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Lady Lions crowned AMCC champs Behrend hosts Men's and Women's Tournaments

by Jason Snyder
sports editor

The Behrend Lady Lions' basketball team captured their first ever Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) championship this past weekend. The Behrend men bowed out in the first round, but still qualified for the ECAC Division III Play-offs.

After a regular season that saw both teams finish atop the AMCC, both the men's and women's tournaments were held in Erie Hall. Sports Information Director Paul Benim commented on the experience saying, "Brian Streeter and the Athletic Department did an outstanding job with the tournament."

The opening round of the tournament took place on Thursday, February 25 as both the Behrend men and women earned a bye with their #1 rankings in the conference. In the men's bracket, #4 LaRoche and #3 Pitt-Bradford advanced to the semifinals with wins over #5 Frostburg State and #6 Lake Erie. The women's first round games also saw #4 LaRoche and #3 Pitt-Bradford advance with wins over #5 Pitt-Greensburg and #6 Lake Erie.

The Thursday results set up Saturday's games in Erie Hall. The men's semifinal round tipped-off at 1:00 p.m. as #2 Pitt-Greensburg faced #3 Pitt-Bradford. Pitt-Greensburg held off the challenge of Pitt-Bradford, 68-60 to advance to Sunday's final versus the winner of the LaRoche/Behrend game played at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

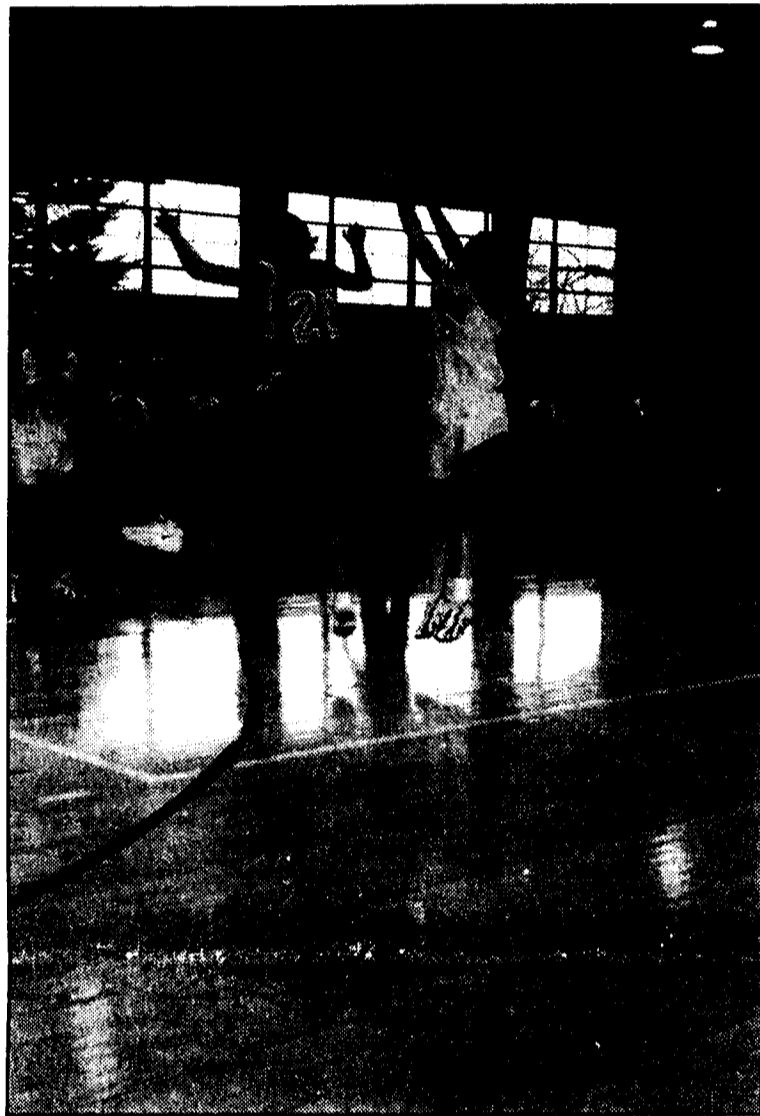
The Behrend men entered the semifinal game against LaRoche needing

a win to have a chance to qualify for the national tournament. The men were already consistently ranked in the NCAA's East regional rankings and hoped a win against LaRoche would propel them to the 1999 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championships.

