

Men's basketball streak broken

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor

The men's basketball team earned a non conference win on Wednesday night when they defeated Hilbert 63-46, rebounding from their first conference loss of the season to LaRoche on Saturday night.

On Wednesday, the Lions had a non conference game with 5-18 Hilbert. The Lions overpowered Hilbert throughout the game and were able to come away with the easy win on the road.

The Behrend squad was led by junior guard Tom Lulich with 17 points. Senior center James Curren contributed a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Junior forward Jared Clough had 10 points.

The win was a good sign that the men were rebounding from their disappointing two-point loss at La Roche last Saturday.

Coming into that game, the Lions were the owners of an undefeated 10-0 AMCC record and were 20-1 overall.

In the first half, the Lions came out playing very well and went into halftime leading 36-24. In the second half, though, La Roche came out playing much better offensively and defensively, squeaking out the 60-58 upset victory.

The Lions were led offensively by Curren with 16 points and six rebounds. Junior forward Cam Mascara added 14 points. The Bobcats were led on the offensive end by Brandon Kelly with 29 points.

Sophomore guard Justin Jennings said, "Our defensive pressure wasn't as good as it usually is for us."

The loss gave the Lions their first defeat of the season in the AMCC and only their second loss overall for the year. The Lions also dropped out of the Division III national rankings after reaching a high of No. 19 last week.

"We were getting too confident and too comfortable, so the loss to LaRoche was a wake up call for us," said Jennings.

With their win versus Hilbert, the Lions improved their overall record to 21-2. They have also already clinched the home court advantage for the AMCC Tournament, starting next Friday. The



The Lions' loss to Lake Erie ended the team's 13 game winning streak. The team quickly rebounded against Hilbert, winning 63-46.

Lions are also the owners of the No. 1 scoring defense in the nation.

Jennings said, "We're always working hard and our defensive pressure has been good except for against LaRoche."

While the conference tournament is looming, the Lions still have one more regular season game

against Pitt-Greensburg at the Junker Center on Saturday. Pitt-Greensburg is Behrend's closest competitor in the AMCC and will be looking to avenge its 81-66 loss to the Lions on Jan. 28.

"They like to run the floor and their team is starting to come around now. We're just going to have to keep the pressure up on them," said Jennings.

Swimmers prepare for ECAC tournament

by Samantha Cibula
staff writer

The men and women swimmers ended their season at the Grove City Invitational Feb 12-14. Both the men and women took home sixth place.

The men tallied 278 points during the three-day meet, while the women scored 243 points. Both teams also beat conference rival Penn State Altoona.

The three-day meet consisted of preliminaries, consolations and finals. After the preliminary swim if swimmers placed 9th-16th you came back at night to swim in consolations, and if the swimmers placed 1st-8th they came back for finals.

"Everyone seemed a little nervous for their first race, but the second day...you just can't describe," said head coach Jen Slack. "The third day is hard to come back on but the team pushed through and continued to place in consolations and finals."

The entire women's swim team made it back for consolation or finals in either an event or a relay.

Senior captain Tara Braden and freshman Whitney Marshall competed in finals in individual events. Braden placed 8th in the 200 yd breaststroke and 7th in the 100 yd breaststroke. Marshall, who individually placed the highest for the ladies, placed 6th in the 100 yd butterfly and 8th in the 200 yd butterfly.

"It was satisfying to see our hard work pay off," said senior captain Sarah McGarvey. "Everyone swam their fastest times. It was an incredible three days."

The women's 200, 400, and 800 yd freestyle relays, and the 400 yd medley relay placed in the top six and all broke the team records. Adding to the record-breaking relays was Marshall's 200 yd freestyle, 500 yd freestyle, 100 yd freestyle, and 200 yd butterfly. Freshman distance swimmer Alexis Puhala also broke her 1650 yd freestyle team record.

"Everyone swam awesome and with a lot of heart," said Marshall. "We worked really hard all season and it showed during our races for three straight days."

"It was just a great experience, and a great way to end the season. The girls had close races, and everyone raced to the wall," said Jen Slack.

"Alison Jaskolski swam stroke for stroke next to a girl in the 200 yd freestyle and at the end just out touched her. It was so close that you couldn't tell by looking at the pool who won," said Slack.

"I just saw her hand at the end of the race and decided I'd beat her," said Jaskolski.

