

O'Lare looks to lead women's team back to playoffs

by Jeanine Noce
staff writer

Jen O'Lare is a 5'8" forward for the Behrend Lady Lions Women's Basketball Team. This senior is one of sixteen players for the Behrend team. O'Lare, a communications major, has played for Behrend during all four years of her college experience. The Lady Lions record thus far is 5-2, and she is hoping to help the team advance to the championships in their conference.

Being part of the team is a great experience for O'Lare. She says that she loves being a member and that her coach Roz Fornari is very helpful. This year she has already been awarded two prestigious awards. The first was during the Tip-Off tournament. Here, she was named Most Valuable Player (MVP). She was also named to the All-Tournament team and hopes to continue with her successes. Her favorite

experience with her coach and teammates thus far was during her freshman basketball season. In that particular year, the Lady Lions competed in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) playoffs. The team was in the top four of the region and played exceptionally.

This is O'Lare's 12th year of playing basketball. She came to Behrend from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, where she lettered on the basketball team during all four years. The Lady Lions practice during the weekdays from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and also on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The tournaments are primarily on the weekends; the games are held mostly during the week.

O'Lare hopes to obtain a position as a sports information director after college. She believes that it is difficult to juggle basketball and school. She said, "it is tough to balance the two, but it forces me to manage my time better and

it also helps my grades."

O'Lare is also involved in other activities besides basketball. She is the team representative for the Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC). With this committee and basketball, all of her time is accounted for.

Over Thanksgiving break, O'Lare and the Lady Lions traveled to Tennessee. There they played two games in the Kiwanis Classic Tournament. The first game they were defeated by one point by Thomas Moore. However, in the second game, the Lady Lions defeated Greensboro College from North Carolina. The next women's varsity basketball game will be tomorrow. Their opponent will be Altoona at 6:00 p.m. O'Lare is an experienced senior to watch in this and each other game this season.

