooting.

"Physically we're getting into shape and the practices are getting better," said Plyler.

"I've been very pleased with the amount of support shown to our players by the students, faculty and administration."

Shapiro continued, "It is great to know that this is a team effort and that we have the support of everyone here at Behrend."

The Lions open the season at Keuka this Saturday. They play three more road games before they open their home season with the Penn State-Behrend tourney on December 3 and 4



Arnel Balcita/ Collegian Photo Coordinator It's official: Head Coach Roz Fornari stands with Nick Scott (L) a representative of Arby's and Rick Santos (R) of Creative Imprints Systems, inc. A press conference was held Tuesday at Econo Lodge to officially announce that Arby's and Creative Imprints Systems, inc. will co-sponsor the women's basketball tournament to be held this weekend at Erie Hall.

