

SPORTS

Women's soccer ends season in quarter-finals of ECAC tournament

By Brian Battin
staff writer

The women's soccer team recently concluded its 2004 season at the ECAC championships at John Hopkins University. The team made the trip to Baltimore, Md. and ended up just short of the championship game.

The blue and white opened up the six team tournament on Nov 10 with a 4-0 win over AMCC rival La Roche. Advancing to the semi finals Behrend went up against Carnegie Mellon on Saturday Nov. 13. However, the girls could not avenge a loss earlier in the season to the Tartans and ended up losing 1-0. Carnegie Mellon went on to the finals and defeated John Hopkins for the ECAC crown.

The Lady Lions had a very strong 2004 season. They ended up with a 14-6-1 record, and were 8-1 in conference play. Under first year head coach Patrick O'Driscoll, the team made their fourth appearance in the ECAC tournament.

As a team the girls dominated opponents in many statistical categories. They had an average of 3.49 goals per game and held their opponents to 0.85 goals per game. The ladies also out shot their opponents 24.0 to 6.5 shots per game, and had more total assists for the year 40 to 8.

Individually a number of players had a great year. Junior Heather Crawford led the team with 26 points. Junior Holly Greiner and Freshman Julie Quail were right behind her with 22 points on the year. Junior Colleen Applebaugh saw most of the action at goal keeper this season. Applebaugh recorded a record of 9-4-1 and had seven shut-outs on the year.

With only two seniors graduating, and a large junior class, the lady lions should have another successful season next year and should again challenge for the title.

Basketball teams 'tip-off' season

By Mike Tomko
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend men's and women's basketball teams tip off their season with the annual Tip-off Tournament this weekend. The men's team will take on Carnegie Mellon in their first game on Nov. 19 at 8:00 p.m. The men are coached by Dave Niland, who is entering his eleventh season as the Behrend head coach. Coach Niland is entering the season with a positive state of mind.

"I'm excited, we did graduate four very good players, but we have a strong core returning that I think will surprise people."

The first group of people that Niland would surprise are the AMCC coaches who picked the lions to finish third in the pre-season coaches poll. If the lions were to finish third, it would be the first time in seven years they did not take the one or two spot. Last season the Lions took home the AMCC regular season championship, which allowed them to advance to the NCAA tournament. The Lions posted a record of 22-4 and led Division III in scoring defense at 52.5 points per game.

Two key players for the Lions this season are senior starters and team captains Tom Lulich and Jared Clough. Lulich was an all-conference player at guard leading the team in three pointers made and Clough led the team in field goal percentage and played hard nosed defense. The rest of the senior captains include Joe Lucas, Nick Paris and Cam Mascara.

"I think they will do well, they are experienced and understand what it takes to be successful at this level," said Coach Niland, "Our seniors are very close and want to do well. They have been great leaders to this point. They have the chance to leave here as the most successful class ever. That would be a great accomplishment."



Senior Amber Krumpe (blue) and sophomore Tenesha Aden (white) duke it out for possession of the ball in last Friday's Fan Jam.

However, the teams success will also rely of the development of younger players. The current Lions have 10 underclassmen players on the team.

"They (underclassmen) will have to (step up), we have some talented freshman," said Coach Niland, "it will be a big adjustment so we'll see how long it takes."

Usually after the off-season coaches worry about players returning in shape, but Coach Niland put those fears out of his mind when camp started.

"The players came back in good shape. Many of them stayed in Erie over the summer and worked out together."

The X-factor of this team will continue to be the defense. If it plays up to last year's level then the Lions will have no

problem winning the AMCC conference championship again.

"We have always been a good defensive team; we'll need that to continue to be successful," said Coach Niland.

Head women's basketball coach, Roz Fornari, enters her 12th year of coaching for the blue and white. Last season she led the women to their fifth AMCC regular-season AMCC championship title, an 11-1 conference record, (22-6 overall) and later took the AMCC conference title at home in the Junker Center. The team also enjoyed making their third NCAA post-season appearance in team history.

The AMCC pre-season coaches poll chose the women's team to repeat as the 2004-05 AMCC Champions. With the core of their lineup returning and the younger players gaining some valuable experience last season, the recipe for

success still seems just about right. The loss of two seniors from last year's squad will force some key players into the spotlight.

Senior captains Amber Krumpe and Bambi Lewis will head up the blue and white. Krumpe missed the early half of the 2003-2004 season due to an ACL injury but bounced back with strong numbers. She returns healthy this season and will be an inside threat while Lewis's sharp three-point shooting will help on the offensive end.

Sophomores Tenesha Aden and Brittany Mays lit up Behrend's offense in their freshman seasons. Aden led the team with 11.9 ppg and 5.6 rpg and Mays followed closely behind at 10.7 ppg and 5.4 rpg. Aden was named Newcomer of the Year for her stellar performance while Mays was named to the AMCC all-conference team.

