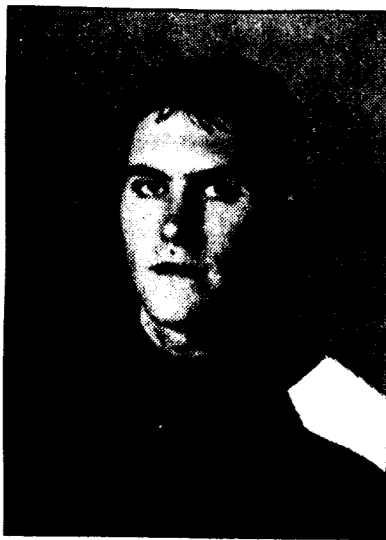


OVER THE EDGE

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Chris Hughes has been named this week's Housing and Food Service Athlete of the week. He is a starting center for the 22-2 men's basketball team. The Behrend Lions are also atop the AMCC with a 12-0 record, and have secured home court advantage for the AMCC tournament on Friday, February 25 and Saturday, February 26. They battle La Roche on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. in Erie Hall.

In the conference win over Pitt-Greensburg, Hughes was 10 of 15 from the floor and finished with a game high 22 points. He also pulled down 6 boards. In Saturday's win over the Lake Erie Storm, he led the charge again with 26 points on 10 of 17 from the floor and 6 of 7 from the line for 26 markers, and he also earned 11 boards.

On the season, he is currently leading the team with 18.6 points per game, and 7.1 rebounds per game.

Hughes is a graduate of Brockway High School.

Behrend Scores

Men's basketball

Behrend 75, Lake Erie 65

Up Next...

Feb. 25 AMCC Tourney vs La Roche 4:00 p.m.
Feb. 26 AMCC Championship Game 4:00 p.m.

Women's basketball

Behrend 63, Lake Erie 47

Up Next...

Feb. 25 AMCC Tourney vs La Roche 4:00 p.m.
Feb. 26 AMCC Championship Game 2:00 p.m.

* denotes away games
Bold type denotes AMCC opponents

Sports Spots

Althea Gibson was the first African-American to become an international tennis champion. In 1957, she won the women's singles title of the All England Championships on the famed Centre Court at Wimbledon while a capacity crowd including Queen Elizabeth II watched. A few weeks later she topped a strong women's contingent in the U.S. National Championship at Forest Hills N. Y. She repeated this double triumph in 1958. "I taught women to hit the ball hard," she said, "to play the passing game like the men."
Doris J. Harrington

TRIVIA

What NCAA division one men's basketball team scored the most points last season?

Answer: Duke, 3581 points

Coming Soon...

ARC

ATHLETIC AND REC CENTER
FALL 2000

AMCC TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Men accumulate 22 wins en route to tourney

by Matt Buser
staff writer

The Behrend men's basketball team established a number of goals before the season started, and now are beginning to see many of these goals become a reality.

The men finished the regular season on a high note this past Saturday, beating Lake Erie College 75-65. The win gave the men a 22-2 record, including an unblemished 12-0 in conference play. The 22 wins established a new school record, topping last year's total of 21.

"It was one of our goals when we started out," commented senior forward Andy Lawrence. Lawrence quipped, "But, the best thing about it is, I can look at those guys that played last year and say, 'We beat your record, it didn't even last one year.' I've already talked to [1999 senior forward] Brian Emick, and he's not too happy about it."

Next on the slate for the Lions is this weekend's Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) tournament, which takes place in Erie Hall on Friday and Saturday. Behrend, host and #1 seed, plays #4 La Roche at 8 p.m. on Friday. That game is preceded by #3 Pitt-Bradford taking on #2 Pitt-Greensburg at 6 p.m. The championship game is Saturday at 4 p.m.

La Roche advanced to the second round by beating Penn State-Altoona 89-82 on Wednesday night. Also on Wednesday, Pitt-Bradford defeated Frostburg 83-72, and Pitt-Greensburg downed Lake Erie 95-63 to advance.

In last year's AMCC tournament, also held in Erie Hall, Behrend was upset by La Roche in second-round action, losing 70-68 in overtime. Behrend won the team's two meetings of this regular season, 83-64 at home on December 11, and 75-59 at La Roche on January 29.

"The past two years of the tournament, the home team hasn't made it to the final game," said senior forward John Park. "So, that's

of course in our minds. We want to play well, and we want to win the tournament. That's our first goal. That was our first goal the first day we started practice."

Lawrence added, "Anything can happen. I mean, you never know, someone gets hot in the tournament, but, hopefully, we win it, and we can make NCAAs and continue our season."

