



Holly Beary/Collegian Photo Coordinator

D-fense: Senior guard Wendy Ebinger toughens up against Bethany.

Up to her old tricks

by Matthew D. Cissne
Co-Editor

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well, it doesn't really matter if the old ones still work.

Behrend women's basketball team's all-time assists leader, senior pointguard Wendy Ebinger, has been up to her old tricks.

Ebinger, the Athlete of the Week, averaged 12 points, five assists and four steals in two games last week against Fredonia and Bethany. Her efforts helped raise the Lady Lions' record to 10-3 (the Lady Lions defeated Alfred College 87-49 Tuesday and are presently 11-3).

Besides dishing out assists and scoring points, Ebinger continues to lead the team with her intense play and constant hustle.

Ebinger was captain last season, but this season the team has no official captain. "The six

seniors are all basically captains, but I still take a lot of pride in having a leadership role," Ebinger said.

The Lions have a new coach this season. According to Ebinger, the coaching change was somewhat difficult to deal with at the start.

She said, "It was hard for the six seniors and the other returning players to deal with a new coach. We had to change some things we were used to doing. We did keep our switching man defense. That was something we had always worked hard on and had been successful."

Ebinger's days at Behrend are almost over. "I would not trade my four years here for anything. To come in as a freshman and win seven games to being a part of a team that is now respected around the nation is hard to believe," Ebinger said.

Although Ebinger would not say that winning a championship

is her ultimate goal for the season, she said that she wants to end the season with a win.

She added, "the only way to go out with a win is to win either the NCAA or ECAC championship.

The Lady Lions won the ECAC championship in 1992, but failed to repeat as champions last season.

Ebinger said, "I would be lying if I said that last season was not disappointing. We were too concerned about our ranking. This season we realize that we need to focus on each and every game."

Ebinger is graduating in May with a degree in English Literature. She hopes to attend The University of Pittsburgh graduate school for her teaching certificate. She would like to teach and coach at the high school level. She wants to share her "old tricks."

Just win baby

by Bill Graham
Collegian Staff

The new year has brought many new things to Behrend. But the Lady Lions basketball team is still recording victories.

Led by Behrend's six seniors, the Lady Lions have a 3-1 record since the break. This gives them an overall record of 11-3 through Tuesday night's victory at Alfred University.

On January 8, the Lady Lions made the long trip to Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, MA.

Despite getting 23 points and 7 rebounds from forward Becky Swartz, Behrend dropped a tough 69-67 decision to the Lady Bears. Even the ride home was a challenge as they were detoured and delayed by ice and snow.

Behrend got back on track on Jan. 12 with a tough 77-72 victory over the Lady Blue Devils of Fredonia. Even though the Lady Lions shot 35% for the game, they put five players in double digits in scoring.

Michelle Grover led the way with 15 points, Anne Bonner had 14, Swartz and Karen Strait each had 11 and Wendy Ebinger netted 10 points.

The first home game of the year saw the Lady Bisons of Bethany College visit Erie Hall last Saturday. Bethany came into the game as the seventh ranked team in the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Region. However they were no match for the Lady Lions.

Behrend raced to a 23-5 lead nine minutes into the game and never looked back in cruising to a 75-52 victory.

Head Coach Roz Fornari said, "This was a big win for us, beating a higher ranked team in Bethany. It should put us in the right direction as we head into the tough part of our schedule."

On Tuesday night in frigid temperatures, Behrend traveled to Alfred University in a homecoming of sorts for Coach Fornari. She coached there as an assistant before becoming the head coach here at Behrend.

Neither the cold nor Alfred stopped the Lady Lions as they crushed the Lady Saxons 87-49.

Shooting 50%, the Lady Lions once again had balanced scoring with Bonner and Heather Shearer scoring 12 points each and Swartz chipping in with 11.

Said assistant coach Rob Wittman, "Everyone contributed to the victory, it was a total team effort."

In the next few weeks the Lady Lions are going to have some tough competition.

"We have to play Washington and Jefferson twice and Buffalo State who is undefeated," said Coach Fornari. "We would love to see the gym packed and supporting us to victory."

Individually some of the Lady Lions are achieving high marks on the court. Ebinger is the all-time leader in assists and Strait is the all-time leader in free throws.

Behrend plays at home tonight against Hilbert College.

Back on track

by Joe Mottillo
Collegian Staff

As a new semester begins, so does a new style for the Behrend Lions. The Lions won their second of four games this semester by defeating Alfred University, 70-65 on Tuesday under interim coach Chris Gilmartin.

Todd Sturgin of Behrend led all scorers with 19 points and added 10 rebounds. Byron Thorne added 17 points and 7 rebounds to help the Lions outscore Alfred 41-26 in the first half.

"We played pretty well. It was probably our best defensive effort of the year and our best team effort of the year," said swingman Thorne.

On January 15, the Lions welcomed Bethany College to Erie Hall. The Lions played tough as they raced out to a 33-29 halftime lead. They couldn't hold that lead though as Bethany battled back and won 72-71 on a last second shot by Jon Blackmon.

Don Plyler had hit what everyone thought was the winning three pointer with 22 seconds left that made the score 71-70.

But Thorne could not convert the front end of a one and one with nine seconds remaining to seal the victory or at least a tie. Blackmon hit the devastating fade away after that.

Phil Hall of Bethany led all



Jon Colvin/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Break away: Senior guard Donnie Plyler scores in the home loss against Bethany.

scorers with 20. Plyler led Behrend with 19. He was followed by Thorne and Rob Hunt who each netted 18.

Hunt led Behrend in rebounding with 14, 11 on the defensive glass. His efforts weren't enough though as the Lions were outrebounded 45-32.

On January 12 the Lions made the trip up I-90 to Fredonia State. The Lions came up on the short end of a 72-70 score.

Thorne led all scorers with 25. Hunt was second for the Lions with 12 points and 8 rebounds. The Lions outshot FSU, 53% to 40% for the game.