



photo by Jason Blake

Sophomore guard Tiffany Buck pushes the ball ahead on the fast break in a playoff game against Lake Erie

Women's basketball heads towards ECAC

by Dylan Stewart
sports editor

Life after death is exactly what the Lady Lions now face after losing in the AMCC championship game last weekend to Pitt - Bradford by a score of 55 - 53.

The Lions now have a second chance in their post-season title quest as they were just recently invited to participate in the ECAC tournament this coming weekend in Wilkes - Barre, PA, at host school Kings College.

Only four teams from the region are invited to participate, as the Lady Lions made the cut with their 19 - 8 overall record and second place finish in the AMCC tournament.

"The ECAC bid is a great gift to our seniors, coaches, and the rest of our team," said head coach Roz Fornari. "Anything past your regular season is great," added Fornari.

"I'm glad I'm getting this opportunity my senior year," said senior captain Nikki Schultz. "It's a nice way to go out," added Schultz.

Under the guidance of head coach Roz Fornari, who sports an excellent 83 - 48 record in five seasons at Behrend, the Lady Lions will be making their fifth post-season appearance in the last seven years.

"We have had a very good season. We're looking forward to the ECAC tournament opportunity and hoping to end the year with a victory," said Fornari.

Behrend (19 - 8) will enter the tournament as the number four seed, going up against number one seed and host school Kings College (21 - 50).

The winner will then face the winner of the second seed Pitt - Bradford (17 - 9) and third seeded Grove City (16 - 8) in the championship on Sunday.

In the championship game last Sunday against Pitt - Bradford, the Lady Lions held the Panthers to just 14 first half points, to end the half with a 22 - 14 lead.

In the second half, however, the effects of playing without senior captain Emily Marini (pulled calf) for the whole game, with the exception of the last five minutes, and maybe tired legs from playing three games in four days, seemed to shine through as the Lady Lions were outscored 41 - 31 in just the second period.

"We played great defense all tournament, except for parts of the Pitt - Bradford game. Particularly the second half," said senior captain Emily Marini.

"It made a big difference to not have our go to person in the game (referring to Emily Marini). She's a warrior, she came out at the end and gave it the best she could," said Fornari.

"Overall, the whole team just didn't finish. We just couldn't seem to catch any breaks in the second half," added Fornari.

The Lady Lions were narrowly outshot from the field in the contest by a count of 44% (23 - 52), to 41% (19 - 46).

Senior captain Nikki Schultz poured in 12 points and 4 rebounds in the losing effort, while sophomore guard Tiffany

Buck knocked in 11 points on 3 - 6 shooting from three - point land.

Kim Moses netted 9 points, while coming up huge on the defensive end with 7 steals.

The day before on Saturday, the Lady Lions smashed Frostburg State in the semi - finals by a score of 73 - 53.

The Lions jumped out to a large 39 - 25 lead in the first half, as senior Nikki Schultz scored Behrend's first 11 points of the game.

The Lady Lions shot an impressive 86% (19 - 22) from the free throw line, while also shooting a solid 45% (25 - 55) from the field.

The Lions stingy defense, which is ranked forth in the nation in points allowed per game (45.8), held Frostburg to just 31% (19 - 61) from

the field for the game.

Schultz finished the game with a team high 22 points, while also adding 7 rebounds.

Carrie Nestor turned in an amazing performance, as she scored 12 points, pulled down 8 boards, dished out 10 assists, and came away with 5 steals. Jen O'Lare poured in 13 points, as Jamie Lorenzo knocked in 11 with 3 - 3 shooting from behind the arc.

"If we are going to compete for the ECAC title, we have to play with confidence in our system," said Fornari. "We have to play like we did Saturday against Frostburg."

In the first round of the AMCC tournament on Thursday, the Lady Lions handed Lake Erie a merciless beating in front of a packed house at Eerie Hall by a score of 78 - 35.

Tiffany Buck and Lisa Sanders each scored 14 points, as Buck also grabbed 9 boards.

Kim Moses netted 9 points, with 4 blocked shots and two steals.

Emily Marini and Jen O'Lare each scored 10 and 9 points respectively.

The Lady Lions now have until Saturday to prepare for Kings College, who boasts a very talented point guard and post player, not to mention a size advantage.

"We can do it," said Emily Marini. "We just need to execute more consistently offensively," added Marini.

"We are ready to explode, we're like dynamite," boasted Kim Moses.

If the Lady Lions explode like dynamite, don't be surprised if they blow up a few teams over the weekend and bring home an ECAC title.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Always consistent Paloskey takes home ATW

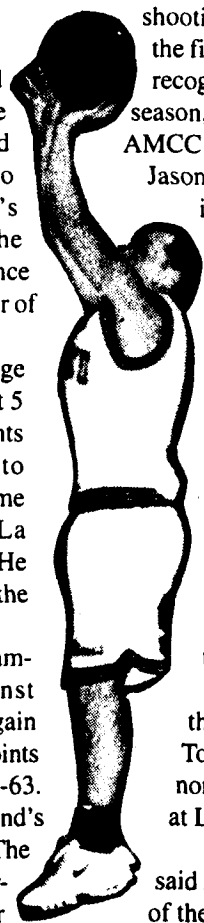
by David Reynolds
staff writer

Junior Jason Paloskey is this week's Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week. The 5' 11" guard helped lead Behrend to two victories in last week's AMCC Tournament, as the Lions snatched the conference championship in its first year of existence.

Against La Roche College last Saturday, Paloskey shot 5 for 10, pouring in 13 points as Behrend advanced to Sunday's championship game by narrowly defeating La Roche by a score of 59-58. He also grabbed 5 rebounds in the win.

In the following day's championship game against Frostburg State, Paloskey again was productive, scoring 8 points as Behrend won handily, 76-63.

Paloskey is one of Behrend's most consistent players. The three-year letterman is averaging a solid 11 points per game, through 26 games so



far this season. He has also been shooting a respectable .409 from the field. Recently, Paloskey was recognized for his steady play this season, being awarded second team AMCC post-season honors.

Jason, who is from Renovo, PA, is a 1995 graduate of Bucktail Area High School. While there, he split time between three sports, playing baseball and football in addition to basketball.

Looking back on the regular season, Jason said, "The season went pretty well, but not as well as I'd hoped. There was a lot of adversity. Andy Lawrence and a couple of other guys went down to injury. Overall, though, it went pretty well."

Behrend now moves on to the ECAC Southern Region Tournament. They play Lebanon Valley at 8:00 pm Saturday, at Lebanon Valley.

"It'll be a tough game," said Paloskey. "It should be one of the toughest of the year."

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