

# Winning season

## Lions go from 10-15 to 13-12 in Niland's first year

by Julie Stocker  
Collegian Staff

This past Monday, the Behrend Lions Head Coach Dave Niland received the news that his team would not participate in post-season play.

"It's disappointing," Coach Niland said. "We would have liked to make the play-offs."

Despite not making the play-offs, the 1994-95 pack of Lions accomplished plenty this season. For one, they improved on last year's 10-15 record with a 13-12 slate.

"We accomplished some goals that we set early in the year. Overall, I thought it was a successful season," commented Niland.

"I think the season went pretty well considering mostly freshmen and sophomores were on the court," said guard Jamie Okonak. "We had a lot of inexperience, but we came through."

At season's end, Steve Berger led the Lions in scoring with a 14.8 points per game average.

Todd Sturjin followed with 12.3 ppg, and Ron Derian finished with a 10.3 ppg average to round out the double figure scorers.

Sturjin led the Lions in rebounding with 8.6 per game, and Berger was behind him while pulling down 8.5 rebounds per game. Desmond Hannon hauled in 5.2 rebounds per game, which was third on the team.

From the charity stripe, Okonak was high man while shooting 85 percent, and Derian shot 78 percent from the free throw line.

Derian and Okonak led the Lions in assists, as each dished out 2.3 assists per game.

Sturjin led Behrend in blocks, with 34 for the year. Berger and Hannon had 21 and 10 blocks, respectively.

Berger and Derian each had 20 steals, while Okonak collected 15.

"All eight of our players played well," said Niland. "They gave us everything they had."

As Behrend now enters the off-season, it is a time for

conditioning and road trips to local high schools for recruiting visits.

"We're always preparing. We'll be as a unit in the weight room, and we'll go back to work in the summer," said Niland. "Assistant Coach Karel Jelinek and I are out quite a bit trying to bring in a class of recruits."

*"It's disappointing... We would have liked to make the play-offs" - Coach Niland*

Niland concluded by saying, "We have a program that is going in the right direction. You could get a good degree in a great atmosphere and enhance it by playing on a very good college basketball team."



Jennifer Brenier/ Collegian Photographer

Shooting for two: Todd Sturjin of the Behrend Lions scores in a recent game. The Lions finished the season for the first time in three years.

## "Excellent foundation" for 95-96 season

by Nick Zulovich  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Penn State-Behrend Lady Lions finished a successful season under head coach Roz Fornari by winning their last six contests. The team finished with a record of 14-11.

Unfortunately that record was not good enough for the Lady Lions to receive an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) play-off bid. Allentown College, Alvernia College, Frostburg State, and Bethany College received ECAC playoff bids.

Coach Fornari said she felt disappointed about her team not receiving a bid.

"We were on a really good run, winning six in a row here at the end of the season. We had just started playing well as an entire team," said Fornari.

For the second straight season under Fornari the Lady Lions have finished with a winning record.

Fornari said that the basketball program was in good shape when she came to Behrend two seasons ago. "My job is to keep the program at this level and to take it even higher," explained Fornari.

So the future is still bright for the success of Lady Lions basketball. With ten returning players for next season, experience could be one of the team's strong points.

Leading scorer and rebounder Marlesse Schlott will return for her senior season. Schlott averaged 12.4 points per game along with 11 rebounds per game.

Behrend's other two top scorers, Melanie Banas and Becky Reed, will also return next season. Banas averaged 11 points per game while Reed was right behind averaging 10.7.

Many freshmen played very well this past season for Fornari. This group of freshmen included Banas, Emily Marini, and Nikki Schultz.

Marini was second on the team in rebounding, averaging 8.2 rebounds per game. She also scored 7.5 points per game.

Schultz was a solid performer off the bench for the Lady Lions. She averaged 5.6 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.

Fornari explained, "We have an excellent foundation to build on for the future."

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