

Men's soccer team ends drought with pair of AMCC tournament wins



All conference. Freshman goalie Graham Rudolph was named to the AMCC all conference team along with 4 teammates; Travis Lang, Chris Lightner, Thomas Helmkamp and Josh Castillo.

AMCC Champs!

by Matt Pilzga
sports editor

The men's soccer team finished their roller coaster season on an up-note on Sunday by beating conference foe Frostburg State 1-0 for the AMCC tournament title.

The loss was only the fourth for a Frostburg State team that has won 17 games on the year.

Behrend used a muddy field and intensity to defeat the heavily favored Frostburg team.

"The field was a mess, but that may have helped us. It made it a game based more on effort and consistency, then on creating opportunities," said Coach Dan Perritano.

Thomas Helmkamp scored on a free kick from the corner of the penalty box in the 75 minute to give the Lions the lead.

Senior Ryan Ruta delivered the ball to Helmkamp to record the assist.

"It was a great service from Ruta, Helmkamp at 6'2" got above everybody else and hammered it home," said Perritano. "It was a championship goal," he added.

Freshman Graham Rudolph and a stingy Lion defense held on to record the shutout.

"The win was great for us, it was what we have been working for, it is nice to play for a championship," said Perritano.

Coach Perritano's team entered the AMCC tournament reeling from four losses that moved them out of ECAC tournament contention.

Behrend advanced to the championship on Sunday by beating LaRoche for the second time this year.

The Lions ended a four-game losing streak with the 3-1 victory Saturday afternoon.

Junior Travis Lang combined with freshman James Martin and Chris Lightner to provide more than enough scoring for a Behrend victory.

Sophomore Aaron Pentz had a big day by assisting on all three Behrend goals.

The AMCC tournament also marked an end to more than just a season for Ryan Ruta.

The senior ended his career by contributing to the championship win with an assist. Ruta will leave Behrend as the all-time assist leader in Behrend history.

"He has grown with our program, has been an active member in regards of helping our program grow from an average program to winning championships and I'll miss him," said Perritano.

Monday the AMCC also announced the men's all-conference team. Behrend placed five players on the team, three of which are freshman.

Junior midfielder Travis Lang and junior defender Thomas Helmkamp were joined on the team by forwards Josh Castillo, Chris Lightner and goalkeeper Graham Rudolph.

Behrend ended the year with twelve wins and are graduating just one senior.

With nearly everyone returning next year the Lions should be primed to defend their AMCC title and make a run for the ECAC tournament.

Lady Lions come up empty at ECAC tournament

by Matt Pilzga
sports editor

The Lady Lions finished their season by defeating Frostburg State for the AMCC soccer title, or so they thought.

But Coach Dan Perritano's team earned a playoff bid to the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament and continued their outstanding season.

Unfortunately the season came to an end when they lost 1-0 to Vassar College on Saturday afternoon.

"They played with a lot of emotion and appreciated the opportunity they earned," said Perritano.

Behrend's effort and emotion carried them into the 82nd minute of the game with a 0-0 tie against the strong Vassar squad.

Vassar broke the deadlock with just eight minutes left in the game, sending the Lady Lions to just their sixth loss of the year.

"Although we didn't win, we walked off the field feeling good about ourselves and our effort," said Perritano.

Vassar went on to win two games to win the ECAC regional tournament.

The Behrend women's soccer program should be feeling good about themselves, having advanced to the ECAC tournament in just their third year since becoming a varsity sport.

They played with a lot of emotion and appreciated the opportunity they earned.

Coach Dan Perritano

"A good commitment from the school and improvement from the players has been important to the rapid development of the team," said Perritano.

Over the past three years the women's soccer team has compiled an impressive record of 35-14-3, rarely receiving much credit for their accomplishments. But, the new conference has already changed some of that.

Coach Perritano received the AMCC coach of the year award while guiding his team to a record 14 wins and the inaugural AMCC soccer title.

Freshman Katie Giles won the newcomer of the year award in the conference while five of her teammates made the all-conference team.

Senior defender Michelle Finch and sophomore Jill Yamma joined junior forward Lisa Fox, senior midfielder Lara Herrmann and junior Jen Bargiband on the all-AMCC team.

This season for the Lady Lions has been a record-breaking quest for the young and successful program. Although they will lose three important players from this year squad they will surely be looking forward to defending their conference championship and returning to the ECAC tournament.

Scoreboard

Men's Soccer (record 12-8)

AMCC Tournament

Saturday - Penn State-Behrend - 3
+LaRoche - 1

(Goals scored by Lang, Lightner, and Martin)

Sunday - Penn State-Behrend - 1
+Frostburg State - 0

(Goal scored by Helmkamp)

****Lions win the AMCC tournament title****

Women's Soccer (record 14-6)

ECAC Tournament

Saturday - Penn State-Behrend - 0
Vassar - 1

Women's Volleyball

AMCC Tournament

Saturday PSB - 15, 9, 15, 15
Pitt-Bradford - 8, 15, 10, 3

Up Coming Events

Cross Country:

Nov. 15 @ECAC Meet

Basketball:

Nov. 15 Fan Jam, men's and women's action

+ Denotes AMCC conference match-ups

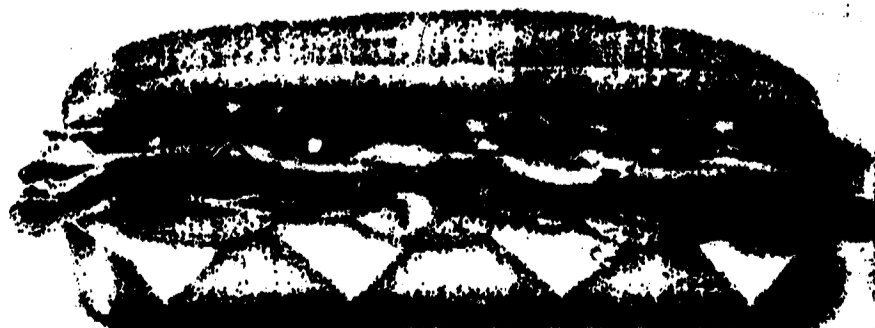
AMCC Tournament Finals

PSB - 15, 15, 11, 10, 10
Frostburg State - 14, 14, 15, 15, 15

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