Even with the home team's recent lack of success in the AMCC, hosting the tournament does have certain advantages.

Behrend Head Coach Dave Niland commented, "You're sleeping in your own bed, there's no question about travel logistics,



The men's basketball team prepares for their AMCC playoff game against La Roche on Friday. Behrend will be the number one seed entering the tournament.

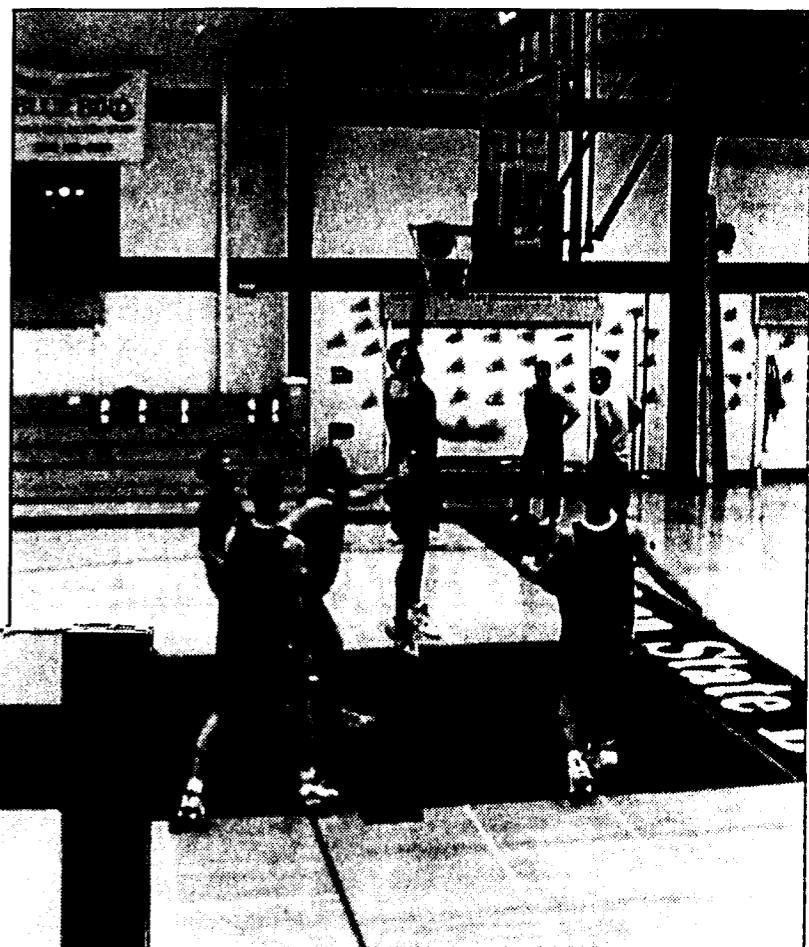


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Behrend Lions are entering the AMCC with a 12-0 conference record. In previous matchups against Friday's opponent La Roche, the Lions were victorious 83-64 and 78-63.

where you're going to do this or that. Those things are a lot easier, and they keep your focus better."

Behrend is still seeking an elusive bid to the Division III NCAA tournament. With a sparkling record and a ranking of third in the latest NCAA-D-III Great Lakes Re-

gion poll, the team's chances are good. The team's play in conference will help their cause.

"Winning the regular season was our first goal, and I think it's as important as winning your conference tournament, because there is no automatic [NCAA tournament] bid yet," said Niland. "If the bid's not there, winning the regular season holds as much weight."

Details of the AMCC tournament and Behrend's NCAA tournament fate will be in next week's special four-page issue of the *Beacon*.

Women hope to repeat last year's performance

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

After an 11-1 season in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), the Behrend women's basketball team will enter this weekend as the host for the 1999-2000 AMCC Tournament. The women's tournament will tip off on Friday, February 25, at 2:00 p.m. with #3 Penn State Altoona facing #2 Frostburg State. The Behrend women, #1 seed, will host #4 La Roche at 4:00 p.m. The championship game will be held on Saturday, February 26, at 2:00 p.m.

Behrend coach Roz Fornari and her players enter the weekend with hopes of repeating as AMCC Champions. The Lions defeated Pitt-Bradford in last year's championship game to take the conference crown. The win was highlighted by a balanced attack and an impressive spark from the bench.

The tournament will be the last for

seniors Carrie Nestor and Tiffany Buck. Nestor will leave Behrend as the all-time leader in steals and assists. Buck is Behrend's all-time leader in three-pointers. "There is some extra pressure on our seniors. They are very focused," said Fornari. "The other players don't want to let Carrie and Tiffany down."

