

Q & A: Who's Behind the Scenes?

Assistant coach Pat Mashuda wouldn't teach anywhere else

by Kate Levdansky Petrikis
assistant sports editor

Pat Mashuda has been the golf coach and assistant basketball coach at Behrend for the past two years. He spent the previous three years as an assistant golf coach and seven seasons as an assistant basketball coach for the Redhawks at La Roche College. Mashuda was a two-year standout at Butler Community College in basketball and in golf. He then moved on and competed for two more golf seasons at Robert Morris College. Mashuda earned a bachelor's of science in business administration in 1992.

Beacon: Do you find it an advantage to coach both basketball and golf at Behrend?

Mashuda: Yes, I do find it an advantage. Coaching both sports allows me to gain head coaching experience with the golf team, while at the same time I am able to continue developing as a basketball coach. The two sports are very different. Golf is more of an individual sport, while basketball is a team sport.

Beacon: Which sport did you coach first?

Mashuda: I started coaching basketball at La Roche College the fall of 1993. Three years later, I started helping out with the golf team at La Roche. Then, in the fall of 2000, I came to Behrend to work with coach Niland and became the head golf coach at the same time. It was a great opportunity for me.

Beacon: How did you become the coach of the other sport?

Mashuda: I have always enjoyed the game of golf and when La Roche started a golf team, they were looking for someone to help out with the program. I was in the right place at the right time. I was



PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Assistant basketball and golf coach Pat Mashuda coached at AMCC rival La Roche before coming to Behrend.

very fortunate.

Beacon: What sport do you enjoy coaching more?

Mashuda: Basketball has always been my passion! I enjoy golf when I can, but I want to coach basketball for a living. I enjoy what I do and I am looking forward to the opportunity and challenges of becoming a head coach.

Beacon: What characteristic do you think college athletes need to be successful?

Mashuda: I think the most important characteristic is self-discipline. The student athletes need to have good time management skills to excel academically and athletically. At Behrend, we are very fortunate that most of our student athletes have good self-discipline.

Beacon: What do you think is the most important thing to instill in your athletes?

Mashuda: The understanding of the commitment level it takes to be successful, on and off the field of competition, as a student athlete. The window of opportunity to participate in college athletics is very small and don't ever take it for granted. You never want to look back and say what if.

Beacon: What was the hardest

game you have ever coached?

Mashuda: That would have to be the first time that Behrend went to La Roche during my first season here. It was a first semester game and our first league game. We did not play very well that night. It was tough because I was a part of that program for seven years.

Beacon: Have you ever blamed yourself for an outcome of a game?

Mashuda: After any loss, you always have to look at how the team was prepared for the game and what you could have done differently to give your team a better chance to win the game. In any team sport, everyone has a part of the winning and losing. As a coach, you really look at every little detail much more closely.

Beacon: What has been the highlight of your career at Penn State Behrend?

Mashuda: The opportunity to work for a school that has a strong tradition of success. I thought that coming to Behrend was a great opportunity for me and it has turned out to be even better than I had anticipated.

Beacon: What is the best memory you have from coaching?

Mashuda: Most of my memories don't involve any particular games, but instead they involve the relationships you build with everyone you meet along the way. There are some games that stand out, but I will always remember the road trips to Chicago, Clemson, S.C., Daytona Beach, Fla., Pinehurst, N.C., and all the great memories along the way.

Every week, the Beacon will engage in a little "ask and respond" with someone who doesn't make the headlines.

Indoor team finishes strong

by Scott Soltis
staff writer

Before last Saturday's Mount Union Invitational, it looked like Jay Davids was going to make a lonely trip to Boston for the ECAC championships this weekend. But seven teammates, who saved their best efforts for their last regular indoor competition, and will now accompany Davids. The qualified athletes left Thursday morning for Tufts University in Boston.

Coach Dave Cooper was very pleased with the team's performance at Mount Union. He is also looking forward to the ECAC championship competition.

"As of Monday, there were 73 teams entered in the Division III competition," said Cooper. "This will be the first time Behrend has had athletes competing in the ECAC indoor track championships."

All of the competitors who met the criteria for advancing to the ECAC championships also set new school records. For the women, Jessica Sarver ran a 4:57.40, capturing first place in the 1500 to send her to Boston. Amanda Van Tassel took third in the 500, running a 1:24.14 to qualify for the championships. Also earning a trip was Jen Smialek, who won the 500 with a time of 1:23.60. However, Smialek made plans to travel to Spain before she qualified and will not be able to compete in the event.

