



Spikers looking to even the score



Jennifer V. Colvin/Editor in Chief

I'm gonna hurt you... Freshman Melanie Kautzman prepares to give a healthy smack to a volleyball before a match. The Lady Lions finish their season this weekend at the Messiah Tournament.

by Julie Stocker
Assistant Sports Editor

Volleyball is a simple game. You pass the ball, you set the ball, and you hit the ball. The Lady Lions haven't reached perfection, but they are definitely improving.

Although Behrend lost to Grove City (8-15 and 11-15) and Westminster (15-5, 12-15, and 8-15) in a rare home tri-match last Saturday, the lady spikers remain realistic to their potential.

"We came out strong in both games, but [Grove City and Westminster] might have been two higher quality teams [than us]," remarked Erin McCormick.

For the evening, Angie Georg had 11 blocks and 22 assists, Kim Vollmer had 17 kills, Jen Leone had 10 kills to go along with four serving aces, and McCormick smashed 20 kills and scattered 23 blocks.

Tuesday night, Behrend traveled to Carnegie Mellon University. The Lady Lions were victorious with a clean sweep 15-8, 15-13, and 15-6.

"I think we played very well," commented Head Coach Sharon Gregory. "We jumped out to a 11-0 lead and set the tone for the rest of the night. [Carnegie Mellon] came back, but we established our game and were

already on track."

McCormick agreed with her coach "We played well, and took the first three games and didn't let them come back."

"We played with a lot of intensity," remarked Georg. "Everyone was hitting well."

Amy Good, Vollmer, and McCormick led the Lions in kills with four. Georg set them up with a team-high nine assists, and added three kills.

With the last home match of the season tonight against Hiram and the Messiah College Tournament this weekend remaining, the Lady Lions are still working hard to achieve their goals.

clicking for the red, white and blue.

"Our defense seems to be our strength," said Gregory.

And the Lady Lions aren't slow to start with the first line of defense: blocking.

As a team, Behrend has accumulated 6.11 blocks per game. Much of that has to do with a 6'1" middle hitter.

McCormick, recently ranked as high as third in the country in blocks with a 2.79 per game average, just watched her average climb to a 3.3 block per game average. Despite the climb in the ranks and "Hick's" vertical, McCormick now finds herself sixth in the nation.

We've addressed where we want to end the season.

-Coach Sharon Gregory

"We've addressed where we want to be at the end of the season. If we continue to play as well as we have been, we can end with a winning record. I know we can do it," said a confident Gregory.

The Lady Lions will have some momentum heading into the final stretch of the season, as Behrend (16-21) is 9-5 in October.

During this successful October, as well as throughout the year, offense isn't the only aspect

"I get a lot of feedback from my teammates," said McCormick. "When I block outside, our outside hitters already have the block set, so I don't have to read the other teams' hitters."

NOTES: The Behrend athletic department announced yesterday that new assistant volleyball and softball coach Kelso Brophy was added to Coach Gregory's staff.



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This is how you do it: Head volleyball Coach Sharon Gregory gives the Lady Lions some advice during a time out. Gregory has led the Lady Lions to a 16-21 record in her first season at Behrend.

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