

Golf, AMCC Polo refocuses for postseason runner up

by Amy Frizzell
sports editor

This past weekend the golf team reached the "18th hole" of their season. On Saturday the men participated in the AMCC Championships held at La Roche.

"We did pretty well," said freshman Josh Hull. "Second or third place is what was expected." The Lions were able to meet this expectation when they placed second just after Penn State Altoona with a team score of 329.

Hull led the team with a score of 79 placing him fifth overall. Fellow freshman Josh Looney placed 11, shooting an 82.

"We had a strong freshman core this year, with five freshmen on the team," said Hull when asked about the team's strength.

Finishing just after Looney was junior Anthony Pagliari, who shot an 83, walking away with 12 place. Sophomore Kevin Theimen rounded out the last of the Lions with a 17th place finish, shooting an 85.

Though the team was able to meet their expectations for the AMCC Championships some members weren't so thrilled about the results of the rest of the season.

"We didn't meet expectations, there were a lot of tournaments we had poor finishes in," said Hull. "We need to practice more, and get involved in more tournaments to get ready for next season."

by Adam Massaro
staff writer

One would think that with only three regular season games left, and one win to their credit, the men's water polo team would be getting ready to pack it in for the season. However, this is not the case as the team will embark on a new prospect, the southern championships.

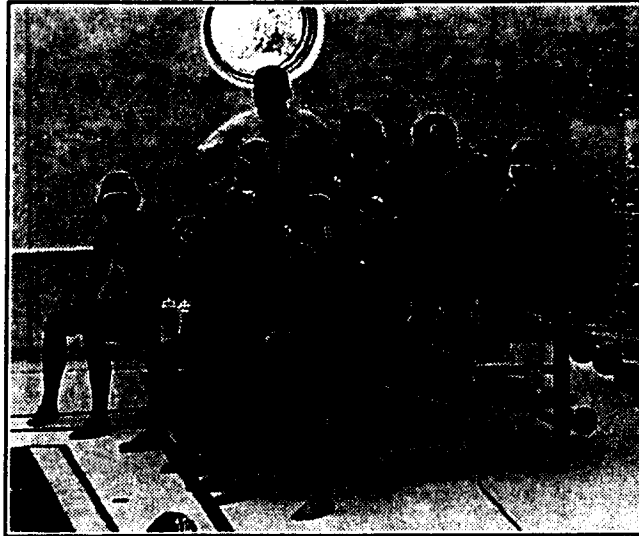
Each team will start with a fresh slate at the championships and regular season record will only be used to determine pairings.

The team will run their own rendition of the Kentucky Derby, consisting of three legs of tournaments. The team will begin with the Cross over tournament at Princeton, move to the Division III championships at Johns Hopkins, and conclude with the CWPA championship at Bucknell. The team is looking forward to the postseason play, after rapid improvement in recent games.

"We are definitely improving a lot. I don't know where coach thinks we are, but we are definitely a lot further than a week ago," said freshman Justin Ryder.

"In the mornings we have been swimming a lot more and at night our practices have been more intense, and we are working on a lot of different things."

To their advantage the Lions are familiar with



Men's water polo is now 1-13 this season.

FILE PHOTO

some of the competition they will face in the tournaments after meeting those teams in regular season matches.

Early on in the season opposing teams were able to take advantage of the Lions' youth and inexperience yet throughout the season the complexion of the team has changed as they have improved. "It is more or less stuff we had worked on for the

games and when we were trying to get down basics," said freshman Marc Walczak. "Now it is time to shine and do our best."

Due to their struggles during the regular season, the squad will look to creep up on opponents, who may have played them in the regular season, but will not account for their late improvements.

"It will act as a surprise to other teams that think 'Behrend, they are nothing.' Just give us time and they will see what's up," said Walczak.

Undoubtedly, the team will be an underdog in the tournaments, but they view this stigma as negatively.

"We can use being underdogs to our advantage, because a lot of teams might take us too lightly and when we play then they won't expect that we are going to play as well as we do," said sophomore Brandon Sieber.

With a long road ahead of them, the team hopes that with opportune victories along the way they can establish Behrend among the water polo ranks.

"We will defend our own, and try to make a name for ourselves. It makes us want to play tough, and give the opponent a good run for their money," said Walczak.

Tennis looks to avenge loss



Freshman, Mindy Calvert was Behrend's only win against Westminster on Monday, at second singles.

PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

second time this season Behrend blanked Thiel by the same score of 9-0.

With only two games left against Chatham and Penn State Altoona before AMCC Championship on Oct. 18, Calvert explains what her team needs to work on before going to Penn State Altoona for the championship.

"Our second time against opponents we plan to pick up play on our doubles," Calvert said. "We are just inconsistent."

"We can communicate with our doubles partners better. That would help our doubles play a lot," said Jenna Yankowski.

While Behrend continues to work on its inconsistent play, the remaining two matches against Chatham and Penn State Altoona will be critical. The Lions have four players that are close to being seeded No. 1 if they win go undefeated in these final two games.

"For the team, it's (obtaining No. 1 seeds) is important, but I think that for the individuals that can get a No. 1 seed it makes for an easier day. Each player is going to have to play four matches in that day to win," said Barger.

"To be a no. 1 seed in your bracket gives you an easy match in your first match.

Not looking past Chatham and Altoona, Barger has his team preparing in practice for the rematches. Behrend lost to Chatham 5-4, but crushed Penn State Altoona 7-2.

"A couple of people were upset I thought, by the Chatham players," said Barger. "We're working on some particular things for Chatham, especially in doubles. As far as Altoona, we're not really working on anything for them. They aren't as good as a team as they've had in the past. We're really shooting to beat Chatham just to get back at them for the loss."

