

Fifth year not a charm for women's soccer team



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Freshman Natasha Edrington, left watches sophomore Mandy Gesuale kick the ball upfield during their last home game last week. Despite winning their last four home games, as well as the first game of the AMCC tournament, the Lady Lions could not pull out the win in the title game, losing by a 4-1 score.

by Bob Palivoda
staff writer

The women's soccer team fell to Frostburg 4-1 in the AMCC championship game at Family First Sports Park on Sunday. This marked the

first time in five years the team had not won the championship.

It was just not good for Behrend, from the beginning of the game until the end. In the first half, the first three goals scored came from Frostburg. Scoring the first and only goal for Behrend, in the

first half, was senior Laura Furko.

Although the second half of the game was better for the Lady Lions, they still did not score any goals but held Frostburg to one.

Behrend ended its season with a 10-10-1 record.

When commenting on the loss, coach Dan Perritano said that he was disappointed. He also said that this loss should constitute for good motivation for the upcoming season.

Perritano was proud of how far his team had come this season. He was especially proud of last third of the season, in which the team undoubtedly improved.

Even though the game against Frostburg ended the season on a gloomy note, the game leading up to the championship was one of style and grace for Behrend.

Behrend's first match-up for the AMCC Tournament was against Pitt Bradford on Saturday. Snow on the Behrend Fields prevented the teams from playing Friday, which pushed the semifinals to Saturday.

Behrend absolutely dominated the game against Bradford. In the first half, sophomores Lisa Danwalder and Aubrey Nicksich led Behrend with a goal each.

Danwalder finished with two goals after scoring again in the second half to lead the Lions to a 3-0 win over Bradford.

Because of Behrend's punishing defense on the day, senior Michelle Malatesta only faced two shots on goal blocking them both. Malatesta ended the season with an amazing eight shutouts.

Perritano has high hopes for next season. He will lose five seniors, Furko, Malatesta, Diane Holtsford, Briana Shively, and Melissa DelPorto but will count on the players he has left to improve, which includes only freshmen and sophomores. He hopes to bring in 15 recruits for next year's freshmen class.

Behrend does have eight players on the 2001 AMCC Women's Soccer All Conference Team.

Making the first team, as midfielders, are seniors Furko (11 goals, 29 points on the year) and Holtsford (one goal, three points).

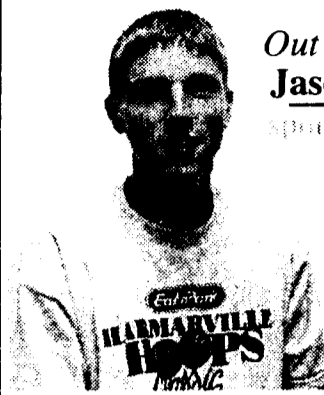
Making the first team, as defenders, are sophomore Mandy Gesuale and senior Briana Shively.

Senior Malatesta (129 saves, 39 goals against, 1.86 goals against average) made the first team as goalkeeper.

Making the second team as a forward is sophomore Nicksich (nine goals, 18 points). Also making the second team as a defender is freshman Natasha Edrington.

Finally, coming in at honorable mention as a midfielder is freshman Maria Gahagen (four goals, 10 points).

Joe Paterno is a Penn State legend



Out of Bounds
Jason Snyder
sports columnist

I was sitting in one of my communications classes a couple of weeks ago,

learning about the models of communication and the levels of hierarchy in organizations. My professor decided to use Penn State as an example of the different hierarchical levels.

"Who is at the very top of the Penn State hierarchy?" he asked.

Waiting for a response such as, "The Board of Trustees," or "Graham Spanier," he unexpectedly heard, "Joe Paterno." And as unexpected as that answer was, everyone agreed.

Joe Paterno is a Penn State god, which became ever so apparent to me this past Saturday when he broke Bear Bryant's all-time win record with his 324th victory. The historical meaning of the day became even more apparent with the way Penn State came back from a 27-9 deficit to knock off rival Ohio State.

