

Schultz has big week earns ATW

by Matt Plizga
Sports Editor

Junior center Nikki Schultz powered the Lady Lions to two wins on the hardwood last week earning the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week honor for her play.

"Nikki has improved a ton from last year. It is nice to see her coming around" said Coach Fornari.

Schultz had a huge game Saturday in Behrend's 61-48 victory over Pitt-Bradford. The junior exploded for 22 points, missing only one shot from the floor and grabbing nine rebounds.

"Nikki runs the floor well and is a good finisher" said teammate Emily Marini. Many of Schultz's points against Bradford came on

the fastbreak as she continually beat the other team down the floor. Fornari agreed with Marini, "She does a nice job of releasing on the break and finishes well on lay-ups."

"My job is to release on the fast break. The guards did a nice job getting me the ball and I was able to finish for them" said Schultz.

Nikki started the week with a solid effort in Behrend's victory over LaRoche on Tuesday. She scored 12 points and pulled down eight boards to lead the young Lions to their fourth win on the year. "Nikki is a good rebounder. She does a lot of good things" said Fornari.

Saturday's game at Pitt-Bradford was a homecoming for

the Johnstown native. "It was a big game for me, a lot of my friends and family were there. I just wanted to come out and play well" said Schultz.

The junior has been playing well all year, leading the team in scoring at 13.1 ppg while pulling in nearly six rebounds a game. Schultz is also having a tremendous year shooting, entering Wednesday night's game hitting 54 percent of her shots.

In her last two outings combined Schultz has missed just three shots, going 15 for 18 (83 percent) from the floor. During the two game stretch she averaged 17 points and nine rebounds per game.

"Nikki has picked up the scoring slack for us. She is shooting a high percentage from

the floor, which is key to our offense" said Fornari. "She has the ability to beat the other team down the floor to get easy baskets" added freshman Carrie Nestor.

Another key to Schultz's game is her leadership. "Nikki is a good leader. She is confident in us, which helps us be more confident in ourselves" said freshman Tiffany Buck.

"I try to be a leader on the floor. Emily and I have a big responsibility of being leaders to the 13 freshmen on the team" said Schultz.

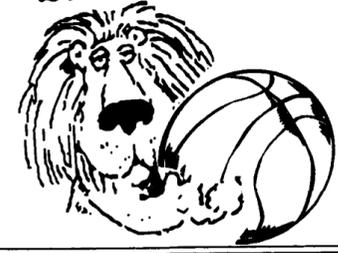
The next opportunity to see Nikki Schultz and the rest of the Lady Lions will be this Saturday when they face the Lake Erie Storm.



Lady Lions' Remaining Schedule

2/5	PITT-BRADFORD	(7:30)
2/8	@Notre Dame	(2:00)
2/11	@Buffalo State	(7:00)
2/15	ALLEGHENY	(2:00)
2/17	@Waynesburg	(5:30)
2/19	LAROCHE (DH)	(6:00)
2/22	NOTRE DAME	(2:00)
2/26	THIEL	(6:00)

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