

# Back above .500

by Brian Gregory  
Collegian Staff

The Lady Lions proved a couple of things this week. They proved they could play incredible as they beat Allegheny for the first time in three years. They proved they could play poorly, as they lost to Bethany.

Then they proved they were lucky, Tuesday night as they committed 13 errors against Thiel College and still escaped with an 18-15 victory to complete a sweep and improve their overall record to 12-11.

In the opener against the Thiel Cats, Heather Norder was in command on the mound giving up only seven hits and five runs in seven innings of work. Norder had but one bad inning, the fifth, in which Thiel scored all five of their runs.

The Lady Lion bats were in full effect, as they scored five runs of their own in the third inning, and got the game winners in the sixth on Becky Reed's single to left. Reed's hit, which was her second of the game, was the first since the Gannon game last week.

In addition to Reed, the Lady Lions offense was paced by Julie Stocker's and Shannon Angel's two hit and two RBI performance.

As the temperatures dipped into the lower 20's, Behrend got prepared for the second game against Thiel. The Lady Lions took an early 4-1 lead on a single by Angel that scored Marlesse Schlott from second base.

Thiel came back in the bottom of the third with five runs of their own to give them the edge, 6-4. After a brief talk from Coach Sharon Gregory, Behrend got back to the basics by scoring five runs.

Reed and Erin Terry singled to begin the inning, and both scored on Beth Calhoun's double to left-center. After Schlott walked and Stocker sacrificed, Angel singled scoring Calhoun, and Schlott and

Angel scored on Lisa Fox's single to left.

The Lady Lions would have a huge fifth inning, as every batter would score once. Reed led off with a home run, and Terry and Calhoun followed with singles. Schlott's single would score Terry from third, and Stocker followed with a base hit to center scoring Calhoun and Schlott.

Angel and Norder followed Stocker with singles of their own, with Norder's driving home Stocker. Fox reached on an error, bringing in Angel in the process. Steph Roberts would drive in the eighth and ninth runs of the inning with a double to center.

With the ten-run rule in effect, and the Lions up 18-8, they needed only three outs for a victory. Then many errors haunted Behrend.

The Lady Cats got two in the bottom of the fifth to escape the loss in five. Both of the runs were unearned due to a throwing error by the third baseman.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Lady Lions played with fire and got torched. Three errors in the inning led to five Thiel runs and closed the gap to 18-15. Behrend then got three quick outs in the bottom of the seventh to pull out a lucky win.

"Fortunately our hitting compensated for what we couldn't do in the field," said a disappointed Gregory. "If we didn't hit, obviously we would have probably lost 15-3."

Terry paced the Lady Lions in the nightcap banging out four hits and scoring three runs. Calhoun added two hits and four RBIs, and Schlott had a three-run triple.

On Monday, Behrend split with Allegheny winning the opener 3-2 on a two run rally in the bottom of the seventh, before being over-matched by Laura Machuga in the nightcap, 6-1.

With the Lady Lions trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh, Calhoun led off with a triple.

Schlott singled her home to knot the score at two. Then Schlott moved to second on a Stocker sacrifice, and then to third on Angel's bunt. Norder then helped her flawless pitching effort by singling home Schlott from third.

"We did a nice job of moving the runners [in the game]," commented Coach Gregory. "Even in the seventh inning when we tied the game, instead of just saying 'we tied it' Stocker and Angel did a good job of laying down the bunts to move Schlott all the way to third. They really set it up for Norder to be in that position."

In the second game with Girard native Machuga on the mound, the Lady Lions got one in the first, but could manage only five hits for the game, while striking out ten times.

[Machuga] throws very hard and hits her spots," commented Gregory. "Is she unbeatable? No."

Last Saturday, Behrend traveled to Bethany for a pre-Easter show down with the Bison.

The Lady Lions looked to freshman Terry to break up a no-hitter in the top of the seventh.

Bethany scored two runs in the third, only one earned, to get the victory 6-0.

In the nightcap, the Lady Lions squeezed out only five hits but managed to drop Bethany 4-2 by scoring two unearned runs in the sixth. Schlott led the Lady Lions with two RBIs.

Next up for the Lady Lions is a twin bill against the Lady Presidents of Washington & Jefferson, away, on Saturday.

*Note: The Collegian incorrectly stated last week that Julie Stocker had broken the hits record at Penn State Behrend. After more careful research, our staff has learned that Becky Reed broke the record during the spring training trip to Florida. Congratulations Becky! We apologize for any inconvenience.*

# Norder playing on all cylinders on way to ATW

by Matt Plizga  
Collegian Staff

Shortstop Becky Reed added "Norder was really pitched and hit the ball well. She is playing tremendous."

"Heather has been having success under pressure both on the mound and at the plate" said Head Coach Sharon Gregory of this weeks Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week Heather Norder.

Norder came through in the clutch for the Lady Lions versus rival Allegheny. Not only did she pitch her team to an impressive 3-2 victory but she also drove in the game winning run with a two out single to left field in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Centerfielder Lisa Fox simply states, "Heather comes through in the clutch, she is a clutch performer."

Even more impressive than her clutch hitting has been her outstanding pitching.

"I have a lot more confidence, I know I can get the job done. Last year I didn't have the confidence I do this year" Norder says.

Rightfielder Julie Stocker agreed with her teammates praise of the sophomore.

"I've never seen Heather pitch as well as she has been recently. Every time she takes the mound she has total confidence and gets the job done."

Coach Gregory feels that Norder is far from a one dimensional player.

"Heather is a very talented athlete, she utilizes her athleticism to enhance her performance on the mound, at the plate and in the field," stated Gregory.

When Norder is not on the mound, she plays first base to keep her offensive attack in the Lady Lion batting order.

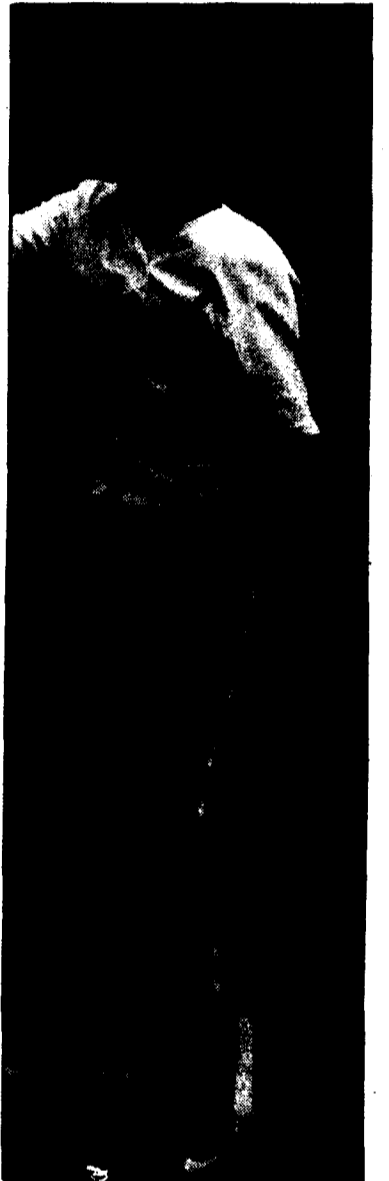


Photo by Colleen Gritzen  
ATW: Pitcher/first baseman Heather Norder

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