

SPORTS

Women's basketball takes a shot at European hoops

By Sara Kamber and Kyle Woodside
co-sports editor and staff writer

The Behrend Lions women's basketball team had the privilege of going to Italy this August for an 11-day trip of sightseeing and shooting hoops with a European twist.

The team competed in three games while overseas going 1-2 overall. However, neither loss was by a large margin and the team adjusted to the European style of play quickly. A larger key, farther three-point line, 24-second shot clock, a no traveling rule and an eight-second time limit to get the ball to half court were only some of the new rules the team encountered.

"It was different for us because instead of having two halves, we had four five-minute quarters," said sophomore center, Tenesha Aden. "Also, instead of a change in possession for every jump ball, it was an actual jump ball between the two players that caused the jump ball; i.e. the one at the tip-off."

The team was rusty, but managed to dominate the women's team from Florence and made the remaining games very close.

"We had a relaxed atmosphere, but when it was time for games we competed hard and played well," said Head coach Rosalyn Fornari. "Everyone got a chance to start and received equal playing time. Sometimes we played 15 or 20 minutes of the game without a point guard



The women's basketball team took some time to enjoy the sites while in Italy this summer. Here they are at the Rome Coliseum.

Aden also commented that "the European girls were a lot more physical and fouls were called less."

The trip was not only a good opportunity for the girls to experience the different style of play in women's basketball in Italy, but it was a good

way to get a feel for the Italian culture by trying their food, experiencing their nightlife, and shopping in Italy.

After arriving in Venice and getting settled in, the team was treated to one of the city's famous gondola rides. They also enjoyed a tour of a local winery where they were invited to

sample the award-winning wine while snacking on cheese and olives.

Next on the list were the cities of Chioggia and Rimini. In Chioggia, the ladies were welcomed to a dinner where they were given "spritzas." The team joined forces to try and figure out a way to make spritza's drinkable, throwing in chips, olives and even onions to try and dilute the taste which was described as a mix of "hard liquor and cough syrup." They later found out that not even the natives enjoy the drink.

The remainder of the trip was divided up among Pisa, Florence and Rome. While in Rome, the squad took in the famous sights of the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican and the Roman Coliseum.

While the girls were out, a rule was enforced that they all had to stay together. No one person was permitted to take off alone or in a smaller group, a rule that Fornari said the team had no problems with.

"It helped us with team unity. We heard a lot less English at the beginning of the trip," said Fornari. "When we heard a lot of Italian, we had to rely on each other a lot to understand some people. That [reliance on each other] will help us on the court."

Overall, the Lady Lions had a wonderful experience and learned a lot from the trip.

"No one complained about coming back with a tan," said coach Fornari.

Cross Country continues to impress

By Brooke Dodds
staff writer

Behrend's Men and Women's Cross Country teams went to a meet at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa last weekend. The Cross Country team has run there for most years; it is one of the largest invitational around. The weather for the meet was sunny and cool, which ended up being a great day for running.

The men's team is divided where some run a 4k and some run an 8k. Our men finished 12th in the 8k, seventh in the 4k and eighth overall.

Our women's team ran the 4k and the 6k. The women's team finished seventh in the 4k. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough runners for a 6k score, which left the lions with no combined score.

Our men are currently ranked 13th in the NCAA mid-east region and the women are ranked in 11th. This is a pretty significant ranking for our team. This is the first time ever both our men and women have

been ranked.

Our winners for this invitational were Jess Knapp who finished fourth in the 4k, and Brad Ruffo who finished ninth in the 8k. Also Eric DiLuzio came in at 13th in the 4k and Tim Schultheis finished 19th in the 4k. There were over 140 runners in each of the races at Dickinson.

The team had many personal records during this meet.

"The unusual 4k distance was a first for many of the runners," said Coach Cooper.

There were 25-30 different colleges from all over the area who attended this invitational. The hosting team, was one of the strongest teams in the race.

Behrend's next invitational will be Oct. the ninth The invitational will be held at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa. at 10:00am. Last year, the invitational at Carnegie Mellon was a great run for our teams.



Brad Ruffo (left) leading the pack at the Dickinson Invitational. Claire Manelick (right) came in 42nd out of 101 runners.

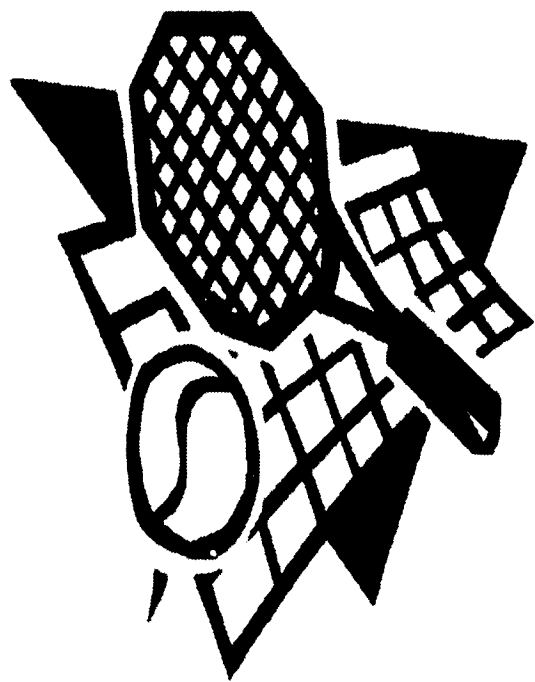


CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Intram

Dances
 Oct 17
 Bowling
 Oct 20
 3 vs 3 Basketball
 Nov 1

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week



NAME: Christie Leiningner

SPORT: Women's Tennis

CLASS: Senior

Christie Leiningner (Pittsburgh/North Hills H.S.) was named this week's Beacon/Food and Housing Athlete of the Week.

Leiningner was 2-0 in both singles and doubles play this week. She finished

up the AMCC regular season by going undefeated in singles and doubles, 6-0. Currently the blue and white are undefeated in the AMCC, 6-0 and are 10-3 overall.

Next up the team will travel to Bethany on Oct. 9, for a 1:00 p.m. match. Come out and show your Behrend spirit!

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.



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