

Men's soccer finishes third place; optimistic for rest of season



Sophomore, Justin Reese heads down field.

PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS

by Ray Immekus
staff writer

The Behrend men's soccer team recently finished third in the Herb Lauffer Memorial Soccer Tournament held over Labor Day weekend. The Lions went 1-1 in the four-team tournament that also included teams from Baldwin-Wallace, Hiram, and Medaille.

The tournament marked the beginning of the 2003 season for the Lions, a season that has potential to be a memorable one for them. Last year's team reached the AMCC Championship game, losing to Pitt-Greensburg, 2-1 in overtime.

The Lion's first game was played on Saturday, August 30th, against Medaille. The game remained scoreless for the first 32 minutes, until junior

midfielder Eric Nyberg scored on Medaille goalie Nick Lupatta to give Behrend a 1-0 lead, with senior Andy Laver providing the assist.

The Lion's lead did not last for very long. Cory Cwilinski scored in the 42nd minute on an assist from Russell Allen to tie the game for Medaille. The teams went into halftime with the score still tied 1-1.

Charles Wood ended the deadlock at the 60-minute mark, with a goal assisted by Cwilinski to give Medaille the lead at 2-1.

The final 30 minutes of the game were scoreless, with both teams playing hard nose defense. The game ended in a 2-1 Medaille victory.

Although the Lion's lost the opener and the opportunity to play in the championship game their positive thinking was not lost.

"I feel that even though we lost the game this experience was a very good eye-opener into how we must perform in the future in order to be successful," said Nyberg.

Behrend's next opponent was Hiram, in the consolation game held on Sunday, August 31st. Hiram had been shutout by eventual champion Baldwin-Wallace in the opening round by a score of 3-0.

For the first 40 minutes, the game looked as if it were going to be a defensive match all the way through, which was pretty much true, minus a ten minute span that ended the first half and began the second. These ten minutes were dominated offensively by the Lions, harnessing them a third place finish in a tournament that could have been won by three of the four teams.

The offensive barrage by the Lions began in the 41st minute, by sophomore defenseman Dan Bash, who recorded an unassisted goal that gave Behrend a 1-0 halftime lead.

The Lions immediately continued where they left off, scoring two goals in the initial six minutes of the second half. The first goal came from freshman Sean Ruhlman, unassisted, at minute 49.

The Lions added an insurance goal only a minute later, also by Ruhlman, this time assisted by sophomore Mark Cipriani, to extend the lead to 3-0. Behrend played mistake free defense for the final 40 minutes to secure victory.

Eric Nyberg summed up the Lions' performance, "I think everyone on the team realized the competitiveness of this league and the need to work hard for 90 minutes and it was apparent in our victory on Sunday."

"I feel that we bounced back well as a team to get the victory in the second game. We saw a lot of positive things in the game against Hiram and have an optimistic attitude for the rest of the season," added Dan Bash.

Senior goalkeeper Jake Hordych notched his first shutout, following last year's five-shutout season.

The Lion's take on Westminster on Saturday, September 13. Check out On Deck for location and time.

Two Minute Drill

9-4-03

Women's Tennis

Behrend 5 Westminster 4

9-5-03

Volleyball

Behrend 3 Milwaukee Eng. 2

Behrend 0 Colorado 3

9-6-03

Men's Soccer

Behrend 1 Alfred 1 (2 OT)

Women's Soccer

Behrend 2 Alfred 1

Women's Tennis

Behrend 2 Waynesburg 7

Men's Water Polo

Behrend 9 Grove City 12

Behrend 12 Mercyhurst 10

Behrend 2 Gannon 13

Volleyball

Behrend 0 Pacific 3

Behrend 0 SCAD 3

Men's Cross Country

@ Thiel Invitational, 1st place

Brad Ruffo 27:20

Women's Cross Country

@ Thiel Invitational, 1st place

Jessica Knapp, 24:46

Q & A with new Water Polo coach



FILE PHOTO

Above: Women's Water Polo during a spring 2003 match
Right: Behrend's new Men's and Women's Water Polo coach and also assistant swimming coach, Joe Tristan.

by Adam Massaro
staff writer

Joe Tristan, the new head coach of the water polo program grew up in Southern California, where he first became acquainted with the sport of water polo before attending college at Eastern Michigan University. Tristan was previously ranked in the top 20 in FINA and top 100 in the world in the 100m and 200m freestyle.

