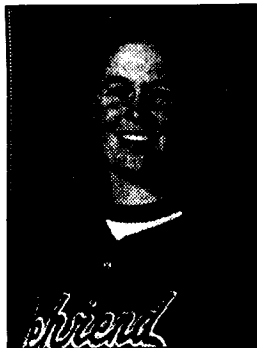


To The Edge

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Mandy Bodnor



Bodnor, a senior from Pittsburgh, PA, hit .461 (12-26) in spring training for the Behrend Lions. Bodnor launched 5 home runs, 2 grand slams, and drove in 19 runners during the week. Next up for the blue, white and red is a doubleheader at Washington and Jefferson, March 16, at 3:00 p.m.

Intramural Calendar

DEADLINES

March 23 - Soccer (Men's, Women's and Coed) Play begins around March 28

March 23 - Whitewater Rafting at Ohiopyle on April 28

March 30 - Swimming Individual (Men's and Women's) Swimming Team (Men's, Women's and Coed)

Behrend Sporting Events

March 17 Men's Tennis at Pitt-Greensburg 1:00 PM

Men's Baseball at Oberlin College 1:00 PM

March 19 Women's Softball vs. Thiel 3:00 PM

March 20 Men's Baseball at Grove City 1:00 PM

March 22 Women's Softball vs. John Carroll 3:00 PM

March 22-25 Men's Baseball at Ohio Wesleyan's Mizuno Classic TBA

March 23-24 Men's and Women's Track & Field at Clarion Invitational 10:00 AM

March 23 Women's Water Polo at W&J/Grove City 8:30 PM

**PENN STATE
BEHREND
LIONS**



Erica Mozdy pushes for another two points in Behrend's efforts against Penn State Altoona in the AMCC Championship game.

Lions wrap up season with NCAA cameo

by Bob Palivoda
staff writer

A tournament bid for the Division III NCAA tournament lengthened the women Lions' season for one more game. On Friday, February 23, the Lady Lions hosted an AMCC playoff game against Pitt-Bradford. The Lions defeated Bradford 60-50 in their first game of the playoffs.

Leading the way for the win against Bradford was freshman Crystal McGarvey. In the game, McGarvey managed to lead Behrend with 19 points in 29 minutes of play. She also sunk 5 out of 7 free throws and muscled her way around the court pulling down a total of 10 rebounds. Following close behind McGarvey was junior Erin Phillips, chalking up a total of 15 points for Behrend. Freshman Erica Mozdy added to the Lions' offense with 9 points and managed to pull down 10 rebounds for the team.

Although Friday held the taste of sweet victory for the Lions, the final on Saturday would leave a taste of bitterness in their mouths. Not even 24

hours had passed since the Lions victory against Pitt-Bradford. Behrend took the court with the momentum still on their side. They knew that to win the AMCC they would have a tough challenge against fellow branch campus, Penn State Altoona. After the first half of play, the game was still within reach for Behrend. Altoona left the court at the half leading the Lions 36-29. However, it would be these 7 points that would keep Behrend from overcoming Altoona. Altoona managed to defeat Penn State Behrend 79-71. Once again freshman Crystal McGarvey led the Lions in points with 25. Following behind her in the double digits were junior Kate Costanzo (19) and freshman Erica Mozdy (11).

Despite the conference championship loss, Penn State Behrend managed to get a bid for the NCAA tournament. Behrend (18-8) traveled to Defiance, Ohio, where they would play Defiance College (22-4) in the first round. Defiance had entered the tournament with an 18 game winning streak. They also held a perfect record of 13-0 on their home court for the

season. The Lions did not give Defiance much of a challenge in the first half of play as they went to the locker room trailing 46-21. The second half proved much stronger for Behrend, being that Defiance only outscored them by 6 points. Defiance triumphed over Behrend 90-59. Playing with a broken hand, Erin Phillips helped lead the Lions along with Erica Mozdy both scoring 12 points.

The Lions look to be just as strong for next year's season. They will only lose a total of two seniors this year (Jen O'Lare and Lisa Sanders). Coach Rosalyn Fornari closed by saying, "the bid to the tournament meant a lot to our team. It rewarded them for battling and playing strong and never giving up. We had so many challenges this season. They are the best group of players I've been around. I loved this year and the players I was surrounded by. The NCAA trip is one of our fondest memories. Not the outcome, but the experience. I'm just glad my team and especially my seniors had the chance to go."

Fans watch intensely as Behrend stalks the oncoming Penn State Altoona offense. Penn State Altoona dominated the game in order to claim the AMCC championship from the host team, Behrend.



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS SMITH

Debut Indoor Track & Field season prepares athletes for spring

by Jamie Salapek
staff writer

The Behrend Indoor Track and Field team dashed through an impressive and highly competitive season that ended on February 24. Dodging the competition, Behrend had many outstanding place-takers for the team, which bodes the team

well for the upcoming outdoor track and field season.

The track and field team competed against Mount Union on February 24 for their final meet. The solid performances of Lindsey Schulte and Michelle Gutting qualified both for the ECAC (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference) championship meet.

