

Lady Lions continue winning ways

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

Last week the Lady Lions played ten grueling games in just five days and ended up with a 6-4 record against some very tough opponents.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Lions took on Geneva College in Rochester NY. The first game was very challenging with the Lady Lions trailing 4-2 after three innings before battling back to win 10-7.

Becky Reed paced the Lady Lions with a single, a double, and a triple to go along with her three RBI's and two runs. Others with multiple hits were Emmy Arnett and Shannon Angel. Angel also had two RBI's.

In the nightcap, Beth Calhoun sparkled, striking out eight batters in five innings while scattering two hits and a run. The Lady Lions picked up the win by a 10-1 margin.

One highlight of this game was when Geneva's pitcher walked six out of the nine batters she faced in the third, giving up 3 runs.

On the day, 13 Behrend players walked and every starter was given at least one free pass by Geneva. Julie Stocker and Michelle Carino paced the Lady Lions with two RBI's each.

"This was a situation where we

had been off for almost a week and it was good to get back at it," commented head coach Paul Benim.

"It was a situation where we hit the ball very well. The first game we had a little trouble defensively and the second game we came back behind Calhoun, she pitched a gem and were able to get two victories."

On Thursday, the Lady Lions traveled to Cleveland for another twinbill against John Carroll College. They lost a pair of close games by the scores of 6-5 in 8 innings and 4-3. The second game was called because of darkness.

Arnett led the way with 3 RBI's in the first game. Reed went 2-3 with an RBI and a run in the second.

With roughly eight hours off the bus, the Lady Lions reloaded the caravan for a long trip down to the Ferrum Tournament. And it would be a trip that they would not soon forget.

The team posted a 4-2 record, collected over 65 hits, and scored 60 runs. The team placed third in the tournament.

The tournament got off to a rocky start as the Lady Lions fell to Lynchburg College on Saturday 4-2. Stocker led Behrend batting 2 for 3 with a home run.

"Calhoun pitched a great

game," said Benim. "We just made the mistake of making three errors in one inning and that pretty much cost us the game."

The bats came out on fire for the second game as the Lady Lions erased a early 1-0 deficit to win 10-4. The key to victory for the Lady Lions was a seven run fourth to knock the game wide open.

Calhoun, Sue Mazur, and Angel each had two hits. Angel added three RBI's to pace the attack. Casey Koza also had a 3-run pinch hit triple to back a strong pitching performance by senior ace Cherie Varrassa.

"Cherie handled them, and we hit the heck out of the ball," commented Benim of his team's play. "We did a lot of good things in this game."

But it was the nightcap where the Lady Lions really hit the ball well. They pounded out 15 hits and capitalized on all of them posting a 16-2 mauling of Methodist College.

Leading the way for Behrend was everybody as every starter scored a run and had an RBI. Calhoun was 2 for 4 with three RBI's and three runs scored. Stocker was 2 for 3 with 2 RBI's and 2 runs scored. While Koza smacked out two hits and knocking in two runners and scoring twice herself.

Benim compared last year's

game to this year. "Last year we beat them 2-0," "This year (on the other hand) we roped the heck out of the ball. Everybody hit well. We did a GREAT job with the bats," commented Benim.

On the mound, freshman Heather Norder pitched a two hit gem as she scattered two hits and one unearned run over five innings.

Sunday morning the Lions were out for more blood as they slaughtered Roanoke College 19-2.

On the mound, Varrassa was solid in improving her record to 5-1. The win was a total team effort as every starter had a hit, a run, and an RBI. Stocker and Norder each had three RBI's and Calhoun managed to cross the plate every time she got on base.

"We just scored a ton of runs," exclaimed Benim. "So we finished 3-1 in pool play as did Bluefield but we were number one seed. So, we advanced to the final six where it was do-or die."

The next in line for competition for the Lady Lions was Catholic College, the team they lost to last season in the ECAC playoffs.

"Our team was fired up," said Benim. "And let me tell you it was the most enthusiastic that I have ever seen a team as a coach or a player."

Calhoun pitched and the Lady

Lions hit, and when the dust of the hunt had settled the Lady Lions had posted an 8-0 victory over the Cardinals of Catholic

Calhoun helped her own cause in the victory with a double, a home run, and two RBI's. Reed and Stocker also knocked in a pair of runs and Musante scored twice.

By the luck of the draw, Behrend recieved a number two seed for the finals and had to play Christopher Newport who already had a record of 26-3. The Lady Lions put up a gallant fight, but fell 12-5.

"We got a tough draw, but I wanted to play Christopher Newport," said Benim of the team's draw in the finlas. "They came into the tournament as a top 20 team in the country and they just played better than we did. We struggled early and fell behind."

"On the whole we had a very good weekend. (It was) very successful. A lot of people really stepped up when called upon and made the most of their opportunities. We are now moving in the direction that we want to be moving in"

So the Lady Lions travel today to face Baldwin Wallace and return home on Saturday to face Washington and Jefferson. First pitch on Saturday is at 1:00 PM.

