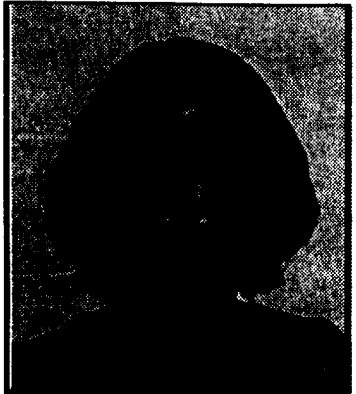


To The Edge

Athlete of the Week



Laura Furko



Furko scored 2 goals and added one assist as the women's soccer team took the championship game of the Herb Lauffer Memorial Soccer Tournament on Sunday, September 3. Congratulations Laura!

Intramural Calendar

Today -- Deadline for intramural golf

The one day golf event will be held at Green Meadows.

Play continues this week for tennis, slow pitch softball, and sand volleyball. Make sure to check out the action of the highly competitive intramurals here at Behrend.

Behrend Sporting Events

September 8 -9
Volleyball at Allegheny Tournament 4/9 PM

September 9
Men and Women Cross Country at California (PA) 11/12

Women's soccer at Ohio Northern 1:00 PM

Women's tennis at Allegheny 9:00 AM

September 10
JV soccer Vs. Mercyhurst NE 1:00 PM

Women's tennis at Alfred 1:00 PM

Women's soccer at Heidelberg 1:00 PM

September 11
Women's tennis at Lake Erie 4:00 PM

September 12
Men's golf at Pitt-Greensburg 1:00 PM

Volleyball Vs. Fredonia 7:00 PM

September 13
Men's soccer Vs. W & J 5:00 PM

September 14
Women's tennis at Buffalo State 3:30 PM

Women's soccer at Grove City 4:00 PM

The Behrend soccer squads capture their respective titles at the Herb Lauffer Memorial Tournament

by Douglas Smith
sports editor

Both the men and women captured the title of the Herb Lauffer Memorial soccer Tournament this past weekend. The men beat Hiram on Saturday in their championship game 2-0. The women beat Bethany 7-0. It was quite a good start to the season.

Both squads came into the tournament with very high hopes. Last season the men went 12-7-1 and won the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference title for the third time in four years. James Martin and Tommy Sieg are being depended on heavily this year to help carry the team to yet another conference title and hopefully much more than that.

The Herb Lauffer Tournament kicked off on Friday as the men

took on SUNY New Paltz. It was a hard fought game, but Behrend moved on with a 3-2 victory. Hiram beat Hobart 2-0 to move onto the championship game. In the title game Mark Szweczykowski, a hometown boy, scored the first goal in the 38th minute for Behrend. The score remained 1-0 at halftime. The second goal was an own goal scored in the 80th minute. Szweczykowski was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Tommy Sieg had seven saves for the shutout.

The win earned the Behrend Lions national recognition. The National Soccer Coaches Association of America placed Behrend 7th in the mid-Atlantic poll. This is a nice sign about this year's team. Be sure to expect bigger and brighter things from the Behrend Lions this year.



The championship game of the Herb Lauffer Tournament heats up.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER



The women's soccer team relaxes last Sunday.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The women had an easier time in capturing the title this past weekend. Behrend defeated Albion College (MI) 3-1 on Saturday. The first goal of the opening game came in the second minute as Katie Giles netted her first goal of the year. Amy Larocca knocked in the second goal just three minutes later.

Bethany (WV) beat Hiram 4-1 for the right to meet Behrend in the championship game. The 7-0 blowout had freshmen Aubrey Nicksich scoring two goals. Katie Giles, Amy Larocca, and Lisa Danwalder scored one a piece. However, the Most Valuable Player of the tournament was Laura Furko, who had two goals

and one assist.

Coach Dan Perritano was pleased about the women's victory. "We are very pleased with this kind of start. This was a total team effort and our players battled two solid clubs," said Perritano.

This women's team has won three consecutive AMCC championships and made three straight Eastern College Athletic Conference postseason tournaments. They are 65-23-9 under Coach Perritano.

Remember the home games are played on the slightly renovated Behrend fields. These two squads are sure to provide plenty of victories this season, so make sure you get out to at least one game.

