

The Behrend Beacon

Friday, December 12, 2003

# Men's basketball maintains perfection

by Kevin Fiorenzo  
sports editor



Senior forward David Hairston had 11 points and eight rebounds in the Lions' 75-67 win over Allegheny on Dec. 10.

The men's basketball team opened conference play on Saturday with a win at Pitt-Bradford to maintain a 5-0 undefeated record.

The men opened the season by winning the Behrend Tournament and then got two home victories over Grove City and Westminster. Going into their game with Pitt-Bradford they had reason to be confident.

The Lions opened the game strongly, jumping out to a 32-19 lead at halftime, but the Panthers managed to stay in the game throughout the second half. It wouldn't be enough, though, to overtake the Behrend squad. The Lions came out with a 70-56 victory to stay undefeated.

Leading the way once again for Behrend was senior center James Curren with 21 points, eight rebounds and three assists. Also contributing was senior forward Casey Ponsoll with eight points. The Panthers' leading scorer was Matt Rowles with 12 points.

Behrend's next game was on Dec. 10 against Allegheny. Once again, the Lions started out strong in the first half, leading 37-29 at halftime. The Gators staged a slight comeback in the second half, but the Behrend squad still managed to win by a comfortable margin, 75-67.

Sophomore guard Justin Jennings said, "We haven't really played up to our potential yet. We had an off-shooting night."

Leading the scoring for the Lions was junior forward Jared Clough with 19 points and four rebounds. Curren also added 15 points to the team's total. The Gators' leading scorer was Matt Magnusen with 22 points.

The Lions now rise to 6-0 overall, 1-0 in the AMCC. Behrend is leading the AMCC in scoring defense and field goal percentage. Individually, Curren is leading the AMCC in points (19.0) and boards (8.0) per game. Clough is leading the conference in field goal percentage at .714.

"We're doing a good job of taking care of the ball and defense has always been one of our strong points," said Jennings.

The Behrend squad will attempt to maintain its undefeated record on Dec. 13 when it travels to Fredonia for an out-of-conference matchup. Then after Christmas break, the team will travel to Daytona Beach for games against Skidmore and Hartwick.

While the players are feeling confident about maintaining their undefeated record, they know that they will have to work very hard throughout the season to maintain their level of success.

"Our coach demands perfection so we're trying to maintain that," said Jennings. "If we play our game we can't be beat."

# Swimmers sink at Wooster

by Amy Frizzell  
sports editor

Over the weekend the men's and women's swim team participated in the four day Wooster Invitational. The invitational proved to be a learning experience for both men and women, with both teams placing eighth out of nine teams.

After four days of rigorous swimming, both teams walked away with record-breaking times and accomplishments. The women's team had 19 top 10 times while the men's team provided nine top 10 times.

In the men's 500 m. freestyle event, freshman Brandon Thiel placed 10<sup>th</sup>, giving the Lions 17 points and shaving 5.24 seconds off his preliminary time. The Lions also picked up 34 points in the men's 800 yd. Freestyle relay. The lead swimmer, junior Eric Phillips, set the pace for sophomore Steve Schleicher, freshman Dale Henry and anchor man Thiel; together they placed 10<sup>th</sup> with a time of 7:47.96.

As for the women, freshman Whitney Marshall, who was named Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week, placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100 m. butterfly event, bringing home 17 points for the Lady Lions. Freshman Alexis Puhala also placed well. She also took 10<sup>th</sup> place in the 1650 m. freestyle event, giving her 17 points to share.

Freshman Brittany Yost, senior Tara Braden, Marshall and freshman Alison Jaskolski took home ninth place in the 200 yd. medley relay with a time of 2:02.82, earning 40 points.

Next, Marshall, Puhala, freshman Cara Ludwig and Braden placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 800 yd. medley relay, finishing with a time of 8:53.92 and earning 34 points.

Coming home with record-breaking performances were Jaskolski in the 50 m. freestyle with a time of 26.79 and Puhala in the 1650 m. freestyle with a time of 19:28.72. Finally, Marshall came away with three broken records. She swam the 200 m. freestyle in 2:05.11, the 500 m. freestyle in 5:31.83 and the 200 m. butterfly in 2:32.19.

