

SPORTS

Men's basketball tied for first in conference

By Kyle Woodside
staff writer

Ever play that game "Chutes and Ladders" when you were a kid? You know, the one where you move your pieces while trying to avoid the chutes that force you to fall back toward the starting line? Well, for now Behrend is at the finish line and hopes they will avoid those deadly chutes called their AMCC opponents so they won't slide back toward the bottom.

The squad is now 10-5 overall and 7-2 in the conference after a four-game winning streak. Behrend got it done at home like good teams should. They defeated Medaille, Lake Erie, La Roche and Hilbert at the Junker Center and emerged victorious against Hilbert on the road.

Medaille was a blowout, 85-64. Tom Lulich, David Gahan and J.J. Ferguson all reached double figures for the Lions.

Next was Lake Erie. The visiting team held a 32-30 edge at the half, but Behrend rallied for the nine-point win, 79-70. Jared Clough

was nearly flawless in this contest with 21 points. David Gahan added 13 points in only 17 minutes of playing time, and senior Tom Lulich had 11 points.

"Those were two big games for us," said senior Cam Mascara. "We came together as a team and dealt with some adversity. I think we improved a lot as a team, on and off the court."

"This is the time of year when it really helps to have a close knit team and I think that showed in our games this weekend," said senior Joe Lucas. "Both wins were true team efforts."

The third of three home games was against a pesky La Roche squad, who held the lead for most of the game. Behrend's defense stymied the Redhawks in the second half to hold on for a 50-49 win. Tom Lulich made two free throws with 18 seconds left in the game to ice it for the Lions. Behrend prevailed despite shooting only 30% from the field.

The weekend success seemed to put some life into this team. Team play and pretending the team's record is 0-0 before every contest seems to be the key ingredients for Behrend's wins.

"Our team has really been focusing on taking it day by day," senior Nick Paris. "We don't worry about other teams in our league and just get the job done that night. We are playing with great energy on defense and we have awesome execution on offense."

"We are really starting to come together as a team and share the ball well," said Lulich. "Last week's games against Lake Erie and La Roche were both big wins to help put us back into a tie for first place in the conference."

Behrend's most recent game was against Hilbert, who had a three-game winning streak of their own coming into this match-up. Behrend emerged as winners, 76-57.

The men look to stay in first place in the conference after the slated games this weekend. Tonight, Behrend travels to Frostburg for an 8 p.m. match-up to keep the Bobcats nipping at the Lions' heels in the AMCC standings. On Saturday at 6 p.m., the Lions are yearning to seek vengeance on Pitt-Greensburg's thrilling overtime victory earlier in the season and take over sole possession in the conference.

Amber Krumpe...



Behrend Beacon: What are your future plans?

Amber Krumpe: I plan to attend Northwestern University to earn my doctorate in physical therapy.

BB: What is your favorite sport memory?

AK: My favorite memory was winning the basketball AMCC Championship last year and making the NCAA tournament and going to Italy this past summer

BB: What will you miss most about Behrend?

AK: I'll miss my '5 friends, partying with the hoop squads, the green hornet and doing the viking.

BB: What is your funniest/ most embarrassing moment?

AK: Almost getting kicked out of practice for not focusing and wiping my shoes.



Amber Krumpe
Women's Basketball

Senior Spotlight



Cam Mascara...

Behrend Beacon: What are your future plans?

Cam Mascara: I plan on heading down south. I will probably go to South Carolina and get a job selling insurance.

BB: What is your favorite sport memory?

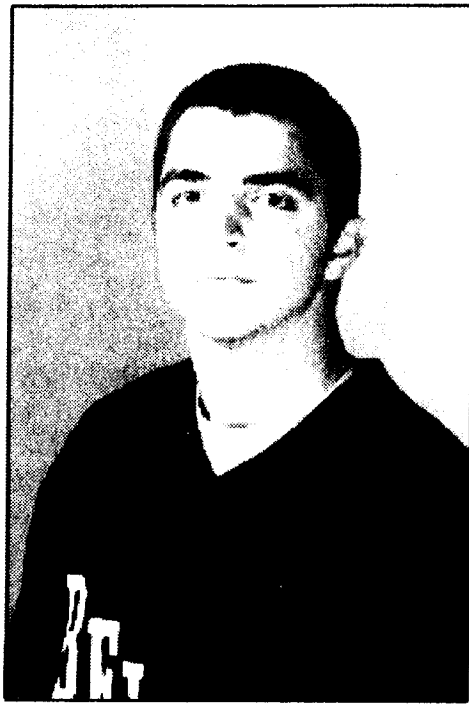
CM: "The Frosh" and all the stupid things we did together and the funny times we had.

