

SPORTS

Lady Lions blow Wolverines out of water

By Rachel Lyon
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Lady Lions picked up a huge victory Tuesday night against Grove City College, despite being without their coach for much of the game. The Lady Lions routed the Wolverines 13-3, improving their record to 4-10.

Two minutes into the second quarter, Coach Joe Tristan was ejected after disputing a call with an official. The rules state that once a coach is ejected he must leave the pool area for the remainder of the game. Also, the ejection will result in a one game suspension for Tristan.

Despite his absence, Tristan felt the incident brought his team together.

"They were forced to play as a team," Tristan said. "It was the best game I've seen them play all year."

Tristan gives credit to his captains, seniors Sam Cibula and Erin Troester, and shallow-end goalie, junior Colleen Applebaugh for stepping up to the coaching role in his absence.

"It was a good team bonding experience," said Tristan.

The Lady Lions' top scorer, sophomore Cara Ludwig returned after severely jamming her hand in match against Utica back on March 20. Ludwig scored four goals and added two assists and four steals. Sophomore Alexis Puhala matched Ludwig with four goals of her own and one steal.

Cibula contributed two goals, two steals and three assists for the Lady Lions. Sophomore Brittany Yost added two goals and five steals. Freshman goalie, Missy Pilewski played effective in the net, making eight saves and blocking a

penalty shot.

Tristan's 6-on-5 defense held strong, stopping seven of nine Wolverine opportunities. On the offensive side, Behrend capitalized on six of ten 6-on-5 opportunities.

For Grove City, sophomore Virginia Larsen scored all three goals, with junior Cecilia Larsen assisting on two. The Wolverines remain winless, with a 0-7 record.

Coming off their big win, the Lady Lions will travel to Sienna College this weekend to participate in the Sienna Invitational. Behrend will see rematches against Division I Iona College and University of Maryland.

The first time around, Behrend fell to Iona, 12-4 and Maryland, 12-6. The Collegiate Water Polo Association ranks the Lady Terrapins ninth in their Top Ten poll.

Tristan believes that if his team plays the way they played Grove City, the games could be tight. He feels the key to victory is "stepping up to their level," and says his team will continue to work on its weaknesses and strengthen its strengths.

Right now, Tristan feels confident in the team's 6-on-5 defense after a solid performance against the Wolverines. Tristan also said he is pleased with the team's set-up offense and counter attack, with Behrend getting the ball down the pool quickly.

This weekend's tournament will have the Lady Lions squaring off against Iona Saturday at 1:50 p.m. then against Maryland at 8 p.m. On Sunday, Behrend will match up against Queens College at 8 a.m. Later in the day, the Championship round will take place, with the time still to be announced.

TOPSoccer hosts program for disabled children



SARA KAMBER/BEHREND BEACON

TOPSoccer takes place every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. in the Junker Center. There are more than 40 participants this year along with many volunteers from the student body.

By Chris LaFuria
staff writer

coach.

The experience with TOPSoccer is not only limited to the players who participate. The camp is lead by members of the men's and women's teams, other students and volunteers who give their time and support for the special needs children.

"Our players really enjoy working with the youngsters and find it very rewarding. It is a great opportunity for them to give something back to the community," added Perritano.

Along with the teaching of fundamentals and skills for soccer, the main ingredient for the success of the program is teaching the kids about having fun and recognizing physical and mental handicaps. This year, there is a three-speaker series of seminars for the parents of the children. On the final night of the program, there is a pizza party to reward the children for their hard work and also an award ceremony on the final night as a finale to the program.

The program is sponsored by the Sertoma and Kiwanis Clubs of Erie.

"We really appreciate the volunteers and the grants we have received to make this program as successful as it is today," adds Perritano.

Recognizing that soccer can be played by all people, regardless of their physical capabilities is one of the most important concepts that is overlooked by the sports world. With programs such as the Special Olympics and TOPSoccer, the barrier of physical aptitude can be lifted. No longer do people who suffer from disabilities get left out of the sport they love. Now, everyone can lace up a pair of cleats and run around playing soccer.

With the World Cup qualifying starting, the United States is getting ready to bring back the spirit of soccer. People everywhere, from the National Team to grade-school mini soccer, are enjoying the game that has been rated as the world's most popular sport.

Soccer, with its advance techniques and demanding physical workouts, is usually successful with people of a strong physical prowess and fundamental skill. It is because of this demand that some leagues count out people who sincerely love the game.

The athletic department at Penn State Erie has noticed that some people who wish to partake in such a sport have been denied an opportunity due to physical handicaps and other disabilities. With these people in mind, the staff and players have joined in a program that invites people with disabilities to have fun and experience soccer for themselves.

