

# Lions shutting out the competition

by Nick Zulovich  
Sports Editor

One might say, they have turned a corner. Whatever the analogy, the Behrend men's soccer team has a three game winning streak. The Lions also have not allowed a single goal during that stretch.

The winning streak reached three last night as the Lions defeated Pitt-Bradford 5-0.

Many got into the scoring column as Chris Heh, Ryan Ruta, Sean Blank, Ryan Croyle and Matt Zimmer each registered a goal in the victory.

Head Coach Dan Perritano is very happy with his team play.

"We're playing very well right now. We just needed some confidence," stated Perritano.

Ruta felt that having a good

start to a contest has been the key to the Lions' recent success.

"We have played a lot harder earlier in a game," explained Ruta. "[During the winning streak] we haven't dug ourselves a hole a giving up a quick goal."

Last Saturday, the Lions won a thrilling 1-0 victory over Keuka College.

Ruta scored the lone goal of the game on a brilliant pass from forward Jay Hodkinson.

"I'm not usually the goal scorer, but Jay set me up with a nice pace, and I just sent it to the empty net," stated Ruta.

A great pass from Hodkinson is not unusual. He has been the spark plug off the bench for the Lions.

"I've adjusted to my role on the team," commented Hodkinson.

"When the team is down, it's

my job to try to pick the team up. I just want to make a contribution and not take anything away from the team."

Perritano felt the biggest

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-Ryan Ruta

addition his team needed was experience.

"Our guys have gained a lot of confidence. With 16 new players, what the guys needed was experience," stated Perritano.

The winning streak started last Wednesday with a victory over Buffalo State 5-0. Blank and Hodkinson scored two goals apiece.

"[The Buffalo State win] really gave us confidence as a team. We played very well defensively," stated Hodkinson.

Junior mid-fielder Ryan Schenck explained how a little bit of luck is needed to turn a season around.

"Things just weren't happening for us. We just needed a little luck on our side and to be patient and wait for our opportunities," explained Schenck.

Overall Perritano has been very happy with his defensive players the last three games.

"Ruta and defensemen Dave Harrison and Carson McLean have really played well during this stretch," explained Perritano.

Perritano concluded "We just have to prepare for Nazareth on Saturday and take the rest of our season one game at a time."

The Lions take on Nazareth College this Saturday. Game time is set for 2 p.m.



Photo by Dave Boulos/ Collegian Photographer

**Please don't hurt me:** An unidentified Keuka player (right) braces himself from a downfield kick from Behrend's Chris Nelson. Nelson and the Lions take on Nazareth College Saturday.

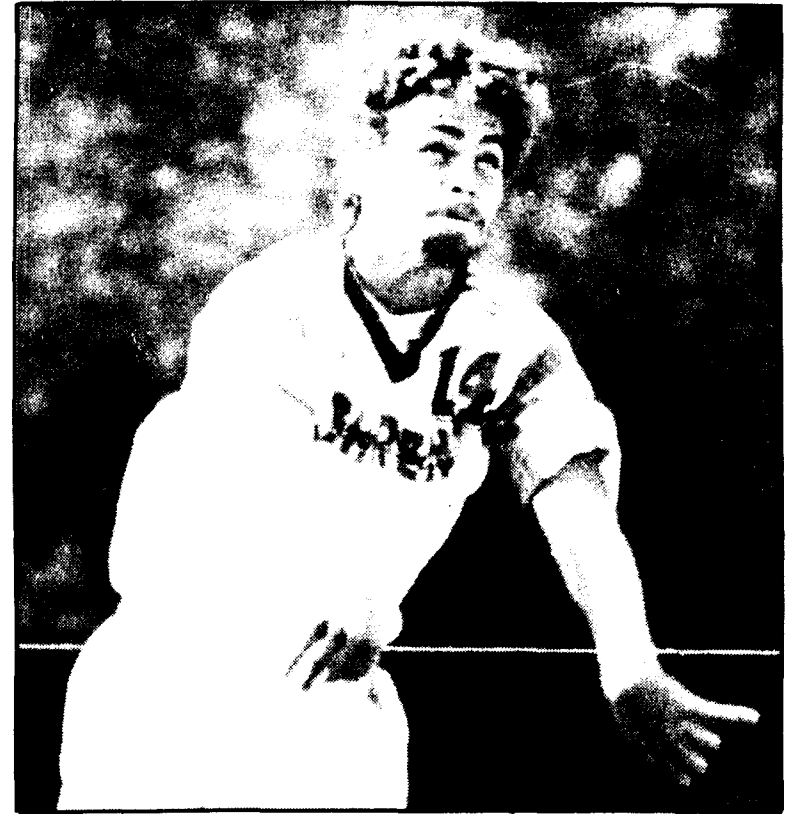


Photo by Dave Boulos/ Collegian Photographer

**Heads up:** Freshman defenseman Carson McLean concentrates on making another great play in the field.

## Ladies having ups and downs

by Chad Clouse  
Collegian Staff

In a tri-match last Tuesday the Behrend Women's Volleyball team split the two matches winning against Thiel and losing to Grove City College.

The women ran an aggressive offense against Thiel using two setters to win. Then they switched to a 5-1 offense against Grove City which left them in trouble early, from which they never recovered.

Coach Sharon Gregory stated, "We tried to run a 5-1 till we got a side out. Well it was seven to nothing till we got a side out. The damage was already done."

Erin McCormick, a middle hitter for the team, said, "We quit communicating which each other and our talk just went down and that makes our game go down a lot."

When asked about the new offense they ran against Thiel, Coach Gregory said, "They ran a 5-1 last year, which means one setter sets the whole way around. It really cuts down your offensive options. We run a two setter system. One setter sets three of the players and the other setter sets two or three players. It's

given us a lot more options. A lot of what I put in is not what their used to running."

Coach Gregory is new in the athletic department this year coming to us from Potomac High School, Virginia.

She said, about the transition, "It's definitely different. The caliber is different obviously. We're able to do a lot more offensively which is fun for the kids. It's nice to be very deceptive because we're not an extremely tall team."

The players are responding positively to the new coach. McCormick said, "She has a good approach to coaching. She takes the time to explain stuff to us in a calm voice instead of yelling and screaming at us, and I

**Lady Lions currently 6-12. They look to improve at Gettysburg Tournamnet**

think that helps us understand her better."

Kim Vollmer, a captain on the

team, said of the coach, "I think she is a really positive coach. She's really into coaching. She's trying to make it work as much as possible."

The team is lead by captains Vollmer and Angie Georg. The two sophomores are asked to lead a team made up primarily of sophomores and freshmen.

Erin McCormick said of the captains, "I think we have some good leadership. Angie and Kim are both great captains. They provide a lot of leadership for the whole team, and I think that comes in good because we have so many freshmen. It makes the freshmen more comfortable and that makes it easier for them to step on the court and play."

Coach Gregory commented that the captains were doing a great job considering the situation. Most of the players are the same age, and that makes it hard for the captains to set up and lead while still being a friend off court.

The teams record is currently 6-12. There are only five home games this year so students will be hard pressed to see the women in action. The next match is a tournament at Gettysburg College the 29-30. The next home game Tuesday.

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