

OVER THE EDGE

Athlete of the Week Michelle Gutting

Michelle Gutting has been named this week's Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week.

At the Clarion Early Bird Invitational, Gutting set school records in the 100 and 200 meter. In addition, she established a new mark for the long jump during the team's spring training in Orlando, Florida.

Gutting is a graduate of McDowell High School.

Behrend Scores

Men's baseball

- Behrend 4, Ohio Northern 10
- Behrend 1, Adrian 2
- Behrend 4, Capital 3
- Behrend 7, Tiffin 5
- Behrend 4, Ohio Wesleyan 14
- Behrend 2, Ohio Wesleyan 11
- Behrend 14, Capital 4
- Behrend 3, Denison 4

Up Next...

- Apr. 1 @ P.S. Altoona 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 4 @ La Roche 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 5 Fredonia 3:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6 Hilbert 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 8 Pitt-Greensburg 1:00 p.m.

Women's softball

- Behrend 5, John Carroll 13
- Behrend 4, John Carroll 5
- Behrend 0, Mount Union 3
- Behrend 2, La Roche 10
- Behrend 12, La Roche 13

Up Next...

- Mar. 31 Buffalo State 3:00 p.m.
- Apr. 1 Lake Erie 1:00 p.m.
- Apr. 3 @ Pitt-Greensburg 3:00 p.m.
- Apr. 8 Frostburg 1:00 p.m.

Men's tennis

- Behrend 1, Penn State Altoona 8
- Behrend 0, Lake Erie 0

Up Next...

- Apr. 4 Alfred 3:30 p.m.
- Apr. 5 Edinboro 3:00 p.m.
- Apr. 7 Waynesburg 3:00 p.m.

Track and field

- Mar. 24 @ Clarion Decathlon
- Mar. 25 @ Clarion Early Bird
- Apr. 1 @ Geneva Invitational

Bold type denotes AMCC opponents

Sports Spots

Early Wynn, a Hall of Fame hurler, was one of the most noted "knockdown" pitchers in big league history. A hairy man with the disposition of a retired bear, he tucked his high hand offering under a batter's chin with a sense of cold malice. When asked if he would throw at his mother there followed a moment's pause then the reply, "It would depend on how well she was hitting." Once he dusted off his son then explained, "I've got a right to knock down anybody holding a bat." New York Yankees ace Mickey Mantle said, "Wynn'll knock you down in the dugout." Denis J. Harrington

TRIVIA

What NHL player holds the career record for penalty minutes?

Answer: Dave Williams 3966 pm, 4.12 min/game

Coming Soon...

ARC

ATHLETIC AND REC CENTER

FALL 2000

A season to remember...Part Two

by Matt Buser
staff writer

Andy Lawrence, John Park, Nate Willson, and Chris Hughes finished out careers in Behrend's most successful season ever. Each player has left a unique mark on the program, the school, and their remaining teammates.

"We're not going to be able to replace Hughes, Park, Willson and Lawrence," said Behrend Head Coach Dave Niland. "But, Hopefully what they've done is set a standard with their work ethic and their attitudes towards classwork and on the court."

Niland spoke highly of his departing seniors as a group. "All four are outstanding students, and all four are involved with engineering as a major. Highly organized, highly competitive, very team oriented, and extremely unselfish."

Niland continued, "I think when you put all of those characteristics together you get the results that we've had. On top of it, all four are really talented players, so you have a great mix there."

Lawrence, Park, Willson, and Hughes were major factors in the teams school-record 26 wins and first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament.

"These guys were so focused and so mature as a group," said Niland. "That I think the other guys fed off of them, and I think they weren't intimidated by any circumstance. They were confident but not cocky. They played like the seniors they were, like you'd expect seniors to play."

Forward Andy Lawrence's strong point may have been his versatility. His name is among the schools all-time record holders in a number of categories. He finished his career having played in 113 games. He scored 1,296 points, the third-most in Behrend history. His 162 three-pointers made (in 412 attempts) also ranks as the third highest total in history. His 229 career assists and 109 steals are the ninth and eight-best total in the school's history, respectively. Lawrence also grabbed 487 rebounds during his career.

