

The Behrend Beacon

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Alone at the top

Behrend knocks off conference rivals to take sole possession of first place

By Zoe Rose and Scott Soltis
contributing writer and sports editor

The Penn State Behrend men's basketball team just keeps doing what it set out to do at the beginning of the season. With six games left before tournament action begins, the Lions are sitting atop the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. They solidified their position with a 62-57 win at Pitt-Bradford Wednesday.

It was the classic matchup of offense versus defense in the game for AMCC bragging rights. Pitt-Bradford boasted the top offense in the AMCC, averaging 83.1 points per game. The Panthers are led by Matt Beacom, who was last week's ECAC Player of the Week.

This offensive powerhouse collided with the Lions, who are ranked first in the AMCC in scoring defense allowing a stingy 56.6 points per game. This ranks the defense ranked fourth in the nation in scoring defense among Division III schools.

When the two teams met earlier in the season at Behrend, the Lions prevailed. Sophomore guard Tom Lulich talked about the team's preparation.

"We already beat them once so we knew what we had to do to beat them." Much like in the Super Bowl of a few weeks ago, defense prevailed. Behrend

held Pitt-Bradford to a meager 57 points. Behrend got a huge performance from offensive standout, James Curren. Curren had 24 points and also eight rebounds for the Lions.

This was a big win for the Lions giving them sole possession of first place in the AMCC, the season sweep of Pitt-Bradford, and also snapped a 15 game win streak for Pitt-Bradford. All are major accomplishments.

Lulich and everyone else on the court that night knew the magnitude of the game.

"Both teams knew it was gonna be a big game. Both teams came out with alot of intensity," said Lulich. "We just played harder and we wanted to beat them more."

Three straight wins in a row have boosted the Lions to a 7-1 conference record. Their only loss came against Frostburg a few weeks ago.

The Lions helped their overall record to 13-6 against in-school rival Penn State Altoona in front of a home crowd at the Junker Center. They sent them packing with a score of 50-41 on Saturday.

In front of 275 enthusiastic fans, Behrend jumped all over Altoona in the first half. Altoona came into the matchup 0-18 overall which places them last in the conference.

Jared Clough led Behrend with 14 points and six rebounds followed by Curren's first single digit game of nine points.

The game had some flare in the second half Altoona made a slight attempt at closing the gap with 36 seconds remaining, 49-41. The Lions hung on with a 50-41 win.

Behrend had a tough time making three-pointers in the second half, going 0-6. They were 14-18 from the free-throw line for 77.8 percent for the game, Altoona made only one of six for 16.7 percent.

The Lions still lead the conference in free-throw percentage, with 73.6 followed by Frostburg with 70.3%.

Next up for the Lions will be two home games against Frostburg (Saturday) and Lake Erie (Wednesday) followed by consecutive away games at La Roche and Carnegie Mellon. The Lions hope to avenge their lone loss Saturday with the hoem crowd behind them. The AMCC tournament officially begins on February 26.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

James Curren, the Lions offensive star, shined brightly against Pitt Bradford scoring over 20 points in the win.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

Behrend's defense came to play against Altoona holding their Lion squad under 50 points.

Behrend women set back twice this week

by Scott Soltis
sports editor

The Lions had an up and down week winning at home against Altoona, but losing at Pitt-Bradford. In between the women dropped an out of conference game at home against Buffalo State.

At Pitt-Bradford on Wednesday the team went into the locker room at halftime with a slim 30-28 lead. However, this lead was squandered as the Lions were outscored 38-23 in the second half. When the clock ran out the scoreboard read 66-53 Panthers.

A big reason for the team's loss was poor 3-point shooting. They were 1-14 from behind the three point line. The Lions shot just 34 percent from the field. This was another factor in the team's loss.

A bright spot for the Lions was 16 point performances by Carly Cochran and Amber Krumpe.

The loss dropped the Lions record to 6-2 in AMCC play and 10-10 overall. The Lions fell back to second place in the AMCC after a week-long stint as the top team.

The team also dropped a game in the Junker Center on Sunday to

Buffalo State. The Lions were unable to overcome a 12 point deficit at the half. The Lions came closer in the second half, but it was not enough with a final score of 57-43.

Behrend's standout in this game was Erica Mozdy, who yanked down 12 rebounds.

The lone victory for the Lions came on Sat. against inter-University rival Penn State Altoona. The Lions beat the Lions 55-46.

The team was lead by Krumppe, who had 20 points and eight rebounds.

The team hopes to get back on track this week with back to back home games against Frostburg and Lake Erie.

The Lions are undefeated in the Junker Center against AMCC teams, and if that trend continues, the Behrend could be back on top by the end of the week.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

Guard Erica Mozdy has facilitated much of the Lions scoring this season. She leads the team in assists and is second in rebounds.

Housing
and
Food Service
Athlete

of the Week

PENNSTATE
Erie

Amber
Krumpe



SPORT: Women's
Basketball
CLASS: Sophomore
DATE: Feb. 3

Amber Krumppe (Erie/Mercyhurst Prep) was named this week's Beacon/Food and Housing Athlete of the Week. In the overtime win against previously undefeated Pitt-Greensburg last Wednesday, Krumppe posted 12 points and lead the team in rebounding with 12. On Saturday's game against Altoona she scored 20 points and had 8 rebounds, leading the team in both. Although losing to Buffalo State on Sunday in a non-conference game, Krumppe posted ten points and had 3 rebounds. The blue and white are now 10-9 and 6-1 in the AMCC.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.