

Women picking up pace

by Brian Gregory
Collegian Staff

Last night the Lady Lions were action on the road against the Presidents of Washington and Jefferson. The Lady Lions stormed to a 76-49 win.

Becky Reed and Melanie Banas scored 15 points apiece while Marlesse Schlott was the queen of the boards with 13.

It was another week and tough tournament for the Penn State-Behrend Lady Lions. When it was all over, they walked away with a second place finish and two all-tournament selections at the Holiday Inn Genesse Plaza Tournament in Nazareth College of New York.

"We played better as a team," commented Head Coach Roz Fornari. "We played good defense all weekend which was good, but we still had a few lapses which hurt us."

In the first game against Eastern Connecticut State the Lady Lions squeaked out a 47-45 winner. They led by five at the half, but with 1:26 left to go, the score was tied.

"The whole game was a defensive struggle and it was very scappy," said Fornari. "With 1:26 to go, we were in the huddle and I told them 'You need to play the best basketball of your life to win', and they really did."

Melanie Banas (10.3) and Becky Reed (11.7) led the scoring with 13 apiece. Banas was 3-4 from three point range, and Reed was a perfect 4-4 from the line. Marlesse Schlott (13.0, 14.7) was top rebounder for the Lady Lions with seven and Emily Marini and Nikki Schultz had five each.

In the second game of the tournament the Lady Lions played a tough Nazareth (7-1)

team. Although they led by as much as twelve in the first eight minutes, they trailed by 14 with 43-29 at the half. This was due in part to hot three-point shooting by Nazareth.

Coach Fornari was suprised at Nazareth's hot shooting, "In the beginning we made everything in sight, but then they just started making [all those] threes. One girl was only shooting twenty-nine percent from long range, but over that stretch she didn't miss."

The Lady Lions played a tough second half and they were only outscored 37-35 but, nevertheless lost 80-64. All in all, Fornari was happy.

"We played better and our defense was better [in the second half]. We tried to chip back at them, but they were too strong a team to do that to. We out-rebounded them, boxed them out, and limited their scoring. The only person who had a good game was their [power forward]."

Leading the pack for the Lady Lions was Marlesse Schlott with an awesome effort of twenty-eight points and twenty-three boards. She was ten of twenty-one from the floor, eight of twelve from the line, and she had ten offensive and thirteen defensive boards. Marini (8.2, 6.0) added twelve points and nine boards and Banas also added twelve points, but had eight turnovers. Nikki Bohn (4.7) also added nine points as the Lady Lions placed second in the tournament.

Following the game, two Behrend players made the All-Tournament team. Marlesse Schlott (32 points, 30 boards)

and Melanie Banas (25 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists) were the selections.

"Melanie is a good floor leader though she needs to look to score more. Her play this weekend was great. She really hustled and made things happen," said Fornari. "She was probably the best point guard there, which was nice."

Fornari was also very happy with Schlott's selection. "The

first night Marlesse struggled getting the ball inside and that frustrated her. And in the second game, she came out and played great. Overall, she came around well and deserved All-Tournament."

The Lady Lions were in action last night against Washington & Jefferson. They play Suny-Fredonia at home on Friday at 7:30, the last until 1996.



Photo by Dave Boulos/Collegian Photographer
Not this time Schlottle: Emily Marini shoots over the block of Marlesse Schlott in practice.



Photo by Dave Boulos/Collegian Photographer
Bombs away: Niki Bohn fires for three during a practice session.

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