

The Behrend Beacon

Friday, February 6, 2004

Men's basketball team rolls through conference play

Lions maintain undefeated AMCC record, rising to 8-0

by C.J. Iannini
staff writer

Usually during this time of the year with a big AMCC Conference game against Pitt-Bradford on the line, fans can expect a nail-biter right down to the finish. That wasn't the case Wednesday night as the Behrend men's basketball team rolled over Bradford 69-52.

The Lions (18-1; 8-0) have pushed their winning streak to 11 games, with their last loss dating back to Dec. 29. They've recently earned a spot in this week's Division III Top 25 National Poll coming in at No. 22, according to D3Hoops.com.

Leading the way Wednesday night was the Lion's aggressive defense which only allowed 15 points in the first half.

"Really good team defense was our strategy for this game. Excellent team defense and working hard helped ensure the win tonight," said head coach Dave Niland.

The Lions, who lead the AMCC in team scoring defense, giving up only 51.5 points per game, forced 13 turnovers and held Bradford to 33 percent in shooting from the floor.

On the offensive side of the ball, James Curren led all Behrend scorers with 30 points, seven rebounds and two assists. Curren was the coaches' selection as Preseason AMCC Player of the Year. He currently is still in the hunt to win this award which he held last season.

Casey Ponsoll also reached double digits in scoring as he added 15 points and three rebounds.



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

With their wins against Penn State Altoona and Pitt-Bradford, the Lions entered the Division III Top 25 national poll on D3Hoops.com at no. 22

With this, Ponsoll is narrowing in on 1,000 points for his Behrend career. With only five games left in

the season, all he needs is 20 more points to achieve this feat.

Women's basketball team dominates AMCC play

by Ray Immekus
staff writer

The Lady Lions went 2-0 last week, beating rivals Penn State Altoona and Pitt-Bradford in convincing fashion. With the two victories, Behrend now holds a 15-5 record, with a 7-1 mark in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

The Lady Lions have now won 15 of their last 17 games after starting off the season with 1-3 record.

Behrend is currently tied with Pitt-Greensburg for first place in the AMCC. The ladies lost to Pitt-Greensburg on Jan. 28 by a score of 72-71. A rematch between these two teams is scheduled for Feb. 21 at the Junker Center.

Freshman guard Brittany Mays was named to this week's Best of the Rest list in the AMCC. She averaged 10 points and six rebounds in Behrend's two wins last week. Mays is currently 10th in the AMCC in scoring with 11.1 points per game.

Fellow freshman and forward Tenesha Aden is fourth, averaging 12.8 points per game.

Behrend's week began with a Saturday night game at rival Penn State Altoona. The Lady Lions were ready for the game, shooting 55.2 percent from the field, and hitting 55.6 percent from the three-point arc in the first half, while allowing Altoona to hit on just six of 22 shots. Behrend led 40-23 at the break.

Behrend's shooting cooled off slightly in the second half, dropping to a still impressive 45.5 percent, but the chances of any comeback by Altoona was nonexistent, and the Lady Lions finished with a 72-50 win.

Four Behrend players scored in double figures, led by Aden with 19 points and six rebounds. Nikki Pacinelli added 14 points and three assists, Mays had 10 points, six rebounds and three assists and Amber Krumpke contributed 11 points, three rebounds and four assists.

No Altoona players reached double figures. The team made only 17 of 52 of shots in the game.

Pitt-Bradford paid a visit to Junker and the Lady Lions on Wednesday night for a televised-conference match-up.

Bradford entered the game with a 6-12 record and a 3-4 conference mark. Bradford's record, however, did not mirror how close it played Behrend on Wednesday night.

Both teams shot well in the first half, 61.1 percent for Bradford, and 40 percent for Behrend, but



PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

Nikki Pacinelli had 14 points and three assists in the Lady Lions victory over Altoona on Saturday.

the Lady Lions went into halftime with the one point lead, 27-26.

Behrend built on its lead in the second half, outscoring Bradford 31-23 on the Lions' way to 58-49 victory. Mays, senior guard Carly Cochran, and junior guard Bambi Lewis all scored 10 points. Pacinelli added five assists, and Mays had five rebounds.

Behrend next travels to Frostburg State on Saturday, and then return home for a game against Lake Erie College on Wednesday. Both of these are conference games.

