

# Freshmen stepping up in photo finishes

by Julie Stocker  
Assistant Sports Editor

If you want to talk about excitement this week, let's talk about Penn State-Behrend men's basketball.

Last evening against the visiting Washington and Jefferson Presidents (1-7), Anthony Costantini's buzzer beating NBA range three-pointer propelled the Lions to a 62-59 nail-biting victory.

Costantini's game-winner wasn't the only big three the freshman forward had down the stretch. With about 40 seconds left in the contest, another NBA three was launched by the

Pittsburgh native to tie the contest.

But Costantini only aided the cause with big shots and 15 points to get the Lions to crunch time.

Ron Derian finished the contest with 14 points, nine rebounds, and four assists, and Brian Perkins netted 11 points.

Niland had this to say about W&J, "This is a good team that has had a tough schedule so far. Overall, their team has great quickness."

But if you were not in Erie Hall last weekend, you missed the beginning of barn-burner week.

In the first round game on Friday night, Behrend clashed with the Bethany Bison, and came out a winner, 73-66.

"We played them very tough defensively," said Coach Niland. "We had intensity going into the game and kept it up, and that was key."

Bethany was led by Kevin Kozup, who was entering the contest averaging 28.6 points per game as well as being named the PAC's player of the week. But with several Lions locked in on Kozup, the junior guard was "held" to 22 points.

"We knew [Kozup] was tough, he's a great player," started Niland. "But we made him earn everything. [Jason] Paloskey, [Andy] Lawrence, [Andy] Rife, and [Steve] Adams all held him down."

In Behrend's second win of the season, this week's athlete of the week, Chad Sutton, put up the numbers. The junior point guard had team-highs in points with 16, assists with four, steals with four, and fouls, with five.

Sutton was on fire from the floor as he shot 6-for-8 from the field and 3-for-4 from three-point range.

Perkins was the only other Lion in double figure scoring, as he finished the evening with 10 points and a team-high six rebounds.

As the teams cleared the floor for halftime, Behrend had a 35-24 edge, mainly to 53 percent shooting from the field and 38 percent from behind the arc. In the process, the defense held Bethany to 38 percent shooting for the first 20 minutes of play.

"In the past couple of games, we've shot the ball very well. The guys are finding the open man, and making the extra pass, which leads to better shots," remarked Niland.

Despite being out scored in the second half (42-38), Behrend ended the first round of action with impressive shooting numbers. The Lions shot 50 percent from the field, 46 percent

from down town, and 81 percent from the foul line.

Bethany dropped to 2-3 after the loss, and would lose to the Adrian Bulldogs in the consolation game on Saturday.

Adrian lost to Pitt-Bradford Friday evening in order to battle the Bison for third place in the tourney.

Behrend stuffed the fans by the bus load into Erie Hall at 3 p.m. for what promised to be an exciting championship game against the Panthers of Pitt-Bradford.

From the tip, the game went back and forth, with Behrend hitting on the outside shots, and Bradford used their height advantage by packing it inside.

At the intermission, the teams were dead locked at 41. Each team was hot from the field, as Behrend shot 57 percent; Bradford 55 percent.

This one went down to the wire, with Bradford Head Coach Andy Moore using all of his time-outs to stop the clock in the final minute.

In the last play of the game, thanks to a steal by Sutton, Behrend had the ball with four ticks remaining on the clock, tied at 74. So who would Behrend go to for the last shot?

Would you believe a freshman?

Freshman Paloskey let the ball fly from three-point range with time winding down. The shot was well short, but the 5'11" guard was fouled in the act of shooting. Paloskey was then awarded three shots from the charity stripe.

Bradford Coach Moore immediately went in a rage against the officials, and called a time-out to ice the youngster.

The pause in the game worked, as the freshman bricked the first shot.

After the miss, Moore called another time-out. This time Paloskey got in the zone and made the final two shots.

"I have a lot of confidence in Paloskey and all of our guys," commented Niland. "Paloskey is

a nice player that came through for us. But I would put any of our players in that situation in a heartbeat."

Behrend won its second game in a row, its second Hamot Classic in a row, and forth Classic tournament win in five years, 76-74.

"We really played well defensively in both games. Sometimes we got tentative and didn't handle the ball well, but that's part of learning how to win," said Niland.

Paloskey led Behrend to the championship hardware by going 6-of-9 from the field, finishing with 16 points. His weekend performance earned Paloskey a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

Costantini also contributed a solid showing in the Classic, as he finished with 13 points and 7 rebounds against Pitt-Bradford. Costantini was calling from long distance in the final, as he went 3-for-4 from three-point land.

Perkins finished with 13 points to bring his average up to 9.2 points per game. With a solid effort in both games of the tournament, Perkins was named the 1995 Hamot Classic Most Valuable Player.

"[Perkins] did a great job both offensively and defensively," stated Niland. "He works hard and is very deserving [of being named MVP]. He's a great leader."

When the second place tournament trophy was presented to the Pitt-Bradford Panthers after the game, it aroused much dismay in the fans that no member of the squad got up to accept the honor.

Finally, senior Bob Podomnik, another All-Tournament Team member, thanked Behrend Athletic Director Herb Lauffer for the award.

Behrend (4-2), on the other hand, was very eager and appreciative to accept the championship trophy, as the four juniors: Derian, Sutton, Perkins, and Adams raised the trophy with smiles for all to see.



Photo by Chris Nelson/Collegian Photographer  
Open your bright eyes: Andy Rife goes for a layup in pregame warm-ups.



Photo by Chris Nelson/Collegian Photographer  
Come and get some of this: Chad Sutton gets ready to play some tough defense last night against Washington and Jefferson in Erie Hall.

## Little Caesars®

**Harborcreek**  
**Giant Eagle Plaza**  
**899-6660**

Subs • Pleasers • Wings • Cheese Bread & More!

ONE LARGE STUFFED CRUST PIZZA

\$9.99

DELIVERED

Valid for a limited time and participating locations.

2 PIZZAS WITH CHEESE & TWO TOPPINGS

20 CHICKEN WINGS

\$13.99

\$15.99

Valid for a limited time and participating locations.

ONE LARGE PIZZA WITH CHEESE AND ONE TOPPING

\$6.99

Valid through only for a limited time and participating locations.

CARRY OUT SPECIAL

MONDAY MADNESS!

2 MEDIUM PIZZAS

\$5.99

2 LARGE PIZZAS \$7.99

NOT AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY

Valid through only for a limited time and participating locations.