

SPORTS - YEAR IN REVIEW

Women's soccer looks to conquer AMCC's

By Samantha Baldensperger
from the Oct. 29 issue

The women's soccer season might be winding down but these girls sure are not. Last Thursday they played (9-1-3) Carnegie Mellon and lost 0-3. Then, last weekend (11-4-1) Behrend blanked (13-1) Mt. Aloysius 2-0. This week they play (7-9-1) Medaille here at home. Then finally on Saturday they begin the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference championship tournament.

Last Thursday Oct 21 the Lady Lions fell to Carnegie Mellon. They were shut out with a score of 0-3. In the end they ended up with four shots on goal to Carnegie Mellon's 25. The team quickly rebounded with a 12-0 shut out of Mt. Aloysius.

Coach Patrick O'Driscoll said of the shut out game on Saturday, "We handled Saturday's game in a very professional manner...we played to our level and had a lot of positives for the game." During the game Behrend had sixty one shots on goal to Mt. Aloysius' zero. Top scorers were Jen Quail, and Holly Greiner with two and Jen Baker with four. Greiner said that "...even though their record is not comparable to ours, we still had to play our hardest." During the game Mt. Aloysius even scored a goal on themselves in minute fifty seven.

This Thursday the Lady Lions faced Medaille here at Behrend. The ladies ended up with a 5-0 shut out. Behrend has thirty seven shots on goal compared to Medaille's 1. Michelle Newland

and Heather Crawford scored a goal a piece in the first period. Then in the second period Kacie Burns, Emily Miller, and Kari Struski each contributed a goal in the victory. This was the final regular season game before the AMCC championships begin on Saturday.

Going into this coming weekend's AMCC championship tournament the Lady Lions are seeded number two. This means that they will have a chance to play their semi-final game here at Behrend. Coach O'Driscoll expressed confidence in his team, "I think we all know that we have a talented enough team to win the championship...we just have to have confidence in our ability as a team."

"We are working very hard in practice, and trying to practice as if they were playing in the championship." Greiner said about preparing for the AMCC championship. They want to keep there level of fitness up as well as their attitudes and try and stay positive.

As for their expectations for the tournament they plan on going out and giving it everything that they have. They feel that in some of the games that they lost this year they were the better team. If they were given the chance to play them again Greiner said, "We would be sure to let them know who should have won the first time we played." When asked Greiner added "We expect to all come out with a victory and win the conference championship." In order to win Coach O'Driscoll feels that "It is just a matter of executing on game day."



Freshman soccer player Danielle DeMay.

KJ Margraff/Behrend Beacon

Men's soccer strives for excellence on field

By Colleen Applebaugh
from the Oct. 29 issue

At the season finisher, the Behrend boys beat Medaille 3-1. The team fought forcefully for the victory; the "W" allows the men to advance to the AMCC playoffs. Junior central midfielder Brian Blaszczyk put the men ahead in the 12th minute of play with a header to the upper left corner of the net. The Medaille team was able to place a shot by sophomore goalkeeper Matt Zirnsak in the 25th minute. Junior Justin Reese, scored both the tie breaking goal and the third goal of the game.

The blue and white were victorious over Thiel on Oct. 19, with a 2-1 win. The men played their game, intense, aggressive, and intelligent. The success brought the team to a 9-5-1 record. In essence, this game started the Behrend men's winning streak.

The victory over Thiel boosted the men's confidence from a loss to conference opponent Frostburg State. "We had a very good start to the season," said senior forward Eric Nyberg. "We have just had a bad run of luck."

The loss put the team 3-3-1 conference record, but those men want more. "I think losing some games has opened our eyes, and we are better prepared now for the post season," said Nyberg.

Victories that followed for the men included a 2-0 win over Case Western Reserve Oct. 22 and a 13-0 bashing of Mt. Aloysius Saturday. Their streak has improved to four wins, bumping the men's overall record to 12-5-1. The team is ranked fifth in the conference with a 5-3-1 record.

"The team is really starting to play its best soccer of the year," said sophomore marking back Josh Serafini. The blue and white put up a forceful fight, but could not find the back of the net. "We have had some tough losses in the conference, but it will be a whole new story in AMCC playoffs," said Serafini.

The player standout for this 3-0 week is sophomore forward Herbert Obeng. Obeng scored four goals, two being game winners. Obeng's outstanding performance on the field follows a season of strong play. Obeng has been an essential asset to the team's offensive and will be called upon in the next series to create plays for the blue and white.

The men have the AMCC tournament to look forward to now and fully intend to extinguish any rumor that states their defeat.

