

Friday, March 19, 2004

The Behrend Beacon

# Lady Lions fall short in NCAA Tournament opening game

by Ray Immekus  
staff writer

The Lady Lions' lost to Wittenberg in the first round of the NCAA tournament on March 3 by a score of 81-46, ending arguably the best season Behrend has had since they won the ECAC tournament in the 1995-1996 season.

The Lady Lions won the regular season Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference title, posting an 11-1 conference record. The women followed their regular season title up by winning the AMCC postseason tournament championship, their first since the 1998-1999 season.

Behrend defeated No. 4 seed Pitt-Bradford 63-41 in the first round, and No. 2 seed Pitt-Greensburg 67-56 to secure the tournament title.

Head Coach Roz Fornari was named AMCC Coach of the Year after leading the Lady Lions to a 22-6 record. Fornari is 151-88 in her nine years here at Behrend.

Freshmen forward Tenesha Aden was named the AMCC Newcomer of the Year. She averaged 11.9 points and 5.6 rebounds per game this season.

Aden, along with fellow freshmen Brittany Mays, was named to the 1st Team All-Conference squad. Mays, a guard, averaged 10.7 points, 5.4 rebounds, and 2.0 assists a game. She also led the conference in free throw shooting, making 84.7 percent of her shots from the charity stripe.

Senior guard Erica Mozdy was named to Second Team All-Conference. This is the second consecutive year she has earned this honor.

Mozdy averaged 7.8 points and 1.96 assists and finished in fifth in the conference in 3-point shooting, making 38 threes and shooting 34.5 percent from behind the arc.



Guard Erika Mozdy, along with guard Carly Cochran, are departing seniors from this season's 22-6 team

Behrend finished first in the AMCC in defense, field goal percentage, and three point efficiency. The Lady Lions allowed only 53.4 point per game, hit on 42.9 percent of their shots, and 33.4 percent from the three point line.

Sophomore guard Nikki Pacinelli finished fourth in the AMCC in assists and second in three point percentage, averaging 3.54 dimes per contest and hitting on 35.8 percent of her shots from deep.

After losing three of their first four games this

season, the women bounced back by winning 12 out of their next 13 games, and 21 of their final 24. The Lady Lions placed second in their preseason tournament, losing to Otterbien 61-56 in the championship game.

Next year's team will lose seniors Carly Cochran and Mozdy, both starters.

Cochran averaged 8.6 points and 3.3 rebounds per game. Mays, Aden, Pacinelli and junior Amber Krumpe will return as starters, in what will be a season with high expectations.

# Men's basketball team loses in heartbreaker

by Kevin Fiorenzo  
sports editor

The men's basketball team ended its season on a sour note, losing in the quarterfinals of the AMCC Tournament on their home floor and then in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, again at home.

The Lions came into their AMCC Tournament opener with a 22-2 overall record and 11-1 in the conference. They were the top seeds and hosted the tournament. In the semifinals, Behrend drew No. 4 LaRoche, whom the Lions had defeated in overtime in their first meeting, but fell 60-58 to in their most recent game.

As expected, the two teams engaged in a close battle, with the Redhawks going into the half with a 30-26 lead. In the second half, the Lions continued to struggle to get production on the offensive end. In the end, they were unable to put a dent into LaRoches lead and fell short, 66-57.

Behrend's leading scorer was senior center James Curren with 22 points and 11 rebounds. The next highest scorer was junior guard Joe Lucas with eight points. LaRoche was led by Kenny Gibbs with 25 points.

