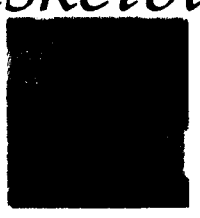
Welcome to Hoopsville

Men and women's basketball teams host AMCC tournament

Jared Clough
.587 field goal

James Curren
16.7 ppg

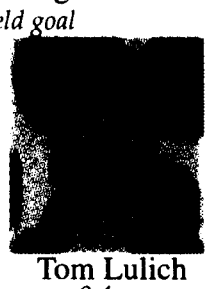


Justin Jennings
4.17 assists/game

Amber Krumpe
1st team all-conference

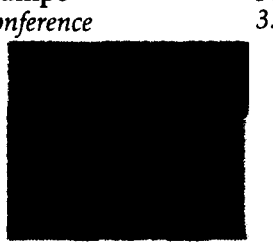
Nikki Pacinelli
3.64 assists/game

Erica Mozdy
.360 three-point field goal

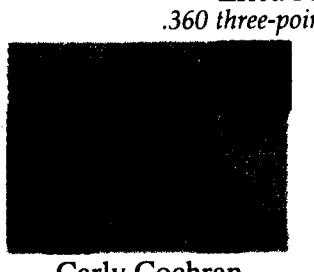


Tom Lulich
9.4 ppg

Casey Ponsoll
.457 three-point field goal



Brittany Mays
.862 free throw percentage



Carly Cochran
8.4 ppg

Men ready for rematch: 'We want revenge'

Lions seek first title since 97-98 season, avenge last year's title game loss to Pitt-Bradford

by Amy Frizzell
sports editor

On Saturday the men's basketball team ended its regular season as it rolled over Pitt-Greensburg, boosting its record to 22-2, 11-1 in the conference.

The win secured the team's AMCC regular season championship title, along with earning them the right to home court advantage for the AMCC Championship tournament.

With 518 spectators watching, the Lions dominated the first half, only allowing Greensburg to score 18 points. Though Greensburg bounced back in the second half, Behrend kept one step ahead, outscoring them by four points to get the victory, 69-51.

Senior captain Casey Ponsoll led the way with a game high of 21 points. Senior James Curren sunk 12 points, followed by junior Jared Clough with 11 points.

"They had a super year," said head coach Dave Niland. "They guys really worked hard all year. It's difficult to go through a season and only lose two games."

The Lions ended the season not only regular season champions but also leading the conference in scoring defense, free throw percentages, field goal percentages and rebound defense.

"We ended the season strong," said sophomore Justin Jennings. "We're ready to go for the AMCC tournament."

It's been six years since the men's basketball team won the AMCC Championships, the last time being in 1998, the first year the conference held a championship tournament. The team came close to winning again last year when they made it to the finals but were forced to take second place to Pitt-Bradford in a disappointing loss.

"We're really hoping for it, we were so close last year," said Jennings. "We're excited for the seniors and we want to send them off with a title."

The Lions received a first round bye giving them a chance to rest up and more time to prepare.

"You never know, we got a bye, the year we won and a bye other years and lost," said Niland.

With every other team having one game already under its belt, some players think the bye will prove to have a positive effect on the outcome of the tournament.

"I think the bye will help us a lot," said Jennings. "The other teams had to play on Wednesday, giving them one day to prepare. We'll have fresh legs and more time to prepare."

Behrend will take on LaRoche in the semi-finals, which will start today. During the regular season the Redhawks proved to be one of the Lions most formidable opponents.

In the teams' first meeting, the Lions took home the win in overtime, winning by three points. However in the second meeting, LaRoche got the best of them, winning by only two points and breaking Behrend's perfect AMCC record.

"We're glad we don't have to play Bradford since they knocked us out last year," said Jennings. "We're really excited for another shot at LaRoche, we want revenge."

As for the team's game plan, there won't be much change according to Niland.

"Just work hard and play harder. It will be the same as it has been all year," said Niland.

PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/BEHREND BEACON

As they attempt to take the AMCC title this weekend, the men's basketball team will also be hoping to receive its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1999.

