

# Lions on a roll

by Bill Graham  
Collegian Staff

The Lady Lions are on a roll and not even the weather is able to hold them back.

Despite soaked fields, the rain, the cold, and even snow in the first week of April, the Lady Lions softball team has compiled a 14-2 record, winning their last seven straight.

And to the delight of the club, Behrend has received the highest ranking in school history. They are 16th in the country according to the latest Top 20 poll.

Upon hearing of the ranking Coach Paul Benim said, "The national ranking is attributed to hard work and the performance of the team to this point. We're all very excited yet eager to improve game by game."

According to Cherie Varrassa, "Right now we are doing good things both offensively and defensively. We are showing improvement daily and aren't satisfied with being ranked 16th."

On Tuesday the Lady Lions

hosted Thiel and proceeded to sweep the Lady Tomcats by the scores of 7-1 and 4-3.

Terry Pegher wielded the hot bat in the first game, going 3-3 with two runs batted in. Karen Strait, Becky Reed and Marlesse Schlott each had two hits, Schlott driving in a pair.

Casey Putteman checked Thiel on only two hits while striking out six. She improved her record to 6-1 for the season.

The second game saw Behrend get out to a 3-0 lead only to have Thiel come back to give the Lady Lions a scare. Strait's sacrifice fly proved to be the difference as Behrend won 4-3. Pegher had two more hits as did Sue Mazur. Varrassa improved her record to 6-1 allowing five hits and striking out eight.

Last Thursday Behrend played Geneva College in its home opener. The Lady Lions scored five runs in the first inning, rapped out 12 hits and won by a score of 10-3. Emmy Arnett went 3-3 in the game, while scoring 3 runs. Pegher and Mazur contributed two hits and two RBIs each. Putteman

earned the complete game win, striking out 7.

In the second game, the Lady Lions wore down the Lady Tornadoes, exploding for 13 more hits. Arnett again had 3 hits and combined with Pegher for six runs batted in. Julie Chimera and Mazur had two hits each. Varrassa earned her fifth win while striking out seven.

On March 26, the Lady Lions traveled to Salem, VA to compete in the Ferrum College Invitational Softball Tournament. Behrend opened with a loss to Chowan College but rebounded for three straight victories by a combined score of 34-1.

The day was highlighted by a combined no-hitter thrown by Varrassa and Chimera and a 2-0 defeat of regionally ranked Methodist College.

On Sunday however, rain forced cancellation of the rest of the tournament.

Varrassa commented, "We had a good shot on Sunday because we were on a roll. There were a lot of good teams but they weren't really better than us."



Jen Colvin/Photo Coordinator

Hit, run, score: The Behrend Lady Lions softball team huddles before an at-bat against Geneva last week. The team is 14-2 and ranked 16th nationally.

## Cycling returns

by Jen Colvin  
Collegian Staff

Facing their first race of the year, the Behrend cycling team had three racers in the top 20 of their race categories.

The difference between race team members categories (A, B, and C) is, according to Cacali, the difference between the racers' abilities.

Category C, said Cacali, has the shortest race of the three categories. Usually a category C racer is in his first year of racing.

Category B is more advanced with the racer having a few more years of experience.

"Basically, the difference (between categories) is handling skills. A category 'A' racer is the most experienced and most competitive. They go hard from the start of the race," said Cacali.

The first day of racing, Patrick Werner placed 10th and Cacali placed 13th in the category B race.

Scott Ramsey placed sixth in the category C race.

On the second day of racing, Cacali captured sixth place and Werner ninth.

Down from eight racers to four, Werner thought the team did well. "I'm happy with performance considering it was the first race."

Cacali agreed and said he was satisfied with the outcome. "I did well but could have done better if I had not wrecked. Overall, I was happy considering that it was the first race. We had really good results."

According to Werner, Cacali is

the team's best racer.

"Greg is our strongest racer and usually places high."

The race, co-sponsored by PSU-Behrend and Slippery Rock, was a criterium. According to Cacali, a criterium race is a loop less than five miles.

Opposed to the criterium, the road race is a whole loop race 50 miles, or many laps adding up to 50 miles.

But according to its four racers, the Behrend team does not have it easy. First, the weather in Erie affects the team.

"We are at a real disadvantage here in Erie. Our weather here is so unpredictable that our training is far behind everyone else's," said Werner.

But the weather is not the only obstacle. According to both Werner and Cacali, being unknown hurts the team just as bad.

"Many people don't know that we have a cycling team here at Behrend," said Werner.

Cacali agreed with Werner and added that the Behrend team does not have the depth nor interest on the team.

"We need more depth. It's hard to hold onto riders," said Cacali.

One thing that Cacali said has helped the team is the sponsors.

"They (the sponsors) really helped out. It is terrific that we have them. We would have no races without them," said Cacali.

Teams sponsors are Eat 'n Park Restaurants, Voler Team Apparel, Bike Tight, Nuke Proof Ind., Endura, Automaxi, WaveFlo Saddles, Papar Racing Bicycles, along with Wheels and Frontier Bike Shop.

## ATTENTION

### ACCOUNTING MAJORS!!!

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This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience on a computer based accounting system.

Applicants must make a one year commitment.

Responsibilities include:

- Mandatory office hours (flexible to your class schedule)
- Maintaining club account balances
- Processing checks and transfers
- Presenting a treasurer's report to SGA
- Monthly bank and account club reconcilliations

The chosen applicant will be paid \$100.00 for training this semester.

A stipend of \$400.00 will be paid each semester after and possible internship credits.

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