

Lions rule over Redhawks to clinch AMCC title berth



Above: The Lions celebrate sophomore Justin Ramsay's second goal during their AMCC semifinal game against La Roche on Wednesday. Right: Sophomore Andy Lesser helps the men to their 4-1 victory by scoring one goal, his fifth of the season.

by Ray Immekus
staff writer

The men's soccer team defeated LaRoche College 4-1 Wednesday night to advance to the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championship. The win clinched the seventh straight title game appearance for Behrend.

Leading the way for the Lions was sophomore Justin Ramsay, scoring the first and second goal of the game. Sophomore Andy Lesser added a goal as well as senior Andy Laver.

The Lions will face the winner of the Frostburg State and Pitt Greensburg semifinal game, which was played Thursday afternoon at Yough High School.

A potential rematch of last year's championship game, in which Greensburg defeated the Lions 2-1 in overtime, has served as a motivator for this year's team.

"That game was a big motivator for this season for the whole team. Greensburg came in and mocked us, and laughed at us. They beat us in overtime in a real iffy game," said senior goalkeeper

Jake Hordych. "Every person who played on last year's team will remember that game and will use that as a real motivator when we play them. I'm sure we'll play them in the finals again this year."

Behrend defeated Pitt-Greensburg on Oct. 4 in their regular season matchup by a score of 3-1.

The Lions are the No. 1 seed in the playoffs, after clinching the regular season crown with a 2-0 victory against Frostburg State last Saturday.

Sophomore midfielder Mark Cipriani netted the eventual game-winning goal only 12 minutes into Saturday's regular season finale against Frostburg State. His fourth goal of the season was assisted by senior midfielder Andy Laver and proved to be all the scoring Behrend would need

to win.

Laver then added an unassisted insurance goal at the 33 minute mark to give the Lions the 2-0 lead. It was Laver's eighth goal of the season. Hordych made four saves en route to his eighth shutout of the season. The defense once again played a solid game, and are playing at a level that wins championships.

Behrend finished the regular season with a 12-4-2 record and a 5-1 conference mark. Frostburg State closed the regular season out at 9-5-2 with a 5-1 conference record.

Behrend's last AMCC title came in 1999, when

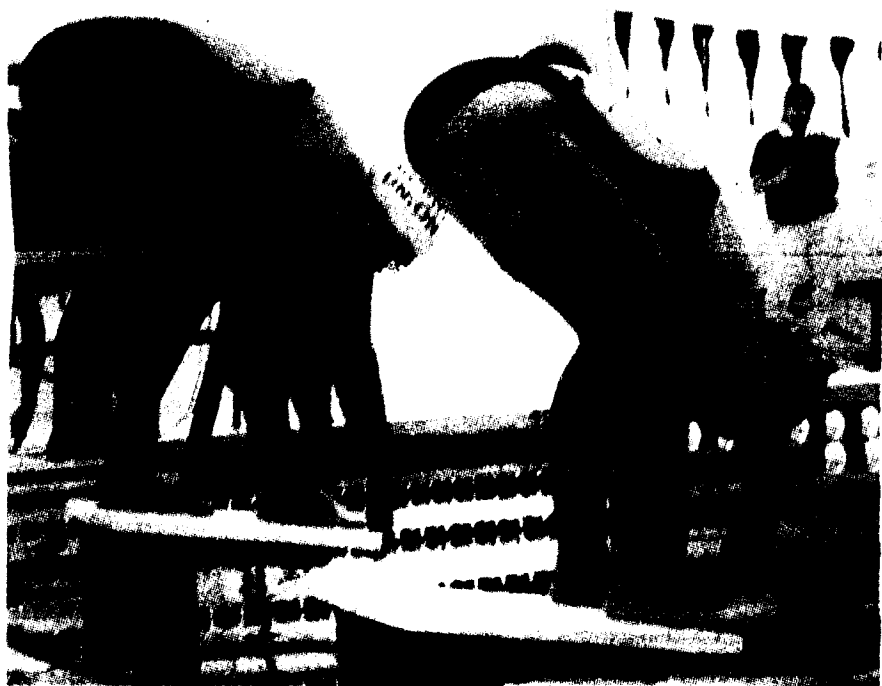
the Lions defeated the Frostburg State Bobcats 2-1. Behrend has been in the championship game in each of the last six seasons, winning two of those games. They have faced Frostburg State in five of those six matchups. In his 11th season, head coach Dan Perritano has a career record of 113-87-4.

Check out On Deck for AMCC championship game information.



PHOTO BY AMY FRIZZELL/BEHREND BEACON

Swimmers take their mark Ready for Buffalo State



by Amy Frizzell
sports editor

As students begin to anticipate snowfall many start to think about bundling for the cold snowy winter. But as for 23 Behrend students, they've kept their swim suits on.

The men's and women's swimming and diving team have been in the pool practicing since Sept. 29 to prepare for its fourth season here as a varsity sport.

The swimmers will kick off their season tonight when they meet with Buffalo State.

"They've been in the water doing calisthenics and water workouts complemented with weight training," said head coach Jen Slack.

Formerly the assistant coach for swimming and diving, Slack has taken over the head coach position this year after Jeff Heynes stepped down last year. She will be joined by assistant coach Joe Tristan, who is also the head coach for men's and women's water polo.

With well over half the swimmers on the team being freshman, Slack isn't the only one new to her position.

"With the team being so young there's more excitement," said Slack. "They have some learning to do yet, but they're adjusting well."

