

The Behrend Beacon

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Lions stomp all over Altoona 5-0



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

Natasha Edrington (above) provided the defense while Holly Greiner put up some big numbers on offense

by Kevin Fiorenzo
staff writer

The Behrend women's soccer team lost a hard-fought contest against Case Western Reserve by a score of 3-1 on Oct. 17. But that loss was bookended by two impressive shutout wins over Bethany and Penn State-Altoona on Oct. 12 and Oct. 19.

It's the end of October and in the world of college women's soccer that means the season is winding down and the conference tournament is not too far off. Fortunately, the Lions are peaking at just the right time.

Their most recent game, on Oct. 19, was against formidable conference opponent Penn State Altoona. Altoona put up a strong fight but Behrend's offense was just too potent with a score of 5-0.

Four of those goals were scored by a single player, freshman forward Holly Greiner. The fifth goal was scored by sophomore midfielder Maria Gahagen. With the success they had in this game, the Lions have reason to be pleased.

"The fact that we pushed ourselves and are always making ourselves better were key to winning against Penn-State Altoona," said freshman defensive midfielder Kacie Burns.

"We did a good job switching the field and advancing the ball," sophomore fielder Erin Maurer said.

A few days earlier, on Oct. 17, the women were faced with a tough non-conference game against Case Western Reserve. The contest was hard fought and the Lions played a high quality game, but Case Western eventually pulled away with a 3-1 victory.

The previous Saturday, the Behrend women

began the three-game home set against non-conference opponent Bethany. The team was definitely expecting a competitive game.

"Bethany should be a good game from start to finish," said Perritano.

While it was a competitive game, Bethany didn't have many answers for the attack they received from Behrend. When all was said and done, the Lions came away with a dominating 3-0 performance.

"It was a pretty good game and it was good preparation for the rest of the season," said Maurer.

The Lions now have two games left before the conference tournament. One is against conference opponent Frostburg and the other is against Grove City, an out of conference game. The Frostburg game is extremely important in terms of Behrend's chances at the conference tournament.

Burns said, "It's going to be a tough conference game and we need to win it to get into the conference tournament in November."

"Frostburg is a tough team. We are going to have to be physically and mentally ready," said Maurer.

With the tournament on Nov. 6 and 9, the season is quickly drawing to a close. Overall, the women feel that the season has been a forward progression.

"The season started rough because no one had played together and that made it hard. Right now, though, I'm pretty satisfied with the season so far," said Burns.

Maurer is also relatively happy with the team's season. "I'm definitely satisfied with the season. We've come a long way."

Penn State versus Penn State in final round of the AMCCs

By Leacy Sauer
staff writer

After having two matches against Edinboro University and LaRoche during the week of Oct. 14th, the Behrend Women's tennis team started play up again on Saturday with the AMCC Tournament.

This much-anticipated conference championship tournament was highlighted with the re-fueled rivalry match up of Penn State Behrend and Penn State Altoona.

Throughout the season Altoona has proved to be a powerhouse in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. They have defeated Penn State Behrend in two season matches, 8-1, 9-0.

These losses fueled the fire of competition, and the women's tennis team was ready to beat their rivals.

Also playing against two other teams in the conference, Frostburg State and La Roche, Behrend held many practices late at night at Pennbriar Racquet Club to prepare for Saturday's challenge.

Due to rain, the tournament was moved to the indoor courts at Pennbriar. In singles play, six different match ups formed the flight. Representing Behrend, first singles player Lennys Redondo defeated her opponent from Altoona 6-1, 6-1. Her victory helped her move on to the holder of the first position from Frostburg State. Redondo lost in a hard-fought two sets with scores of 6-2, 6-2.

In the second spot, freshman Amber Weckoski crushed her first opponent in her rounds. Jennifer Zviman of Frostburg State fell to Weckoski 6-1, 6-0. After their match, she moved onto her Penn State Altoona challenger, and lost 6-2, 6-1.

Christine Leininger, sophomore at PSB, fought against Susan Adkins of Frostburg, coming up with a three set victory. After winning the first set and losing the second, she finished up with a win of 6-2, 1-6, 7-6.

With her success, she also moved onto the finals of the third singles spot, but lost to her Altoona opponent 6-0, 6-0.

Sophomore Margaret Venema faced a tough opponent from Frostburg State, and lost to her in two sets of 6-1, 6-2.

In the fifth singles spot, freshman Amy Frizzell obliterated Rachel Sooy of Frostburg in a 6-1, 6-0 win. She continued on to play against the fifth player from Penn State Altoona, but fell short of victory with scores of 6-2, 6-1.

Finishing up singles action for Behrend in the sixth spot was senior Becky Snyder. Crushing her opponent in a 6-0, 6-1 win, Snyder lost in a hard fought battle against her next challenger from Penn State Altoona. Although she lost in two sets of 6-2, 6-1, her major win on the day was in doubles action.

Taking the second doubles spot with Leininger, she and Snyder were victorious, and gave Penn State Behrend its only win in the whole tournament.

Coach Jeff Barger commented on their playing, "They did very well following the game plan we had worked on for a couple of weeks." He was especially happy for Snyder, with this year's conference being her last, "she played very hard," he said.

In other doubles play, Redondo and Weckoski defeated the first team from La Roche in an 8-3 victory. In their next eight game pro-set for the first doubles title, the Redondo and Weckoski combination fought but lost 8-5 to their Penn State Altoona challengers.

Rounding up doubles play, the team of Venema and Frizzell used their talents against the third team from Frostburg State, winning with a score of 8-4. Ready for action against Altoona, they started up strong, but lost their battle 8-6.

Under every category in the flight, Penn State Altoona won eight of the nine titles. The win by the doubles combination of Snyder and Leininger proved to the conference that Penn State Behrend is a competitive team in the conference.

Bargers believes his team has improved much over the season, and he is excited to see what damage can be done by his young players next year.

The point totals for the Championship were: Penn State Altoona 15, Penn State Behrend 9, Frostburg State 3 and La Roche 0.

The second place finish for the women's tennis team has become an encouragement for the team to continue improving in all areas. Barger has a lot to look forward to.

SOCCER SLIPS

from Page 1B

Hordych came up with his fourth shut-out of the season in a well-played game. The Lions defeated Bethany 1-0 in a non-conference match-up. Following the victory, Behrend battled through two overtimes against Buffalo State. They came out of this hard-fought battle with a 1-1 tie.

The big game was the fourth and final game of this home stand against conference rival Penn State Altoona. Although Behrend played a decent game, they came out on the short end of a 1-0 shutout. This was tough loss to take because of the magnitude of the game. If Behrend won it would have given them a shot at home field for at least one playoff game.

When asked about the game, "It was an unlucky loss," senior defenseman Matt MacArthur said. He then added, "I don't think they were the better team and I hope we get a shot at them in the playoffs."

The Lions have three remaining regu-

lar season games until the AMCC tournament begins on Nov. 6th. "Everyone is disappointed at the loss, (against Altoona) but we must move on now," claimed MacArthur.

"Our goal is to win out the rest of the season. We're working hard and we're playing well and that is what we should be doing at this point in the season."

Behrend will try to get back on track at Thiel on Thursday. Following that game will be another important conference game at Frostburg. This game will determine their seeding in the AMCC tournament and is the final conference game of the season for the team.

The final game will be at Westminister on Saturday Nov. 2nd. Despite coming off the loss to Altoona, the Lions have much to look forward to. They have come back from a slow start to become a playoff team.



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Sophomore Jeff Morris fights off a defender in a heartbreaker loss to Altoona.