

Women come back to earn split

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

It was a cold, windy day. Temperatures were in the 30's, wind blowing in off the lake, and squalls blowing rain all over the players, spectators, and field.

As the wind swirled down on Behrend Campus the Lady Lion softball team played their first home double-dip of the season, a week after returning from sunny Florida.

"IT was cold, but both teams had to deal with it. I don't think it was that much of a factor," said Coach Paul Benim.

The Lady Lions split the twin bill with Mount Union by losing 11-1 in the first game, but rebounding to take the nightcap 4-2.

"Mount Union is a very solid softball team," said Coach Benim referring to the first game. "They hit the ball exceptionally well. They had a lot of hits."

The hitting struggled throughout the first game as the Lady Lions could only muster three hits. Megan Musante went two for three and scored the teams only run. Musante scored on Marlesse Schlott's base hit. It was too little too late as the score was 7-1 at that point.

Freshman Heather Norder struggled on the mound as she faced 11 batters in the second inning.

For the game, Norder gave up 12 hits, 11 runs, 10 of them earned.

The second game featured a great effort by the Lady Lions, who scored early and hung on behind solid pitching by Cherie Varrassa for a 4-2 victory. Varrassa scattered four hits over seven innings while striking out two.

"Outstanding," exclaimed Benim about Varrassa's performance. "It was an exceptional performance by Cherie. She's done tremendous things in her career here and this is another prime example of her stepping up when we needed her to. She took charge, went right at the hitters, and got the job done," stated Benim.

The Lady Lions started out strong as Stocker knocked a 2-1 pitch to the gap in right center. By the time the ball was back in the infield, Stocker had a two RBI triple as Becky Reed and Musante scored.

The next batter up, Kim Calhoun, hit a sacrifice fly to score Stocker with the eventual game-winning.

"Stocker stepped up when we needed someone to get the big hit," said Benim. "The triple to the gap got us the lead and that was pivotal because we got out in front early."

One thing impressive about the game was the way the Lady Lions came back in the second game.



Winding up: Heather Norder leads this years group of freshmen for Paul Benim's Lady Lions.

Photo by Dan Nowicki/ Photo Editor

Softball box scores

Team record:
7-5

Game 1: Mt. Union- 11
Behrend- 1

	ab	r	h	bi
Reed ss	1	0	0	0
Musante cf	3	1	1	0
Stocker rf	2	0	0	0
Schlott 1b	3	0	1	1
Calhoun lf	2	0	0	0
Mazur 3b	2	0	0	0
Arnett c	1	0	0	0
Norder p	1	0	0	0
Angel 2b	2	0	0	0

Beh- 001 00 - 1
Mt.U- 070 04 - 11
HBP- Reed SB- Arnett

IP H R ER BB SO
Norder L,2-3 5 12 11 10 7 1

Game 2: Behrend - 4
Mt. Union - 2

	ab	r	h	bi
Reed ss	2	1	0	0
Musante cf	3	0	1	0
Schlott 1b	3	0	0	0
Stocker rf	2	1	2	2
Calhoun lf	2	0	1	1
Mazur 3b	3	0	0	0
Arnett c	3	1	2	0
Koza dh	1	0	1	0
Angel 2b	2	0	0	0

Beh- 300 010 0 - 4
Mt.U- 000 110 0 - 2
E- Arnett HBP- Musante, Stocker
3B- Stocker SB- Reed 2,
Stocker, Arnett

IP H R ER BB SO
Varrassa W,3-1 7 4 2 2 3 2

"That's something they are capable of doing."

"That's something they are capable of doing," commented Benim. "Honestly, I didn't really talk to them after the first game. I sent them to Eric Hall and I told them 'when you come back, come back with some aggression and be ready to play ball.' And they came back ready to go."

Next for the Lady Lions is Geneva College located in Rochester, Pennsylvania.

"We need to go down there and expect to win a doubleheader," said Benim. "We're excited and ready to get into the full swing of things."

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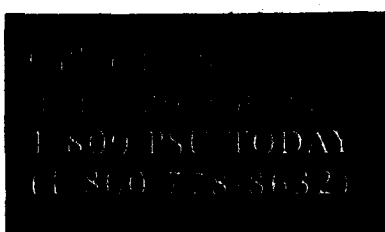
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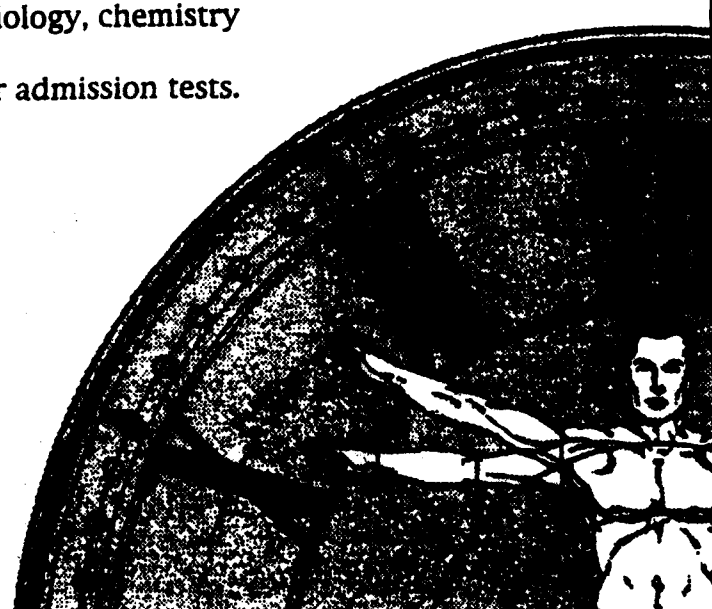
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