March Madness: NCAA Tournaments

UConn finishes season undefeated and national champion

by Brian Stadler
Collegian Staff

This past Sunday the University of Connecticut Lady Huskies became unbeaten, national basketball champions. UConn defeated Tennessee last Sunday, 70-64.

In the 14 years that the NCAA has had a women's tournament, there has been two undefeated, untied championship teams. The last team to do this was Texas in 1986.

Connecticut were led all season by player of year and most outstanding player in the Final Four, Rebecca Lobo. UConn had to rely on other people in the first half to keep the Huskies close. Lobo, Kara Wolters, and Jennifer Rizzotti all ere saddled with foul trouble. As a result, the Huskies were down by six at the half.

Their was no panic in the Huskies locker room at the half. Coach Geno Auremma made a few small changes and told his players, "Out-rebound then in the second half and we'll win. That's the key, that's everything."

Then in the second half UConn outrebounded Tennessee 25-15, which led to many second chance points.

Tennessee scored only three field goals in the last ten minutes of the game. "That long dry spell was the result of UConn's defensive play in which they gave us very few looks in the past," remarked Vols Coach Pat Summitt.

Lobo came back in the second half, after only eight minutes in the first half, to finish with 17 points, eight rebounds, and

two assists. She was helped by UConn's unsung hero, Jamelle Elliott, and All-American point guard, Rizzotti. They combined for 28 points and ten rebounds. Rizzotti's coast to coast lay-up with just over two minutes to play put UConn up by two and they never trailed again. They calmly deposited seven out of eight foul shots for the final margin of 70-64.

Tennessee was led by Latina Davis' 11 points and five rebounds. Coach Summitt concluded after the game, "This is a very tough loss for us because we're a close team, we've been through a lot together and I hurt for this team very much today."

Lobo declared jubilantly after the game, "We're undefeated, we're national champions and I did it with the people I love."

To reach the final, UConn beat Stanford 87-60, the largest differential since the tournament began in 1982. The defense of the Huskies proved to be the key to their win. They held Stanford to an NCAA semi-final record low of 20 first half points and 22 percent from the floor in the first half.

Tennessee got the chance to meet UConn in the final when they defeated Georgia, 73-51. For the Lady Vols, All-American forward Nikki McCray scored 22 points and Latina Davis chipped in 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Like UConn, Tennessee never allowed Georgia in the game. Tennessee's rebounding edge, 51-33, proved to be the key. Little did they know, that edge would disappear in the championship game.

The glory days of championship basketball return to UCLA

by Josh Lucas
Collegian Staff

It has been two decades since Lew Alcindor and Bill Walton dominated the college basketball scene at UCLA. Now it is 1995 and the Bruins returned to national championship glory.

It is the first time in twenty years that UCLA has won the national championship. It was the eleventh in school history, and the first under head coach Jim Harrick.

Last weekend at the Final Four in Seattle, the O'Bannon brothers, Ed and Charles, combined for 75 points in their two victories by winning the national crown.

In the first semifinal game last Saturday the Bruins played the darkhorse team, the Cowboys of Oklahoma State. Oklahoma State center, Bryant Reeves led both teams in scoring with 25 points, but it wasn't enough as the Bruins overpowered the Cowboys 74-61.

Oklahoma State played an exceptional first half as the teams were tied at 37. UCLA's late surge in the second half proved to be too tough as the Bruins were led by lightning quick point guard Tyus Edney who finished with 21 points and five assists. Edney was nine for eleven at the free throw line. Charles and Ed O'Bannon chipped in 19 and 15 points respectively to put UCLA in the championship game on Monday.

UCLA's opponent was decided in the much anticipated Arkansas-North Carolina matchup. It was the defending champions

of Arkansas led by head coach Nolan Richardson against Dean Smith's highly talented Tarheels.

The first half was highlighted by Arkansas's Dwight Stewart as he made a 55-foot desperation shot at the buzzer to cut the Carolina lead to 38-34 at halftime.

North Carolina's Donald Williams finished with 21 points and five three pointers, Jerry Stackhouse added 18 points and was three for three from three point range. Carolina center Rasheed Wallace had ten points and ten rebounds, but was outdone by an outstanding performance from the Razorback's Corliss Williamson who finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds and earned a 75-68 victory and a chance to repeat as champions against UCLA.

Another sold out crowd of 38,540 at the Kingdome watched 6-8 senior Ed O'Bannon play his final collegiate game last Monday night.

The Bruins were tough and had too much poise as they posted an 89-78 victory to win the national crown and finished the season 31-2.

O'Bannon finished with 30 points and 17 rebounds, walking away as the Final Four Most Outstanding Player.

The key of the game was the Bruin's aggressive zone defense. UCLA forced 18 turnovers and became the first team to contain Williamson in the tournament.

Arkansas' other scoring star, Scotty Thurman, was held to one three-pointer and scored only five points for the game.

The Razorbacks finished their season with a record of 32-7.