The task of leading these young teams is up to senior captains Tara Braden, Carrie Smock and Sarah McGarvey for the women. Leading the men are captains freshman Joe Deely and junior Eric Phillips.

"There's definitely better quality and more experience than last year," said Slack.

Even though the team hasn't participated in any meets yet it has still set goals for the season.

"They've set personal goals which would be to improve their times," said Slack. "Joe and I have set a goal as well and that is to get more people qualified for ECACs, which a lot of people are working towards as well."

Other than team goals Slack has also set a goal for herself as a coach.

"I want to promote team unity. They need to have fun," said Slack. "Being an athlete is a great opportunity."

For more information on upcoming meets, check out On Deck this week.

Women's soccer advances after seven round shootout

by Rachel Lyon
staff writer

Round two: The challenger, Penn State Behrend, versus the champion, Frostburg State.

The AMCC championship match is official, pitting the Lady Lions of Behrend against the reigning two-year champion Bobcats from Frostburg.

The match will be the second time in one week that the two teams will meet. Both teams advanced in the conference semi-finals to the final game to be held Saturday.

In the conference semi-finals, the No. 2 seed Lady Lions defeated the No. 3 seed Pitt-Greensburg at Mercyhurst North East as senior Andrea Krahe scored the winning goal in the shootout round.

Pitt-Greensburg jumped to an early 1-0 first-half lead. Behrend sophomore Heather Crawford tied the game in the second half sending, the game to

overtime. With no one scoring in two overtime periods, the match went into seven shootout rounds.

In the seventh round, Behrend goalkeeper Liz Hall, making her second start in replacement of goalkeeper Dara Nielsen, came up with an important save. Then on the following kick, Krahe scored the winning goal for the Lady Lions.

"We dominated the whole game," said senior captain Mandy Gesuale. "We just couldn't put the ball in the net."

The loss ended Pitt-Greensburg's season with a record of 10-6-3; 3-2-1 in conference play.

On the other side of the bracket, No. 1 seed Frostburg knocked off the No. 4 seed La Roche, 3-1. Overcoming a 1-0 half time deficit, the Bobcats scored three second half goals, including two from AMCC "Player of the Week" Karen Kotofski. Key saves from goalkeeper Stephanie Zyck kept La Roche out of the net as the Bobcats won their ninth

straight.

The championship game pits the Lady Lions against a familiar opponent, Frostburg State. The two teams clashed last Saturday in the regular season finale. In that game, Frostburg jumped on top early and never looked back, defeating Behrend 4-1.

Heather Crawford scored the lone goal for the Lady Lions, who saw several scoring opportunities sail just inches away from the net. Frostburg forward Kotofski scored three goals to lead all scorers.

Last Saturday's game was also played on a soaked Behrend field, making it very difficult to defend in all the mud.

Poor field conditions were behind the decision to move the semi-final game against Pitt-Greensburg to Mercyhurst North East.

Saturday's AMCC final will be held at Frostburg State.

Runners fall short of AMCC goals, five disqualified

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor

The men's and women's cross country teams competed in the AMCC Championships this past weekend at Pitt-Bradford.

The men's team came away with a second place finish while the women did not qualify for a team score.

In the men's race, Behrend had four runners in the top 10. Leading the way once again was freshman Brad Ruffo, who came in fourth place out of 62 runners with a time of 28:45. He was followed in fifth place by fellow freshman Reuben Smith with a time of 28:49.

Freshman Craig Davis had a time of 29:02 while junior Tim Schultheis finished at 29:08. They finished in

seventh and eighth place, respectively. Overall, the men finished with a total score of 35, short of the winner of the competition, Frostburg State.

Smith said, "We didn't perform as well as we would have liked but I think we were still pretty strong."

The women's competition was embroiled in controversy as the top six finishers were disqualified for taking a 300-yard shortcut on the set course of the race. Five of these runners were from Behrend's team and one from La Roche.

The runners from the Behrend team were senior Jessica Knapp, juniors Jessica Sarver and Claire Manelick and freshmen Leslie Gentile and Willa Paterson.

The disqualification was protested by Behrend and LaRoche because of

confusion over the layout of the course. They felt that the course wasn't very easy to follow and wasn't marked clearly. The decision was upheld by the AMCC, though, and Frostburg State was named the winner.

Though the teams did not finish as well as they expected, they are still hopeful they can compete well the rest of the season. They are set to run at the NCAA Midwest Regionals at Dickinson College on Nov. 15 and will try to finish their season on a high note.

"I think we've reached a medium level of our expectations. Our main goal was to win AMCCs and we didn't get that but everything else I think we've done well," said Smith.

"At regionals, we just need to put a few more people in the top 50 and have a strong pack of runners," he said.

Housing
and
Food Service
**Athlete
of the
Week**
PENNSYLVANIA
ERIC



Andy Laver

SPORT: Men's Soccer
CLASS: Senior
DATE: Nov. 3

Andy Laver (Erie, Pa. /McDowell High School) was named this week's Beacon/Food and Housing Athlete of the Week.

Laver had an assist and a goal in Saturday's game against Frostburg, helping Behrend to secure the top spot in the AMCC conference. Laver leads the team

in points with 22, goals with eight, and assists with six. He will be a big presence on the field during this week's AMCC tournament.

The Lions next game will be against No. 2 Frostburg in the AMCC Finals at Edinboro on November 8 at 12 p.m.