

Softball finds home field not so friendly after all

Fredonia, La Roche sweep Behrend in doubleheaders; Lions fall to 4-15 overall, 2-2 in AMCC

by Zoë Rose
staff writer

After finally getting the chance to play a game amidst the unpredictable Erie weather nearly two weeks ago, the Behrend softball team took on the La Roche Redhawks after a postponed conference match March 29 against Frostburg State. The Lions lost both ends of that doubleheader, 8-0 and 6-4. Thursday, the Lions took on Fredonia State, losing

7-1 in the first game and 7-3 in the second one after having the lead in the seventh inning. The Blue and White have fallen to 4-15 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

The game against Fredonia was originally planned to be a road game, but due to the conditions on their field, the doubleheader was switched to Behrend's field. Now that they played several games on their new field after several March cancellations, the Lions had five players record at least one hit during the

first game against the Blue Devils, who improved their mark to 10-4 on the season. Senior Kelly Woods and junior Cheryl Peterson both had doubles and were 1-for-3, while Woods had the solo RBI. Jennifer Miller pitched seven innings, giving up three earned runs and 11 hits, with one strikeout.

Woods and Peterson dominated again in the second game, as Peterson hit 3-for-4 with two RBIs, and Woods went 2-for-3 with one RBI. Stephanie Covert pitched all seven innings, scattering 15 hits, with three strikeouts and only one walk. The game wobbled back and forth, but the Lions were ahead in the seventh inning when the Blue Devils' offense exploded to take the lead for good.

Play continues to get more difficult for the Lions, as the weather increasingly becomes a vital factor. For now, though, it's hard for the players to focus on softball when there's a lot going on in their lives, including their busy school schedule. Things also get stressful for the players because the postponed games get rescheduled around other games later in the season, which means the Lions sometimes have to play two days in a row with fewer days off.

"We play doubleheaders each day and there is so much going on in our lives outside of softball," said Polinick. "It's getting towards the end of the semester

and everyone is worrying about grades and finals along with trying to win softball games."

In the first game against the 'Hawks, sophomore pitcher Becky Corbin gave up seven earned runs, 13 hits, and struck out six batters in seven innings of work. The offense struggled immensely, as the Lions had two hits the entire game, one from freshman Roberta Baker and the other from sophomore Brandi Polinick.

The second game saw a much-improved Behrend offense and some runs on the board. Peterson had three hits, freshman Jennifer Osborne smacked two, and Polinick contributed another hit as the Lions scored as many runs in game two against La Roche as they

had the past three games combined. Covert pitched five innings, giving up four earned runs and six hits. Darkness halted the game after five innings.

Polinick believes if the team is to beat Lake Erie, it will need to improve upon two of the most important factors in baseball - hitting and fielding.

"Against Lake Erie we need to work on playing solid defense and becoming more confident at the plate," said Polinick.

The Lions will be back on their home field Saturday against the Storm of Lake Erie. The Blue and White also play the rescheduled game against Frostburg on Monday, the first of five doubleheaders in the span of seven days, before heading out for three road games.

