

SPORTS

Lions win conference match, drop two others

By Mike Tomko
staff writer

Last Friday, the squad lost to Alfred University at home by a score of 4-5. The team stood at 7-7 following the loss.

"Alfred's a pretty good team, and we really could have beat them", said Coach Barger, "we played well".

In number one doubles freshman Miles Boyea and senior Todd Guarnieri won their match 8-5. In number two doubles sophomore Brian Espin and sophomore Matt Meyer were beaten 8-2, and in third doubles freshman James Myers and freshman Trevor Dougherty won by the score of 9-7.

In singles play Boyea won his match 6-0, 6-0, and Myers also was victorious by the score of 6-3, 2-6, 6-4. Espin, Guarnieri, Meyer, and Dougherty all lost their singles matches.

On Saturday April 2 the Lion tennis team won their conference match at home versus Frostburg 5-4. With the win the Lions improved their conference record to 2-1, and 8-7 overall.

"Saturday night I was just not pleased with the consistency. We went three sets in five of 6 singles matches against guys that were no where near as good as the night before", said Coach Barger

In doubles action Boyea and Guarnieri lost in a nail biter 9-8. While the teaming of Espin and Meyer as well as the team of Myers and Dougherty won their matches both by the score of 8-3.

"We are really kind of playing without leadership, we need somebody to just kind of get the guys more focused and stuff", said Coach Barger, "last year we had a couple older guys that had been around a couple years that kind of pushed the younger guys."

In singles play Boyea lost in straight sets 6-3, 6-3. Espin and Guarnieri both lost in three sets. Winning for the Lions were Meyer in three sets 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Myers in three sets 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Dougherty also in three sets 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

On Wednesday at home the Lions were beaten by Slippery Rock University by the score of

7-2 in a non-conference match. With the lose the Lions drop to 8-8 overall but remain 2-1 in the conference.

"I was looking at our records the other day, and thinking we probably should have won like three more matches that we lost", said Coach Jeff Barger.

Player of the week honors went to Behrend Freshman James Myers for his singles and doubles play for the week of March 28. Myers is the first Lion to be honored with the award this season. This week Myers was a runner up for the award because of his wins in singles and doubles play.

"Now everybody is young. Nobody is willing to kind of take charge of the team", said Coach Barger.

The Lions next three matches are all versus conference opponents. They play April 8 at Pitt-Greensburg, April 9 at Frostburg, and April 10 at Penn State Altoona. The team will need some leadership to help win the next three games.

Lady Lions fight to the finish

By Rachel Lyon
staff writer

The Lady Lions saw a lot of action this past weekend at the Siena Invitational, picking up a comeback win against Queens College, while losing to Division I Iona, Maryland, and St. Francis.

Behrend's first game came Saturday against Iona, which resulted in a 13-3 loss. Freshmen Amanda Weist punched in all three goals for the blue and white. Despite the loss, Coach Joe Tristan said the numbers can be deceiving.

"The first time we played them, we were down eight or nine goals at halftime," said Tristan. "This time, we were only down 3-0 at the half."

Tristan watched Behrend's game from the stands, serving his one game suspension resulting from an ejection that took place March 29, against Grove City.

Later Saturday, the Lady Lions got back into the water to face the University of Maryland. The Terrapins scored nine goals in the first half on the way to their 11-5 win. Sophomore Cara Ludwig led Behrend with three goals, while senior Sam Cibula and sophomore Alexis Puhala each contributed a goal.

"I think the first game drained them," said Tristan of his team.

Exhaustion set in for Behrend, with a roster of just 10 players, while Maryland boasts 25 players.

The blue and white returned Sunday to take on Queens College, and staged a comeback to grab a 13-10 victory. Ludwig, again, led in scoring with six goals. Sophomore Brittany Yost contributed four goals, while Weist

Cibula, and Puhala had one apiece.

At one point in the first half, Behrend found themselves down 5-1.

"We had to climb out of a hole to get the win," said Tristan. "It was not our best game of the year."

Tristan said his team came together defensively after trailing 6-4 at halftime. In the second half, the Lady Lions outscored Queens 9-4, to solidify the comeback, and steal the win.

The final game of the invitational came against St. Francis College, and the Division I Terriers got the better of the Lady Lions, 11-8. After falling behind 4-0 in the first quarter, the team came together and played what Tristan called, "The best game I've seen them play so far this year."

Behrend shut down the Terriers leading scorer, freshmen Megan Husak, and Tristan was convinced if his team had two more minutes, the Lady Lions may have been able to pull out with a victory.

Ludwig and Yost led the team with four goals and two goals, respectively. Weist and Puhala added a goal each. Goaltender, freshmen Missy Pilewski had six saves, while sophomore goaltender Colleen Applebaugh snagged four.

While Behrend's overall record is 5-13, the team remains undefeated in Division III play at 4-0. Tristan stresses the importance of this weekend's game against fellow Division III "arch nemesis" Washington & Jefferson. A win not only means bragging rights, but a possible number one seed out of the east coast.