The men's 4 x 400 relay team went from a time of 3:34 at Slippery Rock to 3:30.74 at the Mount Union Invite to capture first place in the event. The team consisted of Keith Ceroni, Billy McKinney, Mike Barlett, and Dave Ober. McKinney also qualified in the 500 by taking second, finishing in 1:07.91. Ober is excited to be going to another ECAC championship.

"Last year myself and eight of my teammates competed in outdoor ECACs in Springfield, Mass. and it was one of the best experiences of my track career," said Ober.

Isiah Meek rounds out the men who will travel more than 500 miles east on Thursday. Meek ran an 8.08 and

took third in the 55 hurdles to earn the right to compete this weekend.

Aside from the qualifiers, there were also quite a few athletes who came very close.

"Many of those who placed, but didn't qualify, missed the qualifying standards by the narrowest of margins," said Cooper.

The men set four new school records that came within seconds and fractions of a second of sending them to Boston. Brian Wheeler set two records Saturday by placing fifth in the 1000 with a 2:46.80 and running a 4:44.20 mile. Barlett ran a 1:59.60 to take second in the 800. This time was just a fraction of a second away from qualifying, but Barlett was a member of the relay team so he will contend in that event this weekend. Taking second in the 5000 was Kevin Ritzert, who crossed the line in 9:10.50.

The women set five new records in addition to their ECAC qualifying times. The 4 x 400 relay team continued to be impressive not only in that event, but also in the accomplishments of the individuals. The team took third with a time of 4:23.58, dropping eight seconds from their Slippery Rock time a mere two weeks before. Marlena McNutt, Suzie Szafran, Van Tassel, and Smialek filled the team. Van Tassel and Smialek qualified for ECACs, and Szafran set a new record in the 800 by running a 2:30.

Jessica Knapp won the 1000 to set the new school record at 3:22.90. In the 5000, Andrea Sanko broke her own record by finishing at 12:01.30. The final women's record established

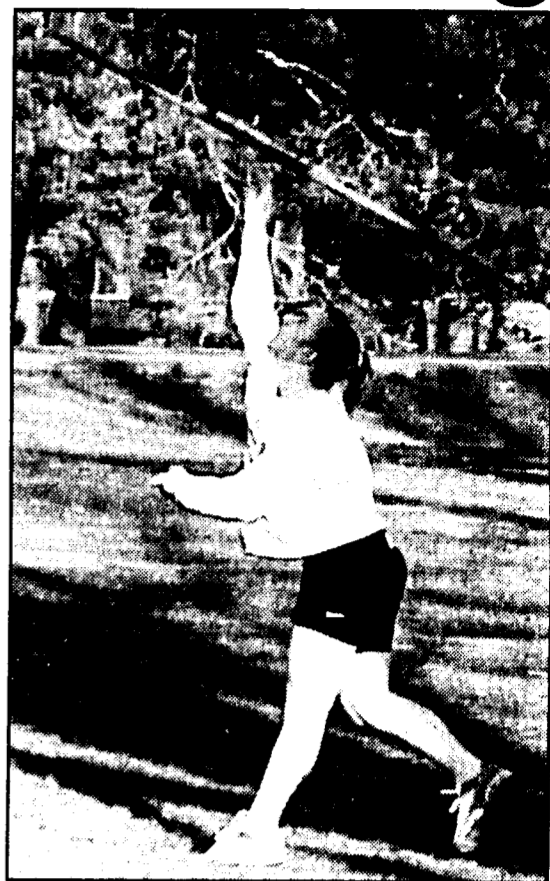


PHOTO BY MIKE BELLO / BEHREND BEACON
Sophomore Missy Mong hurls the javelin Monday during one of the few times the Lions have been able to practice outdoors. The outdoor season begins March 23 against Clarion.

at Mount Union was in the 55 hurdles. Heather Efav ran a 10.04 to establish a new mark in the event.

The ECAC Championships today and Saturday will mark the end of an amazingly successful indoor season. Of the 19 events that the men competed in this season, 15 now have new records. For the women, 11 of the 15 events they competed in now have new bests. There are only 15 athletes on the women's roster altogether.

The team will train for the outdoor season individually over spring break and will start outdoor competition on March 23. If the indoor season is an indication of things to come, the outdoor portion is primed for success. With many more scored meets in the outdoor season, the Lions look to translate their indoor accomplishments into outdoor victories.

Behrend comes up short in AMCC semifinals

by Mike Bello
sports editor

Sometimes the biggest reason is the simplest. The difference in the women's basketball game against Pitt Greensburg on Friday in the semifinals of the AMCC tournament came down to one fact: Pitt Greensburg made a greater percentage of its shots.

