

## The weekly senior athletic profile

# Brianne Engelbert: The foundation of the Behrend volleyball team

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis  
assistant sports editor

Brianne Engelbert has been playing volleyball since seventh grade. After junior high, Engelbert continued her volleyball career at Meadville Area Senior High School and now plays for the Penn



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Brianne Engelbert has been a major reason the volleyball team is hungry for an AMCC title after their near miss last year. The Lions lost to Frostburg 3-2 in the championship game.

State Behrend Lions, whose current record is 3-6.

Engelbert is the co-captain, along with senior teammate Sarah Peterson. Engelbert held the position of the middle hitter last year, making the all-conference first team. When the Lions suffer

two years left the team, Engelbert was up to the challenge of filling the position. This season she is the starting setter.

Practices are from 4 to 6 p.m. every day, but Engelbert claims the team actually starts an hour early due to "the dedicated and hardworking girls we have on the team wanting to practice and get better."

Engelbert said that Behrend's team has grown throughout the years, "although it's hard when we lose key people to University Park. I feel we have a great team and we blend together very well on and off the court. I think we should have a winning season this year, and the next, with all the talent we have on the team."

"Our coaches keep us motivated and help us work on the errors we make during our games. We have definitely come a long way since the first day of practice," added Engelbert.

Engelbert chose to major in marketing, so she has a wide variety of jobs to choose from when she graduates. She listed owning her own business, marketing research, or sales positions as possible fields she might pursue.

Engelbert thinks one of her biggest accomplishments is time management.

"(Learning) how to manage time between classes, practice, games and tournaments. You have to learn to use your times wisely."

She spends her spare time with her fiance John Vogan and with her great roommates. Engelbert is not sure what is in her future, other than possible coaching volleyball. However, for now, her main goal is clear: "I hope we win the AMCC's this year, beating Frostburg bad."

## Volleyball team struggles at Carnegie Mellon; looks forward to 1st Behrend Volleyball Tournament

by Mike Bello  
sports editor

The women's volleyball team headed into the Carnegie Mellon Tournament with hopes of improving its first-week record of 2-3. The Lions had done fairly well during their first tournament, and looked to make a strong showing after losing all four games in the Carnegie Mellon Tournament last year.

The team was not able to accomplish its goal. The Lions were overmatched in their first three games before bouncing back and winning their final game of the tournament. The losses dropped their record to 3-6 on the year, similar to the way the 2000 season opened.

In the first game on Sept. 7, Behrend took on Marietta College and the Lions played as a solid unit in the first match. They lost that set by a 30-24 score, but things went downhill from there. The Lions were not even close in their second set loss, dropping a 30-9 decision. The Lions improved in the last set but still came out on the losing end of a 30-13 score.

Jessica Niedermeyer led the way for Behrend with eight kills and 13 digs, while freshman Ashley Ordy contributed six digs in the game. Brianne Engelbert racked up 13 setter assists for the Lions, who as a team committed 26 attack errors.

In the second game of the day, Behrend went up against Bethany College. The Lions came out strong, winning the first set 30-22, and nearly pulled out the victory in the second set but ended up losing by a 30-28 score. After that Behrend fell apart in the last two sets, falling by scores of 30-18 and 30-16.

Junior Danielle Bemis led all players with 12 kills in game two of the tournament, while Niedermeyer piled up 12 digs and nine kills. Lauren Senkevich contributed nine digs against Bethany while Engelbert had 31 setter assists for the Lions. The Lions were also able to reduce the amount of attack errors, making only 24 in the game.

The next day the Lions faced off with the tournament hosts, Carnegie Mellon, with results similar to the first two games. The Lions came out strong in the first set, although they dropped it by a 30-23 score.



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Members of the volleyball team charge the net in preparation for a returned hit from their practice opponent. What would have been their home opener, and first ever game in the Junker Center, on Tuesday against Thiel was postponed due to the tragic circumstances that went on in New York and Washington D.C. The Lions will play their first home game of the season in the Behrend Invitational on Friday at 2 p.m.

Just like the first two games, the Behrend team came closest to winning in the first set before sliding in their last sets. The Lions dropped the second set to Carnegie Mellon 30-20 and the last set 30-12.

Bemis led all with 10 digs and Senkevich had the most kills on the team, six. Niedermeyer racked up nine digs in the game while Engelbert had 16 setter assists. This time, the Lions committed only nine attack errors in the three sets of play.

After what looked like a disastrous weekend was coming to an end, the squad found hope in the form of Thiel College. The first set went into overtime, but the Lions pulled out a 34-32 win. The Lions cruised to 30-24 and 30-20 wins in the last two sets.

Engelbert and Ordy both had nine digs in the game, while Bemis had 12 kills on the day. Senkevich had eight kills in the final game of the tournament for Behrend, while Ordy contributed eight digs.

Engelbert racked up 33 setter assists in game four, a game in which the Lions committed only 12 attack errors.

The Lions were then supposed to play their first home game, and first game ever at the Junker Center, on Tuesday against Thiel. The game was postponed, the only Behrend game that was cancelled, until Oct. 24 due to the events that occurred in New York and Washington, D.C.

The Lions will then play their first home game on Friday against D'Youville at 2 p.m. in the first Penn State Behrend Volleyball Tournament. The Lions play Fredonia later in the afternoon before going up against Hiram on Saturday morning.

On Tuesday the Lions travel to New York to play Buffalo State and then on Thursday the Lions play their first conference game at home against Lake Erie. With four games on schedule before their game with Lake Erie, the Lions will look to bring a winning record into the conference part of their schedule.

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