

Men's basketball team on a roll Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week ...

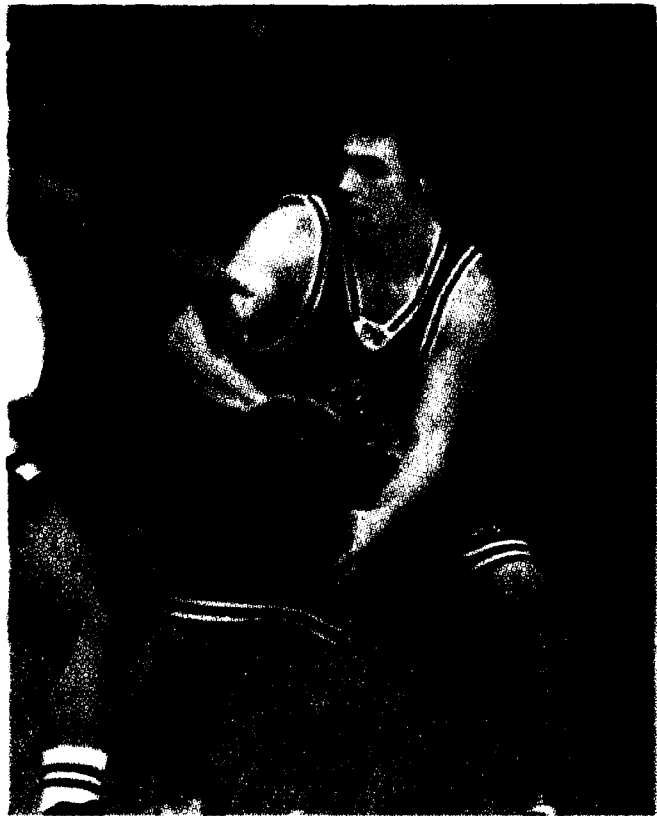
By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

After a 1-4 start, the Lions' basketball team is now alive and kicking. Behrend has reeled off five straight wins and is looking to contend for that automatic NCAA bid, which occurs if the team wins its conference.

The team practiced hard over Christmas break in order to begin its turnaround. Momentum started to come Behrend's way when they rebounded from a substantially overwhelming first-half deficit versus Pitt-Greensburg on December 3 before losing in overtime. Since, the squad has piled up five wins - three against conference foes in the competitive AMCC.

Behrend's first game on their win streak was a 50-47 victory over Frostburg. The team's next victim was Fredonia, by a score of 58-53. Behrend then traveled to Allegheny and triumphed yet again, 58-51.

The Lions' two most recent games were routs. First, they defeated Penn State Altoona by a count of 58-46. Behrend then manhandled Mount Aloysius, 97-81. The team is now 6-4 overall and 3-1 in AMCC play.



Junior Doug Merski trying to get the ball inside. The men's team will travel to Pitt-Bradford on Saturday for an 8:00 p.m. match up.

games, which is always an advantage because of familiarity and fan support that seems to give the home team a better chance to win. All three games are against AMCC opponents.

"These next four games are crucial," guard Joe Lucas said. "We want to break out of the three-way tie for first place in the conference so we can solidify that NCAA bid."

The team's starting lineup has been juggled all season. Right now, the starting five consist of point guard Justin Jennings, small forward Tom Lulich, shooting guard Doug Merski, center Jared Clough and forward David Gahan.

"David is stepping up really well for a freshman," Lucas said. "I am the first guard off the bench, and Cam [Mascara] is the first forward off the bench. Cam, me, J.J. [Ferguson] and Kevin [Buczynski] are contributing in many ways right now. We're a strong unit and a force other teams don't want to reckon with."

Clough has been the hottest player for Behrend. He has averaged 14.8 points and 7 rebounds per game during the five-game winning streak.



Jared Clough
Senior Captain
Men's Basketball

Athlete of the Week ...

Senior captain Jared Clough led the way for the blue and white this past weekend in two AMCC league games. In the match-up against Penn State Altoona, Clough was 7 for 12 from the field to finish the night with 18 points and 7 rebounds. Behrend took the win 58-46. He followed up Friday's performance by dishing out six assists, scoring 12 points and grabbing eight boards in a win versus Mt. Aloysius. Behrend moved to 3-1 in the conference, 6-4 overall.

The Behrend Lions will be on the road this weekend traveling to Pitt-Bradford on Saturday, January 15 for an 8:00 p.m. game.

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

Women's basketball holds on to defeat Grove City

By Sara Kamber
sports co-editor

A heart stopping jump shot at the buzzer almost sent the Behrend Lion's women's team home with a losing record and playing under .500. Luckily, the shot didn't fall and Behrend took the win 52-51.

Grove City went on a 12-1 run with 1:50 left on the clock. Behrend was leading 51-39 before the Wolverines staged a come back. Junior Kristie Connolly had a chance to put her team ahead with 8 seconds left but missed both of her free throws.

Sophomore Tenesha Aden had another solid game last night finishing with 21 points and 9 rebounds. This is her third straight game leading the team in points and has averaged 20 points a game in the teams last three.

With 7 points and 7 rebounds, senior Amber Krumpke continues to give her team a little bit of consistency. She posted the same numbers against Altoona and had an even better night against Mt. Aloysius posting 13 points and grabbing 11 boards.

Sophomore Rachel Slomski has also been coming through. She averaged 14.5 ppg this weekend and 5.5 rpg.

"I think our posts have done a good job scoring and handling the bulk of our offense," said Head Coach Roz Fornari. "We would have come out on top this weekend if we could have played more consistent minutes as a team."

Behrend split its two conference games last weekend, losing to Penn State Altoona before defeating Mt. Aloysius. The blue and white are currently 1-3 in the conference and 6-5 overall. After

finishing as AMCC champions last season, it is surprising to see Behrend in this position.

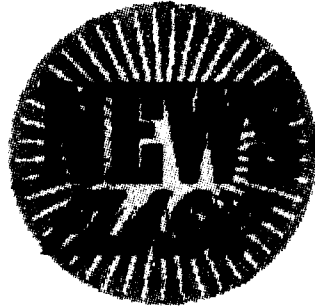
When asked what the team needs to do to get back on track, Fornari answered, "We really just need to play consistently and close out games. There is no magic to it, just win some games, get in position to host a home game for AMCC play-offs and make some noise to finish the season."

"I have coached some very good 19-8, 18-9 and 17-9 teams here at Behrend that have won an AMCC championship, ECAC championship, and reached the NCAA tournament," said Fornari. "It's certainly not over and the way we tend to finish our season traditionally, I wouldn't want to play Behrend in February."

One set back the team faced this weekend was the injury of sophomore Britany Mays. Mays damaged some ligaments in her ankle in the first few minutes of the Altoona game. Her return in listed as day to day and Fornari will see what kind of progress Mays makes in practice throughout the week.

For the Behrend Lion's women's team, all the pieces seem to be in place for a successful season. With the win over Grove City, the team is headed in the right direction. The blue and white travel to Pitt-Bradford on Saturday for a 6:00 p.m. conference match up where it will be important to gain a win in their conference record.

"We are a work in progress," said Fornari. "This year is just different than last year but we have the skills and talent needed and are continuing to improve. It will come together, and when it does, it will be real good basketball."



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