

Lions ready to begin 95-96 campaign

Men open at Thiel

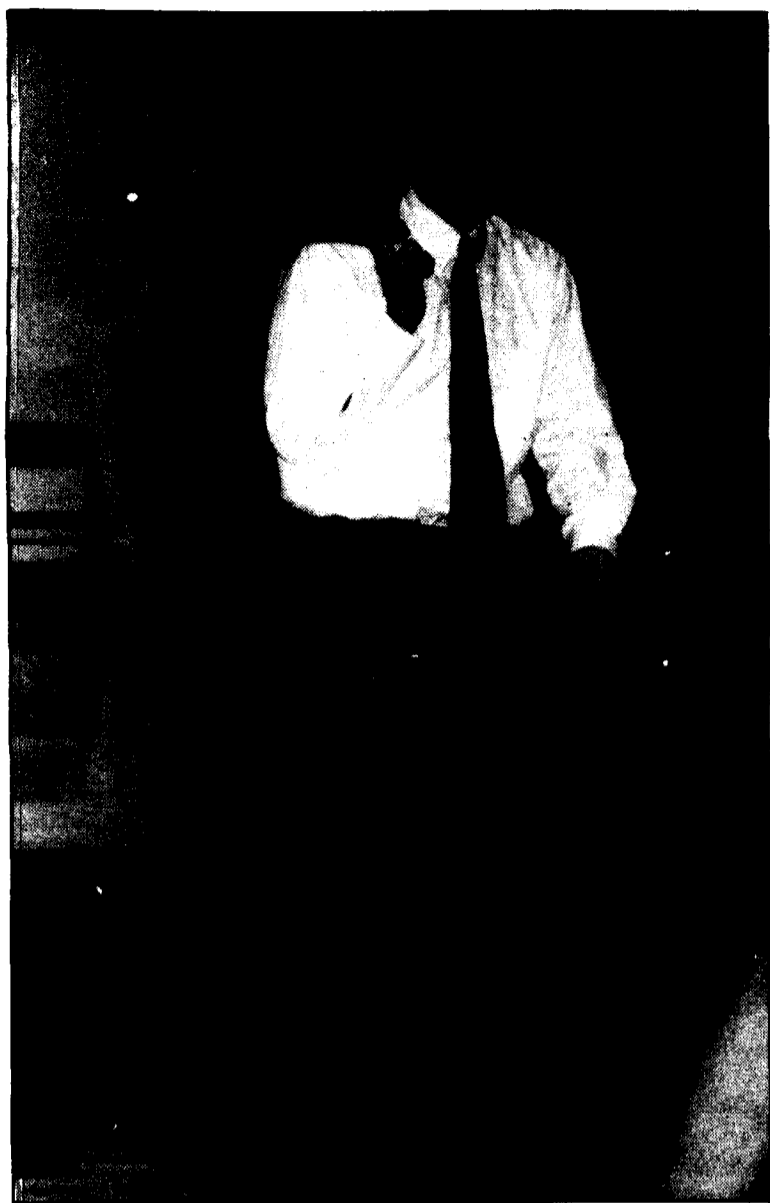


Photo by Jen Colvin/ Editor in Chief
A long day at the office: Head Coach Dave Niland prepares to leave Erie Hall after a hard fought game. Niland leads the Lions against Thiel on Saturday.

by Julie Stocker
Assistant Sports Editor

It's no secret that in any sporting event, basketball included and golf excluded, the team that scores the most points wins.

But for this year's men's basketball team, Head Coach Dave Niland believes his team will be successful on the other side of the ball.

"Defense wins basketball games," Coach Niland said. "And I think defensively we will have to be as good [this year] as we were last year."

That, for these young Lions, will be a tough act to follow.

See, the 1994-95 Lions only gave up 70.8 points per game while allowing their opponents to shoot a dismal 40 percent from the floor.

Last year's 13-12 Lions also rebounded the ball 116 times more than their opponents on the defensive end of the floor.

