

# Lady Lions lose cat fight



Jen Colvin/Collegian Photo Coordinator  
**Double pick:** Pulling a combined effort, forward Kim Landes (right) and center Haley Locher (left) try to stop a Hilbert guard from driving to the hoop.

## Sturgin leads Lions



Jen Colvin/Collegian Photo Coordinator  
**Over the top:** Todd Sturgin uses his height to his advantage.

by Keith E. McFall  
*Co-Sports Editor*

"Heartbreaker." That's the word Head Coach Roz Fornari used when asked to describe the Lady Lions' 90-89 loss to Buffalo State last Monday night.

"We had an opportunity to win and we didn't get it," said Fornari referring to Wendy Ebinger's last second baseline shot that fell inches short at the end of overtime.

In what was described by Assistant Coach Rob Wittman, as one of the best and most exciting games in Erie Hall in a long time, the Lady Lions were in control for most of the game as they jumped out to an early 16-3 lead.

Though they trailed at half-time 35-33, the lady players never let the undefeated (14-0) Lady Bengals take control.

"I think we were the better team and were more disciplined. I told the team that it would be a dog-fight the whole game," said Fornari. "We knew before the game that it would come down to the last couple of minutes."

The game was knotted at 75 at the end of regulation and with three of the Lions' starters fouled out of the game, Fornari called upon her bench to finish the task.

"It was a great team performance. We have people that played that have never been in that situation before and they handled the pressure very well," said Fornari.

Due to a knee injury suffered by junior Megan Musante in practice, senior Wendy Ebinger was forced to play the entire game. The only rest she had was thirteen seconds when she had to come out to have a cut on her knee bandaged. Ebinger took on the challenge though, and scored 30 points hitting 10-18 (2-4 three-pointers) from the floor.



Jen Colvin/Collegian Photo Coordinator  
**On the floor:** Wrestling for the ball, Becky Reed helps Karen Strait get a jump ball call from the referee.

Senior Michelle Grover played the entire 45 minutes with no breaks, chipped in six points, and grabbed a team high 10 rebounds. Senior Anne Bonner played only 21 minutes due to foul trouble but still had 26 points before fouling out late in the game. She hit 10-14 from the floor and 6-9 from the foul line.

"This game was a total team effort and everybody performed to their potential," said Wittman.

Junior Karen Strait said, "It was a tough loss, but this game helped us and showed us what kind of team we are. It also showed other teams we don't just have six players that can play," referring to the solid bench play in overtime.

Fornari said, "I told the team after the game that 'A good team cannot overcome a loss like this one, but a great one can,' and we will."

In a not so close and pressurized game last Thursday in

Erie Hall, the Lady Lions played host to Hilbert College. The game was close until the tip-off as the ladies crushed 97-18. Everyone got into the scoring column in the balanced attack led by Bonner's 18 points.

Strait was second high for the game with 15 marks and senior Becky Swartz added 13. Sophomore Haley Locher put up career-high numbers with 11 points and a team high 13 rebounds.

Questions were raised as to whether this gigantic win could have affected the Lions' play against Buffalo State.

Fornari said, "We have a group of starting seniors that want to win and obviously know how to win and know how important it is. It doesn't take much to get them ready for a big game, and the Hilbert win did not play a part in Monday's loss."

by Ila Belkin  
*Collegian Staff*

Once again, this week's Athlete of the Week comes to us from the men's basketball team.

Junior center Todd Sturgin led the men's basketball team to an impressive 2-0 week with two very strong performances.

Sturgin tied his season-high total of 19 points in both contests this past week. While scoring all those points, he went on to make 16 of 30 shots for 53.3%.

When asked about his performance this past week, Sturgin said, "I'm just glad that the team finally won a couple of games. It was also really vital that I finally broke out of this year long drought. My numbers and play have not really been too hot, and I haven't been helping the team that much at all."

On the season, Sturgin is averaging more than one block a game, averaging 8.8 points a game, and grabbing 4.7 rebounds per game.

Head Coach Chris Gilmastrin said of Sturgin's performance, "I was really happy with Todd's defensive presence. His play at center really did make a difference in changing the other team's game plan. Hopefully Todd can continue his great play from here on in to the end of the season."

Sturgin, a 2MBT major, attended Commodore Perry high school where he started for two years. After that, he went to Penn State-Schenango and played a year there.

Sturgin's hobbies in the off season include playing basketball and all other sports. What it really comes down to

is that if Sturgin can continue his great play, the men's basketball team can only get better as shown in their impressive 2-0 week.

**Editor's note:** The Lady Lions defeated the Washington and Jefferson Lady Presidents last night 92-79. W&J is ranked sixth in the ECAC Atlantic Region above Behrend who is ranked seventh. No other information was available at press time.