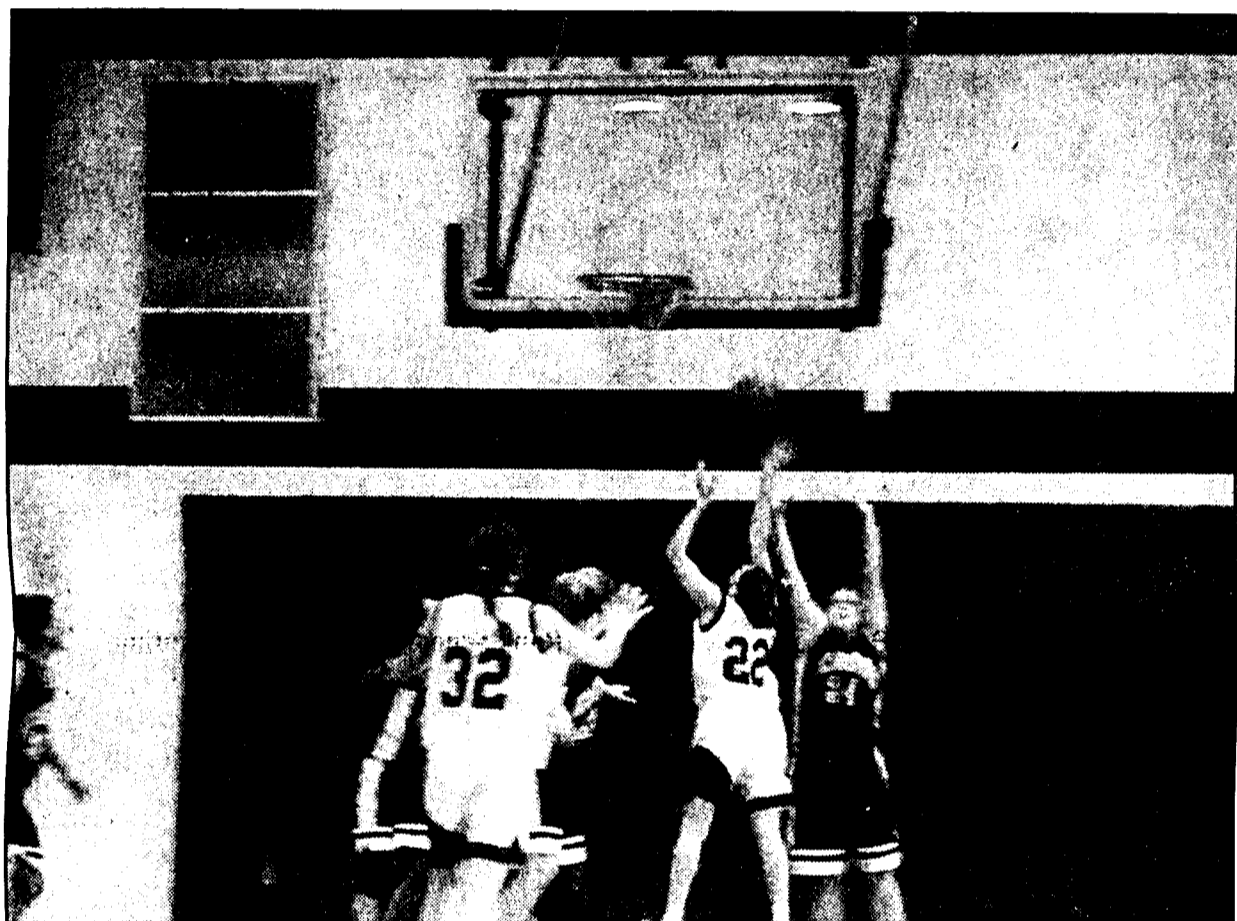


PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH
Jen O'Lare (22) has been one of a few constants for the Penn State Behrend Lions women's basketball team this year. Here she is fouled during a shot against Mount Aloysius.

ATTN: All Behrend Students!



At all Behrend home sporting events, spirit paraphernalia will be given to students. Such prizes include spirit T-shirts, hats, and food, like Bruno's pizza.

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Anyone
interested in writing a sports
column next semester can send a
sample column to
behrcoll2@aol.com.
It should be between 600-800 words
and should deal with sports
at the national level or here at
Behrend.

Swimming team still looking for their first real bright spot

by Douglas Smith
sports editor

This past weekend the new Penn State Behrend swimming team traveled to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to take part in the Indiana Christmas Invite. It was a three-day tournament that only showcased three teams. This gave Behrend a good chance to compete, but unfortunately the expansion swimming team is still learning. Both the men and women placed third out of the three teams.

The men's team has twelve individuals competing. Many of these swimmers already took a shot on the water polo team that completed their first season earlier in the semester. The women have eleven members trying to bring a title to Behrend.

Among the top finishers were Hollie Stash and Dana Williams in the 500-meter freestyle placing seventh and eighth respectively. Stash, Lyndsey Boor, Betsy Voigt, and Amanda Brown placed second in the 200-meter freestyle

relay. Brown also finished sixth in the 100-meter fly.

Many of the top finishers were new team records. There have only been three meets, but seven events saw new records

performance in the 100-meter fly with a time 1:14.08. The final team record set in Indiana was the 400-meter freestyle relay that finished in a time of 5:10.36. The relay team includes



set for the team. Hollie Stash was included in five of them. Stash finished with a time of 28.8 in the meter freestyle, 1:02.69 in the 100-meter freestyle, 6:04.86 in the 500-meter freestyle, 2:32.33 in the 200-meter backstroke, and helped the 200-meter freestyle relay set a record of 1:57.78.

Another record was Brown's

Williams, Neela Dey, Nhien Nguyen, and Brown.

The swim team has another meet this weekend at Clarion. They then have a big rest, not having to compete until January 20 in the Edinboro Invitational and January 24 at Washington and Jefferson.

Indoor track added to sporting possibilities

by Douglas Smith
sports editor

The Penn State Behrend Athletics Department has announced the addition of men's and women's indoor track for the 2000-2001 year.

"As our cross country and track and field programs continue to grow, it is only natural to give these student athletes the opportunity to compete on a year round basis," said Director of Athletics Brian Streeter. "In addition, the new Athletics and Recreation Center will provide indoor training facilities which will support the addition of our Indoor Track programs."

In the fall of 1996, Penn State Be-

hrend competed on the varsity level with men's and women's cross country for the first time. Then in the spring of 1999, men's and women's track and field became an addition to the sport offerings. With indoor track being added, the Behrend Lions will field 21 varsity sport teams.

"The addition of indoor track is a great advancement of our program," said Head Coach Rich Hoffman. "Given the climate in the area, it really allows us to prepare more effectively and on even terms with our competitors. I believe it will significantly and positively impact our overall program."

During this past season, numerous

school records were established as Coach Hoffman's track & field squads made positive strides in their second year of varsity competition. "Our athletes continue to demonstrate their ability to perform at a high level not only athletically, but academically," said Hoffman.

The track & field teams earned national attention and were ranked in the dual meet rankings this season. Both of the cross country teams excelled and finished second in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference meet to nationally ranked Frostburg State.