

Men's basketball team drowns Lake Erie

by Tim Denial
staff writer

The Behrend Men's Basketball team, (11-1; 3-0) extended their win streak to four games when they traveled to play Lake Erie on Wednesday.

The Lions hit their shots early and were able to control the game's tempo from the start, winning decisively 72-49.

"This was a big road win," said head coach David Niland. "Lake Erie was 2-0 in the conference going into the game. They are a very physical team on their home court."

James Curren was one of four Lions reaching double digits in the scoring column. He led all scorers with 25 points while hitting 10 of 13 from the field.

Jared Clough finished not far behind with 19. The other players reaching double digits scoring were Casey Ponsoll and Doug Merski, each netting 10 points.

Behrend's offense was hot all night connecting on 60 percent of their shots from the field and six of 15 from behind the arc.

The Lions' hounding defense, which has kept opponents scoring low all season, made Lake Erie take tough shots, allowing them to hit just 18 of 47 field goals.

The Lions also managed eight steals through out the contest.

Jajcen Harris led the Storm with 14 points. He was the only Lake Erie player to reach double digits.

On Saturday the Behrend Lions' boosted their conference record to 2-0 when they hosted Penn State Altoona at the Junker Center.

Behrend's defense was once again out in full force, trouncing the visiting Altoona 64-37. The highlight of the game came with 2:30 left in the first half when Curren broke the school's men's basketball scoring record.

"I think the players knew when he was getting close to the record and they were definitely working hard to get him the ball," said Niland.

Curren once again led all scorers, netting 22 points, while Ponsoll added 14. Brandon Battles was the only Altoona player to pass the double digit mark with 11 points.

The Lions' offense was hot on Jan. 3 when they thrashed the visiting Mount Aloysius Mounties 91-46. Behrend had 67 shots on the basket, connecting on 32 of them. Their 81 percent shooting from the charity strip played a big part in the Lions' scoring.

The Behrend Lions entered the winter break car-

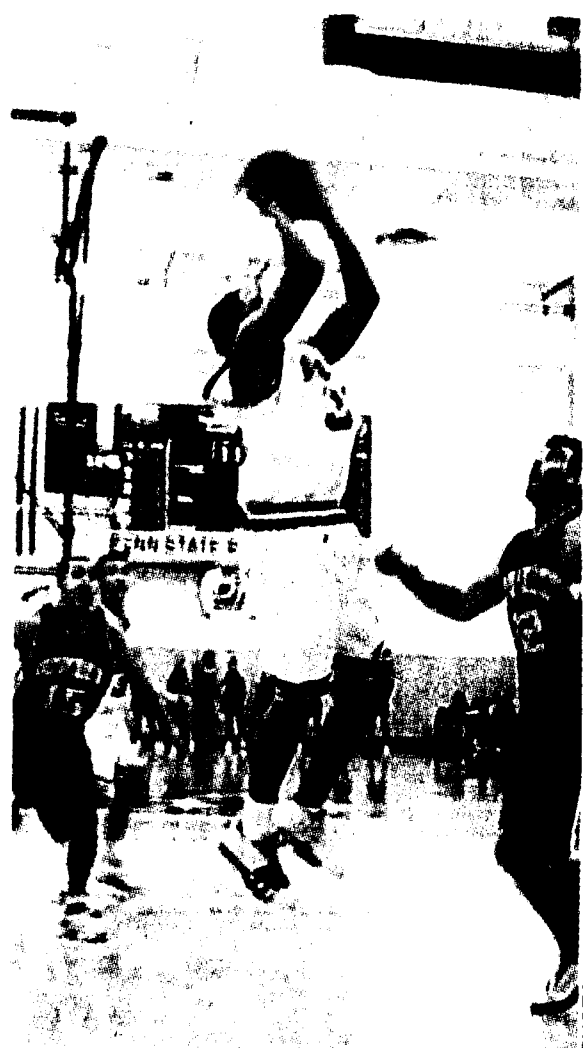


PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

The Lions are currently 11-1 overall, 3-0 in the AMCC. They will next host Frostburg State on Saturday at 4 p.m.

rying a 7-0 record after beating Fredonia 77-46.

Their only stumble this season came on Dec. 29 in the Daytona Beach Classic when they lost to Skidmore, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 57-53.

Skidmore didn't hit a single field goal in the game's final six minutes, but the Lions were cold on offense and weren't able to take advantage.

Behrend's defense again kept the scoring low, with what seemed like a lid over the hoop, Behrend's offense only shot 34-percent from the field.

The Lions bounced back, however, beating Hartwick College, of Oneonta, N.Y., 68-52, on Dec. 30.

Behrend's defense has only allowed one opponent to score over 70 points this season while the Lions have reached that mark seven times.

"We work hard on defense. If our shots aren't falling we need our defense to keep the game close," said Niland.

Senior Spotlight: Erika Mozdy

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Name: Erika Mozdy
Semester: 08
Major: BLASC
Position: shooting guard
Hometown/High School: Erie/Mercyhurst Prep
Astrological Sign: Gemini
Favorite Food: lasagna
Favorite Movie: Bring It On
Best Move: three-point shot
Worst Move: dribbling

Beacon: What is your best memory on the court?
Mozdy: It happened last year at Pitt-Greensburg. We beat them at their court to end their 16 game home winning streak.

Beacon: What do you tell recruits about Behrend?

Mozdy: The team is very close, very structured in the sense that we do not argue with refs, and we don't put our hands on our knees at practice.

Beacon: What is the biggest difference that you have found between basketball in high school and basketball in college?

Mozdy: There is a lot more preparation, such as scouting reports. We are very detailed, we know what plays the other team runs, and we watch films. In high school we just ran around and did whatever we wanted to. At Behrend we run a play every time down the floor.

Beacon: What is the one team you despise the most?

Mozdy: Pitt-Greensburg is definitely the hardest competition in the conference. There has always been a competition between us and Altoona, so I really don't like to play Altoona.

Beacon: What differences in academics did you find between high school and college? It is a lot more doing stuff on your own.

Mozdy: We didn't do as much out of class work in high school. There are a lot more group presentations, group projects in college. It's obviously harder and more realistic, you can tell we are here for a reason.

Beacon: What are your plans for after graduation?

Mozdy: I'm not really sure yet.

Beacon: You have a lot of family that comes to the games. How important is it for your family to be at your games?

Mozdy: Family is very important in my life;



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior shooting guard Erika Mozdy is currently averaging 8.1 ppg and 2.0 apg and is one of the leaders for the 10-4 Lady Lions.

they have been so supportive my entire life. It is nice to look up in the crowd and see some familiar faces. They don't give me negative feedback very often.

Beacon: What is a little known talent that you possess?

Mozdy: I can juggle.

Beacon: You have a very unique way of shooting free-throws. How did you get your style?

Mozdy: In high school, it was my junior year and our coach found a new method of free shooting so he made us all do it. The purpose was to line up the ball and to visualize the ball going in the hoop. After that, it just stuck with me.

Beacon: Do you get asked about your style of free-throw shooting a lot?

Mozdy: (Laughter) Yes.

Beacon: Do you have any superstitions?

Mozdy: Too many to name. Right now, I'm wearing knee high socks. It started out last year when my mom and I made a bet that I wouldn't wear them. If I did wear them then she had to give me \$20. I wore them, we did pretty well that game and I got the money. So I've been wearing them since. I tried to talk other people into wearing them but nobody else would.

Beacon: How often do you read the Beacon?

Mozdy: (Laughter) Every week.

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