Q: What are the focal points or keys to success for this team?

A: The key to our programs success is in the team unity that we build, and the traditions that we will manufacture and cherish for the life of the program.

Q: From a coaching standpoint how do you educate new, inexperienced recruits to water polo?

A: Coaching new players is just like coaching experienced players. All athletes have to learn basic fundamentals. They have to be repeated every season and re-taught every season. So when the new players come into the program, they learn the same fundamental skills the veterans learn, as well as practicing them with the veteran players.

Q: The team finished 1-2 in the Grove City Invitational, what were you able to take away from the team's performance?

A: We played great against Grove City. We started slow in the first quarter, but we were able to readjust and give GCC a run. The tournament showed the players are doing their best and practicing the fundamental basics. Mercyhurst and Gannon were a little different, but we still did what we were supposed to do, and we are only going to get better as the season progresses.

Q: How imperative is it for a player to have a strong background in competitive swimming?

A: A strong competitive swimming background is always a plus, but it is not required. Some players on

the Women's National Team played basketball before water polo. I know one male that played in 2 Olympics in Water Polo was a basketball player before he started water polo in high school. If you know how to swim, and you have the drive and work ethic to succeed, then you can play water polo.

Q: What is the hardest aspect of water polo to teach?

A: Every aspect of polo is hard to coach. You just have to know how to get the information to the athletes so they can understand, practice and execute.

Q: The team is predominantly comprised of underclassmen, where do you see the team leadership coming from?

A: Team leadership will come from Eric Phillips, Nick McGrady and Dario Vis. The fine gentlemen are our Captain's and they will lead our program just fine.

Q: What does the future hold for a program that is in its fourth year of existence?

A: Success, success and more success. Win or lose we will still be successful.

Q: You recently took over the program before the fall semester started, how difficult of a transition has that been?

A: The only hard transition is the move. I still own a house in Michigan, and that must sell before I can move on a house here in Erie. Then I can bring my wife and animals out here and we can live happily together again.

Q: In the future do you plan to recruit players?

A: Yes I plan to recruit.

Q: As far as the popularity of water polo as a sport, what direction do you see it heading?

A: I see water polo moving in the direction of success and glory.



PHOTO BY HEATHER MYERS

Volleyball travels to Colorado

by Amy Hilam
staff writer

The Lady Lion's volleyball team participated in their first tournament at Colorado College in Colorado this past weekend. The girls won their first game 3-2 followed by three consecutive losses.

The first game against Milwaukee School of Engineering began as a 2-1 score with Milwaukee leading. Shortly after, the lady lions pulled through, high spirited, and quickly lifted the score to 3-2.

Sophomore player, Erin Bennett stated, "We all handled the pressure well."

As for the three consecutive losses, the girls all agreed that those losses helped them determine exactly what things they could use more work on.

"The tournament was definitely a learning experience for us all," said Bennett.

"It gave us all an opportunity to learn what we, as a team, need to work on." Not only did the girls get to play in the tournament but they also got a chance to meet the United States Olympic volleyball team.

Sophomore, Elizabeth Bello stated, "It was just amazing!!"

Bennett also agreed saying, "It was

very exciting - a huge inspiration to us all."

One of the most important contributions to the Lady Lion's volleyball team, besides the skills and great attitudes from the players, is from the head coach herself.

Kellie Diehl is in her third season as head volleyball coach along with being head softball coach as well.

Before Behrend, however, she was also an active head coach at Mt. Union College, Heidelberg College and Wilmington College. Along with head coach Diehl, comes assistant coach Pisano.

Phil Pisano is in his first year as the assistant coach for the lady lion's volleyball team. He coached the women's volleyball team at Slippery Rocky for a few years prior to Behrend. Pisano is far from being the only "new" person to the team. He is followed by seven new freshman players, who are filling positions as defensive specialists, middle hitters and outside hitters.

Overall the team is excited for the rest of the season.