"We want to repeat our performance from last year. I want my players to get rewarded for their hard work," said Fornari. The Lions return almost all of last year's players. However, Fornari sees this year's team entering the tournament with more "maturity and court presence."

Behrend's maturity will be tested in their opening round game against La Roche who the Lions defeated twice earlier in the season. The first game saw the teams play through regulation and into overtime as

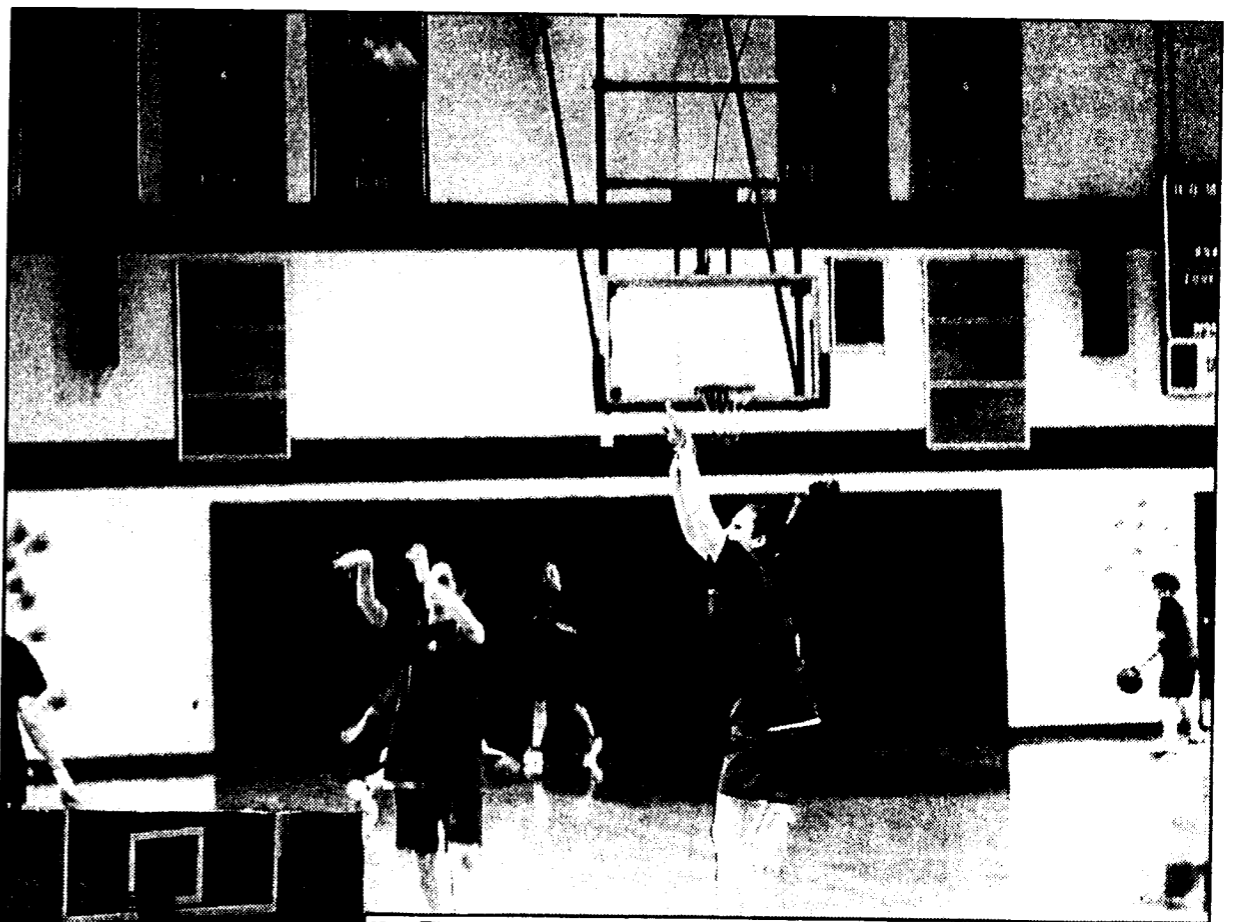


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The women's basketball team is looking to capture their second consecutive AMCC championship. The Lions will faceoff against La Roche Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Behrend pulled out a 59-54 victory. Second year forward Erin Phillips led the Lions with 13 points and 7 rebounds. Phillips also led the Lions in their second meeting with La Roche with 18 points for the 75-59 victory.

"Against La Roche, we need to attack inside, outside and full-court pressure," said Fornari. "There's no secret as to how to defend us. We just need to execute."

