

Women's water polo gains three wins; may lose top scorer to fractured hand

By Rachel Lyon
 staff writer

The Lady Lions water polo team picked up three wins this weekend at the Behrend Invitational, but may have lost their top scorer for the rest of the season.

After a rough 0-7 start to the season, the blue and white took three out of their five matches, including two from Utica and one from Colorado College. The team also kept it close against Division I school, Sienna, losing 8-7.

Behrend's first win of the season came March 18 night against Utica, with a monster 11-2 victory. Freshman Amanda Wiest and sophomore Cara Ludwig led the lions with three goals apiece. The team then made it two in a row, with a win over Colorado, 7-5. Saturday morning, Ludwig led the way with three goals. Later that day, Behrend fell 8-7 against Sienna, with three goals from Britney Yost to lead the squad.

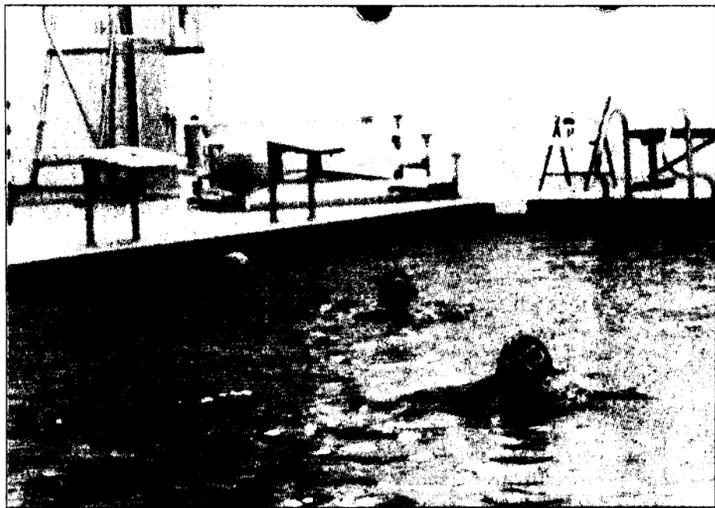
The Lady Lions started their Sunday stint of matches with a 12-4 loss against Iona, but finished the tournament Sunday night with another big win against Utica, 7-3. Ludwig and Yost each had a pair of goals for Behrend.

After a productive weekend, the women dropped their home match against Gannon 14-1. Erin Troester scored the lone goal for Behrend as the Lady Lions fell to 3-10 on the season.

Despite the slow start, Head Coach Joe Tristan saw a lot of positive things this weekend, including the important first win.

"It builds confidence for the athletes to get that first win under their belts," said Tristan.

He also points out that the first seven



Senior Erin Troester (#13) takes a shot on goal during warm ups before Wednesday's game against Gannon. Troester scored the only goal in Behrend's 14-1 loss.

games came against Division I schools, such as University of Michigan and Colorado State University. Tristan says these matches are meant to help his team develop.

"You need to compete at a high level in order to play at a high level," said Tristan.

Many of the Division I schools are also nationally ranked. According to the Collegiate Water Polo Association, Indiana University, University of Michigan and Hartwick College are ranked one, two and three respectively. And the women will also have to face Washington & Jefferson in the future.

However, the team may have to go without its top scorer, Cara Ludwig, who suffered a fractured hand during Sunday's match with Utica. The injury could be season ending.

Tristan said he stresses defense and

saw an improvement from where it was lacking before. The team still needs to work on filling holes and minimizing weaknesses

"Any great offense needs an even greater defense," said Tristan. And while he is happy with the offensive performance, defense still remains the team's main focus.

"We just need to come out and play the best game we can play," said Tristan.

Tristan said the team will take it one game at a time. The absence of Ludwig will cause some to shift positions and adjust to new roles.

Next week, Behrend will travel to take on Grove City College on March 29. The Lady Lions will then spend the weekend at the Sienna Invitational, to get rematches against Iona and Maryland.

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week



Brittany Yost
 Women's Water Polo
 Sophomore

Yost led the women's water polo team to their first three wins of the season in a 3-2 weekend for the blue and white.

Their first win came against Utica College, 11-3. During the Behrend Invitational on Saturday, and Sunday, Yost tallied 10 goals, 14 steals, 5 assists and 5 drawn kickouts. She has scored at least two goals in the last six games.

The Behrend Lions will head to Grove City College on March 29 for a 7:30 p.m. match-up.

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

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