

Furko ties school goals record in win over Alfred

by Bob Palivoda
staff writer

The Behrend women remain steaming hot in conference play after they smoked Pitt-Bradford 2-0 on Sept. 26.

Senior Laura Furko scored first for the women. This goal gave Furko five on the year and left her one away from tying Behrend's all-time scoring record of 31. This goal also put Furko on top of the all-time points list for Behrend.

The second goal of the game came from freshman phenomenon Niki Clouse, who is third on the team in scoring.

Michelle Malatesta, the senior goaltender, picked up yet another shutout, her fourth of the season.

On Friday, the women were back home to play Alfred in a non-conference game. Behrend's record was now an overall 4-6-1 and 3-0 in the AMCC.

It was on a cool, wet, mostly cloudy day like Friday where the Lions needed only one goal to defeat their opponent. This was not just an ordinary goal, however. This goal would be one that will echo throughout the Behrend history books.

Furko scored the only goal in the game in the first half and put herself one goal away from standing alone as the all-time leading goalscorer for the women's soccer program. Furko has now scored 31 career goals.

Furko's goal is all Behrend needed as Malatesta denied every shot she faced that added up to her fifth shutout of the year.

Coach Dan Perritano is happy with the women, but he feels now that the second half



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Senior Michelle Malatesta gets ready to punt the ball downfield in a recent home game at the Behrend Fields. Malatesta has allowed only 19 goals in 11 games, good for a 1.56 goals against average. Malatesta hasn't allowed a goal in all five of Behrend's wins this season.

of their season will be underway, they will play their last soccer.

With the victory against Alfred, Behrend's record moved to 5-6-1 (3-0 AMCC).

On Wednesday, the Lions played against

Allegheny at home, a game that was originally scheduled the day before at Allegheny. Despite having the home field advantage now, the Lions were unable to get anything going.

Behrend did not get anything going on the offensive side of the ball, as they failed to put one shot in goal. Allegheny, on the other hand, had a much easier time putting shots past Behrend. Allegheny scored five goals on the day to send Behrend to their seventh loss of the season.

With the big fall break coming up, many students are looking forward to kicking back and relaxing. However, the women's soccer team looks at the fall break as an opportunity to better themselves.

They traveled to California Thursday and will not be back until Tuesday. During this stay in California they will compete against Redlands on Saturday in one game and Claremont on Monday in another game (both at Claremont University).

Perritano explained that he likes the trip because it gives his players a "broader experience."

For recreation, the women will be in the audience of the "Price is Right". If luck goes their way, one of the players may even appear as a guest and get on national TV.

On Oct. 13, Behrend will play Pitt-Greensburg at home for a conference game starting at 5:30 p.m. Then on Oct. 17, La Roche will travel to Behrend for another conference match up. This game will start at 4:30 p.m.

Women's volleyball succumbs to Altoona, bounces back to slam Frostburg, Pitt-Bradford

by Diane Holtsford
staff writer

Last weekend the Behrend women's volleyball team played two grueling matches at home against two very skilled teams: Penn State Altoona and Frostburg.

Behrend did not start off the weekend well, dropping a five-game heartbreaker to Altoona. The Lions lost the first game 30-27 but fought back to win the second game 30-20. After dropping a very close third game 31-29, the Behrend team again refused to give up by clinching the fourth game 30-25. But a determined Altoona team walked away with the match by taking the fifth game 15-9.

Kellie Diehl's team gave Altoona a battle, but their hard work was not enough to get the win. "We played well at times, but we beat ourselves at times," said Diehl about Friday's match.

Jessica Niedermeyer amassed 23 kills and 17 digs alongside teammate Sarah Peterson who had 15 kills and 24 digs. Brienne Engelbert, with 55 setter assists, contributed eight kills and 16 digs. Excellent performance was also displayed by Danielle Bemis with 16 digs and Lauren Senkevich with 19 kills.

Behrend bounced back from Friday's loss with a huge win over Frostburg. Behrend took out its aggravation in three games, 30-26, 30-23, and 31-29.

"We played an excellent game against Frostburg; we played better all around," said Diehl.

Niedermeyer led the way with 19 kills and 22 digs, while Engelbert added 12 digs along with her 37 setter assists. Also contributing to Behrend's win were Bemis and Peterson with 16 digs each.

Last Tuesday, Behrend played another tedious five-game match against Pitt-Bradford. The Lions were down two games, 30-27 and 33-31, and three match points in the third game, but the determined Behrend team overcame Bradford 34-32. After two and a half hours of play, Behrend defeated Bradford in the last two games 30-25 and 15-8.

