

Behrend's 3 on 3 teams fall short at Ohio State

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

After building hope through the round-robin play, both Behrend 3 on 3 teams fell in the first round of the playoffs at the Schick Superhoops 3 on 3 competition.

The tournament, sponsored by Schick and the NBA, was held in Columbus, Ohio with teams from all across the Midwest and Northeast.

The men's team of Scott DeFoggi, Steve Berger, Stephen Respress and Eric Warren matched up well against their first round-robin opponent, Marshall University (W.Va.).

"In our first game we were a little sluggish, but we won," DeFoggi said.

Only 3 minutes after their initial victory, the men went back on the court against Bowling Green University.

In a very physical first half, Respress had 4 blocks, while Berger and Warren added an extra level of defense. The score at the end of the first eight minutes was Behrend 27-11.

The second half was much of the same in terms of points, but now the team started taking the outside shots and played the post

even better.

"We just had to get down into the post offense, and we did," Warren said.

That game typified the fun attitude the team was playing with as they finished off Bowling Green, 56-36.

In winning their round-robin bracket, the men's team used their size and experience with one another to their fullest capabilities.

"It's (our size) a real big advantage, because we could score anytime we wanted inside," DeFoggi said about the first two games. "I think we have a great advantage with our three big men."

After back-to-back games the guys got a break and were able to catch the women's games.

The women, Krista Hershner, Tracy Thompson, Beth Demacio and Amy Stranahan, started their round-robin play against Miami (Ohio) University.

Miami used their six foot center to her fullest potential. She put in eight points and dominated the boards over Behrend's center, DeMacio.

"I felt out of my game. I'm a low post player," DeMacio said. "I was stuck out in the guard

position a lot of the times I should not have been."

One bright spot in the 21-8 Miami first half was Stranahan's aggressiveness. She came in with two minutes left in the half and made her presence known.

"Amy seemed to pick us up a little more," Hershner said.

The beginning of the second half was a completely different story from the first half.

Behrend set off on an 8-0 run due to pull-up jumpers by Hershner and Thompson as well as Stranahan's energetic defense.

Even with the great second half burst, Miami's lead was just too much as Behrend ended up losing 35-25.

"In the first game we were so timid about shooting," Stranahan said. "We can't keep doing that if we expect to win."

Hershner agreed and added that they were a little tense.

"It was like nobody wanted to shoot. We just weren't relaxed," Hershner said.

Game two was a chance for the women to complete a sweep of Marshall University, and they did.

"In the second game, we were more comfortable with each other so we played a lot better,"

Stranahan said.

Not only were they more comfortable, but DeMacio stepped up her rebounding and kicked the ball out to Thompson and Hershner a great deal more.

The halftime score emphasized their enthusiastic play, Behrend 16-7.

Behrend continued their new found dominance by keeping the lead consistent at seven points.

In the end, the women held off a late attempt at a rally by winning 24-19.

"We hustled and boxed out more, and we played more like a team," Thompson said.

With the round-robin bracket games over, the Behrend squads moved into the single-elimination tournament.

The men's first round opponent was a Miami (Ohio) team that went 0-2 in bracket play.

However, this was not the same Miami team that got shelled in the preliminaries. That team, which only fielded three players and no subs, was completely different as their 6'5" center showed up just in time to play Behrend.

The revamped Miami team came out running against Behrend and took an early 14-6 lead.

"They were quick and better at transition," Respress said.

Behrend was never able to cut the lead to any better than eight points as Miami prevailed, 47-39.

A bright spot through the disappointing early exit was DeFoggi's shooting performance. His six 3-pointers and several over outside shots kept Behrend alive, but even he could not be satisfied.

"It's a big letdown after how well we did in the round-robin," DeFoggi said.

The women played right after the guys against Ohio University.

The big question before this game was which Behrend women's team would show up? The one that lost miserably to a taller Miami team or the one that dominated the slow Marshall team?

The answer was a combination of the two. While Behrend put up many more shots than they did against Miami, they made only one first half bucket.

"We had to post up the big girl better than we did against Miami, but we didn't," Thompson said.

The end result was a 22-11 loss that finished the day for Behrend.

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