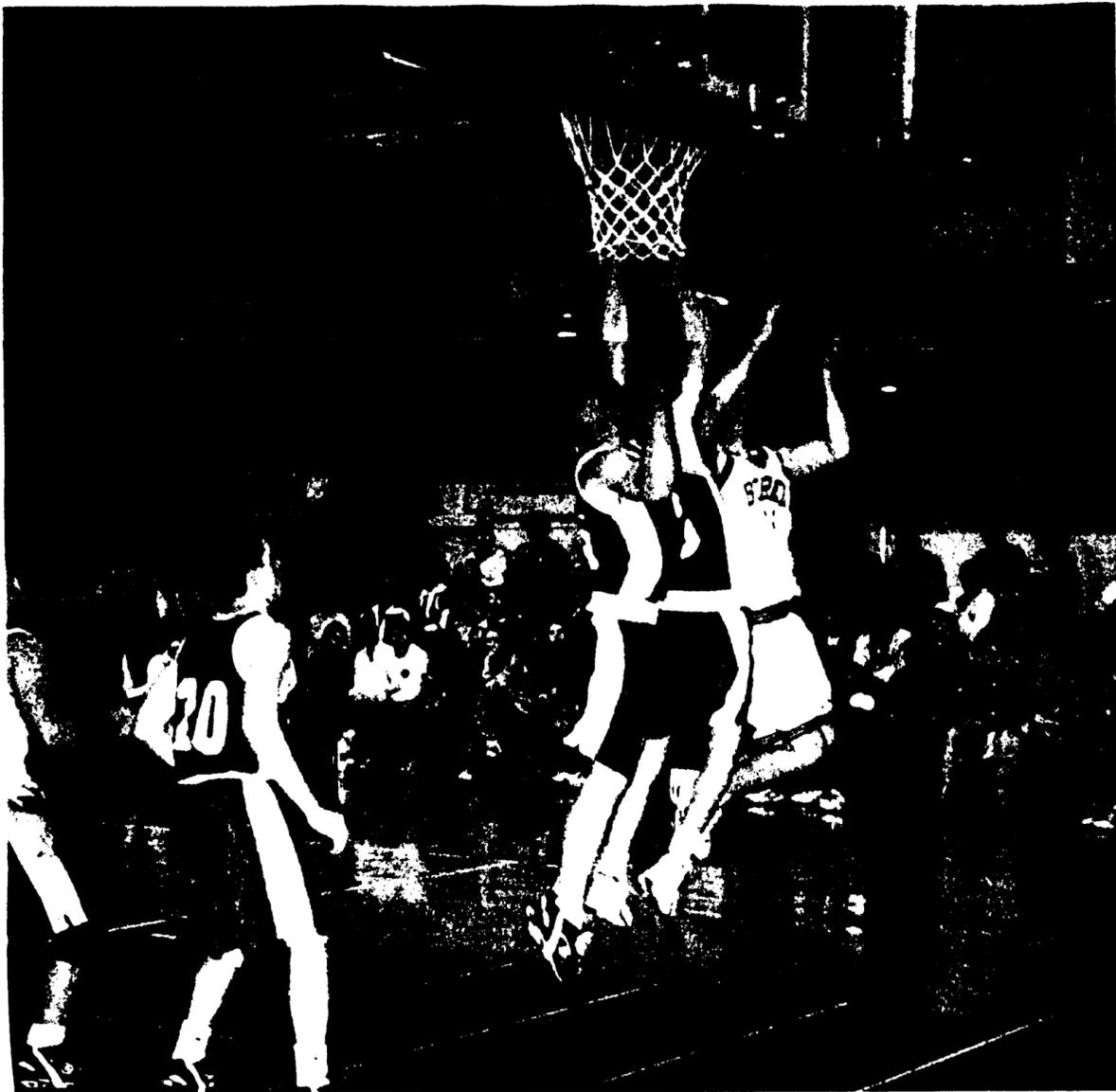


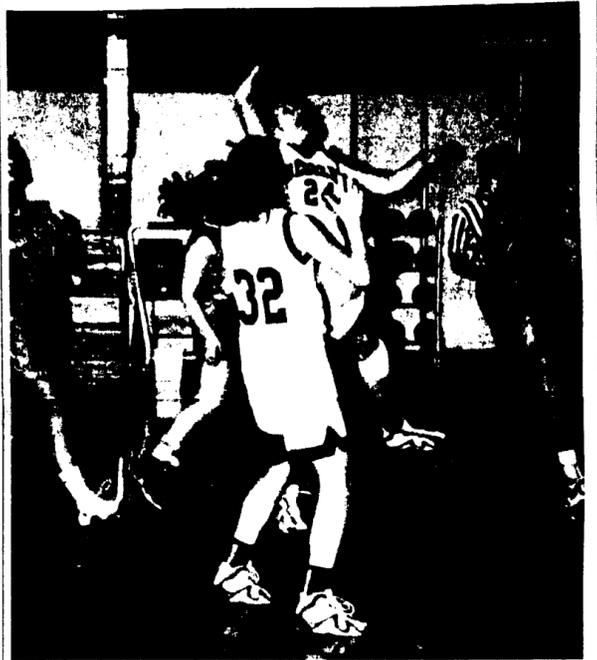
LIONS CLINCH TITLE

Behrend men and women clinch regular season AMCC titles



The Lions punish Pitt-Bradford down low. The Behrend men pulled out a 71-63 victory over the conference rival this past week.

photo by Jason Blake



Kate Costanzo and Christine Charnock provide a spark off the bench.

photo by Jason Blake

by Matt Buser
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend men secured home court advantage for the upcoming Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) playoffs with exciting wins over the two teams tied for second place in the conference.

In this past week's action, the Lions avenged their only conference loss of the season by beating Pitt-Bradford 71-63 in Erie Hall on Wednesday, February 10. They followed that win up with a 66-64 victory over visiting Pitt-Greensburg this past Saturday, February 13.

The wins improved the Lions' conference record to 8-1, while dropping both UPB and UPG to 5-3. The AMCC playoffs will come to Erie Hall on Saturday and Sunday, February 27-28.

"We're undefeated at home (11-0), and we plan on keeping that streak going," senior guard Jason Paloskey said.

The men also played a non-conference game this past Monday at Waynesburg (15-8), and were defeated 82-73. Their overall record going into last night's action against Allegheny College was 18-4. The Behrend squad remains ranked second in the most recent NCAA Division III East Regional Poll.

"We worked hard at practice and we've got our confidence back up."

Paloskey said before last night's game. "Allegheny is a tough squad, ranked regionally, but we're definitely looking to rebound from that loss at Waynesburg."

Details of the game versus Allegheny will be in the next Beacon.

Behrend's 71-63 win against Pitt-

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Bradford was a hard-fought game. Behrend led for all but 2:30 of the game, but the lead was never more than seven points until the final minute.