If Behrend is to win, they will face the winner of the Penn State Altoona vs. Frostburg game. The Lions swept Altoona in their regular season match-ups, 57-45 and 68-48.

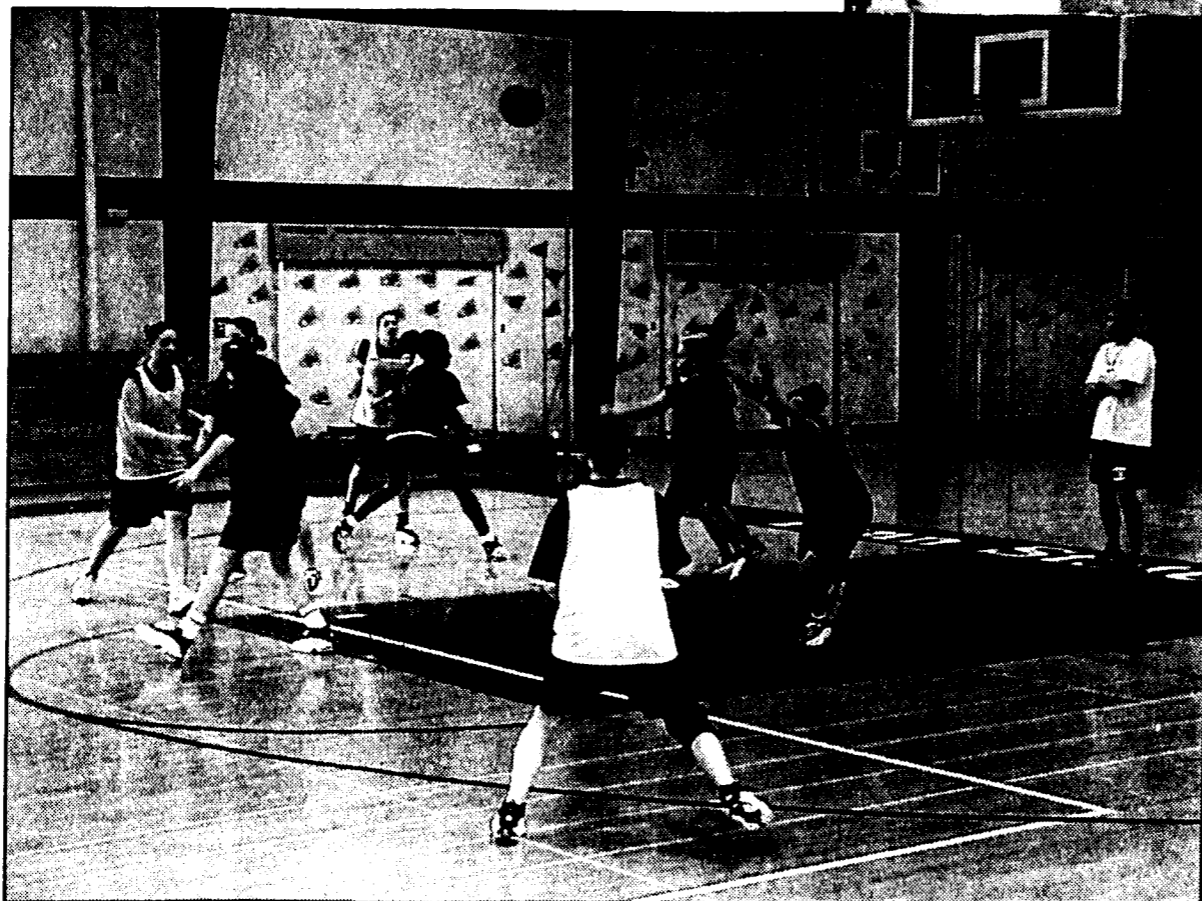
Behrend had their problems with Frostburg, splitting their season series. The Lions took the first game, 77-75, led by Phillips with 16 points. Frostburg was carried by one of the AMCC's top players Shannon

Rexrode, who scored 29 points and pulled down 16 rebounds.

Fornari's goal is for the Behrend women to "be consistent and disciplined." She added, "that's our advantage. If we do that, we will fare well."

"We're ready. Our players are well prepared," Fornari concluded. "I truly believe that the better 'team' will win. There are a lot of good individual players in this conference, but it will really come down to who has the better team."

The tournament will not necessarily mark the final game in Erie Hall for the Behrend women, pending an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) or NCAA playoff berth. Fornari realizes that the end of Erie Hall is "the closing of a good chapter. It makes us feel good that we could end Erie Hall on a good note."



With two overtime games against La Roche during the regular season, the Lions will face some tough competition on Friday.