MEN'S BASKETBALL

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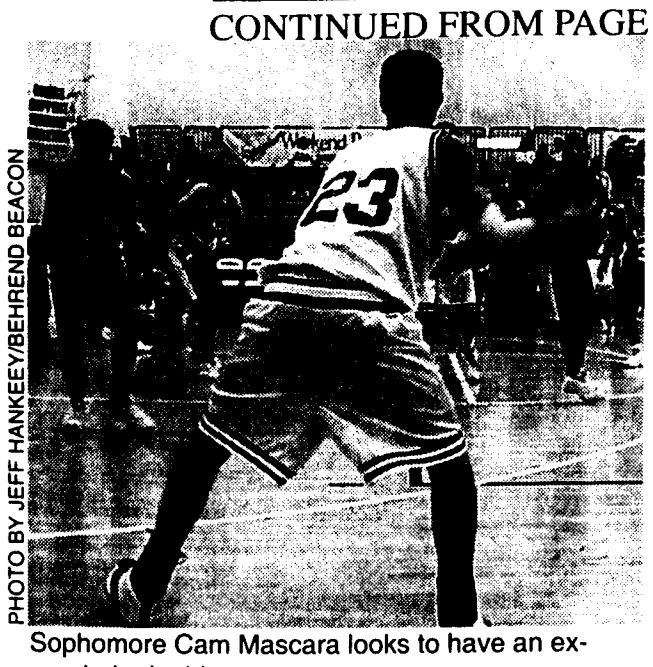

PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEEY/BEHREND BEACON

Sophomore Cam Mascara looks to have an expanded role this season

On Wednesday, the Lions looked to get back on the winning track against Washington and Jefferson. They played a hard- fought game, but lost a close one, 59-57.

Washington and Jefferson's leading scorer and a member of the preseason All American honorable-mention team, Nolan Larry, made a last second shot to put the game away. Behrend held Nolan under his season average of 17.9 and allowed him only nine points, but he came through when he needed to.

The Lions were down by three late in the 4 quarter when sophomore guard Tom Lulich connected on his second three-pointer of the night. That tied the game with 10 seconds left, and led to Larry's game winner. James Curren paced the home team recording a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds. He was followed by Casey Ponsoll, who had 12 points and Jared Clough who fell one point short of his own double double with nine points and 10 rebounds.

The team was hindered by many costly turnovers down the stretch as well as poor free throw shooting throughout the game. They shot 8-17 from the free throw line in the game, making only 47percent of their attempts. Senior guard Steve Merrill played well defensively and had three steals, in at attempt to make up for Behrend's mishaps.

Washington and Jefferson was led by Tony Franz and Chris Hauser who scored 15 and 12 points respectively. Behrend is now 2-2 while Washington and Jefferson got this first win and has a 1-3 record.

The team will continue this season when it opens up AMCC league play on Saturday at home against Pitt-Bradford. This game should be one with lots of intensity and will give the lions indication of how Behrend will fair in the league this year.

"Bradford is one of the more fun games to play," said Hairston. This year we just have to play our game, intense and smart. Physically and talent wise we match up very well with Bradford."

The team is looking forward to competing in the league and expectations are high.

Track and field getting ready for indoor season

by Kevin Fiorenzo
staff writer

With all this lousy snow on the ground, one would assume that a sport like women's track and field would be just a tad out of season. That's not quite so, thanks to women's *indoor* track and field.

Here in the middle of this snowy holiday season, the women's indoor track team is hard at work practicing for their first meet, the Fredonia Invitational, which takes place on Jan 18. According to head coach Dave Cooper, training and competing indoors isn't all that different from being outside.

"For us, we train pretty much the same. Our runners train outdoors all year long. The event options are different. No javelin, discus, or steeplechase indoors. The hurdles and sprints are shorter indoors," said Cooper.

Even though some events are not possible to conduct indoors, the team is bringing back many runners from last year and will compete in most of the events.

Some of the returning runners are Jess Sarver, Jess Knapp, Claire Manelick, Brandi Napenas, Sue Szafran, and Amanda Van Tassel. One of the women who competed in throwing events, Missy Mong, is also returning.

The Behrend team is also welcoming some talented newcomers to the squad.

" Staci Banaszek and Erica Sitter give us great jumpers in all three jumps,"said Cooper.

"Alison Nichols and Anne Urbansky give us strength in the pole vault. Bethany Crooks, Brooke Dodds, Nicole Minweaser, and Nina Zinger will add strength to the running team, with Nicole also taking on the 400 hurdles."

