

Men focus on additions to team

by Julie Stocker
Collegian staff

As Behrend gathers for the start of another snowy semester, the men's basketball coach, Dave Niland, is reviewing what Santa has brought him.

And what Santa has taken away. Enter: Junior transfer Brandon George, and Sophomore Chad Sutton.

George enters Erie Hall after making the change from Division II Clarion. Since breaking into the starting line-up, the guard has made his presence felt, by averaging 20.6 points per game.

Sutton returns after a semester off due to academic ineligibility. He brings with him the threat of long range shooting and tough defense at the guard positions.

Exit: Freshman guard John Judy and Senior forward Rob Hunt.

Judy, like Sutton a semester ago, is forced to watch from the sidelines due to academics. "We're looking forward to getting him back," said Coach Niland.

Hunt walked away from the Lions "in order to concentrate on other things," according to Niland.

With the addition of Sutton, only three Lions remain from last year's squad. The other two are Junior center Todd Sturgin and Sophomore guard Ron Derian.

Regardless the cast of characters that surrounds him, Coach Niland is pleased with the play of his

team and the 5-8 overall record.

"We just want to get better everyday," said Niland, "We are trying to rebuild our program, and are not looking so much at the wins and losses."

Behrend lost the first game of the holiday break, as the Lions dropped a 63-60 decision to Waynesburg College. Junior forward Lance Burgert led the Lions with 21 points, while Sturgin pulled down 14 rebounds.

In the Buffalo State Tournament, Behrend surprised the host with a 71-68 victory. George led the scoring charge with 24, and Berger hauled in 11 boards.

"Buffalo State was ranked eighth in the country in Division III for the pre-season," said a proud Niland.

The Lions slipped against Westminster in the championship game, 67-60. Derian was high man with 19 points, and Sturgin with 9 rebounds.

After eight consecutive road games, the Lions were anticipating the return to Erie Hall. So were the Blue Devils of Fredonia State.

Fredonia downed the Lions 80-62, and handed Behrend their fifth loss in six games.

George led the red, white, and blue with 17 points, and Berger cleaned the glass with 7 rebounds.

Grove City was next on the agenda, and handed Niland's troops a 78-69 loss. George was the leading scorer with 25, and Berger



Photo by Dan Nowicki / Photo Editor
LOSE BY ONE: In spite of the effort put out by both Jamie Okanak (above) and Brandon George (right), the men fell to Grove City last night.

grabbed 6 rebounds.

In a recent road trip to Bethany, the Lions came out on top with a 78-70 victory. George had the game of his Behrend career as he tossed in 30 points and dished 5 assists.

"[George] has been a big help. He's averaging about 20 points per game. He's a very good player," said Niland.

Berger finished with 15 markers, Sturgin with 11 points and 16

boards, and Derian ended with 13 tallies to round out the scoring against Bethany.

Last evening, Behrend took the 9-4 Grove City Wolverines to the wire. In the overtime nail biter,

Behrend fell short 73-72.

With the solid performance by the entire team, George, Sturgin, and Berger each finished the game with 20 markers.

Sigma Tau Gamma Spring Semester Volleyball Tourney this Saturday from 12:30 until 7:00. Refreshments, DJ and prizes. Registration at 12:30 in Erie Hall - open to all students.



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