Though many swimmers had a hard time getting and breaking into the top, the invitational was still beneficial.

"The last day of competition really showed the biggest improvement for the team," said head coach Jen Slack. "Which was coming together as a team, cheering each other on and supporting each other."

The teams will not compete again until Jan. 16 when they meet up with Mt. Union, but they won't be slacking off.

"The chance to compete against teams and athletes who qualify for NCAA Championships was an excellent experience for the entire team," said Slack. "We are in good shape for the spring semester, though we have a good month of intense training ahead of us."

Both teams will be traveling to Vero Beach, Fla. where they will be training at the North County Recreation Center from Jan. 3 through Jan. 11. Their purpose will be to specifically train for the rest of their season and also to get out of Erie, have fun and bond as a team.

# Lady Lions open AMCC play with win over Pitt-Bradford

by Rachel Lyon  
staff writer

The Lady Lions have the ball in their court. Winning their last four games, including their first conference match, puts the team at a 5-3 record, heading into winter break.

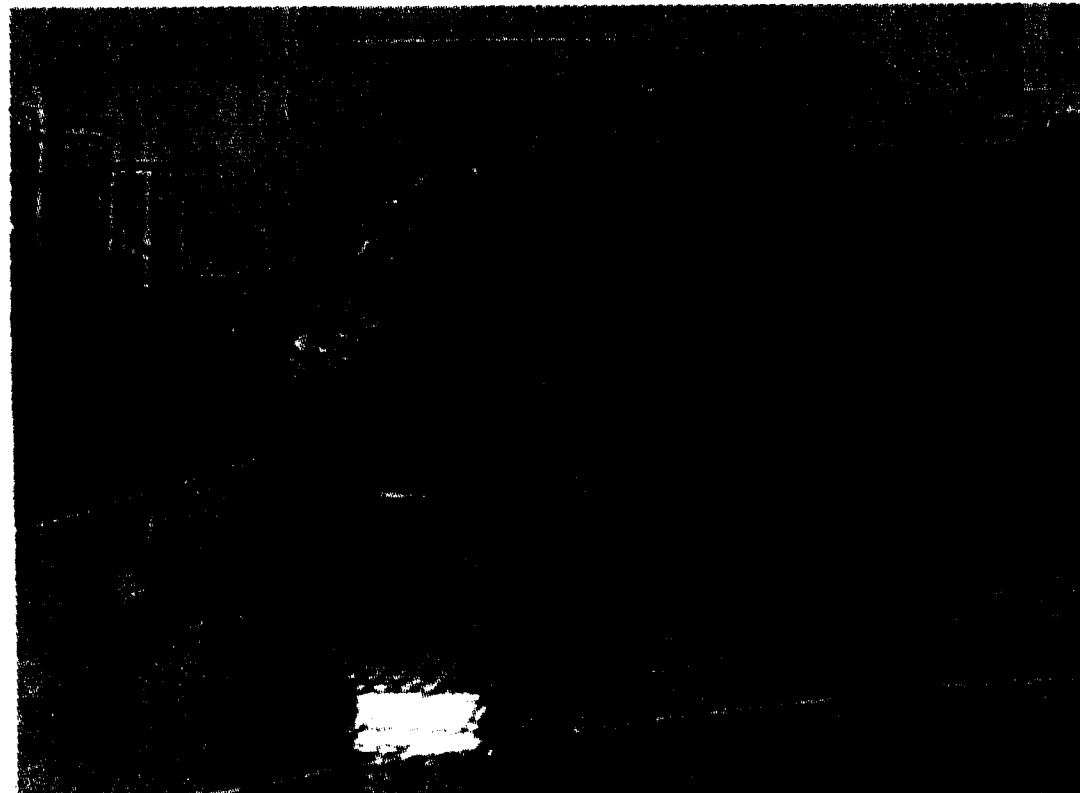
Tuesday night, Behrend knocked off Fredonia after an impressive second half explosion. Last Saturday, the Lady Lions also defeated Pitt-Bradford in the game's closing seconds.

