

# Lady Lions roll over Thiel

## Lady Lions finish season on winning note

It's quite a good possibility that if you never trail in a ball game, you will never lose the game. Coach Fornari's Lady Lions experienced that last night.

The Lady Lions finished up their season last night with an 72-59 triumph over Thiel College. The game itself got off to a late start due to the fact that

Thiel thought the game began at 7:30 instead of the 6:00 start time.

When the game did get underway the Lady Lions were fired up. Just over 2:30 into the game the Lions used a couple of buckets by Tiffany Buck and a three by Katie O'Donnell to push the lead to 7-2.

The Lady Lions then went on a 13-4 run over the next 4:30 to take a 20-8 lead before the Lady Tomcats finally took their first timeout. Tiffany Buck already had ten of the Lady Lions twenty points, and Katie O'Donnell had six of her own.

Thiel played a little more steady over the next eight minutes and with less 5:00 to go the lead was still twelve at 32-20.

Late in the half the Lady Lions became a little impatient and turned the ball over four times in the last 1:32. Thiel only converted four points off of these, and Fornari's five led 36-26 at the break.

"We rebounded well...and got a lot of touches on the ball," said Head Coach Roz Fornari. "We kept it in transition."

Behrend led 41-32 with 17:12 left in the second half, before Buck went on her second half rampage.

She scored Behrend's next twelve points on four straight threes to give Behrend a commanding 55-41 lead midway through the half.

Carrie Nestor made 7-9 foul shots down the stretch as Behrend finished the year with three consecutive victories including the 72-59 beating of Thiel.

"This was a good combination of team play," said Coach Fornari. "We did a lot of things right in both halves."

Buck led the team in scoring with 22 points. She tied her own record of six threes in a game. Nestor and Nikki Schultz added 12 points each to the Lady Lion effort.

Fornari was quite pleased with Buck's play throughout the game. She said, "Tiff (Buck) has the potential of being one of the best guards we have ever had here."

Earlier in the week, the Lady Lions used a strong first half to bomb Notre Dame College 64-51.

"One thing we were doing (in this game)," said Fornari, "is come out strong in the first five minutes of the first and second half."

It worked well. The Lady Lions led by 11, 28-17 at the half and stayed strong through the second half.



**Buck for Three!!!:** Tiffany Buck shoots a three pointer last night against Thiel. The freshman guard had six last night in the Lady Lion win.

Katie O'Donnell was high scorer in the game with 16 points. Tiffany Buck and Emily Marini threw in 15 respectively. Schultz and Marini each had eight boards in the victory.

"We still have a ways to go as far as gelling together," said Coach after the win. "(We have) recognized what it takes to win a little better."

The Lady Lions have finished the 96-97 campaign with a solid ending. Next year with Marini and Schultz anchoring down low, and this year's freshman having a year's experience under their belts, this team could be mighty good in the years to come. Especially with the new conference.

Next week, we'll recap the season and print final stats.



Dave Boulos/Collegian Photo Assistant

**Tip-Off Time:** Nikki Schultz stretches to win the tip in the last game this year for the Lady Lions. The Lady Lions beat Thiel last night 72-59.



Mike Nies/Collegian Photographer

**A Diaper Dandy Baby!!!:** Tiffany Buck passes down to the post as Emily Marini waits for the ball. Behrend used an early 13-4 run and four straight threes from Buck in the second half to help guide them to victory last night.

# Lion team leader is ATW

## Ron Derian finishing fourth year of Behrend Basketball

"Ron is the leader of the team. He will do whatever it takes to win" said assistant coach John Gorman of senior captain Ron Derian.

Derian's desire to win helped him earn this week's Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week honor.

Derian's performance last week helped the Lions move to 13-10 on the year. Putting the men's basketball team in contention for an ECAC tournament bid.

"I'm very happy that after 3 years we have a chance to make the playoffs. It's a great opportunity for the program and for the younger players" said Derian.

A two-game winning streak has helped to solidify Behrend's playoff hopes.

Over the two game stretch Derian averaged 10.5 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game.

"Ron is a hell of a ball player. He works just as hard as anyone on the team" said sophomore Brian Emick.

Last Wednesday (Feb 19) Derian powered the Lions to a 66-57 win over La Roche. In the game he led the team in scoring with 15 points while grabbing 10 boards.

"Ron's conditioning has allowed him to do a lot of things on the floor" said coach Dave Niland.

On the year Derian leads the Lions in a variety of areas. He is leading the team in rebounding for the second consecutive year with 6.4 rpg.

Derian is also leading the team in steals with 26. Offensively he is also one of the Lions most productive players.

He is averaging over ten ppg, while shooting 50 percent from the floor.

**Ron is the leader of the team.**

--John Gorman

Derian combines a tough inside game with solid outside shooting. He is making nearly 40 percent of his three-point shots while getting to the free throw line a team leading 80 times.

"Ron has always had a great love of the game. He has great desire to win which is reflected by the



Mike Nies/Collegian Photographer

**A True PTP'er:** Senior Ron Derian waits for a rebound in a recent game. Derian has been a primetime player all four years at Behrend.

intensity he brings to the court" said Niland.

Derian's intensity and desire to win has allowed him to be a four year starter at Behrend. He also ranks very high in several career statistical categories.

In his four years Derian has started 89 out of 95 games. "Ron has had a great four years, he is someone we are really going to miss" said Niland.

When Derian finishes his career at Behrend his name will be scattered through the record books.

As of Feb. 24 he ranked in the top 15 in five separate categories. Currently he is eighth in career rebounds with 514. Derian's career average is 5.4 rpg.

"Ron's conditioning is a credit to him. His versatility will be reflected in the record book" said Niland.

Derian is 14th in career scoring with 882, an average of 9.3 ppg. He also ranks 15th in assists with 173.

Derian continues to move up in the record books with each game.

He has made 307 field goals in his career, good for 12th on the all time list. Derian also ranks seventh in career free throws made with 230.

Not only is Derian a statistical

leader for the Lions he is also an emotional one. "I am a leader on the floor. I try to do a lot of little things to help the team win" said Derian.

"Ron provides great senior leadership" added Emick.

With his record breaking career coming to a close it is nice to see Derian with a chance to end his playing career in a tournament chase.

Behrend will conclude their season March 1 in a key battle with Thiel College. After Saturday's game the Lions will await a call from the ECAC tournament committee to see if their season will continue.

### Sports Quiz by Larry Duncan

1. What is a balk in baseball?
2. What constitutes a forfeit in baseball?
3. What was the first National Hockey League team based in the U.S.?
4. Who led Sweden to its first Davis Cup victory in tennis in 1975?
5. What is a perfect game in bowling?
6. Who was the first NFL back to gain 10,000 career yards, finishing with 12,312?
7. What's the only community-owned franchise in the NFL?

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