

# Behrend Lions working overtime

## Freshman stepping up their play

by Julie Stocker  
Assistant Sports Editor

The spring semester of 1996 is upon us, but unpredictable Erie weather has kept us indoors watching college basketball.

But not always in the living room.

The Behrend boys of winter have made Erie Hall feel like summertime with hot shooting and sizzling defense. Their record reflects the solid performance, as Head Coach Dave Niland's young squad currently stands at 8-5.

"We take it one game at a time, and if we don't take it day-by-day, it just won't happen for us," said Coach Niland. "I'm not surprised [with the 8-5 record], we have a group that works very hard, and we feel that if we work as a team, good things will happen."

The level of play may be up a notch for Behrend, but the excitement level is still a notch higher. Last Saturday, Behrend clawed for a victory against Bethany in double overtime, 86-84.

The freshmen trio of Anthony Costantini, Matt Plizga, and Andy Lawrence each hit a clutch three-point shot at the end of the first overtime to force the game into another stanza.

Chad Sutton led the offensive attack for Behrend, collecting 12 points before fouling out of the contest. Lawrence and Steve Adams each finished with 11 points.

Ron Derian led the Lions in rebounds with nine.

"We played well for the first 35 minutes [of regulation]. The last five minutes, we just did not execute well, and failed to put them away. We had a tough stretch in overtime play as well," commented Niland.

Behrend even started off last week in a nail-biter. The Lions traveled to Grove City to clash with the Wolverines. Like Bethany later in the week, Grove



Collegian File Photo

**Cleaning the glass:** Junior forward Ron Derian (21) looks to score on an offensive rebound. The Lions host Oberlin this Saturday at Erie Hall.

City took Behrend to overtime only to win 56-55.

"We defended very well in the second half," started Niland. "We held them to 16 total second half points and [Grove City] was scoreless from the field for the last eight minutes. We just could not make the open shots."

Jeff Myers led the Lions in the losing effort by tossing in 17 points, and Costantini added ten markers.

Derian was again the force under the boards, as the junior forward grabbed a game-high 11

rebounds.

We can blame January 10 as the day our fingernails disappeared and the Pepto appeared. Although no extended play was needed, Behrend needed basically all 40-minutes of regulation to defeat Fredonia State, 65-62.

Andy Lawrence had the hot paw as he led the charge with 17 points, while Brian Emick was the next Lion with ten points and eight rebounds.

"This was a very good road win for us," said a proud Niland. "It

took us the 40-minutes to put them away, but we defended very well and got the victory."

To date, Costantini leads the Lions in points per game with 13. Myers and Derian are close behind, with 8.9 ppg and 8.3 ppg, respectively. Derian is the king of the glass while averaging 6.4 rebounds per game. Costantini follows with 4.7 rpg, and Lawrence skies for 3.9 rpg. Costantini also leads Behrend in total assists with 30 and steals with 19.

The Lions have always prided themselves on good hard-nosed defense, and this year is no different, just maybe more aggressive.

For the season, Behrend has dished out 239 team fouls, and junior center Brian Perkins leads the way with 43 on the year, a 3.3 per game average.

**Head Coach Dave Niland's Lions currently are 8-5 on the season.**

"At times, he may be guarding guys that are bigger than him," said Niland of his aggressive transfer. "But [Perkins] is very aggressive, and is one of our best defensive players."

"I do play aggressively," said Perkins. "But that was how I was taught to play, and most of my fouls are on guys shooting, or while I'm boxing out."

Costantini and Myers are next highest in the foul category, as each player has collected 29 whistles.

The next challenge for Behrend will come on Saturday, at home, against Oberlin.

NOTES: Anthony Costantini and Andy Lawrence each have been named ECAC "Rookie of the Week" for the first and second week in January, respectively.

## Women in sports day; McCormick award nominee

by Nick Zulovich  
Sports Editor

The awards and accolades keep pouring into the athletic department here at Behrend. The addition to the that long list is those Behrend athletes who will be recognized at eh Women in Sports Day Banquet Wednesday February 7.

