

# Fornari grasps first title

## Schlott named tournament MVP

by Brian Gregory  
Collegian Staff

Head Coach Roz Fornari had high hopes for this year's version of the Penn State Behrend Lady Lions. When the Lady Lions had won seven in a row at one stretch, a post-season tournament seemed to be in reach. Then Fornari and Lions found their fate, the ECAC South Region tournament Saturday, March 2 and Sunday, March 3.

The Lady Lions were the second seed in the four team field held at Bethany College in West Virginia.

The Lady Lions went to West Virginia and came out champions, defeating Dickinson 81-66 and Misericordia 95-73 for the ECAC title.

This is the second post-season tournament in the three seasons Fornari has been guiding the Lady Lions.

On Saturday, the Lady Lions got off to a quick start against Dickenson, the third seed, as they took a 36-29 lead at the half.

The Lady Lions shot 40 percent from the floor and made 10 of 18 from the free throw line. All this without the services of senior co-captain Becky Reed.

"We lost Becky Reed at the eighteen minute mark," commented Roz Fornari. "So our whole team did a really good job in picking up the slack."

The second half was much the same as the Lady Lions ran early and often on Dickenson and stretched the final tally to 81-66.

Marlesse Schlott was the dominant player in the paint as she scored 30 points and pulled down 12 rebounds in 39 minutes of action. Melanie Banas had 14 points and Emily Marini had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

"Schlott just dominated them. It was like we knew that we could beat them and we just put pressure on them. Then we attacked them and rotated and got some key steals," said Fornari.

The Lady Lions returned to the hotel at 9:30 p.m. in a blinding snowstorm, anticipating a showdown with Bethany.

"We got back in and got a pizza and settled in," said Fornari. "We didn't even find out who we were playing until about 11:30."

Then Coaches Fornari and Wittman received the unexpected news: College Misericordia had beaten Bethany 99-95 in double overtime.

"I was surprised that they had beaten Bethany, but I was more surprised on the type of game they played," responded Fornari who had previously called the tournament "The Road to Bethany. They had ninety-eight possessions in the game...versus Bethany."

So, the Lady Lions returned to Bethany to face Misericordia on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. And the

Lady Cougars came out on fire, but they were matched shot for shot by Behrend for the first fifteen minutes. Then the Lady Lions put on a charge and took a 41-31 lead.

The Lady Lions shot a season high 62 percent in the first half and 57 percent from the line.

"We had to make a few adjustments," commented Fornari. "We moved our guards out and became very versatile."

*This title is very important to me because I brought a lot of these players in and it's great for [these players] because they've achieved something they worked hard for all year.*

-Head Coach Roz Fornari

The second half showed the strongest effort of the season for the Lady Lions. As the Misericordia coaches argued more and more with the officials, the team seemed to lose their focus in the game.

Then Behrend took control as Banas took a very vocal role popping threes and dishing the ball out to Reed and in to Schlott for easy hoops. The Lady lions took the title by a 95-73 score.

Banas and Schlott led the scoring with 23 points and Schlott and Marini had nine and eight rebounds respectively.

"Becky and Marlesse couldn't have written a better script for their last games here. They had so much intensity," commented and enthusiastic Fornari.

Fornari was very happy on the ECAC championship. It was her first as coach of Behrend and

Behrend's first championship since the 91-92 campaign.

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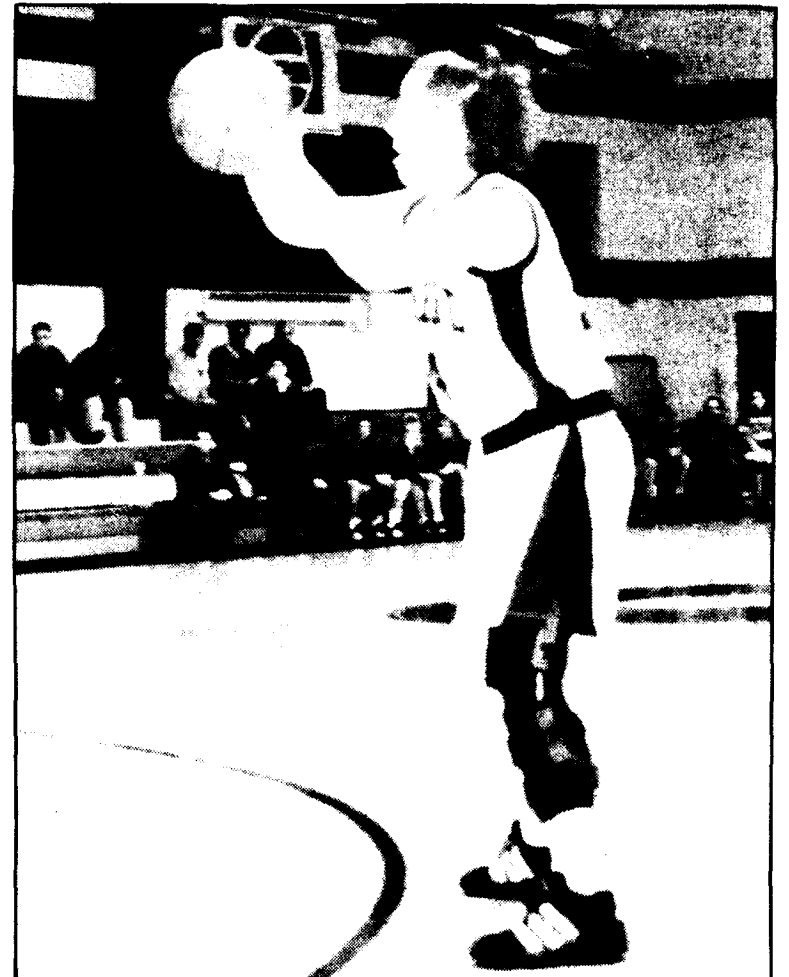


Photo by Eric Smith/Collegian Photographer

From the outside: Junior guard Kate Delaney looks to put up the jumpshot from the outside. Delaney and the Lady Lions won the ECAC South Region championship.