"There is a lot of talent in this returning class," said Fornari. "We are looking for big things from them."

The women will play Juniata College at 8:00 p.m. on Nov. 20. Consolation game starts at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday with the championship game taking place at 3:00 p.m.

New faces take over roughly half of the team including a transfer from Division II West Virginia Wesleyan and five freshmen. A solid group of returning players will help guide the lions such Junior guard Nikki Pacinelli who ranked fourth in the league in assists and led the team with minutes played.

"This team should be very competitive for us, and we are excited to play against talent teams," said Fornari.

The Behrend Lions start their conference schedule on Dec. 3 at home against Pitt-Greensburg. The women will play at 6:00 p.m. with the men following at 8:00 p.m.

Additional reporting by Sara Kamber

Cross Country wraps up season at NCAA regional meet, ends on high note

By Brooke Dodds
staff writer

This past weekend was the biggest race of the season for the Behrend Cross Country runners. The NCAA Division III Regional Championships were held at Allegheny College in Meadville. All Division III teams are allowed to compete in the regional meet, but they are only permitted to bring their top seven runners.

The Men's team ran the 8K course taking 14th place out of 41 teams and earned 441 points. This was best ever for the Behrend men. Brad Ruffo came in 47th place with a time of 27:22. Eric Diluzio finished 71st with a time of 27:46, Diluzio made the all-mideast region freshman team having made the top 14 freshmen runners. Tim Schultheis finished 89th in 28:08, Craig Davis finished 94th in 28:14, Brent Beauseigneur finished in 29:09, Harry Balwick in 29:25 and finally Andy Marshall in 29:28.

"Not only was this the best Behrend team on paper, I don't think we have ever had a team so close and dedicated to reaching our goals. I will really miss being on a team like this after I graduate," said Schultheis.

The men's team has done better this year than any other year in school history. The previous was 15th place in 2000. The team should be even stron-

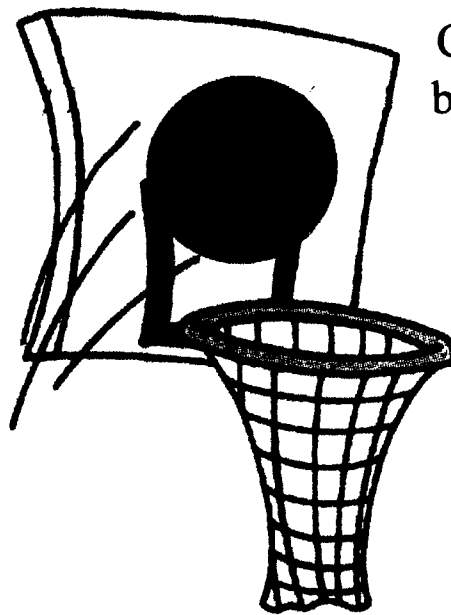
ger next year returning 8 of the top 10 runners and a very solid recruiting class being lined up to come in.

"Despite the injuries we endured, we still ended up with quite a successful season. Everyone pulled together and when one person had a bad race, someone else would step up and take their place," said Beauseigneur.

The women's team finished overall in 13th place out of 43 teams, with 405 points on the 6K course. This result is the second best that Behrend Women have ever done. Last year the girl's team finished sixth overall which was the best in school history. Jess Knapp took seventh place for the ladies finishing with a time of 22:33, this put her with the best ever Behrend Finish. Leslie Gentile came in 27th with a time of 23:42, Claire Manelick finished 105th in 25:26, Willa Paterson came in 113th place in 25:37, Leisl Soergel Finished in 26:38 and Sara Lucas finished in a time of 28:08.

Both Knapp and Gentile were named to the all-region team. Knapp just missed going to the NCAA national meet by one place, she has earned NCAA All MidEast Regional team for second year.

"I have had the most fun this year with my team than all the years combined, we're all incredibly close," said Knapp. "I was very proud to be a part of this team and I think it has been a great year."



Check out the men's and women's basketball teams and get free stuff!

Men

Friday @ 8 p.m.

Saturday @ 1 or 3 p.m.

Women

Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Sunday @ 1 or 3 p.m.

Admission is FREE to all students, faculty and staff with I.D.

25 FREE NCAA/Behrend T-shirts will be thrown out during each game!

\$20 Max & Erma's gift certificate giveaway at halftime!

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Melissa Pilewski (Cranesville/Villa Maria) was named this week's Beacon/Food and Housing Athlete of the Week.

Pilewski is starting off her collegiate career on the right track setting her first school record this weekend. She set a new time for the 100 breaststroke at 1:13.61. The record was previously held by Tara Braden with a time of 1:13.92

The next swim meet will be November 20 at Gannon University at 1:00 p.m.

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



Melissa Pilewski

SPORT: Swimming
CLASS: Freshman
DATE: November 15, 2004



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