

Lady Lions struggle to find touch in early-season losses

by Mike Bello
sports editor

After beginning the 2000 season with a 4-1 record, the women's basketball team had high hopes it could repeat that success over the first two weeks of the 2001 season. Their first five opponents, however, proved to be a greater challenge than they could handle. The Lions dropped four of their first five games, essentially reversing last season's record, heading into the Behrend Tournament this weekend.

On Wednesday, the Lions traveled to Washington & Jefferson along with the men's team to take part in a doubleheader. The Lady Lions had trouble limiting W & J's scoring opportunities in the first half, and found themselves down by a 31-28 score. Behrend came back strong in the second half, shooting over 50 percent from the field, to send the game into overtime. Behrend, though, couldn't pull out the win and lost 75-70.

Erica Mozdy led the Lions with 19 points, including four 3-pointers, while senior Erin Phillips pushed closer to the all-time scoring mark with 14 points. Crystal McGarvey and Christine Charnock both contributed 11 points, with Charnock adding seven rebounds and McGarvey six. Behrend shot 40 percent from the field as a team, but was hurt by W & J's Shawndra McDonald, who sank 32 points.

Two days after Thanksgiving, the Lions returned home from

their break to face Case Western at the Junker Center. Behrend was done in early by poor shooting (26 percent in the first half) as Case Western cruised to a 41-19 halftime lead. The Lions fared somewhat better in the second half, but still couldn't keep the game close, losing 79-52.

No Lion player scored in double digits, with Mozdy leading the team with nine points, all on 3-pointers. Phillips and Carly Cochran both had eight points, while Phillips led the team with seven rebounds. Behrend shot 36 percent from the floor, but also took 17 less shots than Case Western, which shot 41 percent.

On Nov. 20, Behrend took a road trip to West Virginia to compete against Bethany. Unlike the W & J game, Behrend stayed with their opponent in the first half, as both teams went into the locker room with 38 points on the board. The Lions then made one more field goal, and one more 3-pointer, in the second half, but foul trouble led to their demise as Bethany took 33 shots from the line, sinking 23 of them. The end result was an 82-75 loss.

Senior Kate Costanzo led the way for Behrend with 18 points on six of 16 shooting while grabbing six rebounds. McGarvey had a team-high nine rebounds and added 12 points, while Mozdy and Phillips added 11 and 10 points, respectively. The Lions shot slightly worse than Bethany, less than a percentage point, but Bethany made 70 percent of their free throws while Behrend only made 50 percent.

Behrend's only win so far this season occurred on Nov. 16 against Bluffton in the first game of Behrend's Creative Imprint Systems Tournament held at the 'Junk'. The Lions coasted to an easy 40-24 halftime lead, thanks to blistering 52 percent shooting. Behrend had the ceiling smoking even more in the second half, shooting 54 percent from the floor that paved the way for a 73-54 win.

Costanzo scored 20 points, the most by a Behrend player in a game to date, on nine of 14 shooting, while junior Danielle Bemis sank 16 points. Phillips had a team-high 11 rebounds while contributing nine points, and Charnock added eight points on the night. Behrend's stifling defense kept Bluffton to 34 percent shooting.

In the championship game the next day, against John Carroll, the Lions found out how important free throw shooting and an outside game really are. Despite outshooting JC from the field by several percentage points, the Lions sent their opponent to the foul line 24 times in the second half. JC sank 19 of those. The Lions only made one 3-pointer all night while JC made eight, all of which contributed to Behrend's 74-55 loss.

Charnock had 13 points, while Mozdy had a team-high 12 rebounds. Phillips, who along with Costanzo was named to the All-Tournament Team, had eight rebounds and 11 points in the losing cause. Behrend also committed 10 more turnovers in the game than JC.

