

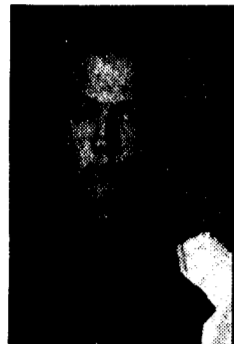
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2000

To The Edge

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



James Curren



Curren, a freshman center, hit 4 of 7 from the floor for 12 points and 7 rebounds in the 61-60 loss to Medaille this weekend in the Penn State Behrend Classic. In game two, Curren was 7 of 14 from the floor, including 8 of 9 from the charity stripe with the team high of 22 points in the 81-73 win over D'Youville.

Intramural Calendar

DEADLINES

December 8 - 5 versus 5 basketball (Men's and Women's divisions)
Play begins in the spring semester.

Playoffs are underway for 3 versus 3 basketball.

Behrend Sporting Events

December 8 - 9
Swimming at Clarion Invitational TBA

December 9
JV Men's basketball vs. Pitt-Titusville 3:00 PM

Women's basketball vs. Penn State Altoona (TV Game) 6:00 PM

Men's basketball vs. Penn State Altoona (TV Game) 8:00 PM

December 29 - 30
Men's basketball at Elmhurst Tourney (Chicago, IL) 6/8:00 PM

January 2
Men's basketball vs. Allegheny 7:30 PM

Women's basketball at Allegheny 7:00 PM

January 6
Men's basketball at Fredonia 2:00 PM

Women's basketball vs. Juniata 2:00 PM

**PENN STATE
BEHREND
LIONS**

Behrend Lions' women's team searches for a rhythm

by Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

The Behrend women's basketball team finished second this past weekend in the second basketball tournament of the season that they hosted, the Behrend Classic. The women moved to the championship

game after defeating Medaille College convincingly, 67-46. The championship game saw the Lions fall for only the second time this season, losing to Mount Aloysius, 65-55. The Lions moved to 5-2 on the season.

In the first round game against Medaille, the Lions were paced by the

inside play of Jen O'Lare and Erin Phillips. The duo combined for 25 points, six points and five steals. O'Lare shot 5 for 8 from the field, while Phillips hit 7 of 8 from the line.

Head coach Rosalyn Fornari's claim that the Lions' team would consist of much depth and new talent was proven correct, as third-year guard Christine Charnock and freshman Erica Mozdy combined for 16 points. The Lions' bench outscored Medaille's bench 30-21.

The balanced play helped the Lions jump to a 34-18 halftime lead. The women held on for their fifth win of the year due to strong defensive play that forced 29 Medaille turnovers.

The championship game saw the women fall for only the second time this season due to the play of Mount Aloysius' Ginger Fanelli. Fanelli shot 7-15 from the floor, including three from behind the arc. In addition to her 23 points, Fanelli had four rebounds and two steals.

The Lions, again, had a balanced offense with three players scoring in double-figures. O'Lare, Phillips and Kate Costanzo all scored ten points for the Behrend women. Mozdy came off the bench again for the Lions, scoring eight points, grabbing



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

Kate Costanzo (43) and Behrend had trouble containing Ginger Fanelli (31).

four boards and tallying up three assists and two steals.

The Lions couldn't overcome Mount Aloysius' 50% shooting from the field and from three-point land. The women kept the game close throughout, but lost 65-55.

The Behrend women traveled to LaRoche on Wednesday, winning their game, 58-54. Erin Phillips led

the team with 16 points. O'Lare added 11 for the win in the first conference game of the year.

The women will host Penn State Altoona on December 9, which will be televised on Image Television. The women will then have off until January 2, when they will travel to Allegheny College.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

Danielle Bemis prepares to catch a pass during the Mount Aloysius game.

Early season woes continue for men's basketball

by Mike Bello
staff writer

Heading into the holiday break, the men's basketball team finds itself in an unfamiliar situation. With only seven games played so far, the Lions have already accumulated more losses than they had all of last year and find themselves in a hole they have not been trapped in for a while. Behrend's next game against Penn State Altoona could make or break the beginning part of the Lions' season.

This past weekend, Behrend participated in the annual Penn State Behrend Classic, where they suffered a disappointing one point loss in the opening round game against Medaille on Friday, the first, before bouncing back on Saturday and defeating D'Youville in the consolation game. That win ran their record to 2-4 and gave the young Lions a chance to improve their record to .500 before Christmas break rolls around.

In the opening loss to Medaille, Behrend's defense steamrolled Medaille in the first half, limiting them to 31% shooting percentage to give the Behrend Lions a 4-point lead at halftime. However, Medaille came out of the break fired up and went 17 of 23 from the floor in the second half to down Behrend 61-60. The Lions' offense was strong in the second half, but their total defense broke down and proved to be the difference in the game.

