

Above the Rim with Brian Busey

(The Brian Busey column will run once a week spotlighting either women's or men's Behrend basketball)

This week's guest is junior forward for the Lady Lions Emily Marini. Marini will be one of only three returnees to lead Behrend this year. Marini was a regular starter last year and scored 8.1 points per game.

Brian Busey: Are you excited to be back on the court this year?
Emily Marini: I'm excited just to play. It felt good just playing in the scrimmage and its good to be back in gear. I'm looking forward to the tournament. That's always fun.

BB: Emily, this year the team will only have three returnees. Only you and Nicki Schultz had vast playing time last year. How can you help the team?
Marini: We're basically helping the team by explaining things. If they have questions they ask us. We also set examples for them.

BB: Does it bother you that you only have three returnees especially knowing that Coach Fornari made this schedule very tough expecting more people to return?
Marini: (laughing) I step on her feet. Seriously though,

personally it takes me about five minutes to adjust to (the person I'm guarding). If she's tall and skinny, she'll be quick. If she's short and heavy she'll be slow but take up space. I also watch the flight of the ball to see if it's going to be a brick or what angle it will come off on. Then I get in position and box out.

BB: It's not really that early anymore. How is the team looking in practice?
Marini: We have a lot to learn, but we're progressing. We had to start from scratch this year. From last week to this week, it's exciting to see things changing as long as we're moving forward.

BB: I've seen you in action here at Behrend for two years. How has your game progressed and changed over those two years?
Marini: My role has changed from this year to last year as far as being a leader. I'm still trying to adjust to that. Creating shots is more difficult and I've adjusted to that. I also know what to do in situations like if time is running out, I know what play to call and what makes sense. I've adjusted to the college level...the defense is much tougher.

BB: This is my favorite question. They list you as 5'5" in the program, but in many games you're battling girls that are 6'4". How do you go about out-rebounding them and containing them. What's your secret?
Marini: (laughing) I step on her feet. Seriously though,

personally it takes me about five minutes to adjust to (the person I'm guarding). If she's tall and skinny, she'll be quick. If she's short and heavy she'll be slow but take up space. I also watch the flight of the ball to see if it's going to be a brick or what angle it will come off on. Then I get in position and box out.

BB: How deep does the team go this year?
Marini: Extremely deep. The freshman are all at the same level. Coach Fornari can put in a fast team or a team that handles the ball well at any time. We have strong forwards. The team will go about twelve deep.

BB: Let's talk about your new freshman point guard from McDowell. How is she going to be in the short term and the long term?
Marini: One thing about Carrie (Nestor) is that she won't give up. She's very persistent. When she's down she cheers herself up. She may have a few rough games once

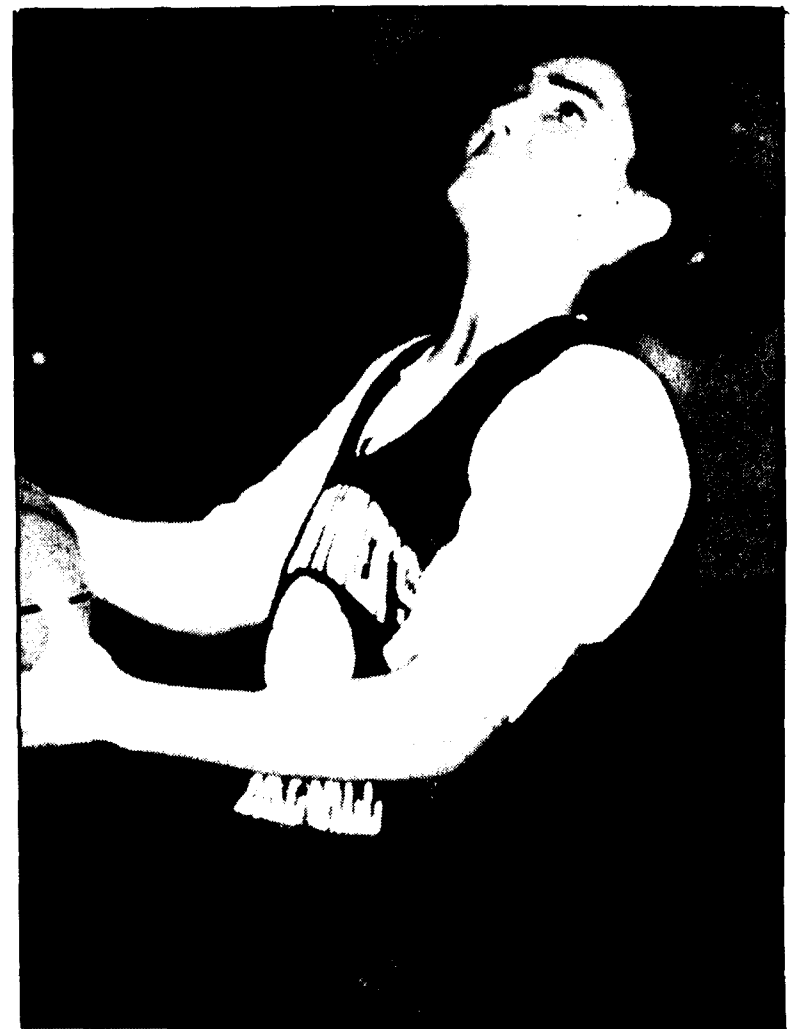
in a while but she won't give up. She's going to grow tremendously this year. She'll make a big improvement from the first game to the last game this year.

