

## Runners-Up

### Men's cross country team places second behind Frostburg

by Ed Mesaros  
staff writer

Snow showers and bitter cold temperatures greeted the 53-man field that was on tap for the AMCC cross country championships held at Behrend on Saturday.

The weather offered a challenge to the seven men's teams. The snowy course posed some slick conditions for the runners. Certain areas of the course gave runners problems, causing them to slip, and in some cases, to fall and collide with other runners.

When asked about Behrend, coach Dave Cooper said, "The weather affected everyone equally on Saturday. We had the advantage of not having to walk the course in the snow prior to the race."

The battle that was expected between Behrend and Frostburg State was just that. In the end, however, Frostburg State captured the team title. Behrend earned the runner-up spot, while the third through seventh positions went to La Roche, Penn State Altoona, Pitt Greensburg, Pitt Bradford, and Lake Erie.

La Roche's Andrew Musinguzi was

the first man to cross the finish line with a time of 28:35, earning him the individual title for the third consecutive season. Tim Schultheis was the first Lion to cross the line on Saturday. Schultheis' 28:52 time in the 8K gave the sophomore a fifth place finish.

"I think the race played in Frostburg's favor by going out at a moderate pace," said Schultheis. "I believe the race at Regionals will show what the Behrend men have worked for all season."

In the closing meters of the race, Behrend's Clayton Kirschner pulled alongside a Frostburg State runner. In a very exciting finish, Kirschner left his feet and dove head first across the line.

In what could be dubbed a photo finish, Kirschner was edged by the Frostburg State runner. The two were only separated by four-tenths of a second. Kirschner's 29:30 earned him an eighth place finish and the team's No. 2 spot.

"The conditions were rough," said Kirschner, "but everyone had to run it so there wasn't really an excuse except that we didn't go out and perform like we had to. Coach did everything he could to get us ready. We just didn't

have the race we needed to."

Finishing closely behind Kirschner was Brian Wheeler. The senior Lion crossed the line third for Behrend. With his time of 29:33, he captured ninth place overall finish. Brent Beauseigneur captured the Lions' 4th spot. The UP transfer student finished the race 11th, with a time of 30:00. Sophomore Dan Alvis rounded out the top five for the Lions with a 30:12 race time and a 13th place finish.

The next five spots all went to Behrend runners. Floyd Mattie (30:17), Steve Werner (30:24), Dan Croft (30:35), Mike Barlett (30:47), and Matt Sprung (30:52) captured spots 14th through 18th.

Harry Balwick was the next Lion to finish, and earned himself a 20th place finish. Dave Kusinsky and Chad Lausberg followed with 31st and 45th place finishes, respectively.

The men will not be competing this weekend, but will continue to train for their next meet: the NCAA Midwest Regionals. The team will travel to Salisbury, MD on Nov. 16 to compete against teams from across the region for a chance at Nationals.