"He was a highly recruited kid coming in here," remarked Coach Niland. "He's lived up to expectations, exceeded expectations, as a two-time First Team All-Conference player."

Niland added, "he's a very physically tough kid, and a very good athlete. He was a very versatile kid, and just a very tough athlete."

Park often drew the toughest defensive assignment during games. His tenacity and work ethic made him a leader at practice and in games.

"He's a great leader, and unbelievably intense," said Niland. "He was our guy who set the tone intensity-wise in practice and in games, I mean, John didn't take a day off. He played through some injuries and adversity, but he's a very mentally and physically tough kid, as well."

"You use the word 'tough' a lot with these guys, but that's the way they were," added Niland.

Park played in 104 games here at Behrend, scoring 359 points in his career. He nailed 53 three-pointers, grabbed 189 rebounds, had 112 assists and 34 steals while in the Lion uniform.

Nate Willson also was an intense performer. He played in 101 games for Behrend, scoring 524 points and grabbing 498 rebounds. His 55.4% (185/334) field goal percentage stands as the fourth-highest mark ever. He also dished out 133 assists and had 55 steals.

"I always refer to him as our 'middle linebacker,'" commented Niland. "He brought that mentality to every practice. His work ethic on a day-to-day basis really set the tone for the guys. There just wasn't a day off for Nate or John."

Chris Hughes played only two seasons in the Behrend uniform after transferring from Clarion, but made the most of his time here. Hughes was named Conference Co-Newcomer of the Year last season, and was named Conference Player of the Year this season.

Hughes is the school's all-time leader in field goal percentage, at 58.8% (351/597). He scored 949 points for an average of 16.4 per game, which is ninth-best all-time. He also grabbed 352 rebounds, had 103 assists, and blocked 45 shots.

"Chris is as talented as any kid we ever had here, as far as basketball ability, and he combined that with a great desire to succeed," commented Niland. "He could have been a selfish kid and shot more than he did. The mark of a good player is that he makes other players around him better, and Chris made everybody on the

floor better."

Niland added, "Those four guys, I think if you talk about a very similar characteristic, they had tremendous physical and mental toughness about them. They played through a lot of injuries and bumps and bruises, and they never once complained to me about it."

All four seniors are taking with them special memories of their experiences as players, teammates, and students.

"I'm glad we went out with a great season like that," said Lawrence. "I'm glad it's over, but I'm sure I'll miss it next year when basketball season comes around. It was a weird ride, we started out all freshmen my first year and just over .500 to being the winningest class in school history."

"It's something I'll never forget," commented Park. "It was a lot of fun, and it's something that I'll be thinking about and telling people about for a long time."

"It was a lot of fun, I really enjoyed it," said Willson. "The best part was just that we had four years together playing as a team." He added, "I marveled every time we had a game, how many people were there. It was nice to have the support, really nice."

Hughes said, "The thing I'll remember the most is my teammates, and learning the value of teamwork. Where we set goals, and went on to accomplish those goals as a team."

The one goal the team most strived for, and eventually achieved this year, was the NCAA tournament berth. It remains one of the biggest highlights of these player's careers.

