

## Morton is running with the team

by Jeanine Noce  
assistant sports editor

Jen Morton is hopping, stepping, and jumping for the Behrend Lady Lion's Indoor Track Team. This senior is one of twenty-five women on the team. She is currently juggling a mathematics major, holding the position of president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and a member of the indoor track and field team. Morton definitely knows that it is difficult to juggle everything with her schoolwork, however, she has found a way to budget her time efficiently.

Morton is involved with the long and triple jump. The triple jump consists of three phases: hop, step, then jump. She has been a member of the Behrend track and field team for four years and has been running for the past nine years. She came to Behrend from Canonsburg, Pennsylvania where she was a member of the Canon-McMillan track and field team. This year is different for Morton in a way. She is planning to get surgery on both of her knees in the near future and is beginning the season by assisting the team as a coach.

The Lady Lions had their first informal meet on January 13. It was held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland, Ohio. At this particular meet, only fifteen members of the team competed and the team was not represented due to this. Their next meet will be held on Saturday, February 3, at Mount Union Invitational. Here, the division one, two and three colleges will be competing. During Morton's freshman year, track and field was a club sport. During her sophomore year it became a varsity sport and this year it has become an indoor track and field team.



PHOTO BY NEIL MAKADIA

This year the track team began competing during mid-January and will continue through spring. The practices are six days during the week and are held in Erie Hall and outside. The Lady Lions began practice upon beginning the second semester. Throughout the week, their practices are generally during the day, however, on Saturdays and Sundays, they have practice at 8:00 a.m.

Morton has enjoyed being a part of the team and has learned an immense amount of knowledge from coach Rich Hoffman and assistant coach Nate Wiley. Her favorite experience over the four years was during spring break last year, when the team traveled to the Walt Disney World Wide World of Sports Complex. There a two-day meet was held where members of the team competed individually.

## Lions' seek to repeat AMCC championship

by Mike Bello  
staff writer

After a rather mediocre start to the season, the men's basketball team has come on strong recently, putting together a three game winning streak and upping their record to 7-9 overall. With a little under a month left in the season, the Lions have now positioned themselves for a run at an AMCC post-season berth. At the moment, the Lions are in fourth place in the AMCC with a 3-2 conference record. That ranks just below Pitt-Bradford, La Roche, and Frostburg who each have a 4-1 AMCC record. The other three teams, Pitt-Greensburg, Lake Erie, and Penn State-Altoona, each have only one win and will need some help if they are to catch up to Behrend.

Behrend traveled to Frostburg, Maryland, on the seventeenth to tangle with the Bobcats of Frostburg State, the number one seed in the AMCC. Despite having a 4-0 record in the league, the 'Cats proved no match for the roaring Lions, as Behrend handed them a 77-70 loss. Although the Lions were outshot by Frostburg from the floor, the Lions were able to convert 27 of their 29 foul shots to come away with the win. For the game the Lions made 43% of their shots, which is also their season average.

James Curren used his height advantage to grab a game high 13 rebounds to go along with his 17 points on the night. Curren, who is only a freshman, has shown so far this season that he can be the go-to guy for Behrend. He has scored at least 10 points in 12 of the 16 games Behrend has played, and overall is averaging 13.3 points per game.

Casey Ponsoll, another promising freshman on the team, will be building around for the next few years, and Matt Keith, a proven star who has been inhibited by a nagging high ankle sprain for most of the season, both added 14 points on the night, including 4 three-pointers for Keith. Freshman Dave Hairston, averaging a second best 10.6 ppg for the Lions, contributed to the offensive effort with 11 points.

On Saturday, January 20, the

Lions returned home for an 8 p.m. meeting with the Pitt-Greensburg Panthers. Greensburg, with a lowly 1-15 record, could only pray that they would be able to keep the game somewhat close. However, that did not even come close to happening as Behrend pounded the Panthers 86-60. Hairston was 8-9 from the field and led all scorers with 22 points, tied with Curren and Ashley Orris for the most a Lions' player has scored in a game all season.

Curren had a game high 14 rebounds and dropped in 15 points for the Lions, who are now 6-2 at home. The win even allowed a few non-starters to join in the action as sophomore Steve Merrill had 11 points, with freshmen Marty Timm (9 points), Chris Banner (9 points), and Randy Conley (8 points) also making the most of their opportunity in an overall spectacular team effort. The Lions used a stingy defense to hold Greensburg to a 36% shooting percentage while converting 54% of their shots on the other side of the court. Josh S. Michne had 21 points in a losing effort for the Panthers.

With 16 games already completed, Behrend is averaging 66.8 points per game while giving up 67.5 ppg. They are also averaging nearly 32 rebounds per game, as are opponents and, just like their opponents, are making 34% of their shots from 3-point land. The Lions are letting the opposition make 47% of their overall shots, compared to Behrend's 43%, but the Lions have proven to be a little sharper at the foul line (74% compared to opponents' 72%).

After a game at Lake Erie on Wednesday, January 24, the Lions come home to play La Roche College. La Roche also marks the beginning of the second half of the AMCC schedule for Behrend. The Red Hawks, 6-8 so far this season, put a hurtin' on Behrend in early December down in Pittsburgh by destroying the Lions by a margin of 19 points. The 8 p.m. contest at Erie Hall could show the Lions exactly where they stand in the AMCC. The Lions have already lost to La Roche and Pitt-Bradford, but have beaten Frostburg. If they are able to defeat the 'Hawks, then Behrend may be the team to watch out for come playoff time. If not, then any postseason play will be a daunting task for the Lions.

Behrend also plays their sister college, Penn State Altoona, on January 31, 2001, down in Altoona. The Altoona Lions, with a record of 6-9, have shown some promise with stars Eugene Ahmad, Ronnie Brown, and T.J. King, but have also suffered through blowout losses to Pitt-Bradford and Frostburg. Behrend defeated Altoona by 7 points back on December 9. Right now the Lions are caught in the middle, as they can either choose the winning streak-momentum of door #1, which could lead to a possible #1 seed in the AMCC, or door #2 which would lead Behrend right out of playoff contention. The next 4 games, all against conference opponents, will be a guide for the Lions to either door #1 or door #2, and only one of them has the prize Behrend is looking for: the chance to repeat as AMCC champs.



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

The Behrend Lions' coaches work to advise and encourage the team during a timeout. The advice proved to be advantageous, as the Lions went on to dominate Pitt-Greensburg by a score of 86-60.

Saturday January 27, 2001

**Double Header**

vs.

**LaRoche**

Women's Basketball - 6:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball - 8:00 p.m.

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*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.*