With the Western Division tournament looming three weeks away, Tristan says his team is focused on now.

"We're just taking it one game at a time."

Tar Heels and Lady Bears are National Champs

By Chris LaFuria
sports commentary

On the evening of April 5, collegiate basketball came to an end, with two new teams being crowned as champs for the men's and women's basketball season. On Monday night, the North Carolina Tar Heels conquered the men's bracket by overcoming the late-game-blooming Illinois Fighting Illini, 75-70. The following night, the Baylor Lady Bears halted Michigan State's run for its first NCAA title by destroying the Lady Spartans, 84-62.

It was a tremendously sweet victory for UNC's Roy Williams, who, before the Final Four, was labeled the best coach never to win a National Championship. Williams, who took over the helm of the team after the departure of Matt Doherty, led the team everybody tagged as one of the best three teams all year. On the court, the Heels relied on the massive structure known as Sean May to lead the troops. Scoring a game high 26 points, May earned the Most Outstanding Player of the 2005 tournament. Other contributors to Carolina's success were Ray Felton, who added 17 points, and Rashad McCants, adding 14.

For Illinois, early shooting troubles

prevented the Illini from firing on all cylinders. The Illini shot 38 percent, more than half of the field goals being three-pointers for the game. The Heels raised the standard for field goal shooting, making a little more than half of their attempts at 51 percent. Dominance by Sean May within the key



LOUIS DeLUCA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS
Baylor's Latoya Wyatt wrestles the ball away from Michigan State's Kelli Roehrig in the first half of their 2005 NCAA Division I Women's championship game on Tuesday, April 5 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

solidified the success of the Heels. Illinois did not have the proper utilities to contain such as monster. This led to many easy baskets by the MOP.

After a half time score of 40-27, Illinois, led by Luther Head's 21 points, regained some control over Carolina's dominance and put forth almost the necessary effort to succeed, but fell short due to clutch free throws by Sean May.

On the women's side, Baylor, led by Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson, who took over five years ago when the 7-20 Lady Bears were desperate, defeated the Lady Spartans of MSU in a one-sided affair. Led by Sophia Young's 26 points, Baylor annihilated the number one Michigan State. With the victory, Baylor becomes the team with the third-lowest preseason ranking to win the National Title. A rank of eight made most skeptics doubt the validity of the team, until Tuesday night.

Even though only six players scored for the Bears, the key scorers made their presence felt. With Young's 26 points, Emile Niemann's 19, and Steffanie Blackmon's 22, the Bears found ample points from three key players. Michigan State, who did shoot a decent 41 percent from the field, did not find the right shots to overcome Baylor. Led by the 20 points of Lindsey Bowen, the Spartans attempted to crawl back from such a huge lead, but only reduced the lead to less than 20 a few times.

This is the first title game for both teams and the first win for the lady Bears.

With exciting last-second shots and wild comebacks, both tournaments were ones to remember. Baylor, who knocked off three top seeds to win the title and Carolina's deliverance of high expectations were the highlights of this year's season. As Dick Vitale said it, "Are you kidding me? It simply does not get better than this."

Intramural track meet tests students physically, mentally

By Eric Nyberg
contributing writer

The second half of the spring intramural season begins April 8 with the individual track meet. This will be the third event of the season and is expected to have a substantial amount of participants with the arrival of some seasonably warm weather.

Last Sunday's snow storm, that dropped over a foot of snow in the Erie area, has made some people question whether or not there would be any more intramural events. If you were one of these people you don't need to worry because forecasters predict above average temperatures for the next week which will melt away all of the snow.

Students interested in participating in this year's event are encouraged to sign up whether you are an avid runner

or just someone who wants to lose that extra winter weight. The race is a great way to get out and enjoy the sunny weather and a great way to mold your body for those summer days laying out on the beach.

Along with the physical advantages of running the race there are also some mental advantages to it. It has been proven that exercise is a great stress reliever and we all know that with finals approaching rapidly in the next few weeks, any type of stress relief is essential.

If you are hesitant about signing up for the race because of time constraints with studying, you will be happy to hear that the race is fairly short and it isn't even necessary for you to finish.

Unlike school-sanctioned events there won't be a coach there hassling you to "give it

your all" or screaming at you for not running faster. The track meet is strictly for fun!

The race is also a way to get out and take in the beauty of Behrend's campus. Students who ran the race in the past credit the "trail" the race is run on for their involvement year after year. This year's race will take student's all over campus from the Behrend fields and throughout the student housing facilities.

James Roberts, BIO 07, said, "I am the farthest thing from a person in good physical shape, but I always run the race because I love being outside in the spring weather, especially on the nature trails around the Behrend fields."

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

- Women's Water Polo**
April 9 vs. Washington and Jefferson
4 p.m
- Softball**
April 9 vs. Frostburg (DH)
1 p.m
- April 10 Alumni Game
11 a.m
- April 11 vs. La Roche (DH)
3 p.m
- Baseball**
April 10 vs. Case Western (DH)
1 p.m