Each of Behrend's five varsity female sports will have a representative at the banquet to be held at the Avalon Hotel in downtown Erie.

Those who will represent Behrend in the following sports will be: freshman Trisha Baird, soccer; sophomore Beth Calhoun, softball; senior Rhonda Dennison, tennis; senior Honka Reed, basketball; and sophomore Erin McCormick, volleyball.

McCormick was also nominated for the prestigious Flo Hyman award given to the top female athlete in the area. McCormick will in competition with athletes from Gannon, Mercyhurst, Edinboro, and Allegheny.

Last year Mercyhurst basketball star Teresa Szumigala was the Flo Hyman Award winner.

The criteria for the award is not only the individual's athletic performance, but also academic record and community involvement.

*I was really flattered by it. It just makes my season that much better.*  
-Sophomore Erin McCormick

McCormick was very surprised that the Behrend athletic department chose her for consideration for the award.

"I was really flattered by it. It just makes my season seem that much better."

What kind of season did McCormick have? In leading the Lady Lion volleyball team to their second consecutive 20 win season, she finished second in the nation in blocks among Division III schools. McCormick's mark of 3.31 blocks per game was second only to Sara Johnson of Guilford College who finished at 3.91.

Behrend volleyball mentor Sharon Gregory said, "We excelled in blocking, led by Erin's dynamic performance as a blocker. It is exciting to look towards next season."

McCormick hopes its her name on the top of the list for blocks here at Behrend, in the country. She also hopes its her name on the Flo Hyman Award.

# Behrend Lion box scores

Grove City - 56

Behrend - 55

O.T.

### Behrend

Lawrence 4-8, 0-0, 8; Derian 1-6, 0-0, 2; Perkins 0-3, 0-0, 0; Sutton 0-3, 0-0, 0; Adams 1-6, 0-0, 2; Emick 2-4, 0-0, 5; Plizga 1-1, 0-0, 3; Costantini 4-9 1-1, 10; Rife 4-5, 0-0, 8; Myers 8-17, 1-4, 17  
Totals: 25-62; 2-7: 55  
3pts: Emick, Plizga, Costantini  
Rebounds: Derian 11, Costantini 6

### Grove City

Gilbert 2-9, 0-0, 5; VonHandorf 7-11, 2-5, 16; Grover 4-9, 0-0, 8; Wherley 5-9, 4-7, 15; Hamsher 3-5, 2-4, 8; Wiens 0-1, 0-0, 0; Steineman 2-4, 0-0, 4; Ward 0-1, 0-0, 0; Coddington 0-0, 0-0, 0; Cratsley 0-0, 0-0, 0; Pontier 0-0, 0-1, 0  
Totals: 23-49; 8-17: 56  
3pts: Gilbert, Wherley  
Rebounds: Vonhandorf 9, Gilbert 6

Behrend -65

Suny-Fredonia- 62

### Behrend

Sutton 2-5, 0-0, 6; Emick 3-5, 3-4, 10; Lawrence 5-10, 4-7, 17; Plizga 1-1, 0-0, 2; Derian 2-9, 4-6, 8; Myers 3-8, 2-6, 8; Perkins 1-3, 0-0, 2; Rife 1-2, 2-4, 4; Adams 3-9, 1-2, 8  
Totals: 21-52; 16-29: 65  
3pts: Lawrence 3, Sutton 2, Emick, Adams  
Rebounds: Derian 9, Emick 8

### Suny-Fredonia

Sisson 6-8, 0-0, 17; Elchas 0-0, 0-0, 0; John 7-18, 2-2, 16; Giardini 3-14, 3-4, 9; Bayer 0-0, 0-0, 0; Gebauer 0-4, 0-0, 0; Halsdorfer 1-6, 0-0, 2; Hawk 2-6, 1-2, 5; Taylor 1-2, 0-0, 2; Kelcher 2-5, 0-0, 4; Setter 0-5, 5-6, 5; Nelms 1-3, 0-0, 2; Maciejewski 0-2, 0-0, 0  
Totals: 23-73; 11-15: 62  
3pts: Sisson 5  
Rebounds: Halsdorfer 6, Setter 5