TOPSoccer is a program entering its fifth year at the Behrend campus. The program, which teaches disabled kids the basic skills of soccer and lets the kids participate in small games, started out as an outreach program and has seen great success over the past few years. In the first season of the program, only 11 kids took part in TOPSoccer. This year, 42 children are signed up to play soccer.

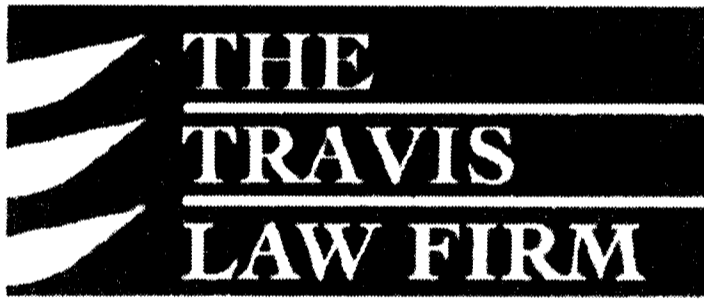
"Special needs children have been short-changed for activities and TOPSoccer gives the kids a chance to run around and have a good time," said Dan Perritano, men's soccer head

Pittsburgh Steelers Come To Penn State Behrend

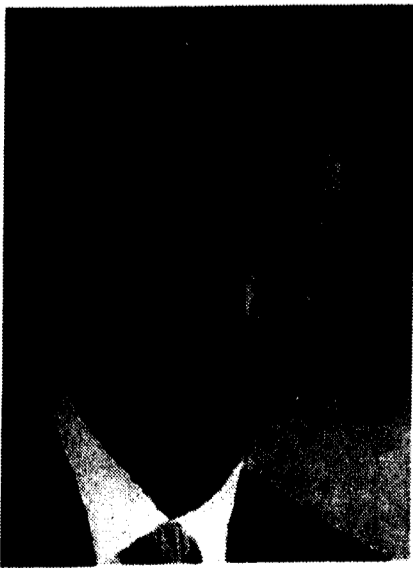
Come see the Pittsburgh Steelers Basketball Team play the Behrend Community All-Star team April 10 at 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Junker Center and tickets cost \$5.00. You can buy your tickets now at the Junker Center.

Play in for the Behrend Community All-Stars will be professor Randy Brown and students Mike Divito, Rylan Marx, Chris Light, Kurt Wolbert, Kyle Woodside, Nick Stiglitz, Jon Boyssal, Dave "The Helicopter" Harston, and Rob Cline from Rocket 101.

For additional ticket information, please contact the Mens Basketball office at (814) 898-7566.



- Car Accidents
- Drunk Driving Defense
- Criminal Defense



Grant C. Travis, Esquire

100 State Street
Suite 210
Erie, PA 16507

455-3839

www.paautoinjury.com
www.duilawyerpa.com

Intramural Team Triathlon teaches teamwork

By Eric Nyberg
contributing writer

The Intramural spring season kicked off with a bang last week with the arrival of the first spring event, soccer. Students who participated in the event didn't get the nice weather they were hoping for but enjoyed it just the same. For those of you concerned that the temperature will be below 32 degrees for the rest of the spring season, don't worry, because temperatures are expected to rise into the 50's for the arrival of the Team Triathlon on April 1.

That's right, the Team Triathlon, who many train for during the winter months, will begin on April 1 and run through April 11. Each Monday and Wednesday in that time period there will be races to find out which team worked the hardest in the off-season.

Every year there is a good turnout from the student body and administrators expect this year to be even better. Higher numbers of participants can be credited to the national health craze that recently took over the U.S. It seems as if that the new dieting plans and desire to be physically fit have become more important to people of all ages but more in the college age people.

Whether you are doing it to become healthier or just to prove that your team is the fastest around, the Team Triathlon is a great way to get out and enjoy the nice weather while learning some important life lessons. Students who participate in the event learn a lot about themselves, but also the ability to work as a team to succeed. This ability to work as a team is an important life lesson that everyone will need to learn when they get out in the real world.

As a member of a team that participates in this event every year, Mark Cipriani, PLST 06, understands the need for each member of the team to "hold up their end of the bargain" when preparing for the race.

Cipriani said, "I train for this event throughout the winter and I expect every other member of the team to do the same in order for us to win."

Although winning isn't everything, everybody has the desire to win and the Team Triathlon instills this desire to succeed in every participant. If you haven't signed up for this event, there is still time to do so. Anyone interested in the event can contact Rob Wittman at 898-6280 or stop by the Junker Center for more information.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF, BE PART OF THE BEACON STAFF

ALL PAGE EDITORS AND MANAGER POSITIONS ARE OPEN!

SUBMIT RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO THE BEACON OFFICE LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE REED BUILDING.