

Calendar of Events

Behrend Athletic Events

Friday
Women's Swimming
@ Grove City/Mt. Union
6 p.m.

Saturday
Indoor Track and Field
@ Fredonia
12 p.m.

Men's and Women's
Swimming
@ Edinboro
1 p.m.

Women's Basketball
@ La Roche
6 p.m.

Men's Basketball
@ La Roche
8 p.m.

Monday
JV Basketball
@ Pitt-Titusville
2 p.m.

Wednesday
Women's Basketball
@ Pitt-Greensburg
6 p.m.

Men's Basketball
@ Pitt-Greensburg
8 p.m.

Intramurals Schedule

Friday
3-Point Shootout

Friday, Jan. 25
Intramural Ping Pong:
Men's and Women's
Singles; Men's,
Women's, and Coed
Doubles

100 Mile Club

Friday, Feb. 1
Arena Football: Men's
and Women's

Pick-up Volleyball
@ Erie Hall
Tuesday and Thursday
8 - 10 p.m.

Pick-up Basketball
@ the Junker Center
Monday - Friday
12 p.m.

Kickball and Wiffleball
equipment available
anytime in Erie Hall for
use during any open
gym times

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

Move over Madison, there's a new boss comin'

Senior Erin Phillips now just 37 points from the record books

by Mike Bello
sports editor

With less than 40 points to go before she breaks Michele Madison's all-time points record, Behrend senior Erin Phillips has found her groove on the court. Is it any wonder the women's team may have finally found its?

Erin Phillips Watch

Michele Madison's Record: 1409
Points to Go: 37
Nick Demski's Record: 1466
Points to Go: 94
Average Points Per Game: 16.6

Next Games: Saturday @ La Roche, 6 p.m.; Wednesday @ Pitt-Greensburg, 6 p.m.; Jan. 26 @ Penn State Altoona, 1 p.m.

Phillips, the integral part of an offense that lacks big-game size, put together another solid week that saw the Lions demolish AMCC opponent Frostburg, suffer a heartbreaking loss to Washington & Jefferson, and defeat Fredonia on its home court. With a slew of conference games on tap for the Lady Lions, most on the road, the team picked just the right time to put together a hot streak.

"We are on a run now," said senior

Christine Charnock. After running off two straight dominating wins against conference opponents, one would think non-conference games would be a distraction. The players, however, see the games as an opportunity to grow.

"Any team you play against helps the team to get better," said senior Katie Weigold. "The more games, the more experience to learn. Teams that aren't in the conference may be similar to opponents in our conference. Playing against them will only help prepare us for conference games."

"We improve as a team with every game," said senior Kate Costanzo. "When we execute our stuff and play together, few teams can stop us. The non-conference games will only help us in preparation for AMCCs."



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Behrend's Carly Cochran goes up for two against Frostburg's Holly Myers Saturday at the Junker Center. Behrend scored an easy 80-50 win to increase its conference record to 3-1.

Behrend, with only three AMCC doubleheaders left at the Junker Center, is trying to get the bleachers as packed as possible for those games.

"We are looking to 'Pack the House' at the remaining basketball games and all students, faculty, and staff get into the basketball games free with their Penn State Behrend I.D.'s," said Stacey Pondo, assistant to director of athletics.

Against Fredonia, the Lions went in to the second half with a 33-25 lead, but Fredonia did not give up and closed the gap to 52-51 with 5:11 remaining. Behrend took over from there, scoring 18 of the game's next 23 points to win 70-56.

Phillips dominated on the court again, going 7-of-8 from the floor and the foul line for 21 points. Phillips also added a team-high seven rebounds. Charnock added 13 points on 6-of-10 shooting, and Erica Mozdy contributed 11 points. The Lions shot 47.2 percent from the floor compared to Fredonia's 42.1 percent. More importantly, Behrend made 85 percent of its free throw attempts (17-20) while Fredonia (8-6) sank seven of its 10 foul shots.

On Monday at the Junker Center, the Lions hosted W & J, a 75-70 overtime winner against Behrend in late November. Once again, the teams provided a season's worth of excitement in one night, as the Presidents used a

juniper and two free throws by Libby Gasior in the closing seconds to down Behrend 63-59.

