

Lady spikers end on positive note

by Julie Stocker
Assistant Sports Editor

"Improvement, determination, and intensity" is how Head Coach Sharon Gregory describes the 1995 volleyball season for the Lady Lions.

Last Thursday, Behrend hosted Hiram for the final home match of the season. Despite the fact that the Lady Lions had a lead in all three games, including a 7-0 advantage in the second game, Behrend fell 15-13, 15-12, 15-13.

"We didn't play well or communicate well," said a frustrated Coach Gregory. "We were flat as far as intensity is concerned."

Erin McCormick led the Lady Lions in the losing effort with 16 blocks and nine kills. Angie Georg and Robin Mangus were tied with a team-high 15 assists each, and Amy Beckner added the strength for the Lady Lions with ten kills.

Although Behrend lost the match against Hiram, they quickly rebounded as they loaded the bus to make the long haul to the Messiah College Tournament. The Lady Lions returned home with smiles and second place hardware.

"[The tournament] was a great way for us to end our season," said Gregory. "Everything worked for us."

Beckner agreed with her coach, "This was the best we've played all season."

As the Lady Lions went 4-2 in the tournament, the two losses came at the hands of Ithaca College (15-7, 15-7 and 15-4, 15-7); the third ranked team in the country.

"We gave them a run for their money," said Gregory. "We played at their caliber of volleyball. [Ithaca] basically hit

the ball harder and faster than we did."

Despite the type of offense Ithaca ran, Behrend did not shy away. In fact, Ithaca (35-2) had the Lady Lions at match point on three different occasions until they finally put them away.

"We kept fighting," said Gregory, on Behrend's refusal to quit.

In the tournament, Kim Vollmer led the Lions with kills by chalking up 28, and 10 blocks. Erin McCormick put up the big wall as she led Behrend with 31 blocks and 22 kills. Jen Leone served up 12 aces and 17 kills, while Georg had 28 assists and 24 kills, Amy Good finished with 17 kills, and Mangus set up 29 assists.

"We had a very enjoyable season," commented Gregory. "Everyone from top to bottom improved tremendously. We struggled at the beginning, but we are where I hoped we would be. It was a very productive and positive season, and we are looking forward to next year. There are no seniors, and most of the team is confirmed on staying."

Although Gregory concentrates on the play of the team as a whole, she did have positive comments on certain players.

"As a team, we gelled at working together having fun and things were working for us. It was exciting for us to have Erin nationally ranked. I can't wait to see where she will be ranked next week."

Gregory was quick to recognize the fact that on the other side of the rotation from McCormick was another middle hitter.

"Kim gave us a lot of leadership from the captain position. She was also given the responsibility of handling the



Photo by Jennifer V. Colvin/Editor in Chief

Make my day: Amy Good is ready for what ever the opposition throws her way. The Lady Lions recently finished their season at the Messiah College Tournament this past weekend. Behrend finished the season at 20-24.

mis-matches. She was often against our opponent's number one middle hitter."

Just as important as Behrend's middle hitters, according to Gregory, were the ball pounders on the outside.

"Jen Leone allowed us to run a lot of quick attacks, and it benefited us that she is left-handed. Amy Good was a very smart attacker as well as an excellent passer, while Beckner finally got used to her approach and really improved the last half of the season."

In order to run a successful offense, however, the Lady Lions needed to have an effective setter. Fortunately for Behrend, there

were two setters able to do the job.

"Angie did an excellent job of running our offense and played well despite being hurt, and Robin met a lot of demands and was often forced to challenge her setting abilities."

In the off-season, the Lady Lions will not have the opportunity to get very comfortable. As with most collegiate sports, volleyball is a year-round commitment, and Gregory is set on the spikers continuing to work hard. On the agenda, Behrend will participate in conditioning activities, as well as a team study table once a week.

"Our focus is to get into a couple of local tournaments," said Gregory. "We want to be able to regroup before we head out for the summer."

Now that we can turn the page to another year of Behrend volleyball, Coach Gregory and Coach Brophy turn their attention to the great outdoors and softball.

"The wheels are turning, and some lineups are being set. I'm looking forward to a fun spring of softball."

McCormick blocks to national marks

by Matt Plizga
Collegian Staff

"Erin is a very good team player. She displays good leadership and excels in all aspects of the game," said Jamie Bideaux, teammate of this weeks Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week, Erin McCormick.

Erin earned ATW honors with her dominant play throughout the year and at last weekends Messiah Tournament. Erin led the women's volleyball team to an outstanding tourney, finishing second to nationally ranked Ithaca College. She had 22 kills and 31 blocks in the tournament.

Erin's season totals include 250 kills and 330 blocks. Her 330 blocks this season places her second in the Behrend record books for blocks in a season. She is also fourth in career blocks and eighth in kills in a season.

"My buddy Erin deserves more recognition than she gets, probably because she is so modest," stated teammate Jen Leone. Coach Sharon Gregory



Photo by Jennifer V. Colvin/Editor in Chief

Turn around bright eyes: ATW Erin McCormick puts on her game face in a match.

agrees. "Erin is quiet and modest, but she has a lot of confidence in her abilities."

"Erin is on pace to set a new national record for average blocks

per game," Coach Gregory stated. She is currently sixth in the nation with a 2.79 blocks per game average. This ranking is sure to improve after the Messiah

Tournament in which Erin raised her average to 3.31 blocks per game.

Jen Leone says, "Erin is one of the most well rounded players.

She is versatile and adjusts well to different situations." Captain Angie Georg proclaims, "We rely on Erin for consistent blocking at the net. In tight situations, we go to Erin to put the ball away."

"McCormick is dedicated and a very strong player," says Barb Bailey. Coach Gregory adds, "Erin is just now coming into her own as a volleyball player. She has a lot of potential and is working hard to reach her full potential."

Despite her excellence in blocking, Erin is not a one dimensional player. "Erin excels in many other areas of the game," stated Coach Gregory. "My goal coming into the season was to be consistent in all areas of the game," proclaimed Erin.

She also credits many of her kills to the "outstanding sets from Robin Mangus, Angie Georg, Kim Vollmer, and Amy Good." Erin also feels that, "Jen Leone deserves a lot of credit for my blocks because she sets an outstanding outside block for me."