Behrend also out-blocked their foes by a 73 to 54 margin.

Penn State-Behrend will have their first opportunity to put this season's defense to work on Saturday, as they travel to Greenville, PA to battle the Thiel Tomcats.

In order to prepare for the first game of the season, Coach

Niland arranged for two scrimmages during the preseason. The results from the scrimmages gave the Lions a taste of both success and disappointment.

After the first scrimmage, Niland was very pleased at how well Behrend handled a tough New Kensington team. But the second scrimmage last Saturday showed Niland and the Lions the inconsistent side of the young squad.

"We didn't play particularly well," commented Niland. "But that's part of the process of getting better as a team."

Niland, however, was not totally dissatisfied with the performance of the hoopsters.

"We did do some things okay, and we've improved in some areas. We just have to keep working hard in order to get better," said Niland.

And this past week in practice, the Lions have been trying to improve their style of play in order to prepare for their first game of the season.

"We are hoping to go down [to Thiel] and play well, obviously," Niland said.

During this "cat fight," one in the stands might notice striking similarities between these two squads. This game for Thiel, like Behrend, is their first official game of the season, and the Tomcats also have a "brand new team", according to Niland, which is also like the Lions roster.

"[Thiel] has a brand new team with a lot of transfers," Niland remarked. "But they do have more experience, and better size than we do."

Despite the fact that Behrend has a test for their first game of the season, Niland has taken everything necessary into perspective in order to be successful.

"We have to execute offensively and we must take care of the basketball. We have to limit [Thiel] to one shot, and get the rebound," said a confident

Niland.

Limiting Thiel to one shot may be difficult due to 6'6" senior center Ken Newman, who averaged 6.4 rebounds per game as a junior. And taking care of the basketball might be a chore because of pesky guard Tyrone Gissentaner, who is their leading returner in steals with 23.

Last season, Thiel and Behrend clashed three times throughout the year. In the first game of the season, Behrend took the road to

Thiel and lost 100-76.

The Lions would have their revenge, as Thiel visited Erie Hall two months later only to lose 93-64. And in the final meeting of the season, Behrend would have the last laugh as they were victorious by a 89-83 score in late February.

Little known fact: In Thiel's NCAA basketball history of 79 years, the Tomcats have a combined record of 413-964-3.

We've improved in some areas. We just have to keep working hard in order to get better. We are hoping to go down to Thiel and play well.

-Head Coach Dave Niland



Photo by Jennifer V. Colvin/Editor in Chief

Shoot It Ron: Junior swingman Ron Derian decides what to do with the ball. Derian is expected to be the top scorer for the Lions this season.

Offensive banners

BOULDER, Colo.-University of Colorado officials say they think the ad is "tasteless," but they can't stop an airplane from trailing a banner depicting a huge unrolled condom over its homecoming football game.

Similar banners showing the 60-by-20-foot condom, which bears the product name "Sheik" and is captioned with the words "Get Some," were flown over other major college football games Nov. 11.

"We never know about who's going to buzz the stadium with advertising banners," said Colorado athletic media spokesman Dave Platy.

"The First Amendment is a cornerstone of our society, and the university is committed to defending it," CU-Boulder Chancellor Roderic Park said in a statement. "There are times when we pay a certain price for our First Amendment freedoms, and this may be one of those times."

The manufacturer of Sheik, London International, caused a ruckus last month when it flew a banner advertising its Ramses condoms over Giants Stadium at East Rutherford, N.J.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon says the team got a flurry of phone calls and letters from fans

who believed a football game is not the place for such advertising.

CU officials say they expect complaints about the recent flyover, but the school can do nothing to halt the ads. "We don't control the air space over campus," said Platy, who added the school sees the ad as "tasteless."

Banner Advertising owner Don Mathews, whose company is doing the Boulder flyover, says there is nothing wrong with the ad and it serves a useful purpose.

"We've got kids in school nowadays who are not aware, and we've got to make them aware," Mathews said.

The entire Collegian Staff wish all of you a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Pick up our next issue November 30!