"As defending champions, we are still the team to beat," said Serafini. "I would not want to face us in the playoffs," said Nyberg. "If we stick to the game plan and work hard, then there's no reason why we shouldn't win the conference championship."

Men's tennis takes second in AMCC

By Mike Tomko
from the April 18 Issue

Last Sunday, the Behrend tennis team traveled to Pitt-Greensburg to compete in the 2005 AMCC Conference Tournament. The blue and white finished with nine total points, good enough for second behind Penn State Altoona who had ten.

In number one singles, freshman Miles Boyea lost to Jared Feerrar of Penn State Altoona in straight sets 3-6, 2-6. Gary Lyst of Frostburg State came out of the bracket in first beating Jared Feerrar.

Sophomore Brian Espin took first place in the second singles field, beating Rob Pulcini of Pitt-Greensburg in straight sets 6-1, 6-2. Then Espin beat Alex Chang of Penn State Altoona in three sets 6-4, 4-6 and 6-2.

In fourth singles, sophomore Matt Meyer won his first match against Payton Mullin in straight sets 6-0, 6-1. Meyer fell in the finals to Pat Cooper of Penn State Altoona in three sets 6-3, 0-6, and 5-7.

Freshman James Myers came out victorious in the fifth singles bracket winning both of his match-

es. Myers won his first match against Matt Duermeyer in straight sets 6-0, 6-1. Myers won his second match against Chris Schoenbaur of Frostburg State in straight sets 6-0, 6-1.

In sixth singles freshman Trevor Dougherty won his opening match over Matt Stephens in straight sets 6-3, 6-2. Dougherty fell in his second match to Andy Brunhuber of Penn State Altoona in two hard fought sets 5-7, 2-6.

In number one doubles, the team of Boyea and Guarnieri won their opening match over Adam Dearborn and Duermeyer of Pitt-Greensburg 8-1, but the pair fell in their final match by the score of 8-6.

In number two doubles the team of Espin and Meyer won their opening match 8-1, but fell in the finals to Cooper and Chang of Penn State Altoona 3-8.

In third doubles, the Lions had the some result. The pair of Myers and Dougherty won their opening match 8-4, but failed to win the final match, instead losing to Brunhuber and Dolansky of Penn State Altoona 3-8.

Women's hoops prepare for Frostburg

By Sara Kamber
from the Feb. 25 issue

The AMCC defending champions are ready to take on Frostburg State, the number one seed in the conference, and head into the game on a seven game winning streak.

After sending Pitt-Bradford packing on Tuesday night in the first round of the AMCC tournament, the blue and white took one more step in the way of the taking this year's championship crown.

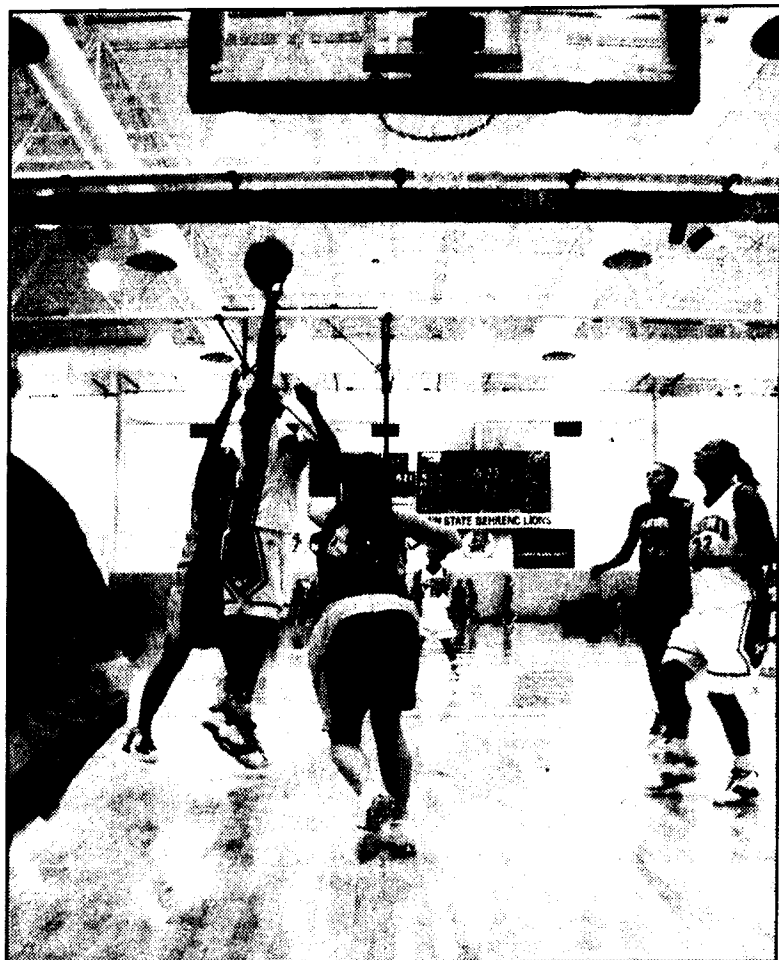
It was a pretty even offensive attack for the Lion's. Sophomore Tenesha Aden and senior Amber Krumpe both posted 12 points. Krumpe also posted four assists with Aden grabbing 7 boards. Sophomore Rachel Slomski scored 9, freshman Jessica Serafin put up 8 and junior Nikki Pacinelli and sophomore Brittany Mays had 6 a piece.

