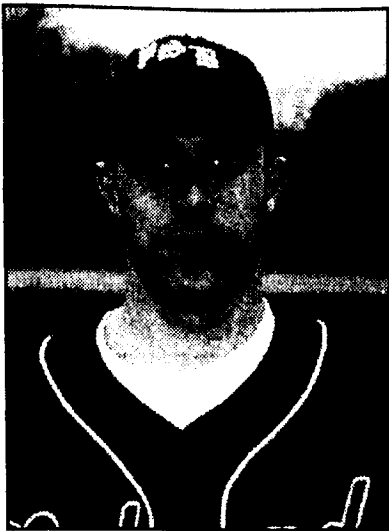


OVER THE EDGE

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Corey Walters has been named this week's Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. He is a senior and the starting left fielder for the Behrend Lions. The baseball team went 8-1 during their spring training week in Fort Pierce, Florida.

For the week, Walters was 13 of 28 at the plate (.464) with 10 RBI's. He also was 4 of 5 in stolen base attempts and had four extra base hits. Walters also contributed on the mound with a quality start against Neumann College. He pitched four innings, giving up one earned run, striking out four and walking one. Teammate Ryan Seyler pitched the final three innings to earn the save.

Walters is a graduate of McDowell High School.

Behrend Scores

Men's basketball

NCAA Tournament

Behrend 80, R.I.T. 65
Behrend 58, Cortland State 52
Behrend 69, Salem State 75

Men's baseball

Behrend 16, Curry 0
Behrend 7, Marywood 6
Behrend 7, Elizabethtown 4
Behrend 21, Wilkes 3
Behrend 8, Neumann 4
Behrend 8, Anna Maria 7
Behrend 0, William Penn 3
Behrend 12.15 Dubuque 10.3

Women's softball

Behrend 2,13, Neumann 3,4
Behrend 1,5, Kings 6,15
Behrend 6,13, Marywood 1,3

Men's Tennis

Behrend 0, Webber College 9
Behrend 0, Allegheny 9

Men's basketball falls in the NCAA Elite Eight

Season comes to an end versus Salem State

by Matt Buser
staff writer

The Behrend men completed the most successful campaign in school history this past weekend. Participating in the school's first-ever NCAA National Division III Tournament, the Lions won three games, advancing to the Elite Eight, before bowing out against Salem State on Saturday, March 11.

The men's record for the season stands at 26-4. The 26 wins represent the most by a team in school history.

After Behrend beat Alvernia (18-10) in the tournament opener at home on Thursday, March 2, they traveled to Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) two days later for second-round action. The Lions' excellent shooting (61%) led to an 80-65 rout of RIT (20-6), who shot only 43%.

Next for the men was NCAA Sectional play in Cortland, New York. The men faced host team SUNY Cortland on Friday, March 10, and, despite a size disadvantage, won the

game 58-52. Once again, shooting was the key, as Behrend shot 54% for the game, while limiting Cortland to 45% shooting.

"We shot the ball really well, and I think when you get into tournament play like this, you've got to shoot the ball well," said Behrend Head Coach Dave Niland.

The Lions then played Salem State College for the rights to advance to the Final Four. Once again, Behrend found themselves the smaller team, and despite shooting 54% to Salem State's 50%, Behrend was defeated 75-69. The key statistic in the loss was Salem State's 33-18 advantage in rebounds, including 16 offensive rebounds to Behrend's four.

"It just came down to physical size," commented Niland. "They just had more than we did, and it caught us."

Senior forward Andy Lawrence agreed. "The teams were huge, starting 6'8" or 6'9" across the frontcourt. They were good teams, and we lost to a good team. It just



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Behrend's Chris Hughes tries to block a shot versus Alvernia in the first game of the NCAA division III tournament. Hughes led the men's squad in the tournament with a total of 83 points, 24 rebounds, and 9 assists.

wasn't our night."

Behrend's win against Alvernia in Erie Hall was the catalyst for the team's success in the tournament.

"When we beat Alvernia, we knew we really belonged," said sophomore Guard Matt Keith. "Before that, we

were just excited to get into the tournament."