BB: What will you miss most about Behrend?

CM: I will miss the HOOP SQUAD, the second floor crew, TOE and all my boys I rolled with and the crazy times we had together. I'm going to miss all of you guys.

BB: What is your funniest/most embarrassing moment?

CM: STEWS! That is all you need to know!!!



Cam Mascara
Men's Basketball

BEHREND LIONS BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
BEHREND LIONS VS. MT ALOYSIUS

WOMENS GAME
6 PM

MENS GAME
8 PM

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
BEHREND LIONS VS. PENN STATE ALTOONA

WOMENS GAME
6 PM

MENS GAME
8 PM

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Uncovering the history of sports dynasties

By Chris LaFuria
Sports Commentary

From the Shang, Tang and the Zhou in China and the Romanov in Russia to the Ptolemy in Egypt and the Maurya in India, dynasties have shaped the formations of many countries and civilizations. Their influence on politics, literature, and religion has inspired the world today. Correspondingly, dynasties in professional sports are placed on a certain pedestal that is almost more prominent than those of the ancient world.

In society today, if the question was posed of which ancient Chinese dynasty was the first to make use of bronze metallurgy, only historians could reply appropriately. However, if the question were "Which quarterback led the Pittsburgh Steelers to their four Super Bowl Title," the majority of people would respond correctly. No group of individuals can leave their mark on the world of sports more effectively and extraordinarily than if they belonged to a sports dynasty.

The legend of the sports dynasty claims its roots in the ancient society of the sports world. Contrasting from ancient societies in China and Egypt, these same dynasties never cease in creation.

The earliest notable sports dynasty of the twentieth century belonged to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team led by Knute Rockne. In 13 seasons, Rockne led the Irish to a 105-12 record and a streak of 47 wins. His .881 career winning percentage is one of the most impressive in college football history.

In college basketball Notre Dame didn't boast a very reputable team, however, in 1974, they snapped the country's longest win streak. The UCLA Bruins won a record 88 straight basketball games (including the postseason) from 1971-1974. In 1999 the Bruins streak of 51 consecutive winning seasons was shattered.

In the NBA, dynasties were the foundation of the pure value and entertainment of the teams in the league. The league has some of the greatest dynasties in the history of sports, such as the Boston Celtics, who, from 1956-1969, won eleven titles. However, the most memorable dynasty in NBA is the Chicago Bulls. The Chicago Bulls of the 90s were

one of the most popular and powerful dynasties. In the 95-96 season, the Bulls recorded the best record in NBA history of 72-10. The "Team of the 90s" compiled 6 NBA Titles to be considered one of the greatest in NBA history.

In Major League Baseball, you can't state the word "dynasty" in a sentence without mentioning the New York Yankees. The Yanks have accumulated almost three times as many wins as team with the second most titles. An unprecedented 26 World Series Championship will not be repeated. New York won a World Series Championship in exactly one-quarter of the 20th Century. That's astounding.

Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Dallas have acquired the summit of NFL reign. In the 1970s, the Pittsburgh Steelers won four Super Bowls. With players such as Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, and "Mean" Joe Greene, the Steelers conquered every team in their era.

In the 1980s, the San Francisco 49ers stole the crown from atop the Steelers' head. They won 4 Super Bowls of their own. The Titles of the 49ers are most impressive due to their come-from-behind tactics. Joe Montana led San Fran to exciting last-minute drives including one that ended with "The Catch" from Joe Montana to his tight-end Dwight Clark.

The Dallas Cowboys of the 1990s only won three Super Bowls. Since the Salary Cap placed a limit on owners' spending habits, the NFL has been the most difficult league in which to obtain a dynasty. With two massacres of the Buffalo Bills and a convincing win over the Pittsburgh Steelers, Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin developed a dynasty of their own.

The reason such dynastic emphasis has been placed on football is directly related to the birth of the newest sports dynasty. The New England Patriots are in the position to win their third Super Bowl in four years. With a potent passing attack, an aggressive running game, and one of the league's toughest defenses, arguably, the Pats don't need to win this year's Super Bowl to establish a dynasty. Quarterback Tom Brady is 8-0 as a starter in the playoffs. The team had to overcome the league's most compelling offense and defense in the playoffs. These statistics match the Pats up to the notable teams in history, and, accordingly, have developed the most recent professional sports dynasty.