The men also saw their fastest times of the season, sending close to everyone back for consolations or finals. Along with personal best times, freshman Brandon Thiel broke the first team record for the men this season.

Thiel broke the mens 500 yd freestyle team record (5th place) and the 200 yd freestyle record (4th place).

"I was at the top of my game, and as each race came I felt stronger and faster," said Thiel. "I trusted my abilities and I didn't let the days of competition wear me down."

Joining Thiel in top finishes were senior captain Eric Phillips (5th 400 yd individual medley relay, 5th 200 yd breaststroke), sophomore Steve Schleicher

(7th 1000 yd freestyle) and freshman Kent McKee (6th 400 individual medley, 8th 200 yd backstroke).

The men also placed in the top seven for the 200, 400 and 800 yd freestyle relays, and the 200, and 400 medley relays.

"The taper was nothing like my high schools taper, and it had me thinking that I wasn't ready for the meet," said McKee. "There was no need for doubt, because our coaches know how to train us and the team and I swam our best times."

"It was an awesome meet, you can't really explain it," he said.

Women's basketball looks to host AMCC's

Winner of Saturday's game against Pitt-Greensburg will host the AMCC Tournament

by Scott Soltis
assistant managing editor

Behrend will wrap up its regular season this weekend in the Junker Center against rival Pitt-Greensburg.

A win by the Lions over the Bobcats would clinch both the AMCC regular season crown as well as home court for the Championships. The two teams are currently tied atop the AMCC standings at 10-1.

The rivalry between the Lions and the Bobcats stems from last year's AMCC Championships where Pitt-Greensburg ended Behrend's season in the Championship game.

When the two clashed earlier this season, Pitt-Greensburg prevailed in a barn-burner, 72-71. The Lions look to take advantage of home court in this game, as there are several promotions to try and get fans out to support the team.

In the January meeting, Behrend's defense had a hard time shutting down Pitt-Greensburg's highly touted offense as well as its star Annie Sral.

Sral dropped 18 on the Lions as part of her stellar season. She has a very hot hand coming into the game this weekend, scoring 32 and 34 in consecutive games last week.

If there is a defense in the AMCC that can stop Sral and the Bobcats, it is the top-ranked Lions. Behrend is allowing a measly 52.5 points per game and opponents are only shooting 36.2 percent from the field when they face the Lions.



The Lady Lions look to take control of the AMCC when they go up against Pitt-Greensburg on Saturday at the Junker Center

One major reason the Lions are so strong on defense is their AMCC top ranked rebounding defense only allowing 35.8 rebounds per contest.

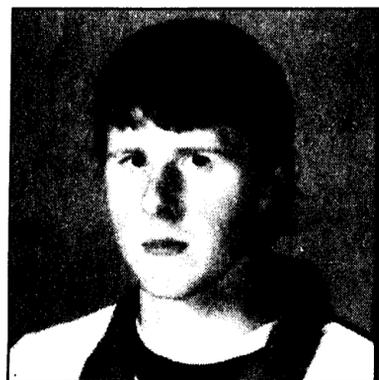
The Lions are being led this year by a duo of phenomenal freshmen in Tenesha Aden and Brittany Mays. Aden and Mays are leading the squad in points and rebounds per game. Aden is averaging 12.2 points and 6 boards, while Mays is scoring 10.8 points and 5.1 rebounds per contest.

Behrend will also look to key support from senior Erica Mozdy. The team will have to work together on defense and hold the Bobcats well under the 72 they allowed in the last meeting.

This match will determine whether the Lions have momentum heading into home AMCC playoffs or a point to prove heading to Pitt-Greensburg for the Championships.

Housing & Food Service

Athlete of the Week



Brandon Thiel

SPORT: MEN'S SWIMMING
CLASS: FRESHMAN
DATE: FEB. 16, 2004

THIS PAST WEEKEND AT THE GROVE CITY INVITATIONAL, THIEL BROKE TWO SWIMMING TEAM RECORDS. HE SET THE 500 FREE RECORD AT 4:54.44 AND THEN TOOK

THE 200 FREE RECORD AT 2:45.73. THIEL IS THE FIRST FRESHMAN THIS SEASON TO BREAK



A MEN'S SWIMMING TEAM RECORD. NEXT UP FOR THE AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING TEAM WILL BE THE ECAC TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD FEB. 26-28