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Women's basketball team gets ready for some action



Head coach Roz Fornari looks on as players sharpen their skills before the start of the season.

By Justin Jennings
staff writer

It's about excitement. It's about enthusiasm. It's about pride. It's college basketball at its finest. And the Behrend women's basketball team is ready to roar.

After a 14-13 record and a third place AMCC finish last season, the Lady Lions are looking to rebound and put themselves into the postseason after missing last year.

The loss of seniors Katie Weigold, Erin Phillips, Katie Costanzo, and Christine Charnock will be costly, but the return of senior guard Amanda Mauser and junior guard Erica Mozdy, as well as a very strong recruiting class, will aid the Lady Lions.

When asked about her expectations for the season, 10 year head coach Roz Fornari said, "We are very young and it will take us a while to get used to each other and have time to develop."

"I expect for our group to improve dramatically as the season progresses.

We have a talented group of players and have the potential of being good. If we work hard everyday, good things will happen."

The Lady Lions will have their work cut out as the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference is loaded with talent. As two-time defending conference champions, Penn State-Altoona, looks to be the team to beat, but many others will contend for that top spot.

"Our conference is much improved," said Fornari. "This might be the first year that teams are really very equal. I see each team having some opportunities to surprise others. I would like to think there might be a new champion crowned this year."

Fornari is uncertain whether Behrend is ranked among the top four teams in the conference.

"I am not sure what the top four teams are. I would like to think we could be in there somewhere but to name others is difficult. We are trying to focus only on Behrend and the things we need to do to be back on top. Hopefully you

will see us there."

The Lady Lions have six returning players and all should see playing time. Highlighting the returnees are co-captains Mauser and Mozdy, who both saw significant time last year and bring experience and leadership to the team.

"They have a great work ethic and lead by example," said Coach Fornari. "I am hoping for good things with these two leading the way."

The Lady Lions should receive a huge boost from the freshmen. The team brought in seven recruits and all bring something special to the hardwood.

The freshmen consist of guards Nicole Pacinelli, Kristie Connelly, Danielle Freeburg, and Jennifer Yaworsky, as well as forwards Amanda Butta, Angela Pelligrino, and Shea Truby. All have opportunities to see playing time early.

"I see them as having the potential of being one of the top recruiting classes," said Fornari. "We have at least five players that will contribute right away and the rest have a lot of potential. I don't want to single any out because we are lucky enough to have a solid group. I look forward to seeing their progress."

The Lady Lions scrimmage Oberlin College this Saturday and will probably have one or two more before they open the season in its own tournament.

"We are working hard. We have made a lot of improvements and still have a long way to go. We take it one day at a time. When you have a young team a lot of things come into play. Right now we are where we need to be," explained Fornari.

"I look for many people on this team to contribute in their own way. This group can be a very special group. They need to be focused and keep working and learning. It is a long season and anything can happen!"

Stakes high against conference rival Frostburg

By Kevin Fiorenzo
staff writer

The women's soccer team's momentum has reached a halt as it lost a hard-fought contest to conference rival Frostburg this past weekend.

Going into the game on Saturday, the women knew that it was a key matchup in terms of the conference tournament.

"This game is important because it decides who we may play in the conference tournament," said coach Dan Perritano.

Both teams knew the stakes were high and they played an extremely tight game. With three minutes left, the Lions were ahead 1-0 thanks to a goal from sophomore Erin Maurer.

At this point, though, Behrend's defense totally fell apart. In the last three minutes, they gave up three unanswered goals.

"We just had a mental breakdown and that took us out of the game," said sophomore Carrie Smock. "We fell apart for a little while at the end," said sophomore Maria Gahagen.

The final score ended up being 3-1 in favor of Frostburg.

The defeat dropped Behrend's record to 8-10 overall, 4-2 in the AMCC. Though the game was disappointing, the women aren't too discouraged.

"We hit a bad patch, but we can certainly recover from it," said Perritano.

Smock said, "I think we're only going to get better after this."

The women scheduled to play a game against Grove City, a nonconference team, on Thursday.

The Lions hope that the game will give them some much needed momentum going into the AMCC tournament.

"We just need to play hard and to continue to do what we've been doing," said Gahagen.

"We have to play hard, be physical, and finish well," added Smock.

The women begin play in the conference tournament on Wednesday. The fourth seeded Lions open the event away from home against top seed La Roche.

Though LaRoche is the No. 1 team, their one loss in conference came at the hands of Behrend. The Lions defeated La Roche 1-0 back on Sept. 28.

If they win that game, they will play the winner of the matchup between No. 2 Pitt-Greensburg and No. 3 Frostburg. That game would take place on Nov. 9.

Even though they have had a dispiriting setback against Frostburg, they still have high hopes for the end of their season.

"I don't think the loss to Frostburg will set us back at all," said Gahagen. The Lions are confident heading into the playoffs. They are a low seed, but upsets are what makes sports interesting.