Ashley Orris led all scorers with 17 points on 7 of 15 shooting. Freshman Casey Ponsoll added 13

points and had a game high 6 assists on the night. James Curren had a team high 7 rebounds and contributed 12 points as the Lions shot 48% from the field, their best rate in a game this season.

The earlier game featured a tough Alma team against a rather inexperienced D'Youville team. The Alma Scots were not able to capitalize on a 7-point halftime lead and let the D'Youville Spartans tie the game after the 40 minutes of regulation. Alma pulled away in overtime, defeating D'Youville 84-78. Three Spartan players had 16 points on the night, but Alma's spread-the-wealth style of play allowed them to improve their record to 3-0 on the year.

In the Saturday matinee match up with D'Youville, the Spartans kept the game close for a while, but this time the Behrend Lions' defense stepped up in the second half, disposing of D'Youville 81-73. Behrend, which only led by a point at the half, had another strong offensive outing, converting 47% of their shots while limiting the number of chances D'Youville had to score.

Curren had his best all-around game of the year, so far racking up 22 points and 15 rebounds. Orris dropped in 15 of his own points, including three 3-pointers, and had a personal season best 8 rebounds. Freshman Dave Hairston came back from a poor first round game and scored 13 points on 6-11 shooting while adding 4 assists. Chris Banner came off the bench to add eight points while Ponsoll put in seven.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

Ashley Orris looks to start the offense versus Medaille.

The championship game pitted Medaille against Alma College. Medaille jumped to an early 4-point lead thanks to some hot shooting, but in the second half their offense turned cold as they only made 8 of 31 second half shots, losing 83-62. Alma found the hot scoring touch in the second half that Medaille had lost and converted 60% of their shots.

On Wednesday, December 6,

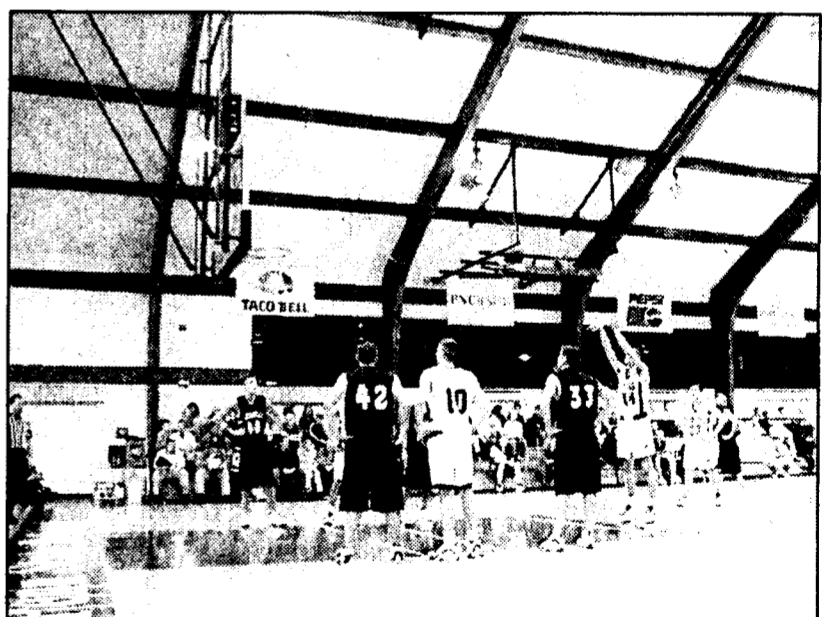


PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

Randy Conley shoots a free throw against Medaille.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

The men's basketball team needs to rebound from a slow start.

Behrend traveled to La Roche for an evening game. It was the first Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference game of the year. The result was a 68-49 loss. This moved the team's record to 2-5 overall and 0-1 in the AMCC.

After Wednesday's game against La Roche, the Behrend Lions come home for a meeting with fellow Penn State branch campus Altoona. Altoona, like Behrend, has struggled in the early part of the season losing their first three games by an average of 14 points. Their only win so far was a blowout game they won 105-68 against Franciscan University. The Altoona Lions currently only have two seniors on their team and are led by 6'4" junior forward Eugene Ahmad and their 6'6" center T.J. King.

Over the academic break, Behrend will be participating in the Elmhurst Tournament scheduled for December 29 and 30. Behrend will play Wabash College, which was 20-7 a year ago. Wabash hasn't been able to capitalize on that success, going 0-5 so far this season. Sophomore Joe Desjean leads the team. The Elmhurst College Blue Jays will host Dominican College in the other game. On January 2, Behrend will be hosting Allegheny College at 7:30 p.m. and also has home games against Pitt-Bradford on the 10th and Thiel on the 13th. For Behrend, the time is now if they want to be able to have a fighting chance heading into the middle part of the season. Just a few more losses could dampen hopes of a return to the AMCC title game.