BB: What are the strengths of the Lady Lions this year?
Marini: We're quick and very athletic. There are a lot of good personalities on the team.

BB: Tell me some of your weaknesses that you have noticed in practice.
Marini: Inexperience. Basically it all leads to it, the running of the offense, creating shots, and defense.

BB: Tell me about your team goals you have set for the season.
Marini: We have not talked about it yet. I'm not sure how much the freshman know about our schedule. We can battle with the local teams like Washington and Jefferson and Fredonia State. The team at the beginning of our schedule are very tough and we can learn from it and move on.

BB: Emily, best of luck on the long season you have ahead of you. And good luck with the first few games. Next week in Above the Rim, we'll talk with Jason Paloskey of the Behrend Lions. See you next time for more Lion and Lady Lion basketball.



Eyes on the Prize: Emily Marini has her eyes on the basket as she prepares to make a shot. Last year Marini was a starter at the forward position and averaged 8.1 ppg and 5.8 rpg.

Lady Lion Soccer solid in 1996

by Brian Gregory
Co-editor Sports

The Penn State Behrend Lady Lions finished off a successful 1996 campaign with a record of 11-5-1. In the last six games they finished 4-1-1 with the only loss coming against Buffalo State in the last game of the year.

"It was a thrilling year," commented Coach Perritano. "We won many of our games late and we competed well against everyone."

"It was a very successful season," said Junior goalie Mary Anne Rupp. "We gave a lot of good teams a run for their money."

The team began the season with five consecutive victories, all shutouts, before dropping two straight to Keuka and Allegheny. They then came back to beat Fredonia in overtime before dropping to St. John Fisher 2-0.

Behrend beat Pitt-Bradford next before dropping to Nazareth and then finishing strong at 4-1-1.

"We played great start to finish this season," commented Perritano. "This is another step for the program with an improved schedule this year."

"I think we had a lot of talent and everybody tried real hard," said forward Lisa Fox. "We weren't as consistent as we should have been in some games but we never gave up."

"We had some games where we played extremely well and utilized everybody's skills to compete at the level of teams with more experience than us," said Lara Herrmann on her third season here at Behrend.

The Lady Lions were strong offensively this year scoring 40 goals. Coach Perritano attributed this to the way they attacked.

"Some (of our players) were not traditional attackers but they handled it nicely. We weren't

overpowering but we got clutch goals in situations."

Defensively the Lady Lions played tough. They gave up limited shots and Rupp only allowed eleven goals on the season.

Coach Perritano said that there was more to Rupp's goaltending that meets the eye. "Mary Anne earned (her teammates) respect, ability, and leadership. She is a pleasure to coach and see around campus."

"I just came out to the games fired up and I tried to get everybody's intensity level higher," responded Rupp to Perritano's comments.

"We performed well. We were solid throughout the entire season," said Senior sweeper Michelle Finch.

The Lady Lions had three players tied at the top of the scoring charts this year with sixteen points. Lara Herrmann and Michelle Finch each had six goals and four assists.

Laura Perry had led the team with seven goals and two assists.

Michelle Finch won several games in the last two minutes of overtime. Finch won two of them with last second goals. Perritano

"We were solid throughout the entire season"

--Michelle Finch

"Those were special moments. They may not appreciate them now but in three or four years when they get together they will be very memorable," he said.



Roar like a Lion, Sting Like a Bee: The Lion soccer team finished a tough season with an 11-5-2 record. They won their last game 4-2 against the Waynesburg Yellow Jackets. The Lions are still waiting to see if they will make the playoffs. Next week we will take a look back at their incredible season.

Lion postseason report in next week's paper.

Coach Perritano and the Lady Lions will begin to build on this season within weeks. Perritano will go to work with the Lady Lions toward their spring season. In that season, they play five games and their win-loss record doesn't matter.

"In the spring we try to work to build cohesion and style," said Coach. "We improve more technically and functionally."

In addition to the season, Perritano is actively working toward next fall by trying to recruit

new players.

"Our successful program enables us to recruit successfully," he said.

Within the next couple of weeks there will be more information being released on MVP and other awards. Perritano wishes to thank Chanc "Mr. Everything" and Coach Chuck Baranich for all their help this year.

The Lady Lions gave the fans a thrill this year and will be back next year to do the same all over again.

1996 Season Results

PS-B 8	Pitt-Bradford	0
PS-B 6	Juniata	0
PS-B 1	Lycoming	0
PS-B 2	Grove City	0
PS-B 7	Bethany	0
PS-B 1	Keuka	2 (OT)
PS-B 2	Allegheny	3
PS-B 1	Fredonia	0 (OT)
PS-B 0	St. John Fisher	2
PS-B 4	Pitt-Bradford	0
PS-B 0	Nazareth	2
PS-B 4	LaRoche	0
PS-B 1	CMU	0 (OT)
PS-B 0	Mt. Union	0 (OT)
PS-B 2	Oberlin	1 (OT)
PS-B 1	Waynesburg	0
PS-B 0	Buffalo State	1

Season Record: 11-5-1 Goals for: 40
Home Record: 7-2-1 Goals Against: 11
Away Record: 4-3-0 Shutouts: 11
Overall Record: 21-8-3

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