The teams played an evenly matched first half. Behrend's largest lead of the half was 21-15 at 10:00, but PBU ran off a 9-2 run and led 24-23 with 6:20 remaining. Behrend and PBU traded baskets until forward Andy Lawrence hit a three-pointer at :06 to give Behrend a 38-34 lead at the break.

The second half played much like the first. Center Nate Willson's basket made it 51-44 in Behrend's favor with

10:55 remaining. PBU then went on a 11-3 run that included a pair of three-pointers to go up 55-54 at the 5:30 mark.

Down the stretch run, the Lions took control. They outscored Pitt-Bradford 15-2 over the next 3:50 and had the game in hand at 69-57 with :40 to play. PBU hit two three-pointers in the final moments to make the score appear respectable.

Guard Brock Bovaird led four Lions in double figures with twenty points, and also led the team with eight rebounds, had three assists and no turnovers. Center Chris Hughes scored sixteen and grabbed five boards, and Paloskey and Lawrence each scored thirteen. Lawrence also led the team with four assists and two steals, and forward Brian Emick grabbed seven rebounds.

Saturday's 66-64 win over visiting Pitt-Greensburg clinched home court advantage for the Lions. A big game from Paloskey helped lead the Lions to the victory. He scored 23, including sixteen in the second half, on 9-13 (69%) shooting. Hughes also turned in an excellent game, scoring sixteen and grabbing nine boards. Bovaird scored fifteen, made 4-5 three-pointers, had six assists, and again committed no turnovers. Willson also chipped in with five rebounds.

The entire game was a nail-biter. The score was tied 34-34 at the half after forward John Park hit a three as the first half drew to a close. Hughes and Bovaird led the Lions with ten points each in the first half.

After even play early in the second half, Behrend took the lead for good with sixteen minutes to play. The lead, however, was a tenuous one. It grew to as many as seven, but PGU closed the lead to one point on four separate occasions. The Lions again played big during the stretch run, held PGU at bay, and gave the Erie Hall faithful one to remember.