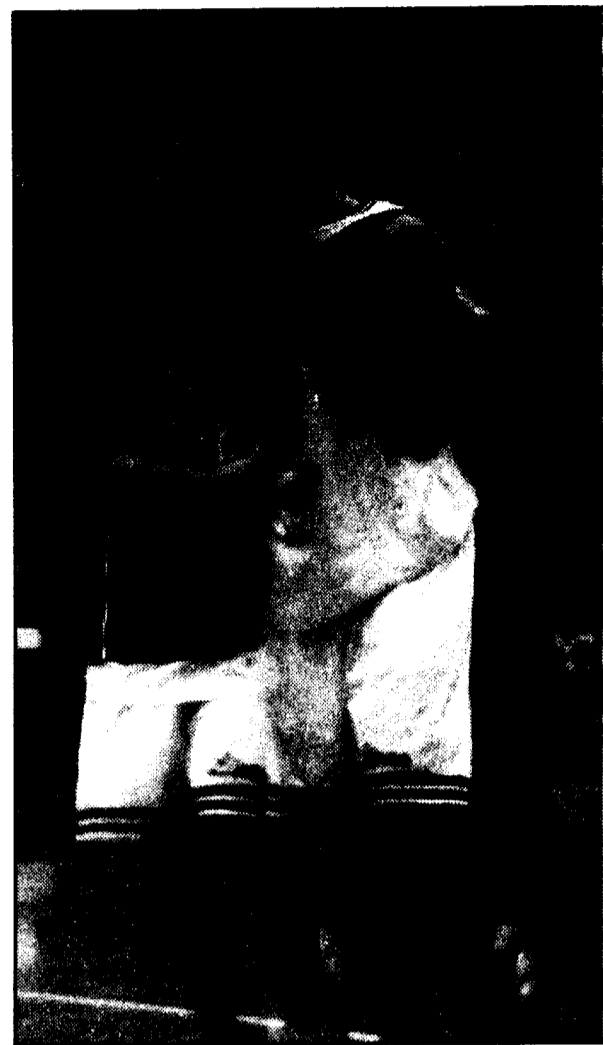
The Redhawks would go on to win the conference tournament the next day against Frostburg State. Though they only went 14-14, LaRoche caused matchup problems for the Lions and were blessed with some strong guard play.

Though they had fallen short in the AMCC's, the Lions were optimistic that a 22-3 record and AMCC regular season title would be enough to earn an NCAA Division III tournament bid. On February 29, the team got their wish and were slated to play the 18-10 SUNY-Potsdam at home on March 4.

Like the LaRoche game, the Lions were engaged in another close, hard-fought matchup. At the half, Potsdam held a 31-26 lead. In the second half, Potsdam extended its lead to 11 points, but the Lions came storming back to tie the game at 54 with 4:54 remaining. After Potsdam went up 58-56 with 31 seconds left, sophomore guard Doug Merski hit two free throws to tie the game.

Potsdam then went up 60-58 by hitting a layup with seven seconds remaining. Junior guard Tom Lulich then drove to the hoop but was tripped up and stripped of the ball as time ran out.

With that, the men's basketball team's season ended and the team's seniors had finished their final



Senior center James Curren, who scored 11 points in the Lions' loss to Potsdam on March 4, leaves Behrend as the career scoring leader and two time AMCC player of the year.

college game.

Appropriately, it was the seniors who were the Lions' leading scorers in the game. Senior forwards David Hairston and Casey Ponsoll each had 12 points while Curren added 11. Potsdam was led by Edane Barton with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Behrend finished out its season with a 22-4 overall record and 11-1 in the AMCC. Though the season ended disappointingly, it was not without some accolades. Curren was named the AMCC player of the year for the second straight year. He was also a member of the All-Conference First Team.

Curren averaged 16.9 points per game, 8.0 rebounds per game and had a 54.8 field goal percentage.

Lulich was made honorable mention All-Conference. Also, for the sixth time, head coach Dave Niland was named AMCC Coach of the Year.

## SEASON WRAP UP

### Men's Basketball

**Coach of the Year**  
Dave Niland

**Player of the Year,**  
**First team All-Conference**  
James Curren

**Honorable Mention**  
Tom Lulich

### Women's Basketball AMCC Champions

**Coach of the Year**  
Roz Fornari

**Newcomer of the Year**  
Tenesha Aden

**First team All-Conference**  
Tenesha Aden  
Brittany Mays

**Second team  
All-Conference**  
Erica Mozdy

## LOCKER ROOM NEWS

### Baseball

2003 Player of the Year,  
Adam Best named  
AMCC Player of the Week  
Mar. 15, 2004

### Softball

Freshman Loriel Herist  
named  
AMCC Best of the Rest  
Mar. 15, 2004

Stacy Pondo announced as  
head softball coach

### Volleyball

Phil Pisano announced as  
head volleyball coach

**Club Volleyball**  
vs. Gannon/Edinboro  
@ Erie Hall  
Sat. 1p.m.  
(team holds 7-3 record)

Congratulations on an incredible season to the Men's and Women's Basketball Teams!

Thanks for reminding us all what Penn State Pride is about.

Good luck to the graduating seniors on both squads: James Curren, David Hairston, Casey Ponsoll, Mike Schodt, Carly Cochran, and Erica Mozdy



Paid for by YOUR Student Government Association