Today and tomorrow, the Lions will host their annual Behrend Tournament. RIT, Albion, and Susquehanna have all been invited to participate in the tournament, which looks to be as competitive of a tournament as Behrend has had in a while. The Lions will play RIT at 8 p.m. in second game, and the winner will play the winner of the Albion/Susquehanna game for the championship Saturday at 3 p.m. The Lions will get a few days rest before traveling to Pitt-Bradford on Wednesday to play their first AMCC game on the year.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY

Senior Kate Costanzo lays the smack down on her Bluffton opponent in the first game of Behrend's Creative Imprint Tournament on Nov. 16.

senior athletic profile



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

Jon Harding: From keystrokes to swim strokes, MIS major accomplishes big goals

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Jon Harding started swimming when he was 7 years old, for an age group swim team named the Tunkhannock Tiger Sharks. Now he is a senior at Behrend, leading the Lions to victory. Not only does Harding swim for Behrend, but this past summer he participated in several Olympic distance triathlons.

"I fell in love with the sport and I plan to continue it," said Harding. "I got second in my age group at the Edinboro Triathlon, placed in the top 10 percent at the Cleveland Triathlon, and won my age group in the Times News Duathlon."

One of Harding's swimming milestones happened at Wyoming Seminary High School when he went to PIAA states for swimming and diving, which is rare because they are two very different sports.

"I ended up all-state honorable mention in diving and top 16 in 100 fly," said Harding.

Harding swims the 100 and 200-yard butterfly. The 200 butterfly is one of the most dreaded races in swimming. He also swims freestyle in the 200, 400, or 800 free relay.

"The butterfly is known as a hard stroke, but I love it," said Harding. "You get to pop your head up out of the water every few strokes and see your teammates cheering you on."

Coach Josh Heynes played a vital role in Harding's development as a swimmer.

"Coach Heynes taught me that any swimmer can step up and beat any other swimmer, because swimming is mental," said Harding. "You can psyche your opponent out before you even get in the water by how you act behind the blocks."

Assistant coach Jennifer Slack has taught Harding the importance of pregame preparation.

"She has taught me that swim-

ming is also about preparation," said Harding. "You have to put in the yards, in order to get the payoff."

In preparation for the meets, Harding said he visualizes the race he is in over and over again.

"Every detail: the start, every turn, what I am going to do if my opponent is ahead of me, and most importantly the finish," said Harding. "For me, swimming has always been about training all winter long for one race that lasts less than a minute."

Harding is known as the "old man" on the team. He is 23 years old and swims with a lot of underclassmen and women who are 18, 19, and 20.

"I think it's funny because my teammates say I have 'old man strength,'" said Harding.

Harding said his family is his biggest influence. Unlike the team, he is the youngest in his family. He said his brothers and sisters have made it really tough to follow in their footsteps.

It can be hard in the beginning of the semester or when practice schedules change to manage time, said Harding, but he says he has to force himself to never miss anything: class, practice, work, or even hanging out with friends.

"After a few weeks it's natural," said Harding.

Practices are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:15 to 7:30 a.m.; Monday to Friday from 4 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m.

Harding's role model is cyclist Lance Armstrong.

"He has won three consecutive Tour de France (titles) because of the way he trains, hard in the off season. Also, he focuses on one race, the TDF. Did I mention he's a cancer survivor?"

"I am willing to work extremely hard just to see the payoff... even if the payoff is dropping tenths of a second from my best time," said Harding. "Motivation is another thing that drives me. The most im-

portant thing about swimming is never forgetting what gets you up at 6 a.m.; you want to race your fastest."

Harding claims he is a complete computer dork.

"I am constantly reading technology news, reviews, and opinions: Slashdot, Wired, ArsTechnica, and HardOCP."

Harding, an MIS major, loves computers and technology. In his spare time he says that he is either on the computer or working on his Management 470W class.

"If you know what that is, than you know there is no such thing as spare time when you have that class," said Harding.

With the little time he has left, Harding helps the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, where his mother is employed.

Harding graduates in December. He is considering two jobs offers in the Washington D.C. area. One offer is from IBM and the other offer is from Booz, Allen, and Hamilton. They are both technology consulting positions.

"I am sure the team will finish this year extremely well because of all the talent we have," said Harding. "There are several swimmers on the team this year that could be swimming in Division I, but we are lucky enough to have them at Behrend. We already have our first win and I am sure there will be many more."

