

End season on high note

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Last night at Erie Hall, the Penn State Behrend men's basketball team did something the program has not done for quite some time; have two consecutive winning seasons.

With a 70-55 win over LaRoche College, the Lions finished their season 13-12, the same as last season.

"This is our first back to back winning season since we became Division III. We're headed in the right direction with our program," explained Head Coach Dave Niland.

The Lions raced out to a 40-22 lead at halftime thanks to shooting 57 percent from the floor.

"Perkins, Paloskey, and Emick shot the ball very well for us in the first half," stated Niland.

Jason Paloskey led all scorers with 19 points, Brian Perkins chipped 13, and Brian Emick reached double figures for the first time this season with 10.

Behrend also dominated the glass as the Lions out-rebounded LaRoche 41-22. Ron Derian was a big part of that as he pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

"We answered their [LaRoche] runs when we had to, and we haven't in the last three or four games," Niland said.

Brian Barto led LaRoche with 15 points and Chuck Cieslak added 12, much less than the 27 he had when the teams met in January.

"We rotated different guys on him [Cieslak] to make it tough for him to get a good look at the basket," said Niland.

Monday, the Lions made the long journey to Alfred University. Despite having the lead for a good portion of the contest, Behrend fell 70-63.

"We led for 36 minutes," said a frustrated Niland. "They hit

shots down the stretch; a bunch of threes. They were tough shots that went in, and we just didn't answer their run."

Andy Lawrence led Behrend in scoring with 17 points. Jeff Myers followed with 13 points, while going nine of ten from the free throw line.

Perkins had a solid game, as he finished with 11 points and a game-high 14 rebounds.

A big factor in this game was long-range shooting. For the game, Behrend shot 33 percent from behind the arc. Alfred (4-19) more than doubled that total shooting 68 percent from three-point range.

Brian Quinlan led Alfred with 18 points and made Niland pull his hair out as he was a perfect six-for-six from downtown.

Saturday, the Lions hosted Elmira College. Erie Hall proved to be an unfriendly place to play for Elmira, as Behrend defeated them 81-68.

Chad Sutton had the hot hand for Behrend, as the point guard netted 16 points; shooting 13-of-14 from the charity stripe. Anthony Costantini followed with 12 points, while Paloskey and Myers each finished with 11 markers.

Behrend's defense was tough, as Elmira converted on only nine field goals for the first half. The percentage for the game also struggled as Elmira (12-11) shot 33 percent for the game.

"I thought we played one of our best games all season against a good team," commented Niland.

On Valentines Day, the Lions had their hearts broken by Lake Erie College on the road 68-60.

"We had more field goals than [Lake Erie] did. But they were at the foul line 28 times, and we were only there 12 or 13 times, so, you figure it out," said Niland. "We didn't get many calls, but I'm not blaming the officials. We didn't get to the foul line as much as they did."

We're headed in the right direction with our program.

Coach Dave Niland

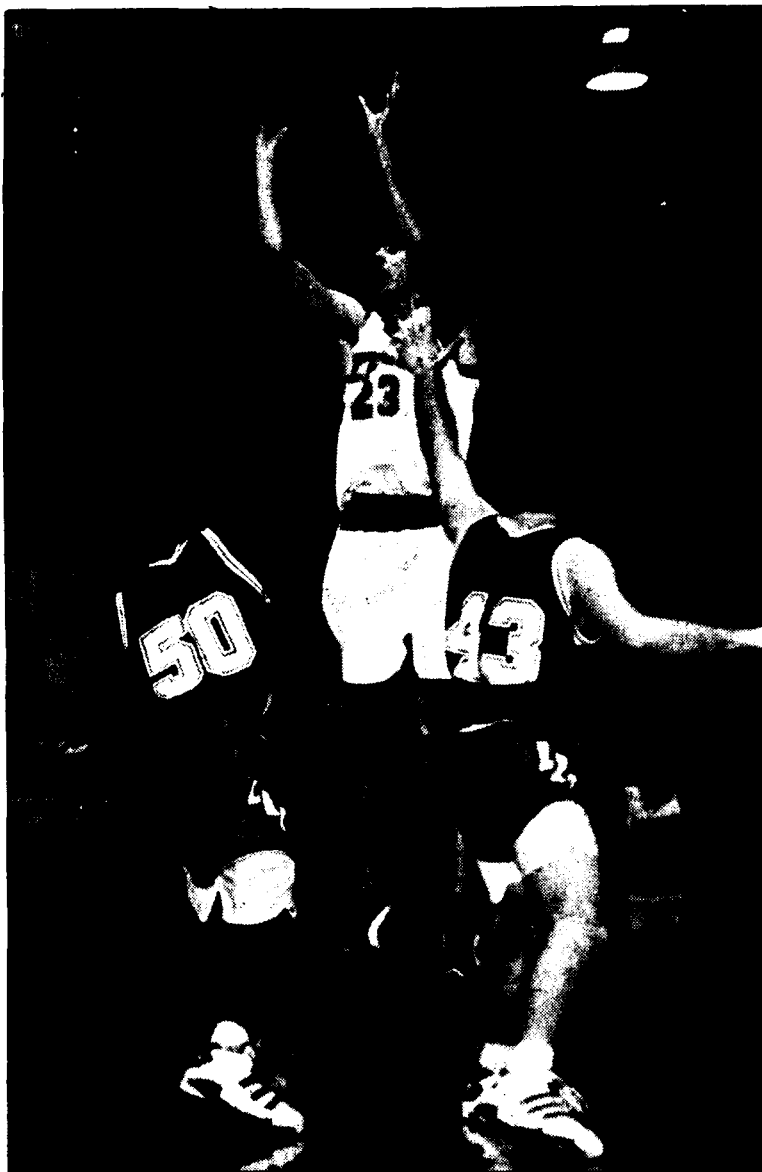


Photo by Jennifer V. Colvin / Editor in Chief

MORE FOR THE SCORE: With winning seasons back to back, Jeff Myers and the rest of the Behrend men defeated LaRoche College last night to end their season with a win.