The Behrend men suffered a letdown when they list at Waynesburg 82-73 this past Monday. Following a pair of physically and emotionally draining conference wins with their third game in five days worked against the Lions.

The fact that Waynesburg shot 76% (16-21) in the second half and 62% (32-52) overall may have contributed as well. Waynesburg also outrebounded the Lions 42-26.

The Lions couldn't make up for a poor first half in which they shot only 29% (9-31) from the floor. They found themselves down 35-26 at the half. Behrend finished the game at 39% (28-74), as both teams scored 47 points in the second half.

Paloskey led the team with nineteen points and five assists. Bovaird scored eleven, and Willson scored ten and grabbed eight boards.

The Lions play one game before the start of the AMCC playoffs when they travel to LaRoche College for their final regular season and conference game. LaRoche is currently 4-4 in the conference and 9-12 overall.

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Penn State Behrend Lady Lions didn't disappoint in their quest to earn the right to host the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Tournament to be held on February 27 and 28. In their final two conference games, the Behrend women defeated two of the AMCC's top teams in Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg. The Lions played their last regular season home game last night vs. Allegheny College.

In the Behrend women's first game of their three-game home stand, they welcomed the 5-2 Pitt-Bradford Panthers to Erie Hall. The Lions jumped on their opponent early behind Jen O'Lare who scored Behrend's first eight points. Tiffany Buck's three-point show sparked the Lions to a 31-27 halftime lead. O'Lare finished the first half with 15 points as Buck added 12 points with four three-pointers. Behrend shot 12-26 (46%) from the field, while holding Pitt-Bradford to 9-28 (32%) from the field and 1-5 from three-point land.

The Lady Lions continued their shooting advantage throughout the second half shooting 50% as opposed to the Panther's 39%. Pitt-Bradford, however, was able to take advantage of 20 Behrend turnovers to outscore the Lions 31-30 in the second half.

Erin Phillips made a strong contribution in the second half, scoring 14 points on the game on 6-10 shooting. Buck continued her pin-point shooting after the intermission, finishing with 20 points on 7-11 shooting from the field and 6-10 from behind the arc. O'Lare added four to her 15 to finish with 19 as Carrie Nestor scored six points and added five assists, four rebounds, and two steals.

The Lady Lions clinched the win with two free throws by Nestor in the closing seconds to pull out the 61-58 win.

The Behrend women then welcomed Pitt-Greensburg to Erie Hall with hopes of clinching the AMCC regular season title and earning the right to host the AMCC Tournament. Pitt-Greensburg entered the game with a 2-6 record in the AMCC, but

brought one of the conference's top performers in Amy Schmuck. Schmuck averaged over 17 points per game and eight rebounds per game on the year.

Pitt-Greensburg hung close early in the contest, forcing 17 Behrend turnovers. Schmuck scored ten points in the first half to rival Behrend's Phillips who scored nine for the Lions. Nestor, scoring six points and grabbing four rebounds, sparked the Lions with her aggressive play. Behrend held a slight advantage in a half of poor shooting by both teams, shooting 38% from the field as opposed to Pitt-Greensburg's 33%. The Lady Lions entered the locker room with a quiet 27-22 lead.

The second half featured a different attitude for the Behrend women as they quickly pulled away. Lisa Sanders began the second half hitting two three-pointers on her way to scoring ten points.

Down the stretch, both teams took advantage of their inside strength as Schmuck battled foul trouble to finish with 22 points to keep the score respectable. Behrend pulled away, going down low to Erin Phillips who played big in the second half. For the game, Phillips scored a career high 32 points on 8-11 from the field and 16-20 from the free throw line. She pulled down a game high 12 rebounds including five on the offensive glass. She added an assist and a block for the career game.

Nestor, again had an all-around game with seven points, six rebounds, six assists, and two steals. Jacqueline Jackson provided inside strength off the bench with seven points and eight rebounds.

The Lions outscored the Lady Bobcats, 43-32 in the second half to clinch the 70-54 win and the AMCC regular season title.

The Lady Lions were 15-7 overall entering last night's game against Allegheny College. Details from the contest will be in next week's Beacon.

Behrend will conclude their regular season with a conference game against LaRoche College (4-15) on February 20 at 6:00 p.m. The AMCC tournament will begin on February 27 and 28 in Erie Hall.

AMCC Tournament in Erie Hall

February 27 and 28

Times to be announced