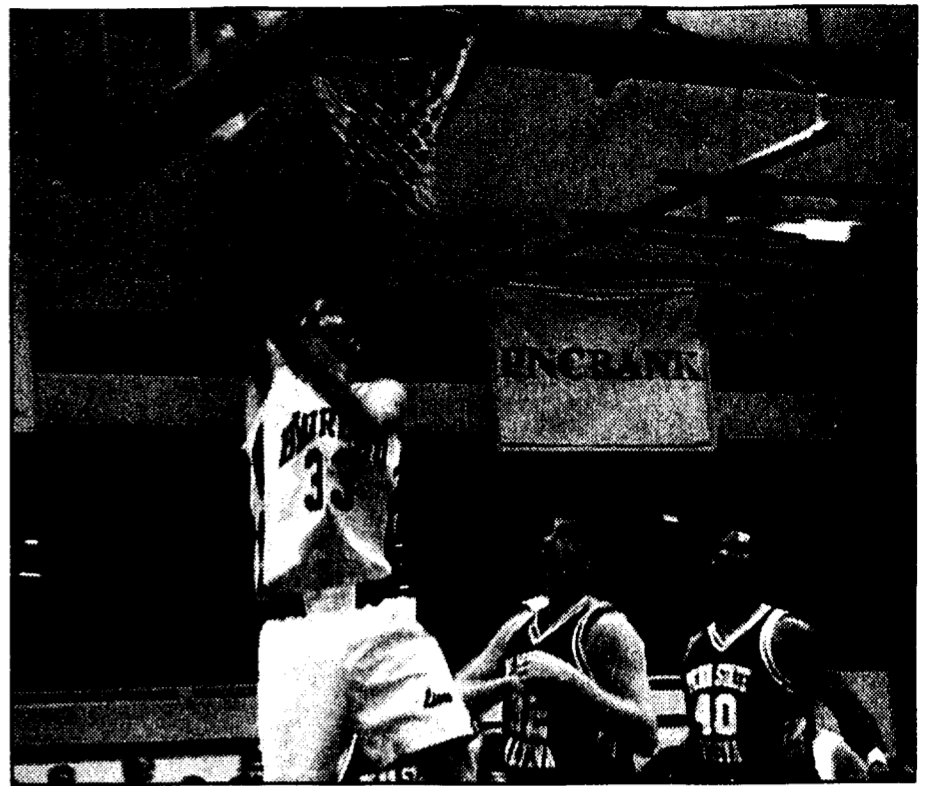
"For the first couple of years, it seemed out of reach, and to make it was awesome," said Park. "It was a great experience, and to be able to do well in it, that's just icing on the cake."

"It was nice to prove that we could hang with the other teams," said Willson.

"The NCAA tournament has got to be the highlight of my career," remarked Lawrence.

Hughes remarked, "We weren't expected to be there, and we got to the Elite Eight. I'll remember that and my teammates until I'm old and gray."

Coach Niland has played a big part



Senior Chris Hughes leads Penn State Behrend as the all-time field goal percentage leader, at 58.8%. Hughes ended his two year college basketball career at Behrend as the conference player of the year.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

in the success his seniors have enjoyed, and they were quick to point it out. Coach Niland and his staff has accumulated a 106-55 record in his six seasons as Behrend Head Coach.

"The thing that you guys don't see, but we see behind the scenes, is that he's a great motivator, and pays great attention to details," said Hughes. "I think the great thing about Coach Niland is his preparation, and the values he teaches us. I know he doesn't like to talk about himself, but he deserves a lot of the credit for this year."

"He never takes credit for the wins, but always takes credit for the losses," said Park. "The attitude and the mindset he had gave us the focus we had, and I don't think we would have made it as far or been as successful as we were if it wasn't for him."

Lawrence added, "He prepares us so that we can go into every game and feel like we're going to win that game. No matter who we're playing, we know what they're going to do before they do it. He's just a great coach."

"He does an excellent job," commented Willson. "I liked the way he coaches, and I loved playing for him." He added, "He's a classy guy, and we all benefited from it. That's the way he was, and that's the way he taught us to be, and we benefited from it."

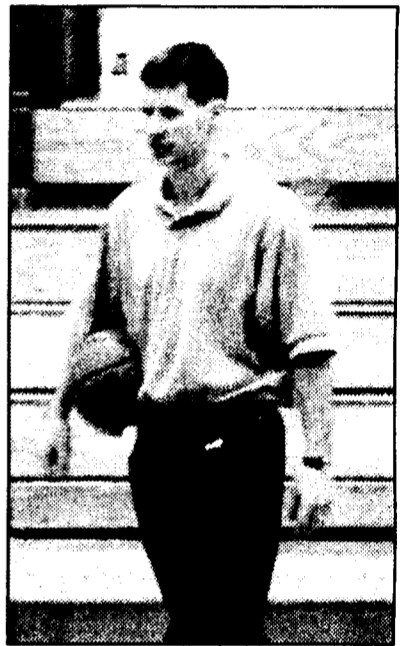


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Penn State Behrend men's basketball head coach has been a key factor in the team's success. Niland and his staff have compiled a 106-55 record during six seasons as head coach.