I was fortunate enough to be at Beaver Stadium for the historic event, witnessing history happen right in front of my eyes. You can't even begin to understand the true spectacle of Joe Paterno unless you are there to see it.

From the moment he takes the field, there is a sense of awe from the people in the stands. Every week he wears pants that are too short and a jacket that you could find at K-mart. He looks like any ordinary "Joe."

He walks from person to person on the field, shaking hands and starting conversation with nearly everyone in his way. Then he starts his trek from the back of the end zone to his sideline, walking past the student section of the stands to a standing ovation and a roar of cheers. He waves to the students with a grin on his face.

When he gets to his sideline, he continues to meet and greet people. It appears as though he doesn't even understand the true spectacle of himself, talking to every person that approaches him. The fame has never gone to his head.

The players then begin their stretching before the game, lining up in perfect rows. I'd assume that's how Joe Pa requested it be done. He walks from player to player, shaking their hands or patting their shoulder pads or giving them words of encouragement. He's done this to thousands of his players, and I'm sure they haven't forgotten that ritual.

So the game starts, the students stand, the alumni cheer and Joe Pa walks the sideline. All of these traditions are just something we take for granted, because they have been commonplace for the past 35 years.

Joe Pa will then step onto the field every once in a while to give a referee an earful, which will cause more than 100,000 fans to join in, chanting "Joe-Pa-Ter-No, Joe-Pa-Ter-No," or, "Joe Pa, Joe Pa, Joe Pa."

As last weekend's game against Ohio State neared its conclusion, those "Joe Paterno" chants started up again. We waited six games for two wins this season. And Joe Paterno wasn't going to make us wait any longer.

The clock wound down, the players put the legend on their shoulders, and 100,000-plus Penn State faithful chanted his name. The record might not seem as important to anyone else in this country, but anyone who bleeds Penn State Blue realized the importance of the moment. The man who put Penn State on the map as a traditionally great football program finally got the respect he deserves.

My friend and I rushed the field with a couple dozen other students who managed to get past security when the celebrations began. We understood the historical importance of the moment. But even more than the historical aspect, we understood that the moment was the culmination of more than 50 years of making a legend. He had gone from just any ordinary "Joe" to a Penn State icon.

Today, Joe Paterno is no ordinary "Joe." He is no ordinary football coach. And he surely isn't just another ordinary member of the Penn State community. Joe Paterno is Penn State, period. Without him, we lose a sense of our identity. We lose a sense of our traditions. And we lose one hell of a football coach, the winningest college football coach of all time.

And a loss like that is something that a true Penn State fan never wants to see.

Things look cut-and-dry for water polo team

by Zoe Rose
staff writer

With the Southern Championships at the U.S. Naval Academy happening today and Saturday, the men's water polo team has shifted into first gear. The Lions will need to show hard work and dedication for the tournament, but at the same time will have fun in the last games of competitive play this year.

In the opening rounds of the tournament, the Blue and White will face Slippery Rock and John Hopkins. Then comes the challenge. The Lions will face-off against local newcomer Mercyhurst for the final game on Saturday night, and will need a win to play Sunday. This is a crucial step for the Lions since the last time they played the 'Hurst at the Princeton Invitational, they came away with a tight 10-9 win.

"The guys promised me this game will not be close, being the last game we are not going to hold back anything" said coach Josh Heynes.

Although it is impossible for the team to end the season with a winning record, the improvements that have been made and the efforts shown, as well as the devotion to stick with the team through tough times, is in fact what makes up the Behrend men's water-polo team.

"The improvements are there," said Heynes about the tough schedule faced this season. "Teams that thrashed us last year (needed) four quarters and 28 minutes of tough polo to beat us by only a few goals this year."

As this is the last tournament of the year, along comes the awareness that seniors Allen Haywood and Jon Harding will leave the team.

"They were part of a beginning that when they look back they will really appreciate," said Heynes. "Losing them next year will be a definite blow to the team."

When both players joined the team, they were out of shape and average in academic standing but have put in the work to get to where they are now.