THE BEACON SCOREBOARD

THE PENN STATE SPORTS SCENE

Men's Soccer			Women's Soccer			Women's Volleyball			Big Ten Football			PENN STATE BEHREND LIONS
School	C.R.	Overall	School	C.R.	Overall	School	C.R.	Overall	School	C.R.	Overall	
Pitt Greensburg	6-0	16-1	La Roche	5-1	14-2-2	Frostburg	12-0	23-9	Iowa	5-0	8-1	
PS Altoona	5-1	12-3-2	Pitt-Greensburg	5-1	11-5	Behrend	8-4	15-16	Ohio State	4-0	9-0	
Behrend	4-2	7-8-4	Frostburg	4-2	8-7-4	Pitt-Bradford	8-4	11-15	Minnesota	3-1	7-1	
Frostburg	3-3	8-6-2	Behrend	4-2	8-10	PS Altoona	7-5	13-12	Michigan	3-1	6-2	
La Roche	2-4	8-10-1	PS Altoona	2-4	10-7-1	La Roche	5-7	11-17	Illinois	2-2	3-5	
Pitt-Bradford	1-5	6-13	Pitt-Bradford	1-5	5-13	Pitt-Greensburg	2-10	4-24	Penn State	2-3	5-3	
Lake Erie	0-6	1-15	Lake Erie	0-6	0-20	Lake Erie	0-12	1-19	Purdue	2-3	4-5	
									Wisconsin	2-3	6-3	

THE NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA

NASCAR 2002 Winston Cup Standings: Thru Race 33 of 36 Next Race: Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 400 October 27, 2002			Professional Golf Association Money Leaders (money in millions)			National Football League League Leaders						ESPN/USA Today Football Coaches Poll							
Pos.	Driver	Points Behind	Rank	Player	Earnings	OFFENSIVE			DEFENSIVE			Rank	Team	Record	PTS				
						Passing			Tackles(TKL)										
						Player	Team	TDS	YDS	Player	Team	POS	TKL						
1	Tony Stewart	Leader	1.	Tiger Woods	6,747	1	D Bledsoe	BUF	16	2500	1	B Urlacher	CHI	MLB	73	1.	Miami	7-0	1517
2	Mark Martin	-146	2.	Phil Mickelson	4,121	2	R Gannon	OAK	15	2382	2	Z Thomas	MIA	MLB	64	2.	Oklahoma	7-0	1464
3	Jimmie Johnson	-150	3.	Ernie Els	3,180	3	B Griese	DEN	13	2116	3	J Sharper	HOU	ILB	63	3.	Virginia Tech	8-0	1371
4	Ryan Newman	-203	4.	David Toms	3,116	4	T Brady	NE	15	1879	4	I Kacyvenski	SEA	MLB	62	4.	Ohio State	9-0	1311
5	Rusty Wallace	-227	5.	Vijay Singh	2,860	5	T Green	KC	16	1864	5	K Bullock/LFletcher	tied at 60		5.	Georgia	8-0	1300	
6	Kurt Busch	-297	6.	Rich Beem	2,854									6.	Notre Dame	8-0	1264		
7	Jeff Gordon	-301	7.	Jerry Kelly	2,706									7.	Texas	7-1	1138		
8	Matt Kenseth	-361	8.	Justin Leonard	2,641									8.	NC State	9-0	1105		
9	Dale Jarrett	-401	9.	Reteif Goosen	2,472									9.	Washington St	7-1	1006		
10	Ricky Rudd	-438	10.	Chris DiMarco	2,441									10.	Iowa	8-1	975		
11	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	-484	11.	Sergio Garcia	2,319									11.	USC	6-2	895		
12	Bill Elliott	-540	12.	Fred Funk	2,296									12.	Colorado	6-2	686		
13	Jeff Burton	-621	13.	Jim Furyk	2,266									13.	Michigan	6-2	680		
14	Michael Waltrip	-692	14.	Jeff Sluman	2,163									14.	Kansas State	5-1	639		
15	Sterling Marlin	-725	15.	Charles Howell III	2,162									15.	LSU	6-1	588		
16	Ricky Craven	-830	16.	Shegeki Maruyama	2,103									16.	Oregon	6-1	556		
17	Bobby Labonte	-891	17.	Len Mattiace	2,097									17.	Arizona State	7-2	472		
18	Jeff Green	-970	18.	Nick Price	2,079									18.	Bowling Green	7-0	441		
19	Dave Blaney	-1055	19.	K.J. Choi	2,058									19.	Minnesota	7-1	426		
20	Robby Gordon	-1093	20.	Robert Allenby	2,024									20.	Florida State	5-3	344		
			21.	Chris Riley	1,949									21.	Penn State	5-3	244		
			22.	Rocco Mediate	1,929									22.	Florida	5-3	203		
			23.	Jose Maria Olazabal	1,910									23.	Iowa State	6-3	198		
			24.	Davis Love III	1,866									24.	Colorado State	7-2	190		
			25.	John Rollins	1,845									25.	Marshall	6-1	181		