The Behrend men led by as many as 15 points, until a late rally by LaRoche tied the game to send it to overtime. LaRoche outscored the Lions by two in the extra session to come away with a 70-68 upset. The loss was Behrend's fourth straight to end the season, which ended all hopes of a tournament bid. However, the Lions still posted a strong enough record at 18-7 to qualify for the ECAC tournament that began last night against Grove City in Erie Hall (results in next issue of the Beacon).

After the conclusion of the Behrend men's basketball game, the women's semifinal round began as #2 Frostburg State, who defeated Behrend earlier in the season, was eliminated by another tough opponent in #3 Pitt-Bradford. Following the 6:00 p.m. game, the Lady Lions took the floor for a semifinal match-up with LaRoche. The Behrend women were coming off an upsetting overtime defeat only one week previously that handed them their second loss in the AMCC.

The Lady Lions were held to a seven-point lead at halftime, but poured on the offense and defense to come away with a 63-48 win. The win set up a rematch of last season's AMCC championship final between Behrend and Pitt-Bradford. The Lady Panthers pulled off an emotional 55-



Tiffany Buck shoots for three in the Lady Lions' AMCC Championship game

photo by Jason Blake

53 win in 1998 to capture the AMCC hardware.

The women's game was scheduled to follow the men's championship contest that took place at 2:00 p.m. In the first game of the championship double-header, Pitt-Greensburg fought for a two-point victory winning 79-77. Pitt-Greensburg's Jason Trout could be considered the tournament MVP as he was named AMCC Athlete of the Week following the conference tourney.

As the court cleared after Pitt-Greensburg's celebrations, the Lady Lions took the floor for their contest with Pitt-Bradford at 4:00 p.m. The game was a classic as both teams swapped the lead continuously throughout the first half. The Behrend women relied on the play of junior guard Carrie Nestor and freshman forward Erin Phillips who combined for 39 of Behrend's 61 points. Contributions by all Lions' players led to the win and the first ever AMCC Championship.

An overwhelmed Benim commented, "Sunday was just a very special day for the women in particular. It was a great game. It was nip and tuck, back and forth. And to see them pull it out and the celebration afterward...good media coverage and TV and cutting down the nets...the whole nine yards. It was great. We

certainly tip our cap to Coach Fornari and her group."

Behrend's Nestor was then named AMCC Athlete of the Week for her clutch tournament play. She sparked the Lions throughout the weekend in all facets of her play.

The game was followed by the trophy presentation and cutting down of the nets, as the packed Erie Hall stayed in attendance. Head coach Roz Fornari was recognized for winning her 100th game in only her sixth season.

The AMCC All-Conference Awards were also announced throughout the course of the weekend. Receiving first team recognition were Chris Jacklich - Pitt-Bradford, Jason Trout - Pitt-Greensburg, Damian Hall - LaRoche, and Brock Bovaird and Andy Lawrence, both from the Behrend Lions. Second team consisted of Matt Barnes - Pitt-Bradford, Chris Horne - Pitt-Greensburg, Rod Gallagher - LaRoche, and Jason Paloskey and Chris Hughes of Behrend. Behrend's Bovaird was also recognized as the AMCC Player of the Year and head coach Dave Niland was named AMCC Coach of the Year.

The Lady Lions had no first team

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Full AMCC Tourney coverage
in the Sports Section

Behrend Professor takes Erie citizens on ride through space

by Ryan Cannon
staff writer

This past Thursday night, Dr. Darren Williams, Assistant Professor of Physics here at Behrend, entertained the audience and its curiosity about habitable planets during the Astronomy Open House. From the moment that the fourth demonstration of the 1998/99 Astronomy Open House Series began, it was obvious that the evening was going to be wonderfully intriguing. Through the use of computer aided displays and animation, Williams incorporated his expertise to educate the audience on celestial matters.

The voyage began as the inquisitive crew and their captain traveled back five hundred years to the days of the Polish Astronomer Nicholas Copernicus. This is when interest in the cosmos first began. During this time, religion had powerful influence on every decision, and astronomers were despised because of their new discoveries and beliefs about the universe. One such astronomer accu-

rately stated that the universe has innumerable suns and earths that revolve like ours, and there very well could be life elsewhere. Shortly after pronouncing this, he was executed. The church did not care for the idea of life existing somewhere other than Earth.