Gutting qualified in the long jump and Schulte in the triple jump. Unfortunately, neither member could attend the meet, but their hard work and determination were honored with the invitation.

The Behrend distance runners ran past their competitors, with many setting personal or seasonal bests. Jessica Knapp knocked 3 seconds

off of her best time ever in the 800-meter dash. Knapp also cut 20 seconds off her 1500-meter time from 3 weeks prior, giving an outstanding performance.

As the season came to a close, Coach Rich Hoffman stated, "overall the indoor season went fairly well and helped us prepare more effectively for outdoor track.

We are significantly ahead of where we were this time last year."

With a job well done, the indoor track and field team represented Behrend well. Many of the same athletes of indoor track are currently competing in outdoor track.

Young Behrend team closes season with stellar performance

by Mike Bello
staff writer

A season of highs and lows for the Behrend men's basketball team came to an abrupt end in the AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference) semifinals on Friday, February 23, against Frostburg State. This was only two days after struggling in the first round game against Penn State Altoona. The Frostburg Bobcats, who could not figure out the Lions in the two season matchups, used some accurate free throw shooting down the stretch to finish the Lions' season with a 79-66 win. Behrend, which nearly did not make it to the semifinals, finished with an overall 14-12 record and a third place finish in the AMCC standings.

Behrend ran into trouble in quarterfinal action against Altoona on Wednesday, February 21, at Erie Hall. The Lions, who handled Altoona (9-16) by margins of only 7 and 10 points before, found themselves down by 5 points at the half as a result of taking less chances at the hoop than Altoona. In the second half Behrend was able to control Altoona's offense and after hitting 11-15 free throws, the Lions tied the score with Altoona 73 all at the end of regulation. Matt Keith then drained a three pointer in overtime, and Dave Hairston added two free throws in the waning seconds of the game to hand Altoona their last defeat of the season 81-80.

Freshman James Curren hit 7-11 from the floor and had 6 rebounds on his way to a 19-point performance. Ashley Orris hit 8 of his 11 floor shots for 18 points while grabbing a game high 9 rebounds for the Lions. Keith sank 4 three

pointers on the night and had 14 points, while freshman forward Casey Ponsoll added 13 points. Behrend was able to convert 57% of their total shots, but had a hard time controlling Altoona's offense, which made nearly 50% of their shots.

The Lions then traveled down to Bradford to take on Frostburg, the victors in an 84-74 win over Lake Erie. For the first half and most of the second half, the level of play was pretty even. Behrend was only down by 4 at the half and kept pace with Frostburg throughout the second half. Behrend, however, could not catch up with Frostburg and was forced to foul the Cats in attempts to grab the lead. That strategy proved disastrous when Frostburg converted 19-25 foul shots in the second half to pull away with a 79-66 win. Frostburg (18-9) had more than twice as many points from turnovers and second chance points from offensive rebounds than the Lions did.

Keith and Curren both had 11 points to pace the Lions with Curren adding a game high 10 rebounds. Steve Merrill had 10 points on the night, as did Ponsoll, while dishing out 6 assists. Orris, in his last basketball game as a Lion, made 3 three pointers for 9 points to go with 5 rebounds. Behrend did shoot over 43%, better than Frostburg, but were unable to overcome the Cats' hot free throw shooting. The next day Frostburg went on to beat Pitt-Bradford 77-73 to capture the AMCC crown. The loss snapped Bradford's 16 game winning streak as well.

Dave Niland stated, "in the past I saw all of our teams grow through being in the postseason. Last year in the NCAA tournament, that team

had been together for a while and had experienced different highs and lows of the postseason. You want to continue to make those strides."

Concerning the upcoming off season, Niland had this to say, "we want our guys to take some time off; it's been a long year. We expect our kids to lift and stay in shape. We want our guys to hit the weights. We need a lot of weight work and I think they found that out this year that the college game is very much a physical game. If you don't improve your athleticism and your body it's really hard to compete."

For the season Behrend averaged 66 points per game while giving up 65 points per game. The Lions held a slight edge over opponents in rebounds, averaging a little over 32 per game while giving up an even 32 a game. The Lions shot 72% from the foul line, 36% from beyond the arc, and converted over 44% of their total floor shots this season. Curren led the team this year in total rebounds with 174 (6.7/game) and in total points with 358, an average of 13.8 per game. Curren also led the team with 134 field goals, 89 free throws, and 15 blocked shots in his first season as a Lion. Hairston was second on the team with 9.8 points per game, followed by Orris with 9.6 ppg, and Ponsoll at 9.2 ppg. Orris, who started at guard this year with Keith, had the most steals on the squad with 19 and handed out 70 assists. Keith made 49 three-pointers, most on the team, while averaging 7.8 ppg despite being slowed by an ankle injury most of the year. Orris, who along with Keith had more college experience on the court than all the other players combined, will be the only player not returning next year.



PHOTO BY BECKY WEINDORF

Freshman Dave Hairston jumps for two points in an earlier game this season. Hairston overcame the defense in order to score two points for the Behrend offense.