The Lions, down by eight at the half, could not contain Greensburg's Ann Sral in a 75-67 loss at the Adler Gym in Altoona. Behrend shot 39.3 percent from the floor, while Greensburg made 48.3 percent of its shots. The Lions ended the season 14-13 overall, 9-4 in the conference, and for the first time in six years did not make it to the championship game.

"The first half looked excellent, but look at the stats," said coach Roz Fornari. "They shot better. We turned the ball over a little too much in the first half. The second half I thought we took care of the ball better."

The Lions did just that, as both teams scored 42 points in the second half. Behrend, though, let too many opportunities slip away in the first half. Overall, the Lions made as many free throws as the Bobcats (16) and had four more 3-pointers and rebounds. In the end, it came down to which team was sharper on offense and, as Fornari said, which team had a little more luck.

"We made some mistakes and I don't think there were too many things that went our way during the game," said Fornari. "Whereas you have to be good and you have to be lucky. We just didn't have it go our way."

Senior Kate Costanzo provided the spark on offense, scoring 21 points, including four 3-pointers. Erin Phillips, the AMCC's Player of the Year, added 17 points and a game-high eight rebounds. Erica Mozdy was the only other scorer in double

digits for Behrend (13). Greensburg's Sral went 10-of-14 from the floor for 27 points.

"Of course we are disappointed in how the season ended," said Costanzo. "The last thing I wanted to do was lose to Greensburg one game short of the championship game. But you can't overlook what we did accomplish this year. We had some big games and a lot of great times."

Fornari was disappointed as well that the team couldn't finish better, especially for the seniors.

"I know they're disappointed. I'm disappointed," said Fornari. "I'm more disappointed they didn't find themselves this year because they were a better team than they played."

"They had a good season, a good year, and a good career for all four of the seniors (seniors). I think our underclassmen felt bad that they couldn't do things that they needed to do for the seniors. I felt the same way. If I would've had my pick, I would've had my seniors go out on a little bit better note," said Fornari.

Behrend scored 67.6 points per game this year and allowed 65.4 ppg. The Lions shot .417 from the floor and .323 from the 3-point line. The team also finished the season with a 69 percent free throw average and grabbed 38.2 rebounds per game.

The loss ended a rather up and down season for the Lions. The team started off the season 1-4 and 4-8, but went 9-2 after that point to pull above .500 on Feb. 2 for the first time since an opening-season win. The Lions, though, dropped three of their last four games, including two to Greensburg. Still, for some, the memories will last a lifetime.

"I think our No. 1 strength was our heart," said Costanzo. "I enjoyed every minute playing with this team. We fought 'til the end and never gave up. I'm thankful my senior season was spent with a team with so much heart."

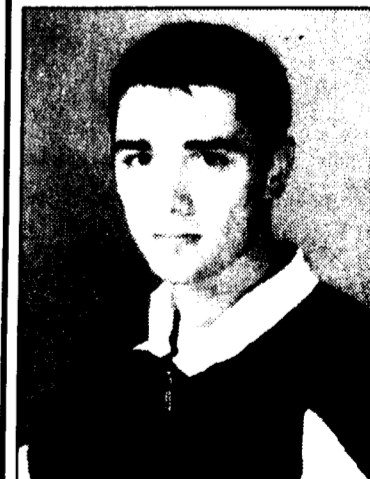


PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY / BEHREND BEACON
Senior Katie Weigold, who returned from a knee injury to play against Greensburg, is one of four starters the Lions will have to replace next year.

AMCC Women's Basketball All Conference Honors

First Team		Honorable Mention	
Erin Arnold	Pitt-Greensburg	Torey Auld	Greensburg
Kim Faust	Frostburg	Melissa Ballentine	Lake Erie
Jillian Kliner	Altoona	Danielle Berardinelli	Lake Erie
Erin Phillips	Behrend	Carletta Harrell	Lake Erie
Annie Sral	Greensburg	Holly Myers	Frostburg
		Johnetta Owens	La Roche
Second Team		Most Valuable Player	
Kate Costanzo	Behrend	Erin Phillips	Behrend
Kim Ebersole	Altoona	Newcomer of the Year	
Sherry Hogue	La Roche	Sherry Hogue	La Roche
Misty Meredith	Altoona	Coach of the Year	
Jessica Porter	Pitt-Bradford	Carol Gelet	Greensburg

Housing
and
Food Service
Athlete
of the Week
PENNSTATE
Erie
Bill
McKinney



McKinney led the Behrend Lions Feb. 23 at the Mount Union Invitational. Setting two record times, he finished the 500-meter in a time of 1:07.91 and contributed in the 4 x 400 relay with an overall finishing time of 3:30.74. Both performances qualified for the ECAC Championships.

The Championships will be held Saturday and Sunday at Tufts University in Boston, Mass.