

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Saturday
Women's Basketball
Penn State Altoona
Junker Center
2 p.m.
*TV Game

Men's Basketball
Penn State Altoona
Junker Center
4 p.m.
*TV Game

JV Basketball
Penn State Altoona
Junker Center
6 p.m.

Sunday Dec. 16
Women's Basketball
@ Sun Desert Classic
Las Vegas, Nev.
Through Dec. 20
TBA

Monday Dec. 17
Men's Basketball
@ Thiel
7:30 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 29
Men's Basketball
@ Wilmington Tournament
vs. Waynesburg
3 p.m.

Sunday Dec. 30
Men's Basketball
@ Wilmington Tournament
vs. Wilmington
3 p.m.

Wednesday Jan. 2
Men's Basketball
@ Allegheny
7:30 p.m.

Saturday Jan. 5
Women's Basketball
@ Buffalo State
2 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Westminster
Junker Center
8 p.m.

Wednesday Jan. 9
Women's Basketball
Lake Erie
Junker Center
6 p.m.
*TV Game

Men's Basketball
Lake Erie
Junker Center
8 p.m.
*TV Game

*Can be seen on Image Sports Network

Intramurals Schedule

Friday
Intramural 5 vs. 5 Basketball: Men's and Women's Teams
(Play begins in Spring)

All entries must be at the intramural office by 4 p.m. on the scheduled date

Lions fall to Pitt-Bradford, drop to 4-3



PHOTO BY KRISTIN RODGERS

Sophomore Casey Ponsoll looks for an open teammate as junior Steve Merrill gets ready to set a pick against Grove City on Nov. 20.

by Zoe Rose
staff writer

The men's basketball team began its league schedule on Wednesday with a disappointing 61-49 loss at Pitt-Bradford. The Lions' defense was unable to shut down Bradford's offense, as the Panthers shot 48 percent from the floor, including seven of 15 from 3-point land.

Sophomore Randy Conley led all scorers with 14 points on seven of 11 shooting. Junior Steve Merrill contributed nine points, while sophomore James Curren added eight points and a team-high five rebounds.

On Sunday afternoon at the Junker Center, sophomore forward Casey Ponsoll scored a game-high 29 points, and added nine rebounds

and one blocked shot to give Penn State Behrend a solid 82-75 win over Carnegie Mellon. The win came a day after the Lions downed Fredonia on its home court 61-45.

The Lions have a busy schedule in December. Behrend plays a televised home game against Penn State Altoona Saturday, and plays a non-conference game at Thiel on Dec. 17. Shortly after the holiday season ends, the Lions will strut their stuff at the Wilmington Tournament Dec. 29 and 30.

When asked what Behrend needs to focus on, Merrill said, "defense, rebounding, and just flat out working harder and outplaying our opponents."

In their game against Carnegie Mellon, the Lions led 34-29 at the half. They dominated the courts soon after the beginning of play in

the second half to increase the lead to 14 points at the five-minute mark. Along with Ponsoll, leading the Lions were Merrill and sophomore forward Marty Timm.

The trio pumped up the crowd with excitement as Merrill had 16 points on five of six shooting, five assists, six rebounds and one steal. Timm had 14 points on eight of 15 shooting with four rebounds. Randy Conley added seven points, while James Curren added six.

The Lions shot 47.2 percent from the field (26 of 55) and held the Tartans to 40 percent shooting (26 of 65). Behrend smashed Carnegie Mellon in the three-point zone, with the Lions making 12 of 18 three pointers (.666) to the Tartans eight of 25 (.320).

Along with the incredible three-pointers, Behrend won the basketball game at the line, hitting 18 of 24 free throws (69.2 percent) compared to Carnegie Mellon's 15 of 24 (62.5 percent) mark. Weighed against the last few games, one can say for sure that Behrend was solid on the boards.

The 82 points were the highest scored all season for the Blue and White. Ponsoll said the team is coming together.

"I think that team chemistry or unity is one of our greatest strengths," said Ponsoll. "I've only played with or known these guys for about a year and a half now but I feel like I've been playing with them for years."

Ponsoll helped Behrend increase its advantage in the second half as he netted a majority of his 29 points during the final 20 minutes.

"I was just having one of those games where it seemed like everything I was throwing up was going in," said Ponsoll about his incredible second-half shooting streak.

Sinking three 3-pointers at the 12-minute mark, Ponsoll boosted the Lion's lead to 53-40. The Blue and White cemented their lead from that point on, as the Tartans never came within 13 until 1:28 left in the game. The Lions outscored the Tartans 48-46 after the intermission.

Ponsoll leads the Lions with 11.3 points per game, tallying 68 points so far this season. Merrill follows

with 10.7 ppg, 3.2 rebounds per game, and a solid .500 field goal percentage (15-30). James Curren is hitting 9.5 ppg and grabbing 7.7 rpg as well.

The strongest key area for the Blue and White this season has been their ability to have a strong inside presence, triggering high performance from the arc.

"We always make it a key to the game to play inside then outside and to rebound our opponents," said Merrill. "We were able to accomplish both of those and that is why I feel we won."