Bemis led the team with 13 kills and 35 digs, with Peterson adding 11 kills and 23 digs. Niedermeyer with 12 kills and 14 digs. Engelbert contributed 13 digs alongside her 46 setter assists.

Diehl was proud of her team's persistence at that match.

"We started slow, but we came together to play well and to keep the game close," said Diehl.

The Behrend Lions continue their streak of road games for two weeks. This weekend the Lions play Fredonia and Pitt-Greensburg, with Lake Erie next week. The following week they will face La Roche and Altoona and Frostburg.

Tennis team starts off week great before 'dropping the ball'

by Mike Bello
sports editor

You gain some; you lose some. The women's tennis team found out last week how true this can be as it began a stretch of seven games in nine days. The Lions secured back-to-back conference wins but lost all momentum when they dropped the next two games. The Lions bounced back Wednesday to improve their record to 5-9.

The first game of the week, which occurred on Sept. 27 after being rained out the day before, was against Pitt-Greensburg. As it turned out, the Lions had little difficulty handling Greensburg.

Senior Angela Albertson began play with 6-3 and 6-1 wins right before Lennys Redondo played her best match of the year. Redondo defeated her opponent 6-0 and 6-1, the first time all year any player had lost only one set during two-match play. The third senior of the day, Michelle Brendel, took care of her opponent without a problem in 6-2 and 6-3 wins.

The Lions hit a small snag in the middle when senior Carrie Reedy and Maggie Venema lost their sets. Reedy dropped a 6-3 decision followed by a 6-2 loss, while Venema lost 6-3 before giving her opponent a run for her money in a 7-5 loss. The last singles player of the day, Becky Snyder, helped the team rebound with match-wins of 6-2 and 6-4.

Albertson and Redondo began doubles play by cruising to an 8-3 win over their Greensburg opponents, but in the second match Venema and Snyder could not overcome Greensburg's number one and three players. The Lions were defeated by an 8-4 score, but it mattered little since Behrend had already won the game. Brendel and Reedy finished out the day by winning 8-4.

On Saturday, the Lions had to work a lot harder to pull out a win against Frostburg. Albertson won the first match 6-2 and 6-0 on a day when neither team would hold a lead greater than one. Redondo lost the first set of her match 6-1, but rebounded with a 6-3 win. Redondo wasn't able to do the same in the third set, losing by a 6-2 score. Freshman Kimmy Asada picked the Lions up with consecutive 7-5 wins, but Frostburg owned the next two matches.

Brendel lost to her opponent 6-3 and 6-2, and then freshman Christie Leininger dropped both of her sets, 6-2 and 6-1. Reedy came to the rescue by securing wins of 6-4 and 6-1 in between a 7-5 loss.

The Lions pulled one match ahead when Albertson and Redondo combined to win 8-6, but Asada and Snyder lost doubles match number two 8-2 which meant the team that won the last match would be the game winner. It was up to Brendel and Leininger, both of whom had lost their singles matches, to secure the win for Behrend. They did not disappoint, defeating Frostburg's third doubles team 8-5, improving the Lions' conference record to 3-1.

The next day the Lions played at Penn State Altoona, a team no one has defeated yet this year. They came as close as possible to winning without actually winning. Albertson won 6-3 and 6-2 with a 6-4 loss in the middle to start things off right for Behrend, but Altoona came back strong, winning the next two matches. Redondo



PHOTO BY ROB WYNNE

Senior Michelle Brendel returns a shot to her Edinboro opponent on Monday. Brendel won three of four singles matches and three of four doubles matches during the

dropped 6-1 and 6-2 sets, while Asada lost to her opponent by scores of 6-2 and 6-3.

Brendel and Leininger picked up where they left off last game, as both won their three set matches. Brendel won 6-3, lost 7-5, and then squeezed through a 7-6 win. Leininger then lost 6-4 before winning 6-4 and 7-6 to give Behrend a one-match lead. Reedy couldn't carry the momentum over though, losing 6-0 and 7-5.

With the singles games over and both teams dead even at 3-3, Albertson and Redondo gave the Lions the lead again with an easy 8-0 doubles win. Asada and Snyder couldn't do the same, losing 8-2, which meant once again the winner of the last match would be the winner of the game. It was once again up to Leininger and Brendel to save the day, which they almost did. It was a nail biter to the end, but the Lions just could not finish off Altoona, a team the Lions lost to 6-3 a week before, losing the last doubles set 9-8.