On Tuesday, the Lady Lions hosted the Blue Devils of Fredonia State at the Junker Center, rallying in the second half for the 56-39 victory. Behrend went into the locker room trailing 24-22 at the half. Fredonia's shooting hit a cold spell in the second half and a tough Lady Lions' defense held the Blue Devils to only 15 points.

Behrend exploded for 34 points in the second half, led by freshmen Brittany Mays, who led all scorers with 14 points and also grabbed nine rebounds, just missing a double-double. Sophomore point guard Nikki Pacinelli also had six of Behrend's 12 assists.

Despite being out-rebounded 52-35, the Lady Lions defense caused Fredonia to turn the ball over 31 times. Freshman Melissa Howlett led the Blue Devils with 12 points. Tuesday's victory improves the Lady Lions' record to 5-3, winners of four straight games.

Earlier in the week, the Behrend Lady Lions traveled to Bradford to kick off AMCC play against



Freshman guard Brittany Mays had 14 points and nine boards against Fredonia.

Pitt-Bradford. Behrend withstood a Panther comeback late in the second half to hold on to a 61-56 victory. The Lady Lions never trailed until three and half minutes to go in the second half, 51-50.

Senior guard Erica Mozdy's three pointer to make

it 53-51 was answered by Panther Julia Augustus to tie the game at 53 apiece. Behrend's Brittany Mays closed out the game for the Lady Lions by hitting a three from the corner.

Mozdy led Behrend scorers with 14 points, fol-

lowed by freshman forward Tenesha Aden, who added 12 more along with five rebounds.

The conference win gives the Lady Lions a 1-0 record heading into the break. One reason for the success thus far for the Lady Lions has been Aden. The newcomer transferred from Edinboro University and currently averages 12.4 points per game. Aden attributed the four game winning streak to teamwork.

"We're playing together," said Aden. "We were trying to do too much individually."

Aden also pointed out the increased communication between her teammates.

As for her success so far this year, Aden said, "Honestly, I don't think I've played my absolute best."

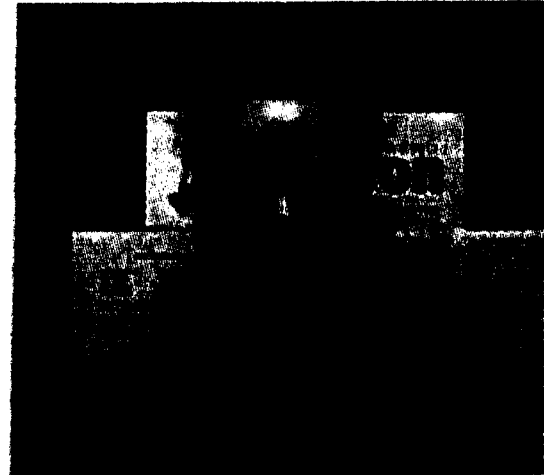
She said she is counting on her teammates to help her continually improve, and hopes her individual contribution in turn helps the team.

She also praises the Lady Lions' defensive efforts throughout the past week. The defense forced 31 turnovers by Fredonia State.

Before the Lady Lions head into hiatus for the winter, the team will participate in the Winter Classic, taking place Saturday and Sunday. Behrend's first opponent will be Hilbert College, Saturday at 8 p.m. The tournament will conclude the following night. After break, the Lady Lions will resume play Jan. 7 at the Junker Center against Hiram.

Housing & Food Service

## Athlete of the Week



Whitney Marshall

SPORT:  
WOMEN'S SWIMMING  
CLASS: FRESHMAN  
DATE: DEC. 12, 2003

WHITNEY MARSHALL  
(HUMMELSTOWN/  
HERSHEY)  
HAS SET FOUR NEW  
RECORDS FOR THE  
BEHREND LIONS'  
WOMEN'S SWIM TEAM,

THREE OF THEM IN THIS  
PAST WEEKEND AT THE  
WOOSTER INVITATIONAL.  
MARSHALL SET RECORDS  
IN THE 100 AND 200  
METER AS WELL AS  
THE 400 IM.

MEET UP FOR THE BLUE  
AND WHITE WILL BE AN  
AWAY MATCH AGAINST  
MOUNT UNION ON JAN.  
16. AT 6 P.M.