Behrend hopes to regain the AMCC Championship crown for the first time since 2000. Penn State Altoona has won the title every year since. The Lions placed second last year, losing by only six points.

"We've got a lot of talent on the team. We're really working hard on doubles because doubles is the key to winning conferences. Hopefully, we'll peak at conferences," said Christine Leininger.

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Round two of the Westminster rematch wasn't how the Lions envisioned it. In the first meeting of the two teams, Behrend won the match 5-4. The second go-around proved to be a much harder task.

Still riding victories over Waynesburg, Frostburg and rival Altoona should have given the team a wave of confidence and power surge in their play. However, the wind was knocked out of the Lions sails by Westminster as they rolled on to beat Behrend 8-1.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of Mindy Calvert, the Lions escaped the shutout. Calvert also saved the Lions from defeat the first time Behrend and Westminster met.

"They (Westminster) had some different girls in their lineup," said head coach Jeff Barger. "They improved their lineup and we were without one of our regular players, which hurt us. But still we shouldn't win 5-4 and then lose 8-1."

However, the Lions rebounded from the defeat, crushing Thiel 9-0 the following day. It was the

Runners almost to finish line

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor

The cross country team exceeded their own expectations this past weekend at the Dickinson Invitational with strong performances from the men's and women's team.

"We had a hard work week and a six hour road trip to Dickinson. Because of those two factors, I didn't expect us to perform at our best," said head coach Dave Cooper.

"Despite that, I thought we had an excellent showing with both men and women."

Overall, the men finished 10th out of 40 teams. The women ended up with an excellent result of fourth out of 36 schools.

The best individual result came from junior Jessica Knapp, who finished 11th in the 6k with a time of 23:53.18. The women's top finisher in the 4k was freshman Willa Paterson. She ended up in 20th with a time of 16:03.90.

For the men, their best came from freshman Brad Ruffo. Ruffo came in forty-first in the 6k with a time of 28:02.45. Their top runner in the 6k event was junior Mike Barlett, who came in 58th with a time of 13:56.09.

After their impressive showing at Dickinson, both teams are feeling extremely confident about their chances for success the rest of the season.

"For the women, we were originally hoping to finish in the top ten at Regionals. Now that the women have been ranked sixth in the region, I think that they will be shooting for a finish as high as their ranking or better. Winning the AMCCs remains a 'must do' goal," Cooper said.

"For the men winning the AMCC is a goal that must be foremost in their minds. Frostburg edged us out at the Dickinson Invitational so we know what we have to do to get the AMCC title to Behrend," he said.

In order to reach those lofty goals, the team knows what it needs to maintain its success. Staying healthy and working hard is vital. Before AMCCs and Regionals, the team still has a few more meets to prepare for.

"For the remaining invitationals, it is a challenge to train hard during the week and still perform well on Saturdays, but it's what we must do to be prepared for the conference and regional meets," Cooper said.

Volleyball serves up wins

by Frank Malowski
contributing writer

in each category, Behrend's Danielle Bemis and Ashley Ordy, respectively.

Over the past week the Lady Lions took on conference foes Pitt-Greensburg and Lake Erie. By the end of the week their conference record had been boosted to 4-3. This move puts them in third place in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference with four more AMCC match-ups left this season.

"The team came together and did what they had to do," said senior Danielle Bemis.

One major aspect of the squad's new found success has been an increase in teamwork. "We communicated better against Lake Erie, people were more confident," said Bemis.

Bemis also had a very exciting week on an individual level. She became only the third player in Behrend Women's Volleyball history to record 1,000 kills for the career. This record placement has led Bemis to the title of AMCC Volleyball Athlete of the Week.

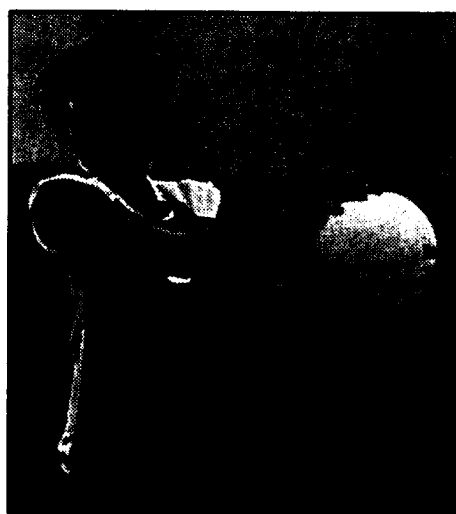
Bemis is having a solid year with 147 kills and 282 digs after 68 games. She is second for the team

if will focused on the team is going from here. The team will be going with their straight non-conference away games against some fierce competition. "We got a chance to work on some things in those games. Grove City College and Washington and Jefferson are big games," said Bemis.

The team is looking to rebound from a tough 3-2 loss to Grove City at home two weeks ago. "We know what we have to do to get up again and we know that we can beat them," said Bemis.

Although wins next week will not help their AMCC record they will give a great deal of momentum for the final stretch. The team has five conference games remaining with only two being played at home. For the rest of the season as well as any playoff matches, the Lions will have to play well in hostile situations outside of the Junker Center.

Housing
and
Food Service
Athlete
of the
Week
PENNSTATE
Erie



Danielle Bemis

Sport: Volleyball
Class: Senior
Date: Oct. 6

Danielle Bemis (Corry/Corry High School) was named this week's Beacon/Housing and Food Athlete of the Week. Bemis broke the 1,000 kills in a career mark this past week, making her the third player in school history to do so. She

had 15 kills and 28 digs in a 3-1 win against Pitt-Bradford. For the season Bemis has 147 kills and 282 digs. The Behrend Lions were 2-0 in conference play last week, and led the conference in digs per game. Next up for the blue and white is an away game against Washington and Jefferson on Saturday.