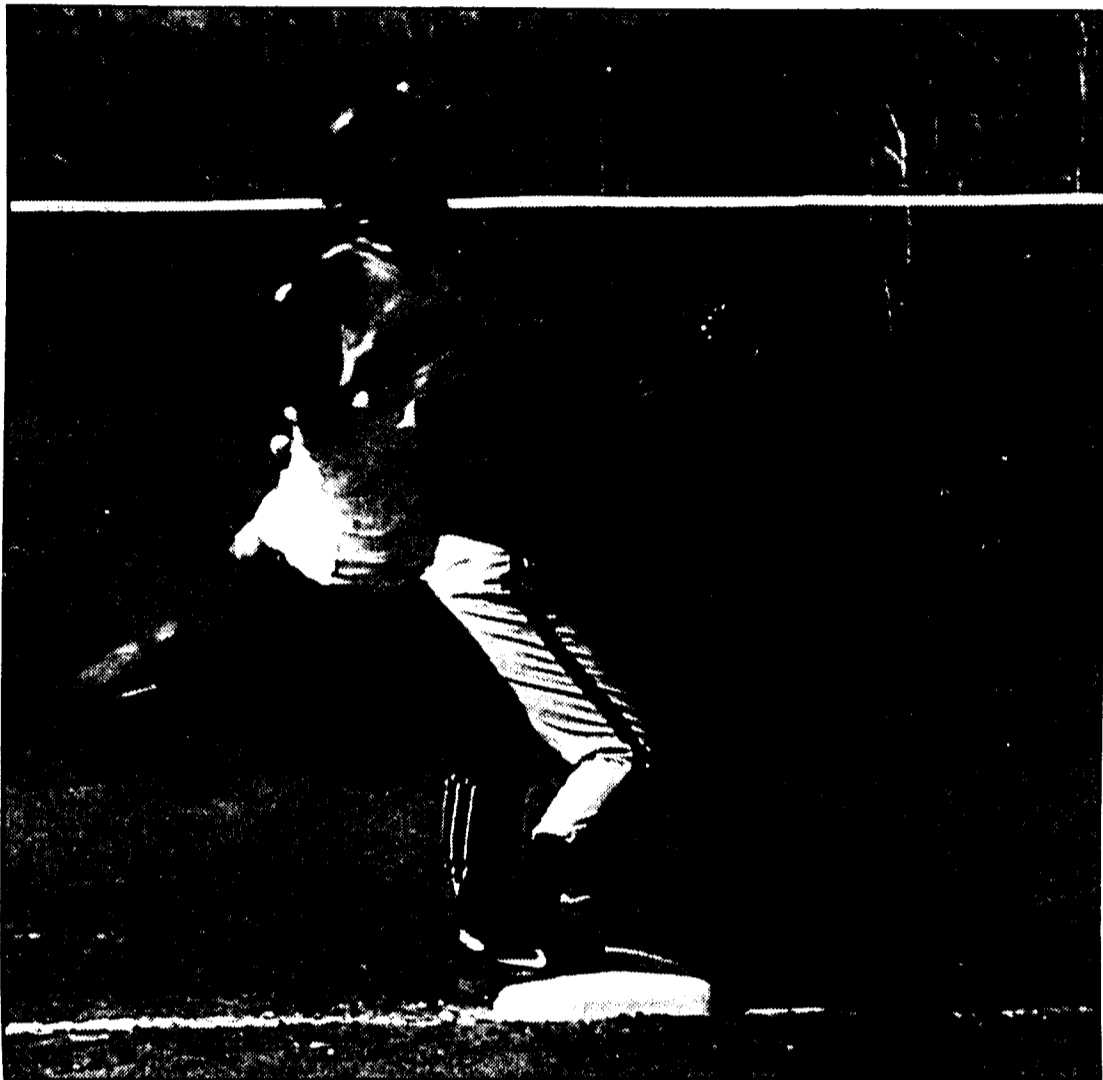


PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Safe or out? It may be too close to tell if Becky Corbin got this Fredonia runner out, but the Blue Devils got the upperhand against the Lions on Thursday in 7-1 and 7-3 wins.

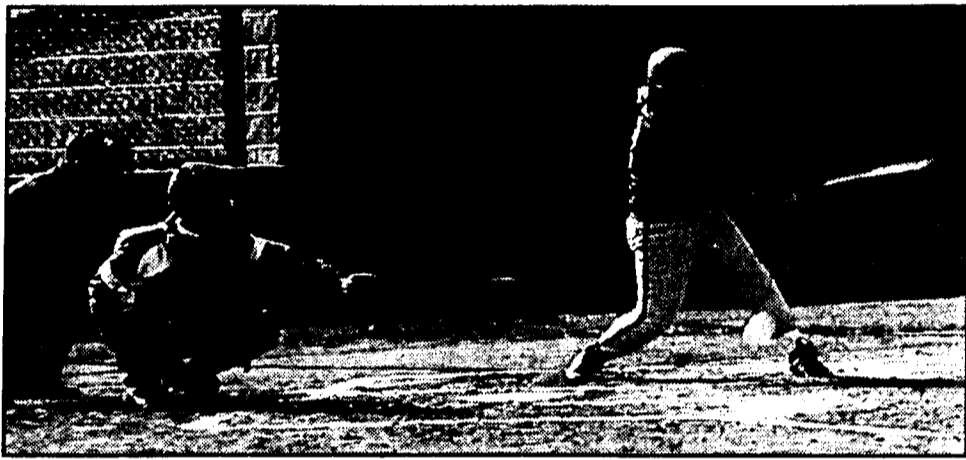


PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS / BEHREND BEACON

Freshman Erika Mack takes a big cut against Fredonia on Thursday. The Lions return to their home field Saturday at 1 p.m. against Lake Erie and Monday against Frostburg, both AMCC opponents.





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