

Lady Lions basketball remain undefeated in AMCC play

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Behrend women's basketball team is off to a 4-0 start in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. The Lady Lions downed Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg this past week to keep them atop the AMCC standings entering the final month of the regular season. Behrend then hosted Washington and Jefferson where the women improved their overall record to 11-6.

The Lady Lions took their 2-0 conference record into Pitt-Bradford on January 20 in hopes of leaving with sole possession of first place in the AMCC. Also weighing heavily on the minds of the Behrend women was a heartbreaking loss to Pitt-Bradford in the AMCC championship game last season, 55-53.

A strong first half by the Lions saw them enter the half with a 10 point lead at 32-22. The Lions shot 44.8% (13/29) in the first half while limiting the Panthers to 29.6% (8/27) shooting from the field. The Panthers, however, entered the second half with more success. Pitt-Bradford's leading scorer Lora Figley scored 17 points on the game and teamed with guard Amy Goss who went 4/9 from three-point land to close the gap late in the game.

Behrend was able to counter with four Lions scoring in double-figures. Jen O'Lare led the Lions in scoring with 18 points on 4/7 shooting from the field and 10/10 from the free-throw line. Carrie Nestor again had an all-around good game going 3/7 from the field and 8/8 from the charity stripe for 14 points to match her number. She added six assists, five rebounds and four steals. Tiffany Buck and Erin Phillips both scored 10 for the Lions as Buck went 2/3 from behind the arc. Phillips pulled down six rebounds including two offensive. Overall, the Behrend women went 25/27 from the charity stripe.

The Panthers outscored the Lions 42-37 in the second half to pull close, but it was not enough as Behrend pulled out a 69-64 win.

The Lady Lions then traveled to Pitt-Greensburg to face the struggling AMCC opponent. The Lions dominated from the start as



Carrie Nestor passes the ball in Behrend's 56-43 win against Washington and Jefferson

photo by Jason Blake



The Lady Lions huddle up on their way to a 4-0 conference lead

Photos by Jason Blake

again, they featured a balanced scoring attack. Phillips led the Lions with 17 points on 6/8 shooting as Buck, O'Lare and Kate Costanzo all reached double-figures with 15, 14, and 11 points, respectively. Buck and Costanzo combined for 6-12 from three-point land. Although Nestor didn't break the scoring column, she provided a spark for the Lions with 11 assists and 9 steals.

Pitt-Bradford's leading scorer Amy Schmuck was the only double-figure scorer for her team with 16 points. The Lions forced 29 turnovers to give them a 66-46 win. The win moved Behrend

to a perfect 4-0 start in the AMCC and a four game winning streak overall.

The Lady Lions then returned to Erie Hall to face the Washington and Jefferson Presidents. The Behrend women defeated W & J earlier in the season 71-57 and hoped to add to their winning streak.

In a low scoring first half, the Lady Lions took advantage of the Presidents' poor ball control and shooting to take a 24-15 lead into the locker room. Jacqueline Jackson provided a spark off the bench pulling down seven of her game high ten rebounds in the first half.

Despite a slow start to the second half, the Lions were able to adjust and pull away in the closing minutes for a 56-43 non-conference win. Jackson also led Behrend in points with 13. O'Lare scored 12 points, pulled down six boards and dished off three assists. Also contributing for the Lady Lions were Lisa Sanders, Buck and Nestor who all scored seven points. Nestor's hustle throughout the game created many turnovers and opportunities for her teammates. To go with her seven points, she added six assists, six

rebounds and six steals.

To this point in the season, the Lady Lions are shooting 43% from the field and 65% from the free-throw line. They have averaged outscoring their opponents 65-55 through 17 games. The Behrend women still have alot to shoot for this season as Carrie Nestor (336 assists) aims to take over Wendy Ebinger's career assist record of 386. Tiffany Buck is only one three-pointer away from taking over Becky Swartz's 109 three-pointers and is only ten away from Lisa Dorenkamp's 118. Head

coach Roz Fornari needs only seven more victories for 100 in her career as Behrend coach.

The Lady Lions will take their five-game winning streak and 4-0 conference record into this Saturday, January 30's game against LaRoche in Erie Hall. The women will tip-off the doubleheader at 6:00 p.m. LaRoche enters the game with a 1-2 conference record and 2-10 overall. The women will then welcome Lake Erie College to Erie Hall on February 3. The Lions won their previous game against Lake Erie, 70-32.

Behrend men split pair of conference games

by Matt Buser
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend men's basketball team split a pair of conference games in this past week's action, losing 77-61 at Pitt-Bradford, and winning 51-50 at Pitt-Greensburg.

This past week's play left the Lions with a 12-3 overall record, 3-1 in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. Behrend traveled last night to Hamburg, N.Y., to play 4-9 Hilbert College. Hilbert's last game was a 86-65 loss to St. John Fisher, the top-ranked team in the NCAA Division III East Region, whose only loss was to the Behrend Lions. Details of the game will be in next weeks Beacon.

The loss at Pitt-Bradford on Wednesday, January 20, was the Lions' first conference setback of the season. Five players from Pitt-Bradford scored in double figures, and the team made nine three-pointers, compared to Behrend's three.

For Behrend, guard Brock Bovaird led the way with thirteen points, followed by forward Chris Hughes and guard Jason Paloskey, each with eleven. Hughes also led

the Lions with seven rebounds.

Pitt-Bradford got off to a quick start and led 38-25 at halftime. Behrend was never able to recover and lost to the Panthers for the third consecutive time, dating back to last season. Pitt-Bradford is tops in the conference with a 3-0 mark, followed by Behrend at 3-1.

The rematch will be on Wednesday, February 10, at Erie Hall.

Behrend rebounded at Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday, January 23. A strong second half offensively and defensively carried them to a win in the close contest.

As a team, the Lions shot only 29% (6/21) in the first half, and were down 25-21. The team shot 60% (12/20) in the second half, and outscored the Bobcats 30-25 to claim a 51-50 win. Pitt-Greensburg shot 45% (9/20) in the first half, but the Lions clamped down and held them to 32% (8/25) in the second half.

Hughes led the Lions with fourteen points, followed by forward Brian Emick with eleven. Emick led the team in rebounds with eight, followed by Bovaird with seven.

Following last night's non-conference game against Hilbert, the Lions enter a stretch in which they will play five consecutive conference

games, and their play will determine what plans they will make for the postseason. Four of those five games are at home, beginning with a game

against LaRoche this Saturday, January 30, at 8:00 p.m. in Erie Hall. The men then play host to Lake Erie next Wednesday, February 3, at 8:00



Brian Emick goes up for two.

photo by Jason Blake

AMCC Athlete of the Week

January 18 - January 25

Erin Phillips

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL