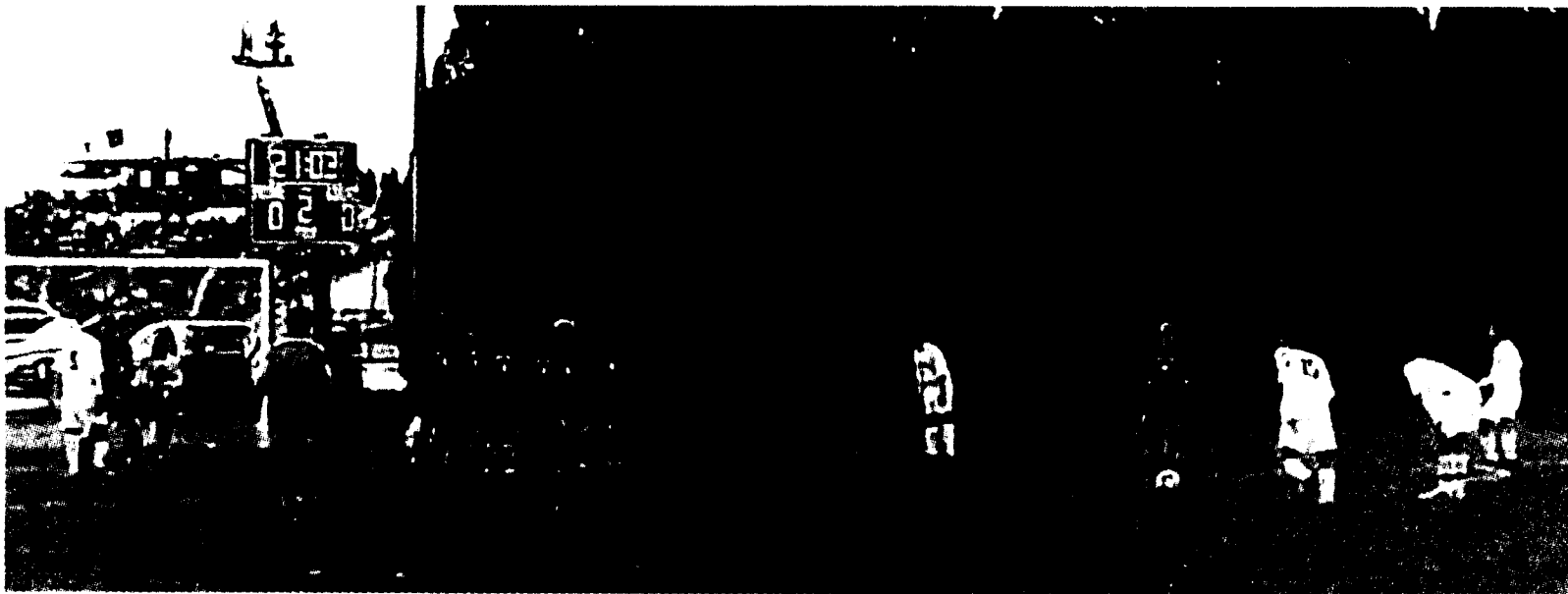


# Men's soccer team wins AMCC championship, advance to first NCAAs



Senior Andy Laver scores the only goal of the AMCC Championship game between Behrend and Frostburg, giving the Lions a 1-0 victory. This is the Lions' first AMCC Championship win since 1999.

by Ray Immekus  
staff writer

The men's soccer team won its third AMCC championship in the last seven years on Saturday. The Lions defeated the Frostburg State Bobcats 1-0 at Edinboro University to capture their first title since 1999.

Senior midfielder Andy Laver scored the only goal of the game, unassisted, to provide Behrend with all the offense it would need.

Frostburg managed only two shots on goal in the game against the stifling Behrend defense.

The Lions came into the game as the top ranked defense in the AMCC, with a .82 goals against average. Senior goalkeeper Jake Hordych recorded his ninth shutout of the season.

As a result of their win on Saturday, the men's soccer team earned its first ever NCAA tournament bid. The Lions received a first round bye and will face Messiah College on Friday at either 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. in Salisbury, Md.

Messiah is the defending National Champion

and comes into the game with a 17-2-2 record.

"The team thinks they can beat these guys. Anything can happen on any given day," said assistant coach Eric Kunzinger.

"Of course they are the defending national champions and one of the best teams in the country, but we're a good team, too. I think if we play it the right way and we're in the game toward the end, we'll have a good chance."

The Lions boast a 14-4-2 record entering the tournament, with a 5-1 conference mark. Behrend's 14th win of the season last Saturday established a new record for total victories in a season for the men's soccer program.

Head coach Dan Perritano was named Coach of the Year in the AMCC conference this week after leading the Lions to arguably their best season ever. He holds a career record of 116-87-14 in 11 years at Behrend.

"Recruiting is the biggest thing a program can do, and that's something he does probably better than anyone," said Kunzinger. "He has goals for every day that we try to achieve to make sure the team is

focused. We get the most out of practice everyday. I think those are his strong points as a coach."

Laver was given the Player of the Year award in the AMCC on Saturday. He scored 10 goals and 6 assists this season, including two goals in the AMCC tournament. Laver was also named to first team All Conference. This is the second straight year he has received this honor.

Six other Lions were given various honors on Saturday. Sophomore defenseman Dan Bash and Hordych, along with Laver were all named to First Team All Conference.

Sophomore midfielder Mark Cipriani, sophomore defenseman Brian Blaszczyk, and freshman forward/midfielder Stan Kaweesi-Kantongole were all given Second Team All Conference honors.

Sophomore midfielder Justin Reese was given an Honorable Mention award in the Conference.

"We have 26 guys that come to practice every day and play and compete every day and push each other to get better. We have 26 guys that bust every practice," said Kunzinger.

## Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week



### Dan Bash

Sport: Men's Soccer  
Class: Sophomore  
Date: Nov. 11, 2003

Dan Bash was named this week's Beacon/Food and Housing Athlete of the Week.

This past weekend against Frostburg, Bash led a defense that allowed only two shots on goal during Behrend's 1-0 win in the AMCC championship match. During the regular season, Bash led the team to a 14-4-2 record, and to the team's first ever NCAA tournament appearance. Bash also was named an AMCC all-conference first-team defender.

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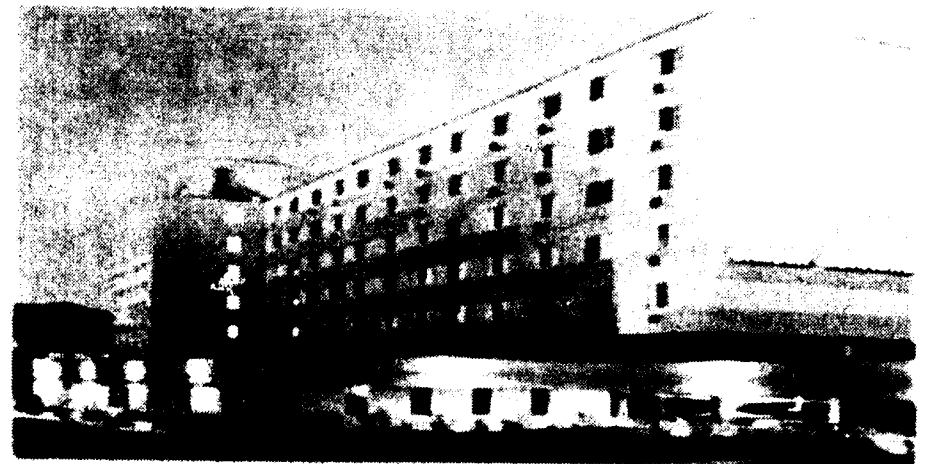
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