There is much more soccer to be played, so it is the least you can do to come out to one game.

Szweczykowski said it best last week in the soccer preview.

"You cannot win a playoff spot in September, you can only lose it. We finished last season with eleven straight victories, and no playoff spot."



Behrend to provide interesting cross country season

By Douglas Smith
sports editor

Another fall sport is in action here at Penn State Behrend. It is one of endurance and the athletes can easily be admired for their passion to run. It is of course cross country. Both the men's and women's squads are looking to build on last year's seasons. The women finished second in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference to nationally recognized Frostburg State. In the men's section Frostburg St. beat out our Behrend Lions also.

Coach Rich Hoffman had the following to say when asked about the outlook on the season for both teams. "The women look pretty strong right now and could be in a position to make a serious run at Frostburg for the AMCC Championships. We've closed the gap each year; we're looking to take our turn soon. The men I'll have to wait and see a little bit. It will depend a lot on how well we progress in our training. We have the potential for some strong running up front, but I'm not sure about our depth right now."

Women

Tina Rubay and Keri Lowman return from the 1998 team to lead the charge for the women's squad. However, these are definitely not the only two names you will hear this year. This women's squad seems to have a little better chance to succeed than the men do.

Coach Hoffman was very talkative about who will carry the team this year.

"The women are pretty balanced - I think we could see any of several women leading the way at any given time this fall. Se-

nior Tina Rubay has been running very well in practice, and Deidre Garrity (fr.), Kathy Perry (so.), Andrea Sanko (fr.), and Katie Cole (so.) have looked equally strong. I think we could also see Jessica Knapp (fr.) move up and Brandi Napenas (fr.) has displayed a great attitude and seems to be adapting well. Also, Lyndsey Boor (so.) and Betsy Voigt (so.) will make real strong contributions as the season progresses and will likely be in the mix up front soon. It's a talented group who want to work hard and get better," said Hoffman.

In the first meet of the year at the Buffalo State Invitational the women finished ninth out of eleven. Deidre Garrity was the top Behrend runner at 22:21.8. Coach Hoffman was not disappointed with the effort.

"Our women ran well. We're far ahead of last year and will only get better. That takes nothing away from the group we ran today - they ran in a great field," said Hoffman.

Men

The men's squad is a bit of a different story. Coach Hoffman knows who the leader is, but seems a bit skeptical about the rest of the squad.

Hoffman reports, "The men are being led right now by senior Dennis Halaszynski, a mainstay of the program who continues to get better. He racked up some big miles this summer while working a very demanding job, and appears to be in great physical shape. Dennis has shown that he can be one of the top cross country runners in our region at times. Freshman Sohrab Moeini has been right in there so far and I think he'll be a big boost to our

team. Mark Surovic (sr.) is working back into shape and like Dennis has shown he can compete in the top group runners of our region. We have 2 other seniors who are battling some injuries and their status is uncertain right now, but if Tyler Travis and Greg Cooper can get back in the line-up, we'll be pretty solid. Kevin Ritzert also had a good summer, and I can see him in the all-conference hunt by season's end. After that we have a real close group of Carl Alberico, Clint Altman, Chuck Orton and Matt Grimmke that will work to provide us depth."

At Buffalo State, the men finished eleventh out of thirteen.

Halaszynski was the top Behrend finisher at 28:11.8.

"As a team we have some work to do, and our guys know what needs to be done and I think they are willing to do what is necessary. We will get better. I am confident in that," said Hoffman.

Cross country is a sport of endurance, and working out is the key to success. However, because of NCAA regulations, the amount of contact a school can have with an athlete over the summer is limited. Coach Hoffman encourages running a few races and also sends out summer workout schedules. They hope that the athletes keep in contact, so everyone stays on

the same page over the summer. What if the dedication to working out over the summer is lacking?

"Well, at that point all I can do is try to work them back into training slowly and gradually and hope we can achieve a decent competitive level of fitness by the end of the season. You have to balance the need to get into shape with the need for a gradual increase to limit injuries," said Hoffman.

So this season seems to be one heading for many ups and downs, literally. The home invitational is on the 16th of September, and Penn State Behrend is expecting 18 teams to compete. This is a rather large gathering of athletes.



The Cross Country team works out in preparation for their invitational on September 16, 2000.