The Lions, down by two at the half and as much as nine during the second half, rallied to tie the game 59-all on Phillips' two free throws with 26 seconds remaining. W & J (6-6) then ran the clock down before Gasior hit for two with two seconds remaining. Gasior immediately intercepted a cross-court pass and after being fouled by Costanzo, sank both free throws to seal the win.

Phillips moved to within 57 points of Michele Madison's career point record (1,409) with a 23-point night. The McDowell High School grad was a target of the Presidents the whole night, getting sent to the line 16 times and sinking 13 of those shots. Costanzo had a game-high 11 rebounds and contributed 11 points, while Weigold added seven points.

The Lions shot only 31.6 percent from the floor compared to W & J's 38.2 percent, but Behrend was a much disciplined team, sending the Presidents to the line nine times. They made seven of those shots but Behrend was able to sink 19-of-26 foul shots to keep the game close.

Despite all the excitement Phillips'

PHILLIPS

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Track and field assembles first-class coaching staff

by Mike Bello
sports editor

Head track and field coach Dave Cooper hasn't even been here a year, and already the team is looking as strong as it's ever been. That's because Cooper, who three months ago led the cross country teams to first and second place finishes in the AMCC, has put together an impressive supporting cast of coaches and trainers.

Cooper not only has several experienced, event-specific coaches to ease the burden, but has recruited a total of 54 athletes (39 men, 15 women), up from 46 last year when Rich Hoffman was at the helm. A number of the athletes include members of the women's cross country team that finished first in the AMCC on Oct. 27 and the men's squad that finished second on the same day.

Three of the six coaches Cooper has assembled are members of McDowell's track and field staff, including Joe Sanford, the head coach. Sanford, who specializes in the

pole vault for Behrend, led the McDowell girls' team to the PIAA track and field team title in 2001 and is recognized as one of the premier pole vault coaches in the country. His vaulters, not surprisingly, hold the state record in both the boys and girls divisions.

Also assisting Cooper from McDowell are Max Alwens, shot put and discus coach, and Bill Hoffman (hurdles). Alwens will enter his 14th season at McDowell this spring, where he has led six players to states, including one discus state champion. Hoffman, the sprint coach at McDowell as well, was a state hurdle champion in high school and lettered all four years at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in both sprints and hurdles. Cooper knows Hoffman and Sanford from his days as the Union City track and field coach.

Cooper's other three coaches include Katie Heynoski (jumps), Greg Cooper (400 and 800 meter relays), and Garrett Arndt. Arndt and Greg Cooper, son of Dave, just finished their careers at Behrend last spring. Arndt was a state finalist in the 3200

relay in high school while Cooper was part of the team that won the state title in the 4 x 800 relay in 1996. Heynoski, a former all-American at McDowell in the high jump and an assistant jump coach there, was a Mid-America conference champ at Ohio University in the 4 x 100 relay that set a new school record.

It takes a lot of training to prepare for the track and field season, especially now considering this is the second year Behrend has an indoor track and field season followed by the outdoor. Although the athletes train during the off-season on their own, Cooper and the rest of the staff did not have a lot of time to prepare the athletes for the season opener on Saturday at Fredonia.

The team members have been training on their own



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Sophomore Heather Eflow practices the hurdles inside the Junker Center this week to prepare for the upcoming indoor track and field match against Fredonia on Saturday.

from early November until Jan. 7 (first day of spring classes) when we had our first practice," said Cooper. "Now they are training together by event groups five to six days per week. This includes running, lifting, plyometrics, drills and stair or hill workouts."

Cooper plans on taking only eight women and 21 men to Fredonia, which is typical for an indoor meet. Indoor meets are not stressed as much as the outdoor ones, which begin on March 23, but the indoor meets give the players a chance to prepare for outdoors.

"The indoor season is a build-up to the outdoor season," said Cooper. "Much of our indoor training is actually done outdoors so we don't have much problem acclimating."

COOPER

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Wins keep on coming for men's hoops

by Zoë Rose
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Lions' winning streak continued as they dominated their home court Wednesday night with an 83-56 win over the Fredonia State Blue Devils. The win improved Behrend's record to 10-5.

Aggressive inside play by the Blue Devils forced the Lions to take perimeter shots. That was not a problem, however. The Lions' first shot was a 3-pointer by Casey Ponsoll. Steve Merrill and Tom Lulich each followed with a 3-

pointer. The consistent shooting from both teams made the score tight as the Lions drew away with a 41-36 halftime lead.