After this heartbreaking loss to the AMCC's number one team, the Lions returned home to play a Monday afternoon game against fellow Erie County school Edinboro. The Lions got off to a rather poor start, losing the first three matches. Albertson lost 6-1 and 6-3, Snyder lost 6-0 and 6-1, and Asada too lost 6-0 and 6-1. Momentum can shift though and it certainly did, as the Lions then won the final three singles matches.

Brendel handled her opponent easily in 6-3 and 6-2 wins, while Leininger won a close one 7-6 before dominating in 6-0. Reedy followed suit by winning 6-2 and 7-6. Albertson and

Redondo began doubles play by losing 9-7, which gave Edinboro a one-match lead. Venema and Snyder couldn't stop the 'Boro from gaining the win, as they dropped their match 8-6. Brendel and Leininger finished off the day's matches with an 8-4 win.

The Lions got a much needed day off Tuesday, but then they had to hit the road again on Wednesday at La Roche. Behrend did not mind La Roche had home court advantage, because the Lions cruised to their easiest win of the season, 7-0.

Albertson won 6-3 and 6-1 and Asada followed that up with dominating 6-1 and 6-0 wins. Brendel cruised to wins of 6-1 and 6-0, while the next two players didn't lose a single set.

Venema and Snyder both defeated their opponents 6-0 in straight sets, the first time Behrend has done that all season. They then teamed up to defeat La Roche in doubles play 8-3. Sophomore Jenny Zhang and freshman Zoe Rose finished out the day with an 8-4 doubles win.

Behrend was scheduled to play at Thiel Thursday afternoon. The Lions come home to play Pitt-Greensburg today at 4 p.m. They follow that up with an easy week, as they play only one game during those seven days, that being Wednesday at Hiram. The Lions will only have two other games after Hiram to get ready for the AMCC championships. Considering how close they came to defeating Altoona, the Lions know a fifth straight title is closer than ever before.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY

Sophomore Lauren Senkevich, center, stretches to reach for the ball in the Lions' game against Penn State Altoona on Friday. Also pictured are Behrend players, from left to right, senior Sarah Peterson, senior Brienne Engelbert, sophomore Jessica Niedermeyer, and junior Danielle Bemis.

Cross country teams excel in 'first-class' Loyola Invitational

by Jason Snyder
staff writer

Going into last weekend's Loyola Invite in Chicago, cross country coach Dave Cooper realized that a nine-hour trip the day before could make his teams' muscles a little "sluggish." But instead, the traveling seemed to bring out the best in the Lions as many runners on both teams had their best times of the season.

"The Loyola Invite went very well," said Cooper. "(The meet) was first-class in every sense of the word - top competition, festive atmosphere, etc." More than 378 runners competed in both races.

Kevin Ritzert continued his improvement this season, posting a season best time of 27:18, which placed him 62nd in the meet. Dan Croft continues to hold down the second spot for the Lions, finishing the race in 112th with a time of 28:44. Teammates Tim Schultheis (29:09), Clayton Kirschner (29:20), and Dan Alvis (29:29) all finished within one minute of Croft, giving the Lions a strong core of runners, which could help at the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championships on Oct. 27.

The men's team finished 20th of the 27 Division III teams that competed in the highly competitive meet, and 30th of the 38 total teams that raced.

Jessica Knapp and Andrea Sanko continue to give the women's team a one-two punch at the front of the field. The two women have swapped the finishing order between themselves three times in the past three races.

"Jessica and Andrea are handling the competition between themselves in a very positive and supporting way," said Cooper. "It is only making them both better."

Both of them got better this past weekend. Knapp finished in 76th place with a time of 20:52, only six seconds off her best time of the season at the Buffalo State Invitational. Sanko finished right behind her with a time of 20:58, placing her in 80th.

Susie Szafran and Lindsey Boor closed

the gap between themselves and Knapp and Sanko, finishing with times of 21:27 and 21:30, respectively.

The women finished 17th of the 27 Division III schools that competed, and 28th of the 41 total teams that competed.

Cooper wants both teams to be ready for the AMCC Championships at the end of the month.

"We need to become more confident in going out at the right race pace so that we have plenty of energy throughout the race," said Cooper. "They are starting to hit it right."

This weekend's Frostburg meet was cancelled, which would have given the Lions a better sense of the competition they will see at the championships. "We're scrambling to fill that date," said Cooper.

If the Lions can't fill it, then their next race will be their last before the AMCC Championships. Behrend will next compete at the Rennselear Poly Institute Invitational on Oct. 20.



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Freshmen Tara Burgess, left, and Susie Szafran head back up to the Junker Center after a long jog around the streets of Behrend.