PHOTO BY KRISTIN RODGERS

Sophomore forward Marty Timm looks to drive the net in Behrend's win over Grove City on Nov. 20.

This week's senior athletic profile

Christine Charnock: Making the grade while making the hoops



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Christine Charnock, a Behrend senior basketball player, would possibly not be playing basketball if it were not for her older sister Kim.

"I wanted to try out for the cheerleading squad when I was in fourth grade because all of my friends were," said Charnock. "Since my sister played basketball, she told me that if I tried out for cheerleading instead of basketball that she would never talk to me again. After that, I tried out for the basketball team."

"My family is very close. My little sister, Lou, is my biggest supporter. My family tries to come to every game."

Charnock started playing basketball, thanks to Kim, on a team when she was in fourth grade, but she remembers shooting hoops in the backyard way before that. Charnock looks up to basketball player

Angie Pothoff, an Erie native who played basketball at Penn State and is now in the WNBA.

"I met her once. She came to one of our practices and I was speechless," said Charnock. "I was so excited and nervous all at once, that I froze. I could not even remember any of our plays, or even talk to her. I was really embarrassed. She is a forward, like I am."

"In high school I was a forward, but I played more like a guard by shooting a lot of jump shots. When I came to Behrend, my coaches told me that I needed to play with my back to the basket, post my girl up, make a move, and score the inside shot on her, as opposed to shooting a lot of outside jump shots. All of my coaches at Behrend have really helped me to improve at becoming a post player."

Charnock credits her coaches, who have helped her train in some very unorthodox manners.

"In practice we split up into guards and forwards, and do drills," said Charnock. "One of my favorite drills is when the coaches get the red pad out, and beat us up with it when we are trying to score the basketball. The logic behind the drill is if we can make our shots when they are using the pad, then we'll be able to make our shots when we are getting fouled in the game."

Basketball season starts the second week of school with open gyms, and the season does not end until the beginning of March. It is the longest college season.

"Basketball is extremely time consuming," Charnock said. "Managing my time is difficult, but it works."

She also practices everyday for two hours, either 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., depending on the day. Plus, Charnock referees intramural games when she has time in her busy schedule. In her spare time Charnock likes to play and watch other sports.

"I also like to go out and celebrate our wins with my teammates," she said.

Charnock is a quad captain with the three other seniors, Kate Costanzo, Erin Phillips, and Katie Weigold.

"We have been close friends since our freshmen year," said Charnock. "We have stuck together for the past three years, on and off the court. We believe that shots are shots!"

The Lions did not start the season off strong, but despite their sub-.500 record, Charnock still sees the light at the end of the tunnel.

"The team was off to a rocky 1-4 start," said Charnock. "Three out of the four teams we have lost to went to the NCAA tournament last year. So, we are playing some strong teams. We (were) a good 1-4 team. Now, we are 3-4. I think we'll finish 22-4."

In order to prepare for the games, Charnock reads over her scouting report and thinks about what she needs to do in order to stop the other team from scoring. She also thinks about how she can score to get her emotions rolling.

"I try and get a spark in me so that I can

get fired up, and fire the other girls up," said Charnock.

Charnock said her two strongest characteristics are standing up for what she believes in and her attitude.

"It is attitude, more than anything else, that will affect a successful outcome," said Charnock.

After college Charnock will have a full-time job with Alcoa. There she will use her major in Management Information Systems.

"When I was a sophomore, I still had no idea what I wanted to major in, and they made me pick a major," said Charnock. "Luckily, I picked a good one, and I really enjoy the major now."

Charnock is very excited about the coming Christmas break. The Behrend basketball team leaves Dec. 16 for a tournament in Las Vegas over the holiday. While they are there, the Lions will play in two tournament games at UNLV. When Charnock was a freshman, they also attended this tournament in Las Vegas.

"It was a lot of fun. We got to see some interesting things like casinos, a UNLV men's basketball game, Coca Cola World, and New York, New York," said Charnock. "Over the last three years, a lot of things in Las Vegas have changed, so we are all excited to go back. It will be really fun, and hopefully some of us will come back with lots of money that we won in the casinos!"

Charnock has a lot of memories from her playing days at Behrend, but there's one that will always stand out.

"The best memory of basketball at Behrend is cutting down the net in Erie Hall when we won AMCCS my freshman year. Each one of us got to climb up a ladder, and cut a piece of the net down," said Charnock. "I had never experienced anything like it before. I still have my piece of the net and will keep it forever."

"Cutting down the net is something that I would really like to share with everyone else on this team. It is something that you will remember forever. Plus, it would be the first net cut down in the Junker Center as well."

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



Lucas Dushac



Dushac, a freshman from Indiana High School, was a key member of the 200 and 400 medley relay teams that captured first place at the ECAC Championships this past weekend at Rowan College in New Jersey. Dushac teamed with Casey Doody, Jon Harding, and Justin Lucas in 1:40 to win the 200 and in 3:39 to win the 400. Individually he placed second in the 200 breast (2:14), and third in the 100 breast (1:01) and 200 individual medley (2:02). This was Penn State Behrend's first appearance at the ECAC meet.