Senior Spotlight: Brian Pratt

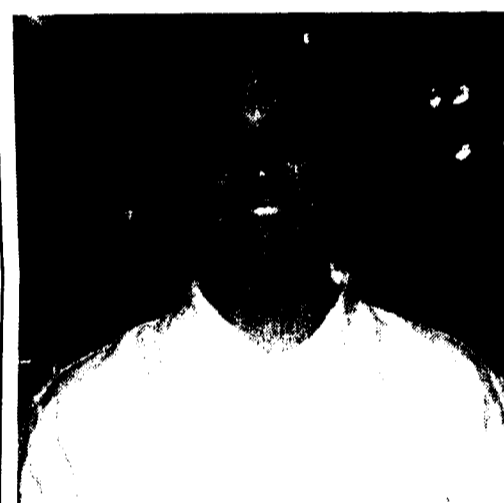


PHOTO BY LAUREN PACKER/BEHREND BEACON

Senior Brian Pratt talks about running for Behrend and his love for flying.

by Lauren Packer
editor in chief

Name: Brian Pratt
Sport: Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field
Event: 200 meter dash, 4X200 meter relay, 400 meter, 4X400 relay
Major: Psychology
Semester: 10
Hometown/High School: Seneca/Cranberry High School
Favorite food: Seafood
Favorite movie: Comedies/Action

Beacon: What is your best sports memory while at Behrend?

Pratt: It had to be the training trip to Florida and the cross-country trip to Chicago.

Beacon: What is your best memory outside of athletics?

Pratt: It would probably be the training trip to Florida when I was a freshman. Getting to know my teammates a lot better and becoming closer with them was a lot of fun. It was a really great time since we don't take long trips like that very often.

Beacon: What are your plans for after graduation?

Pratt: I don't have anything set in stone as of right now. I'm thinking about taking a year or two off and then start thinking about grad school.

Beacon: Is there anything over the course of your career at Behrend that you would like to go back and redo?

Pratt: Not really. Of course I would have liked to do better in some classes, maybe not taken some of the ones I did, taken a few that I didn't. Overall, I didn't always make the right decisions, but I learned from what went wrong and how to correct it.

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

Pratt: I like to water ski and fly planes. I've been taking flying lessons for a little bit.

Beacon: Who or what got you interested in flying planes?

Pratt: I've always loved planes and I just started taking lessons in the past couple of years. My stepdad is also interested in planes and flying them.

Beacon: What is the part of practice that you like the least?

Pratt: The part that I like the least is when we run 300s. Sprinting the lengths of campus parking lots isn't very fun.

Beacon: What is the part that you like the most?

Pratt: I like it when you know and feel like you had a hard workout. You know you can walk away with knowing that you did well.

Beacon: How do you deal with not getting "burnt out," doing both indoor and outdoor track?

Pratt: It's tough. I guess you just have to go with what the coaches say. You have to ease into it with pre-season workouts and then towards the end of the season we taper off.

Beacon: How hard is it knowing that you can never have a home meet because Behrend is without a track?

Pratt: It was rough at first because I was used to having a track in high school. You just have to get used to it. Season after season you have to accept the fact that there is no track and go from there.

Beacon: Do you think that not having a track hurts the recruiting process for your team?

Pratt: Definitely. I'm sure it doesn't help. Especially when we tell them, yeah, we have meets, but no, none of them are at home. Plus, we run on the parking lots.

Housing & Food Service

Athlete of the Week

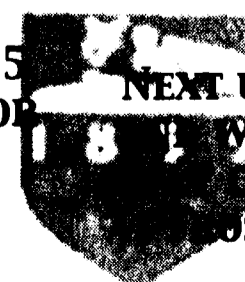


Casey Ponsoll

SPORT: MEN'S BASKETBALL
CLASS: SENIOR
DATE: FEB. 2, 2004

SCORED 25 POINTS. HE ALSO SCORED 10 POINTS IN LAST SATURDAY'S VICTORY AT PENN STATE-ALTOONA.

PONSOLL AVERAGED 15 PPG IN A 3-0 WEEK FOR THE LIONS. IN HIS BREAKOUT GAME AGAINST PITT-GREENSBURG, PONSOLL



NEXT UP FOR THE BLUE AND WHITE WILL BE AN CONFERENCE GAME AGAINST FROSTBURG STATE ON SATURDAY