"The swim team is extremely close, because we do almost everything together, which is great. We already spend 18 hours a week together for practices. Then we eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner together, on the weekends too. My best friends at Behrend are on the swimming and water polo teams."

MCNEIL'S RAMBLINGS

McNeil: I've been reading articles on it, and hearing members of Congress and the President talk about "our objective" to wipe out terrorism. I really think our government needs to step back for just a moment, and possibly look into a new direction, militarily, as well as all our efforts/resources. I think a retaliation was absolutely justified from the Sept. 11 attack, but there is such a bigger picture than just mass "dumb" bombing all over Afghanistan, looking for Osama and his Al-Qaeda network etc. The military part of this war is just the tip of the iceberg. Our dependency on foreign oil is another big factor. Some select schools in Afghan, Pakistan and around the Middle East teach hatred towards other cultures including the U.S. (They need to be restructured or abolished all together. We are supposed to be allies with Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, and yet they're funding these schools. It sounds as though we're "sleeping with the Devil". This is not a holy war as the Taliban/Al-Qaeda want to call it, it is a war of ideologies. And the concepts of freedom of thought, and a democratic way of life will win eventually. It may take a hundred years, maybe even longer, but I have to believe that the good in this world will prevail. How's that for giving me a soapbox?

Beacon: What riding movies are you in?
McNeil: I'm in "Ghetto Blaster," a skate/snow flick from '98, and I have a small part in Xodus Productions "Hi-Fi '00."

Beacon: Life in Mammoth?
McNeil: It's so great there, beautiful, nice locals, really mellow. Such a small town, it's actually a village. Sometimes it feels like a high school, but it's fun. My friends and I don't party hardly at all during the season. Riding is such a priority out there. We go to the gym, play chess, watch movies, basically, we're dorks. The town is talking about putting an airport in a couple miles down the road (which sucks). I don't think Mammoth will ever be the same if they do put it in. I'm predicting in the next five years Mammoth will be totally "Vailized".

Beacon: Yeah, hopefully Mammoth doesn't sell out. What injuries have you had?

McNeil: Whoa, that's a list! Let's see, bones broken: wrists, thumb, nose, chipped wisdom tooth, tailbone, collar bone (clavical), ankle (four times), 12 stitches in my side.

Beacon: Views on skiing/freeskiing?
McNeil: I think it's rad, this new evolution in the sport. You can't help but notice the influence snowboarding has had in the ski world, style/tricks. It's like a whole new sport thought.

Beacon: Freeskiing is awesome. Who's more hardcore? The Dark Realm (East Coast) or the Mecca (West Coast)?
McNeil: Left coast.

Beacon: Who do you look up to riding and non?
McNeil: It's more like looking down, at all young kids coming up. Future of snowboarding: John Jackson, Andreas Wiig, Kevin Jones, Matt Hammer, Gabe Taylor, Travis Rice, Danny Kass, Kyle Clancy, Abe Tejer...there are way too many good riders out there.

Beacon: Who do you know (pros)?
McNeil: Mentioned above.

Beacon: Is Boulder, Colo. really as preppy as they say?
McNeil: Yes, but I would use the word "Spoiled college brats with way too much \$".

Beacon: What kind of beats are you listening to now?
McNeil: Alkaline Trio, The Lawrence Arms, The Strokes, Dashboard Confessionals, Smoking Popes, The Smiths

Beacon: Comments in the future of riding and riding in general?
McNeil: I thought the sport was starting to plateau a little bit as far as tricks were concerned. Then at Super Park this last season, Travis Rice pulls out this 100 foot plus B's Rodeo over a sketchy hip. I quit.

Beacon: Thanks?
McNeil: I want thank my family and friends and anyone who has supported me.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Erica Mozdy



Erica Mozdy, a sophomore from Mercyhurst Prep, collected 20 points, eight rebounds and seven assists last week for the Blue and White. The Lions suffered losses to Bethany on Nov. 20 and Case Western on Saturday. The Penn State Behrend basketball team is 1-3 on the season and will host RIT, Susquehanna, and Albion in the Behrend Tournament at the Junker Center today and Saturday.