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home team converted on 23 percent.

But the foul line was deadly as Behrend was 7-for-13 (54 percent) and Lake Erie was 23-of-27 (86 percent).

Niland believes that if his core of young talented players gells even more next season, the Lions could be well on the way to bigger and brighter things.

"We need to shore up some things, but this group worked real hard. When you have so many new guys, everything is new. Hopefully next season we will be a little more familiar with each other and play better down the stretch," Niland said.

Niland did say that his club had a chance to win nearly every game this season, but little mistakes cost the team victories. But if the improvement of the team is any indication of what the future holds, look for the Niland Lions as a force to be reckoned with.

NOTES:

The Lions were 8-3 at home and 5-9 away from Erie Hall.

Behrend had three wins in their last seven games, all at home.

Lawrence and Costantini each led Behrend in scoring in six games.

Derian led the Lions in rebounds for 13 games.

Four freshmen led Behrend in scoring averages for the season [Costantini, 12.4; Lawrence, 9.7; Myers, 9.2; Paloskey, 9.1]

Lake Erie- 63 Behrend- 60

Lions
Paloskey 6-11, 0-0, 15 Rife 2-7, 1-2, 5
Perkins 4-7, 1-2, 9 Derian 1-4, 1-4, 3
Lawrence 3-14, 3-3, 10 Costantini 6-8,
1-2, 13 Myers 1-2, 0-0, 2 Emick 0-2, 0-0,
0 Pizga 1-2, 0-0, 2 Sutton 0-0, 0-0, 0
Totals: 23-57; 7-13; 60
Spts: 6-21 (Paloskey 3-7, Costantini 2-4,
Lawrence 1-5, Pizga 0-1, Emick 0-1, Rife
0-3)
Rebounds: 29 (Derian 9, Costantini 5)

Lake Erie
Hildreth 6-16, 6-9, 22 Lynch 9-16, 6-8, 28
Darron 4-11, 4-6, 12 Gargala 1-8, 0-0, 3
Buckley 0-3, 0-0, 0 Ark 0-7, 3-3, 3 Bisler
0-0, 2-2, 2 Mizener 0-0, 0-0, 0
Totals: 20-62, 23-27, 68
Spts: 5-23 (Lynch 2-4, Hildreth 2-6,
Gargala 1-3, Darron 0-3, Ark 0-5)
Rebounds: 32 (Darron 7, Gargala 7,
Buckley 7)

Behrend- 81 Elmira- 68

Lions
Paloskey 4-11, 2-2, 11 Rife 0-1, 4-6, 4
Perkins 4-5, 0-2, 8 Derian 2-3, 5-8, 8
Lawrence 3-8, 2-2, 10 Myers 3-4, 5-8, 11
Costantini 5-12, 0-0, 12 Sutton 1-2, 13-14,
16 Emick 0-1, 0-0, 0
Totals: 22-47; 31-38; 81
Spts: 6-17 (Lawrence 2-2, Costantini 2-6,
Sutton 1-2, Paloskey 1-5, Emick 0-1, Derian
0-1)
Rebounds: 34 (Lawrence 6, Costantini 5)

Elmira
McKinney 0-4, 2-2, 2 McLaughlin 4-10, 2-2,
14 Gill 1-2, 0-0, 2 Janikas 3-10, 4-6, 12
Smith 3-11, 9-10, 16 Francis 3-7, 1-1, 7
Reed 6-12, 0-0, 16 Corrales 0-2, 0-0, 0
Cawright 0-2, 0-0, 0
Totals: 20-60; 18-20; 68
Spts: 10-29 (Reed 4-6, McLaughlin 4-9,
Janikas 2-6, Corrales 0-1, Smith 0-1, Gill 0-1,
McKinney 0-3)
Rebounds: 34 (Reed 9, Smith 6)

Alfred- 70 Behrend- 63

Lions
Paloskey 4-11, 0-0, 9 Rife 1-2, 0-0, 2
Perkins 5-5, 1-2, 11 Derian 3-6, 0-0, 8
Lawrence 6-12, 2-3, 17 Myers 2-7, 9-10, 13
Sutton 1-2, 1-2, 4 Emick 1-2, 0-0, 3
Totals: 23-51; 13-17; 63
Spts: 6-18 (Lawrence 3-7, Sutton 1-1, Emick
1-1, Paloskey 1-5, Myers 0-2, Rife 0-1,
Derian 0-1)
Rebounds: 36 (Perkins 14, Paloskey 4)

Alfred
Spacciolli 2-7, 4-4, 9 Quinlan 6-9, 0-0, 18
Amore 3-11, 3-4, 11 Yeager 6-10, 2-7, 14
Johnson 2-5, 0-1, 4 Hepler 2-3, 0-0, 5
Morris 3-6, 0-0, 9 Dobrinick 0-1, 0-0, 0
Sawley 0-0, 0-0, 0 Culbreath 0-0, 0-0, 0
Totals: 24-62; 9-16; 70
Spts: 13-19 (Quinlan 6-8, Morris 3-6, Amore
2-3, Hepler 1-1, Spacciolli 1-3)
Rebounds: 29 (Yeager 12, Spacciolli 5)

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