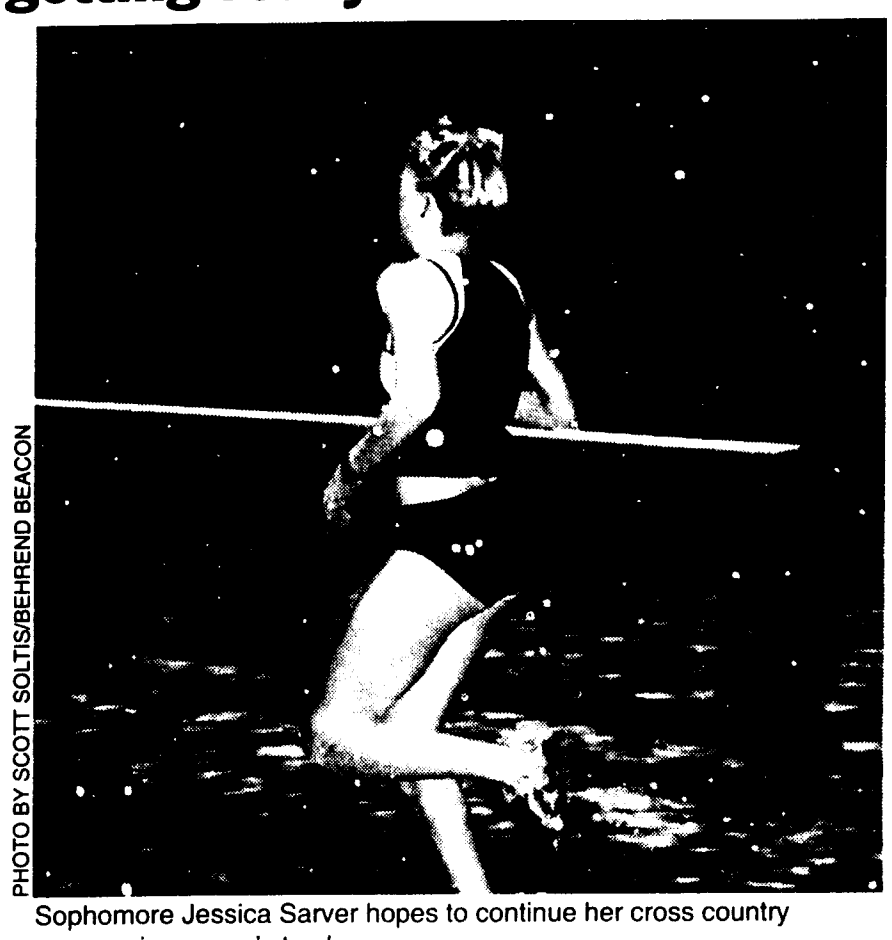

PHOTO BY SCOTT SOLTIS/BEHREND BEACON

Sophomore Jessica Sarver hopes to continue her cross country success in women's track.

Now that there is a solid amount of talent in this group of women, lofty expectations are running rampant.

"I expect our women to compete in nearly all events, something we were unable to do last year., said Cooper. "Additionally, I think we will rewrite the Behrend record books."

With such high hopes, it will be imperative for the team to perform well in all of their meets. Some of the biggest ones are at SUNY Fredonia, Slippery Rock, and Mount Union. These meets will be part of Behrend's qualifying for the ECAC championships in Boston.

To achieve these goals, the team is going to have make some improvements and make sure no one gets hurt.

"On a small team such as ours, keeping everyone healthy is key. We are always looking to increase numbers so that we can field relay teams without overtaxing the ladies with too many events," said Cooper.

If all these aspects are taken care of and everything falls into place, Cooper and his team know that they could achieve some unprecedented achievements for the women's indoor track and field team.

"Hopefully we will score points at the ECAC meet for the first time and maybe have a national qualifier,"said Cooper.

Duke is still the team to beat in Carolina

By Tom Sorensen
Knight Ridder Newspapers

GREENSBORO, N.C. _ Guess what? There's another team in the ACC. It played in Greensboro on Tuesday. And it's pretty good.

See, some of you are so excited about North Carolina that you forgot about Duke. This is understandable. Your Tar Heels came into the season unranked and unloved and in a mere two weeks have leaped to the cusp of the top 10.

You are convinced that college basketball's natural order has been restored and your team returned to its rightful place.

Alas, for most of the past 16 years, that place has been beneath Duke. And while the Tar Heels so far have impressed, surprised and entertained, Duke has quietly done what it always does - win.

After a slow start Tuesday against Ohio State, Duke ran to a lead of 27 and handled the Buckeyes 91-76. The Blue Devils are now 4-0, and while their freshmen have not been as spectacular as North Carolina's, they haven't had to be. They have help.

Do you guys even keep up with what the Tar Heels are doing? "We know they're winning, which is good for the conference," says Duke senior Dahntay Jones. "But we have our own race to run."

Ever take time from your own race to check out North Carolina?

Guard Daniel Ewing, who scored 18 Tuesday and might be the best talent on the Duke roster, won't go so far as to say he has seen the Tar Heels play.

"I heard they're doing good," he says.

To compete with the Blue Devils, they have to. Only 12 miles separate the campuses, but 66 points separated the basketball teams last season. Duke beat North Carolina by 29, 25 and 12.

The Blue Devils are where the Tar Heels aspire to be. That's one difference between the programs.

Here's another: If North Carolina had played in Greensboro Coliseum on Tuesday, sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 205 and 206, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225 and 226, and 235, 236, 237, 238, 239 and 240 would not have been 90 percent empty.

True, the cheapest tickets were $25 and the fans that sat on the baseline paid $100 for their seats, prices that preclude most students.

But there are - theoretically - thousands of adult fans that can't get a ticket to see the Blue Devils at Cameron Indoor Stadium. They finally get an opportunity to cheer for their team live, rather than from their living room.

Where were they? They couldn't all be buying bread and milk at Harris-Teeter or staying home to watch the Tar Heels on ESPN2.

Greensboro Coliseum accommodates more than 23,000 fans, and had the Tar Heels played the Buckeyes, there still would have been plenty of good seats available.

But there wouldn't have been plenty of good sections. Attendance was announced at 16,064. It wasn't.

Fans missed the opportunity to see why the Blue Devils again should be special. They're deep, they guard people and they're selfless. In other words, faces change. There are six freshmen on the roster but the style does not. They're still here.

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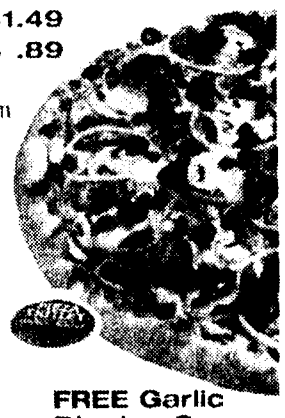

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