Five minutes into the second half the Lions bolted out to a 50-39 lead, not the biggest of the stanza though. The Blue and White kept the Blue Devils on a shooting drought and they gathered a few more points to build a 61-42 cushion with 10:20 to go.

The Lions increased their margin to 24 points at 70-46 at the 7:11 mark. With the ample lead, the crowd was able to see some reserves come off the bench, including

freshmen Rylan Marx and Josh Richards, and from sophomores T.J. Niland and Mike Schodt. The biggest lead of the night came at 2:03 to go with a 29 point margin making the score 81-52.

The Penn State Behrend Lions used the sharp, 3-point shooting of Casey Ponsoll and Steve Merrill - an impressive 75 percent in the first half - to gain a 66-57 win over Frostburg State on Saturday. This important win handed the Bobcats their first AMCC loss and boosted the Lions to a 9-5 overall mark on the season, including a 3-1 conference mark.

Frostburg shot 4-of-20 from the field while the Blue and White thrived, shooting 10-of-20 in the first half. Although Behrend was shooting at a scorching clip, Ponsoll capped Behrend's fast start by draining a 3-pointer at 2:26 into the game after the Bobcats sunk a three to give the Lions an 18-3 lead. Behrend dominated Frostburg (2-1, 6-7) at the end of the half by closing with a 10-4 run to take a 28-12 lead.

The Bobcats never disappeared in the second half, as they came out hot and closed within four of the lead. The battle continued as Ponsoll sunk his fourth 3-pointer to boost the Blue and White to a 56-48 lead with 1:49 remaining. Frostburg scored the next six points to close to 56-54 with just a fingernail-biting 44 seconds left. The Lions sealed the win with perfect 10-of-10 free throw shooting

in the final seconds of the game.

Ponsoll led the Lions with 22 points, including his fine 4-of-6 shooting from 3-point range. He also had five boards in 31 minutes of action. Merrill followed with 16 points, five rebounds, four assists, and five blocks. Tom Lulich chipped in with nine points, three rebounds, and one block. The Blue and White were 19-of-35 from the field (54.3 percent) compared to the Bobcats' 21-of-54 (38.9 percent).

Curren leads Behrend with 12.3 points per game and 6.9 rebounds per game followed closely by Ponsoll with 11.9 ppg. Merrill checks in with 10.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, and a team-best in both assists and steals with 65 and 16, respectively.

Behrend has run together a five-game winning streak, which coincidentally is the same time the Lions have started to gel as a team.

"Over the past four games we've all come together and started to play more as a team," said sophomore Dave Hairston. "Defensively, we've been communicating much better and out rebounding teams. On offense, we're all taking great shots and shooting a very high percentage."

Behrend will travel to face La Roche (1-2, 4-8) on Saturday in the first of three road games. The Lions play at Pitt-Greensburg (2-2, 5-9) on Wednesday followed by Altoona (0-3, 0-11) on Jan. 26.

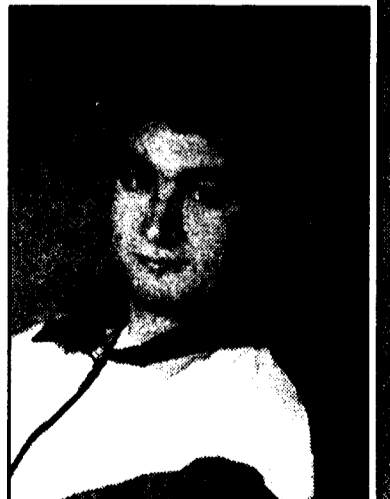


PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON
Sophomore James Curren, right, passes the ball to teammate Dave Hairston underneath the hoop Saturday against Frostburg. The Lions improved to 9-5 with a 66-57 win against the Bobcats.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

PENNSTATE Erie

Tom Vignolini



Tom Vignolini, a first-year diver, broke his own team records in the 1 meter 6 dive competition and the 1 meter 11 dive competition by 40 points. In the 6 dives his score was 176.15 and in the 11 dives 296.35. Vignolini is the only diver for the swim team and has a chance to qualify for ECACs at the end of the year.