"It gave us a lot of confidence," said Niland. "I think also, we've had enough experience in the postseason, whether it's the ECACs or this. Our guys really felt that they could play with anybody."

Despite the loss, the tournament was a great experience, though sometimes difficult to put into words, for the players and coaches.

"It was amazing," said Keith. "We got there, and they gave us breakfast and stuff like that. It was just a lot different than anything else we had ever experienced."

"It felt good. It was different. I didn't think I'd ever get to be there," commented Lawrence. "I don't know how to explain it, it was a weird feeling, but it was fun."

"I'm sure it's something that they won't forget, and I know I won't, as far as our run in the tournament," said Niland. "I'm grateful to our players for all their hard work and for the memories, because it's something we can certainly build on, and I think it has instilled confidence in our

returning players."

During Behrend's four game run, contributions came from a number of players. Senior center Chris Hughes totaled 83 points, 24 rebounds, and nine assists. Lawrence had 47 points, 18 rebounds, and six steals. Senior forward John Park chipped in 16 points, six rebounds, six assists, and made four three-pointers.

Senior forward and captain Nate Willson battled an ankle injury the entire tournament, but helped the cause with six points, 12 rebounds, and nine assists. Sophomore guard Andy Berchtold had 16 points. Junior guard Ashley Orris nailed ten three-pointers, scored 46 points, and also had 15 rebounds and 15 assists. Keith hit 16 three-pointers and scored 57 points, dished out seven assists, and had five steals.

Look for the 1999-2000 Behrend Lions basketball season in review, coming in next week's *Beacon*. We'll look back on the season's accomplishments, and talk about the legacy of this year's basketball team's senior class.



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Andy Berchtold releases a jump shot during the Lions' final game basketball game at Erie Hall. Berchtold, a sophomore, will be one of the men's basketball players returning next season.

BASKETBALL TEAMS EXPRESS SPIRIT



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Penn State Behrend teams have supported one another all season long. Pictured above is the women's basketball team which attended the men's game versus Alvernia. The *Beacon* would like to congratulate both teams on a successful season and wish them the best of luck next year.

Sports Spots



Despite the fact his shot wasn't overpowering, his speed didn't dazzle the opposition and his slighthness of stature wouldn't qualify him as a physical threat, Wayne Gretzky nevertheless managed to set some 50 odd National Hockey League records. Dubbed "The Great One", he is generally regarded as Canada's most important export. Said Gordie Howe, yet another NHL legend, "Wayne is one tough little bopper." *Dennis J. Harrington*

TRIVIA

What NCAA division one men's basketball team has won the most championships?

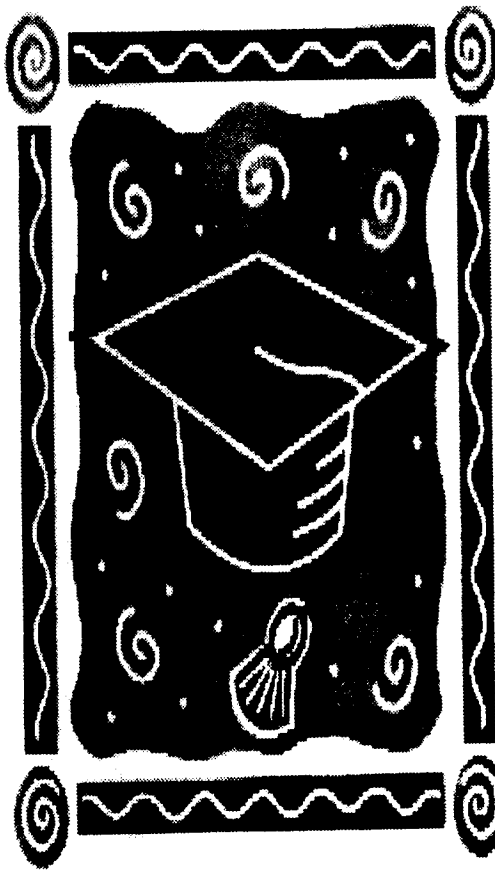
Answer: UCLA 10

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