

Lions picking up the pace

The new-look Lions are trying to finish the season on a positive note after dropping 11 of their first 14 games.

by Joe Mottillo
Collegian Staff

"You look back at early November when this team got beat by 30 by Allegheny, this isn't the same team," said men's basketball coach Chris Gilmartin on the team's recent surge as they've gone 2-1 in their last three games.

On Monday, the Lions played the 10-5 Bengals of Buffalo State. Midway through the first half, the Lions were down by 28, but regrouped to be down only 45-36 at halftime.

"We consistently set goals and consistently cut the lead," said Gilmartin.

The Lions came out with fire in their eyes and in hearts in the second half as they attempted to tame the Bengals.

The Lions did everything right except take the lead as they lost when Don Plyler's last second three-pointer fell short. The final score was 81-79 as the Lions

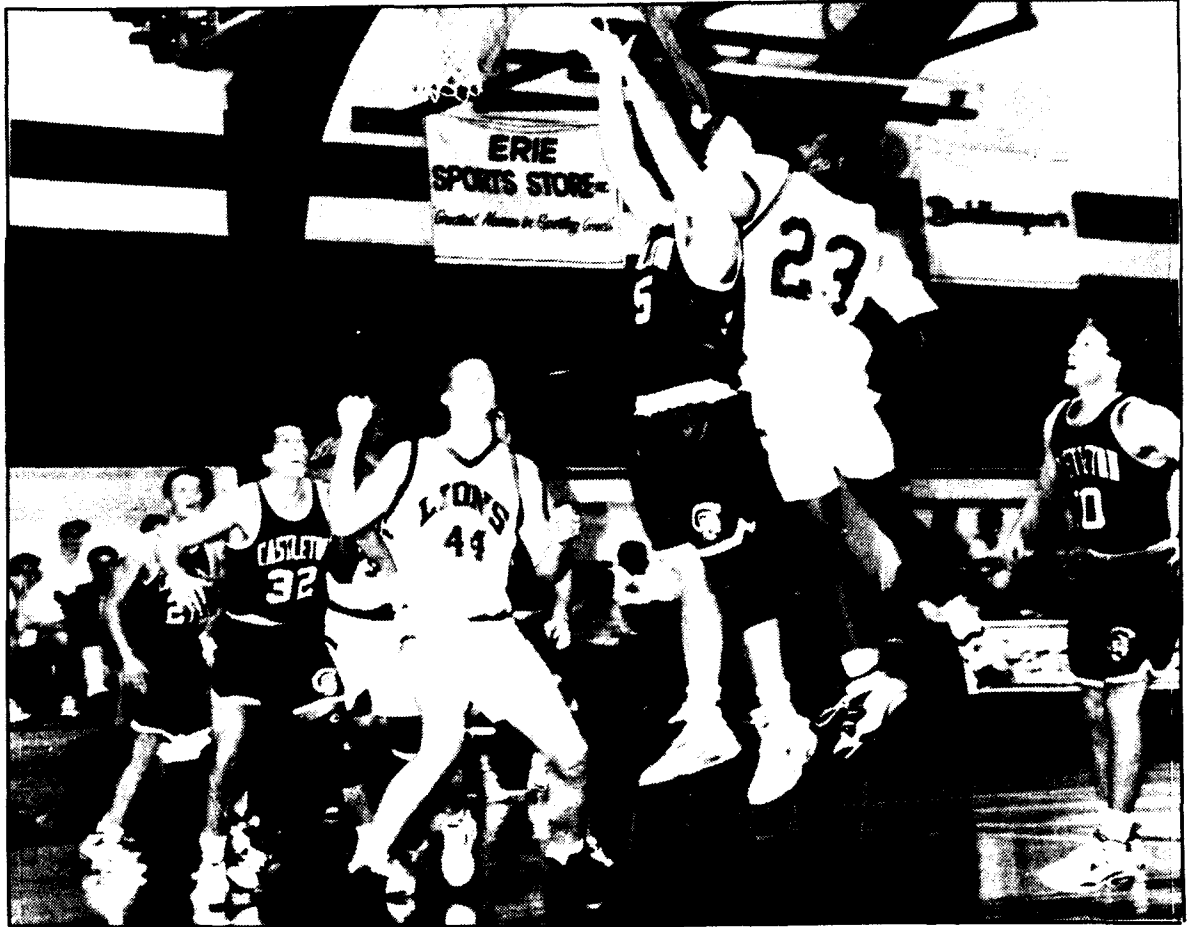
dropped to 5-12 on the season.

"We all take responsibility, but I'm at the forefront. We got away from what this team is about and that's great man-to-man defense," said a dejected Gilmartin. "It was a fun game to be a part of, but it doesn't take away from the pain," he added.

All-American candidate, Byron Thorne, led Behrend with 26 points on 10-19 shooting. Plyler was close behind with 18 as he hit four of his thirteen three-point attempts. Both played all 40 minutes of the game.

"We have one of the best players in Division III basketball in Byron Thorne. Then you have a guy like Donnie Plyler who is going to go down as one of the best players in school history," said Gilmartin about his "Dynamic Duo."

On January 22, the Lions took on LaRoche College. LaRoche was no match as Behrend came out with all guns loaded as they raced out to a 44-



Box out: Athlete of the Week Todd Sturgin (44) boxes out in hopes of getting a rebound with the help of Byron Thorne (23)

Jan Colvin/ Collegian Photo Coordinator

30 lead. LaRoche played tougher in the second half, but couldn't pull it out as Behrend prevailed 95-78.

The trio of Thorne, Plyler and Todd Sturgin paced Behrend as all three were in double figures (26, 18 and 19).

Thorne is leading the Lions in both assists (3.7) and scoring (23.6). Plyler is second on the team in scoring with 15.2 ppg and assists with 2.2. Rob Hunt leads the team in rebounding with 7.9 per game and is third in scoring with 12.2 ppg.

"We got a consistent effort from Rob. He's as solid a player as there is," said Gilmartin of his forward.

The Lions play next this Saturday against Oberlin at 7:30 p.m. in Erie Hall.

Club v-ball begins season

by Paul D. Young
Collegian Staff

The Penn State-Behrend men's club volleyball team currently sports a .500 record after their first two matches.

They were victorious on the road against Mercyhurst College and came out on the short side of the net at Gannon University. Both contests were decided in four games.

Club player and president Dave Hoffman (Senior), a plastics engineering major, said the team is "still working out the bugs on offense and defense".

The 12-man squad, which practices whenever the gym is available, hopes to repeat last year's success in which they advanced through the playoffs to earn a trip to the University of Maryland.

Hoffman, the lone senior on the team, is the outside hitter. The other starters include: Geoff Bach, setter; Justin Tomcik,

middle hitter; Ray Huggins, middle hitter; Brian Ott, weakside hitter; Matt Binaci, weakside hitter; and Jerome Smith, back row specialist.

Next on the spikers' 13-match schedule is a tri-match here at Behrend on Saturday featuring Allegheny and a strong Grove City team.

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