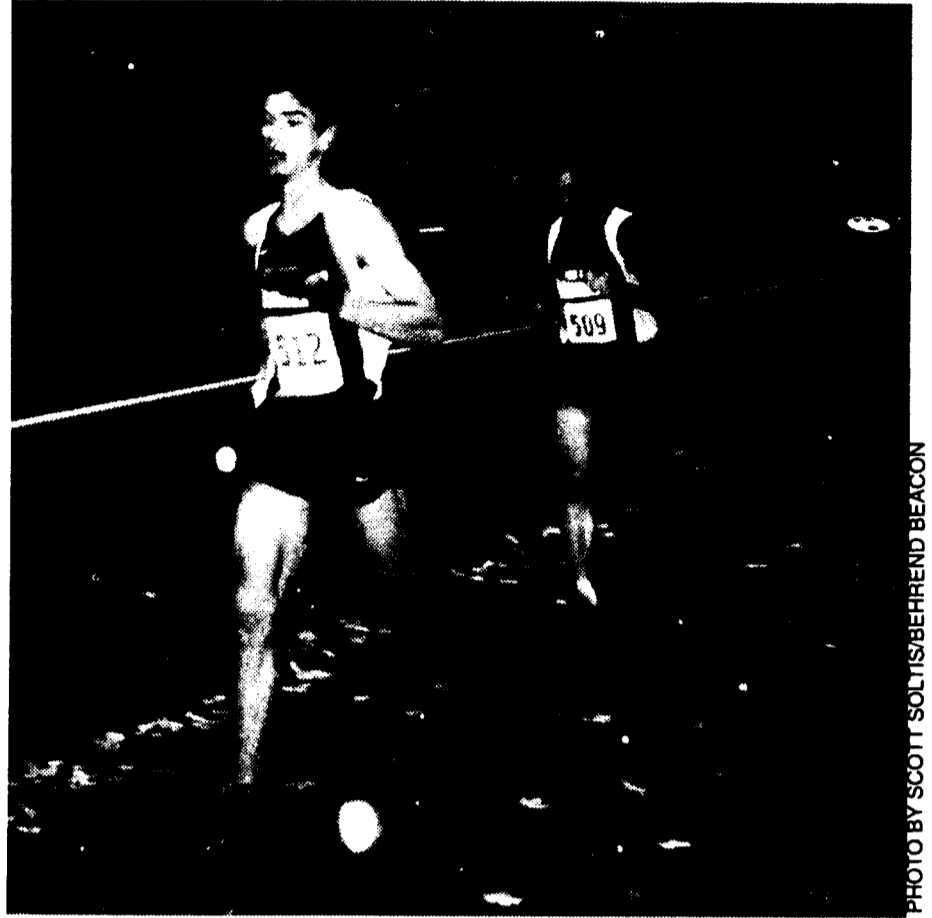


PHOTO BY SCOTT SOLTIS/BEHREND BEACON

Sophomore Steve Werner and Floyd Mattie just barely missed the top five in a cold, snowy race at Behrend.

### Mauser, Mozdy to lead women's basketball team on the hardwood

by Justin Jennings  
staff writer

The Behrend women's basketball team will present a lot of new faces to the hardwood this year.

The young yet talented squad will look for some much needed guidance from its two captains as it continues to gain experience. Senior guard Amanda Mauser and junior guard Erica Mozdy will provide the squad with leadership and guidance throughout the season.

"They are both confident in their abilities and able to share themselves with their teammates. I trust in their decision-making," said headcoach Roz Fornari about her two captains.

"They put the team first in regards to selfishness and are intrinsically driven." "This is their first leadership

role and I am hopeful they gain a valuable experience they can take with them when they graduate."

Mauser, a 5-7 guard, is the team's only senior. Last season, she was the first guard off the bench and provided the team with a lot of energy. This year she must accept a new role by moving into the starting shooting guard position. The team will feed off the energy and enthusiasm she presents.

"Amanda is a very intense competitor and at times has higher expectations

than anyone else," said Fornari. "She is always hustling and always trying to im-



Senior guard Amanda Mauser



Junior guard Erica Mozdy

prove. She is a great example for the younger players."

Mozdy, a 5-6 guard who attended Mercyhurst Prep throughout her high

school career, is the team's lone returning starter. The fundamentally sound guard started at the point guard position most of last season, and is expected to hold up the position this year.

"Erica is a little more laid back but is certainly an influence," said Fornari.

"She has the ability to take the pressure off her teammates by talking to them and attempting to guide them through things. I expect this from a point guard. She is an extension of me on the floor. And she is good at it!"

Fornari is excited about the way her two captains have accepted their new roles. She couldn't be happier with the progress the team has made throughout the early preseason and believes her captains have had much to do with that.

"This is the first time for them in a long time to be the 'leaders' on the floor. It is going to take some time for them to learn

how to push this team and make the positive impact that they are capable of. They get better and better everyday," said Fornari.

"I think Erica is in a position of natural leadership. The point guard is supposed to lead the group. But it doesn't mean people are naturally good at it. Erica is. Amanda and Erica are strong in their convictions. They want to win. They are both solid people and will help mentor this young group..." added Fornari.

The Lady Lions will host an exhibition game against Medaille College this Saturday at 11. This will be the team's last competition outside of practice before opening the season on Nov. 22 against RIT in the Behrend Tournament.



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