Men's baseball prepares for April run

by Matt Wiertel
sports editor

The Penn State Behrend men's baseball team is looking forward to the upcoming schedule of games in April. The men recently played eight games in four days, a run that granted a much needed two day break before the team's next matchup on April 1 against AMCC rival Penn State Altoona.

Currently the Lions hold a 12-8 record. They hope to improve on that versus Penn State Altoona.

Behrend also put together an impressive 8-2 mark during their Spring Break trip in Florida. Headlining wins for the Lions during the Florida Coast Tournament came against Curry, 16-0 and Wilkes, 21-3.

Senior Ryan Frederick continued to be the ace during the trip. Frederick struck out five and walked one in a four-hitter against Curry. For the week Frederick finished 1-1 with 13 strikeouts, 2 walks, and a 0.58 ERA.

Head baseball coach Paul Benim was thoroughly impressed with Frederick's performance on the mound. "Ryan has been a bulldog for our baseball program. He is a big reason for our success," Benim said.

After going 8-1 early on, the Lions have struggled as of late. Behrend is 4-7 during their last eleven games, but have a rigorous schedule coming up in the next two weeks. "March has been a challenge due to the intensity

of games, and it will prepare us for the April stretch," Benim said. Five of their next nine games will come against AMCC opponents. Considering that the AMCC tournament begins on April 20-21, the Lions' performance in these games is key to securing the conference championship.

As a whole the team is outperforming their opponents. On the mound, the Lions are allowing more than one run less per game with a 4.8779 ERA. Their opponents are giving up slightly more than six runs per game with a 6.177 ERA.

Leading Behrend on the hill are Ryan Frederick with a 1.59 ERA through 17 innings and Charles Sevin with a 1.88 ERA through 14 1/3 innings.

The Lions also are excelling at the plate. Third baseman Jake Boyle is at the top of the list in several batting categories. Boyle has amassed 25 hits to date, scored 19 runs, and 22 runs batted in (RBI).

In addition, Matt Slavonic and Jeremy Brubaker are lighting up the scoreboard. Slavonic is tied with Boyle with 25 hits and has 11 RBIs. His impressive .391 AVG is near the top of the team and makes him a threat every time he reaches the plate.

Brubaker continues to excel at the plate this season. Thru 20 games and 66 at bats, Brubaker has added 23 hits to his Penn State Behrend all-time career mark. He currently averages

.348 and has 7 RBIs.

As a team, the Lions are averaging .323 each time to the plate, compared to their opponents who are only averaging .292.

The Lions are striving to repeat their record setting performance of last season. Their 26 wins were a school record at the time, and the team was an impressive 12-2 at home. Behrend also earned a berth to the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Southern Regional Championship for the first time in their history.

Even though the team failed to claim the AMCC championship last season, losing the championship game 5-4, the men are primed to capture the championship this season.

Head coach Paul Benim is looking forward to the remainder of the season. "We are gaining experience and learning from our first twenty games," Benim said. "Our top priority is to win the conference regular season, host the tournament, and capture the league crown," added Benim.

Next Week...
A view of the new baseball and softball complex

Softball team heads into conference game stretch



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Behrend's Rose Boni swings at a pitch during the doubleheader against La Roche on March 27. The Lions hope to continue the winning ways established by last season's team. The 1999 squad finished 17-1 in the AMCC and captured the conference title. Although, only five players are returning from the 99 team, the Lions hope to remain atop the AMCC standings.

Currently, the Lions are 4-10 overall and 0-2 in the AMCC, but eight of their next nine games are against AMCC opponents.