Lady Lions claim AMCC regular season crown

PHOTO BY JEFF HANKEY/ BEHREND BEACON

The Lady Lions will be hosting the AMCC Tournament beginning Friday after defeating rival Pitt-Greensburg 73-56 to claim the conference regular season crown.

by Kevin Fiorenzo
sports editor

There was no lastminute jumper to save Pitt-Greensburg this past Saturday night, as the Lady Lions defeated the Lady Bobcats 73-56, avenging an earlier loss to the team and wrapping up the AMCC regular season title.

In its first game against Pitt-Greensburg, the Behrend squad lost by a single point when the Lady Bobcats' Annie Sral hit a game-winning shot at the buzzer.

With the conference regular season title and home court advantage for the conference tournament hanging in the balance, the pressure was on for the Lady Lions to come away with a win.

The first half was a hotly contested affair as the Lady Lions benefitted from Greensburg's cold shooting, as they only hit nine of 35 field goals.

At the half, Behrend went into the locker room with a 33-27 edge. In the second half, the Lady Lions continued to overpower Pitt-Greensburg by outscoring the Lady Bobcats and playing stronger defense. The Lady Lions ended up coming away with a convincing 73-56 victory.

Freshman guard Brittany Mays said, "I think we did a better job against Greensburg this time limiting our unnecessary mistakes."

Behrend was led by Mays with 16 points and six rebounds. Senior guard Erica Mozdy and freshman forward Tenesha Aden each added 12 points. Sophomore guard Nikki Pacinelli contributed 10 points and five assists. Pitt-Greensburg was led by Sral with 20 points and six rebounds. Tish Hines added 13 points.

With the win, the Lady Lions improved their conference record to 11-1 and moved to 20-5 overall.

The Lady Lions are also doing well in several AMCC statistical categories. They are performing well defensively as they lead the conference in scoring defense, field goal percentage defense and rebounding defense.

Offensively, the women are also leading in several categories. They are first in the AMCC in field-goal percentage, free-throw percentage and three-point field goal percentage.

They also wrapped up the AMCC regular season crown and the right to host the AMCC Tournament semifinals and finals, which will begin at the Junker Center today.

The Lady Lions will be going up against No.4 seed Pitt-Bradford, who defeated No. 5 seed La Roche on Wednesday night. Behrend defeated Bradford in both of their meetings this season but know that they will be tested.

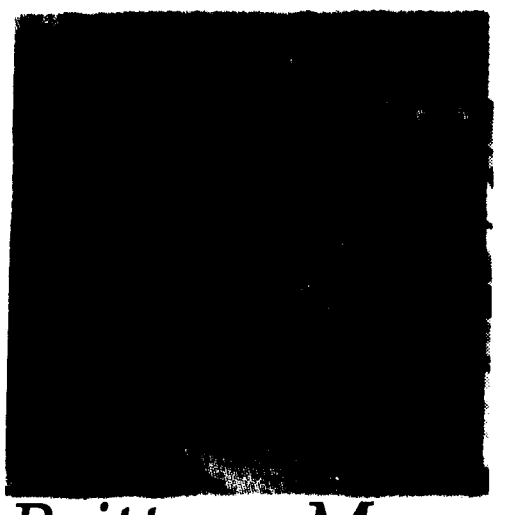
Mays said, "They have a good screen and roll and that's something we'll have to take into account. It's not going to be a cakewalk."

Playing at home and as the top seeds, the women are aware that as the favorites there is some extra pressure.

Mays said, "Of course there is some added pressure to do well at home, but we're going to work hard to get the nets cut down on Saturday."

Housing & Food Service

Athlete of the Week



Brittany Mays

SPORT: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
CLASS: FRESHMAN
DATE: FEB. 25, 2004

MAYS WAS THE LEADING SCORER FOR BEHREND THIS PAST WEEKEND AGAINST PITT-GREENSBURG WITH 16 POINTS. MAYS LEADS THE AMCC IN FREE-THROW PERCENTAGE WITH 86 PERCENT AND IS THIRD IN FIELD-GOAL PERCENTAGE AT 50 PERCENT.

UP FOR THE BLUE AND WHITE IS THE AMCC TOURNAMENT, WHICH THE LIONS WILL BE G. THEY WILL FACE -BRADFORD IN THE EMIFINALS TODAY AT 1 P.M.