Because of technological advances astronomers can ponder extraterrestrial life. Today aliens are featured in mundane things like movies such as *Star Wars* and *E.T.* After Dr. Williams discussed the role of aliens in today's media, he moved on to the requirements of life.

Earth is the only known planet to have liquid water; which is perhaps the most essential ingredient for life. Other necessities that a planet must possess to support life are: an atmosphere and an orbit that lies in the "Habitable Zone." This zone in the area around a star that contains the appropriate temperatures that life demands. Earth is the only planet in our

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How much is that book?

by Shannon Weber
news editor

Part of being a Behrend student is getting your course books from the only bookstore on campus, the Penn State Bookstore. Many students are resentful of the bookstore's prices, its monopoly on course book sales and their buyback policy. However, bookstore managers claim that their policies are in accordance with industry standards.

All required course books that are sold in the bookstore are chosen by the professors. Professors are concerned about the text book prices. Some professors request paperback editions, if available to keep cost down. Brad Johnson, a professor in the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, told the Beacon that they inform the bookstore about the students getting their books through the Society of Plastics Engineers. He said that the students usually order them in a group and are able to get a few books through them for a cheaper rate.

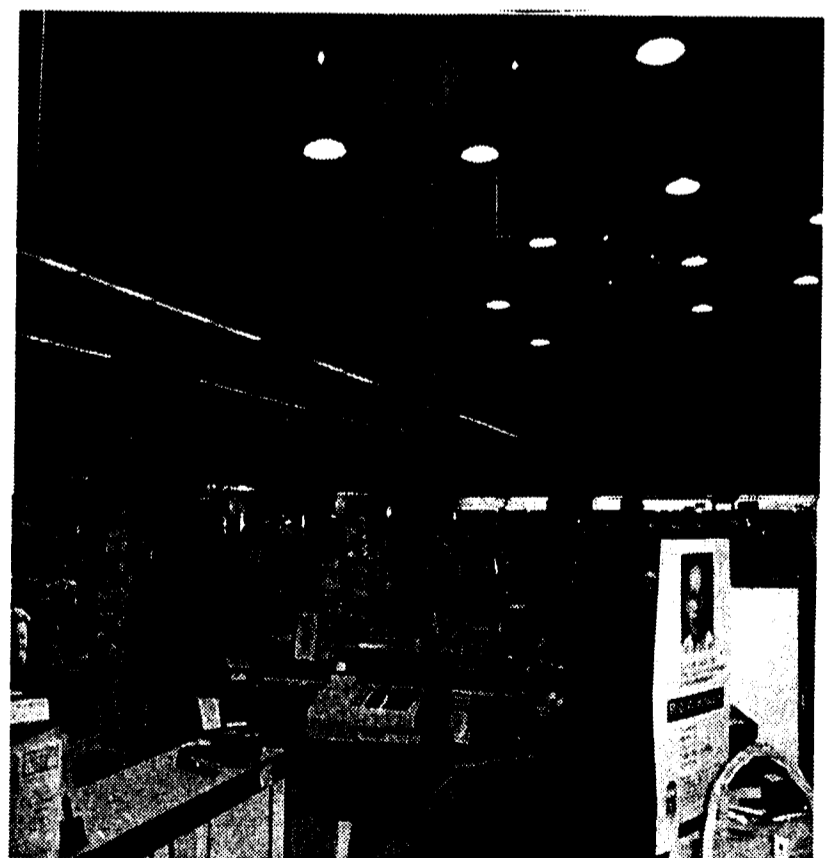
The publishing companies sell the books to the bookstore, run by Barnes and Noble at a set cost. They also have a selling price that they must follow.

The bookstore adds a minimum markup to their purchase cost to cover the expenses of operation. If no price is set by the publisher the bookstore will cover their expenses and include a fee to make a profit.

A typical way that each dollar is spent by a student, is divided first by the publisher. The publisher receives 67% or 67 cents of every new textbook dollar spent. This figure includes the cost of the book's development, expenses such as paper, graphic design marketing materials and the publisher's revenues. The author of the book receives approximately 9% or 9 cents and the freight companies get 2.5%.

An average of 9% of each dollar goes to the school to support academic programs and student activi-

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The on-campus bookstore

photo by Mike Frawley

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