"Now they are swimming and polo machines, and academically better (possible Academic All-Americans)," said Heynes. "They will always be welcomed back to this pool, to tell the younger ones how it was when they first started to play here at Penn State Erie."

As the team prepares for its final challenge, having a new facility and the backing of the athletic department has provided a nice end for the season. The guys have bonded as a team and have shown it during their practices and willingness to stick together during the tough season.

"We are at the doorstep to success," said Heynes. "It is up to the guys to go through it."

This week's senior athletic profile

Angela Albertson:

Rising to the occasion when the time comes



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

After being down 1-5 in her second AMCC Championship match, Angela Albertson thought of the advice her mom told her: Never give up. She continued on to win the match and AMCC singles championship.

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Angela Albertson has faced some tough competitors in her lifetime, but there's one player with whom she'd love to go face-to-face.

"When I was younger, Pete Sampras was always my favorite player. He has been around forever. I would like to meet him and take him on in a match. I think I have a good chance against him," said Albertson, jokingly.

Albertson, a Behrend Lion tennis player, was recently named the Most Valuable Player for the season in the AMCC.

"Being the Most Valuable Player is pretty exciting. I was a little nervous at the beginning of season about playing No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles, but it all worked out, and it showed with receiving this award," said Albertson.

Michelle Brendel, a teammate and friend of Albertson, was equally as excited.

"I was so happy for her," said Brendel. "If anyone deserves this award, it is her! The first time I met her was on the tennis court. The coach was trying to convince me to play, but I was afraid of joining the team because I was a freshman in Plastics Engineering and was afraid I would not have enough time."

"Albertson's direct words were, 'I'm a freshman in Plastics and I'm playing tennis too.' That is not what I wanted to hear at the time, but I decided to take her advice and join the team. I'm glad I did, because from that moment on Angela and I had become life-long friends."

Albertson claimed it was her determination that pulled her through a win in her final AMCC match. Albertson lost the first set 6-4. She also was down 5-1 in the second set, and 40-15 in the game."

"I was determined that I was not going to lose," said Albertson. "I fought back from being down so far. It would have been easy to mess up one point, and the match would have been over, but I stuck

with it. I ended up winning 11 games in a row to win both the second and third sets."

The second set score ended up being 7-5 and the third set was 6-3.

"My determination brought a win for my final match in my college tennis career," said Albertson.

During the grueling match, Albertson thought not only about tennis but also about her mother.

"My Mom has always stressed to never give up in what I was doing," said Albertson. "Without that thought drilled in my head, I would have easily lost my final AMCC match due to how far behind I was. I didn't give up though, and it certainly paid off."

Albertson started playing tennis in fifth grade when she joined her grade school tennis team. She continued her career at Villa Maria High School, and continued to play when she started college at Penn State Behrend. At Behrend, coach Jeff Barger, has taught Albertson how to improve her strategy.

"Before a match I try to put thoughts of school and activities aside and concentrate on the match, given that things get pretty hectic during tennis season," said Albertson. "Because, the more I allow myself to relax before a match, the better I play. I just love playing tennis. I get excited for every match, and I think that is a big part of preparing."

"Angela values team unity and always cheers her teammates on," said Brendel. "She always arrived to matches and practices on time and ready to play. She is truly a dedicated and an amazing person."

Albertson had an internship last summer involving her major in Plastics Engineering at Rehrg Pacific Company, where she mainly worked on material testing. This experience was worthwhile to Albertson.

"I enjoyed doing this because I got to leave the plant sometimes to mold parts," said Albertson. "And I also got to communicate with others outside of the company."

Now that the season is over, Albertson plans to work during the week at a Rehrg Pacific Company.

Albertson is also involved in a lot of school activities. She is the treasurer of Society of Women Engineers, treasurer of the senior class of Society of Plastics Engineers, president of SAAC, and a Lion Ambassador. Albertson is not done playing tennis, though.

"One nice thing about tennis is that it is a sport that you can play all your life," said Albertson. "So, I definitely plan on playing in leagues to stay active in the latter years of my life. But, I certainly am going to miss playing tennis for Behrend."