

The Behrend Beacon

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Swimmers keep splashing past records

by Lauren Packer staff writer

Someone check the Behrend swim team to make sure they are human and not fish.

The Lions broke seven meet records at the Blue-White meet. This past weekend, they broke six more pool records en route to victories over Fredonia State and Buffalo State.

Behrend hosted Fredonia State Friday night in the season opener. The men's

team won 99-71. Seven first-place finishes and a sweep in the men's 200meeter. IM helped pace the Lions to victory.

Freshmen J.R. DeLorenzo, Carl Ward, and Travis Kochel provided the speed, while senior Ben Atkins excelled in the distance events for Behrend. "For the guys, we expected to win. Fredonia State is a new team. We went in the meets confident that we would win, knowing we were the better team, and that's exactly what we did," said Atkins.

The women's team was unable to beat Fredonia State, falling 128-90. Returners Tara Braden and Christine Williams continued their dominance. Braden won the 1000 freestyle and the 100 backstroke. Williams won the 200 IM and the 500 freestyle.

Sophomore Jana Bahnak and freshmen Loren Stachowaik and Danielle Rearick also contributed points for Behrend.

"This past weekend I expected the girls team to win a lot of their races and

have good swims, but winning either meet was going to be tough since both had at least two divers and we don't have any," said Braden.

Moving into Saturday's competition against Buffalo State wasn't an easy task

n. for the Lions.

"This two-day type of format is very hard, especially if it is the first two meets of the season. It is very difficult to go all out one day and then be expected to step up and do it again. However, the teams stepped up to the challenge and we accomplished a lot," said head coach Josh Heynes.

"Accomplished a lot" is somewhat of an understatement. Behrend set six new pool records and qualified 17 people for the ECAC Championship in December.

Against Buffalo State, the men's team wasted no time in picking up where it left off Friday night. The Lions scored a 130-74 rout and remained undefeated on the weekend.

The men had nine first-place finishes and had a medal sweep in the 200 butterfly and the 200 IM. The men also set three of the six pool records. DeLorenzo set the 200 yd. Backstroke record, Eric Phillips set the 200 breaststroke record, and Ward set the 200 butterfly record.

On the women's side, the Lions had a tough time staying with Buffalo State and

lost 112-100.

"The women's team was able to come within 12 points of an established team with divers. Since our squad does not have divers, we start each meet in the hole.

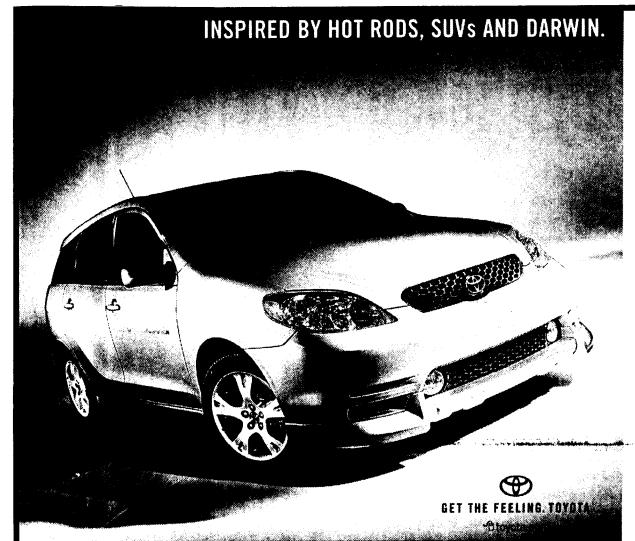
For everyone to step up and swim for the team really impressed me," said coach Jen Slack.

More impressive is the fact that the squad was able to set three new pool records in the process. Williams and Braden stepped up again and set records in the 200 backstroke and the 200 breaststroke, respectively. Jana Bahnak also set a record in the 200 butterfly. Williams is considered the go-to girl because of her ability to swim all the strokes and swim them well. Braden and freshman Rearick provide a one-two punch in the distance events to balance out the women's team.

Excited about his teams' starts to the season, Heynes expects to keep up the intensity and get more swimmers qualified for ECAC Championships in December.

"I look at the team as a whole to set new standards and then to push those standards. I look at the upperclassmen to lead by example, because they know what it takes to succeed. I look at the incoming class to shake things up and turn heads," said Heynes.

And if the records keep falling at this rate, Behrend will definitely be turning heads.



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