### Women's Boxscores

**First Round**

Behrend- 81  
Dickinson- 66

**Lady Lions**

Reed 3-7, 0-1, 6 Marini 3-10, 6-8, 12 Schlott 11-22, 8-13, 30 Banas 5-13, 2-3, 14 Delaney 3-5, 1-2, 7 Bohn 3-6, 1-3, 7 Schultz 1-3, 3-5, 5 McCormick 0-0, 0-0, 0 Mack 0-0, 0-0, 0  
Totals: 29-66, 21-35, 81  
3pts: 2-9 (Banas 2-5, Delaney 0-1, Reed, 0-3)  
Rebounds: 41 (Marini 14, Schlott 12)

**Dickinson**

Guzek 12-19, 4-7, 28 Muller 4-16, 1-2, 9 Muravchik 0-6, 0-0, 0 Saadzoj 2-6, 0-0, 4 Grams 1-2, 0-0, 2 Biekiy 1-2, 0-0, 3 Labrie 5-9, 3-3, 13 Rakowski 2-6, 1-4, 5 Ely 0-0, 0-0, 0 Knowlton 1-5, 0-0, 2  
Totals: 28-71, 9-16, 66  
3pts: 1-7 (Biekiy 1-2, Muravchik 0-2, Saadzoj 0-3)  
Rebounds: 36 (Guzek 14, Muller 5)

**Championship game**

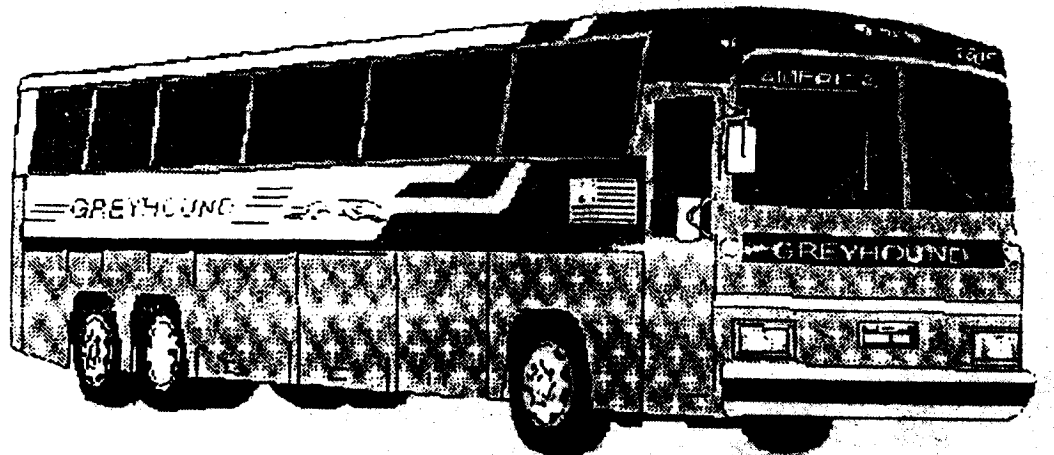
Behrend- 95  
Misericordia- 73

**Lady Lions**

Reed 3-6, 2-2, 10 Marini 2-3, 7-8, 11 Schlott 9-12, 5-11, 23 Banas 9-15, 2-5, 23 Delaney 4-6, 2-3, 11 Schultz 4-4, 4-5, 12 McCormick 1-3, 0-0, 2 Bohn 0-1, 3-4, 3 Madigan 0-1, 0-0, 0 Mack 0-1, 0-0, 0 Mangus 0-0, 0-0, 0  
Totals: 32-52, 25-38, 95  
3pts: 6-15 (Banas 3-6, Reed 2-4, Delaney 1-3, Bohn 0-1, McCormick 0-1)  
Rebounds: 40 (Schlott 9, Marini 8)

**Misericordia**

Deasy 0-5, 0-1, 0 Evans 6-12, 2-3, 14 Zebrowski 3-7, 5-8, 13 Longhi 6-16, 5-7, 19 Hughes 5-12, 3-3, 15 Kopicki 1-2, 0-1, 2 Yocobenos 0-2, 0-0, 0 Reiner 0-2, 0-1, 0 Brominski 2-2, 2-2, 6 Morzen 0-1, 0-0, 0 Farell 1-2, 0-0, 2 Rogers 0-0, 2-2, 2 Poploski 0-2, 0-0, 0  
Totals: 24-65, 19-25, 73  
3pts: 6-18 (Zebrowski 2-3, Hughes 2-5, Longhi 2-7, Reiner 0-1, Deasy 0-2)  
Rebounds: 26 (Evans 6, Deasy 5)



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7:05PM  
10:00PM

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1:05PM  
4:50PM  
6:15PM  
8:10PM  
10:15PM

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3:00PM

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