As a team, Behrend shot 42 percent from the field and 81 percent at the line. The blue and white out-rebounded Pitt-Bradford 37-25 in the 64-43 victory. Pitt-Bradford was single handedly led by Brittany McLean who scored 30 of their 43 points.

When Frostburg traveled to the Junker Center earlier this season, the Bobcats took the decision by a bucket. More recently thought, Frostburg embarrassed the Lion's by totally manhandling them in the 42-69 Behrend loss.

"We didn't play near our potential in the two meetings this season," said Head Coach Roz Fornari about the Frostburg games. "They have some good players as do we. We need to go to our strengths and understand what it is going to take to beat the team."

A lot has changed in the last few weeks for the blue and white. Every one is healthy and shooting well and the team is playing like a real force on the court. But how do you prepare for playing the best team in the league in the semi-



Sophomore Tenesha Aden shoots over two Pitt-Bradford defenders. Aden and Krumpe (right) led the team with 12 points apiece.

BARBRA JOHNSON/BEHREND BEACON

nals after they slaughtered you in the last meeting?

"I really don't have to say much to motivate this team; sometimes it's what you don't say that is more heard," said Fornari. "This is a great chance to beat a team that we are as good as and just didn't play well against last time. We have seen our share of upsets and the home team not making it to the championship. I am confident that we can not only compete, but have a good chance at beating Frostburg, we just need to play very well."

Some would think it was a bad luck of the draw having to play Frostburg first, but the women seem to be even more motivated by taking them on first. With so much recent change, the team feels they have a lot to prove and what better way to do that then knock off the one seed on their home court?

"I am pumped to play Frostburg first. They stole the first game from us on our home court and

then pretty much embarrassed us on their court, so it's payback time now," said Krumpe. "We need to cut down on our turnovers this time around and concentrate on executing our offense. As always, our defense will win this game for us and we really need to step up our pressure."

In their latest meeting at Frostburg, Mays led the charge with 10 points and 7 rebounds. Besides Mays though, the Lion's had a below average night. Aden had 8 points and 2 rebounds, both below her average. Krumpe and Slomski were also relatively quiet with 3 boards apiece. When each of these girls has a solid game, there is no stopping the team. They will need every member of the squad to be on point this Friday to make it happen and, lately, that has not been a problem.

"We are simply executing better and know our strengths a little better," said Fornari. "I like the way we are understanding strategy and our focus is better."

Men's water polo continues to make a splash

By Kyle Woodside
from the Sept. 29 issue

Have you ever been used to something and then all of a sudden had to change your ways? Well, that's good. Now you know how the men's water polo team felt last week when they had to face Gannon.

Gannon's pool is about 10 feet shorter in width than the pools Behrend usually plays in. To further complicate things, there is a wall instead of an open

space where the out-of-bounds line is. Thus, when expecting to be able to use the whole pool, Coach Tristan's Lions hit the wall at times, literally. It threw off their passing attack.

Despite the skewed pool dimensions and facing a tough Gannon squad at their place, the Lions played as best as they could in the 19-6 defeat.

"We forced 18 shots and lost control of our game plan," Tristan said. "They had lots of

energy and we got intimidated physically, but we still played OK mentally."

The score was 6-1 after the first quarter and the Lions were forced to play catch-up after that. A potent offensive attack and a mediocre referee enabled Gannon to dominate.

Charles Doane, a phenomenal player for Gannon, controlled the "2-meter" position for the Knights. He finished with seven goals, four of which

came in the first quarter. A 2-meter is parallel to a center in hockey or basketball; he camps in front of the opposing goal and tries to outmuscle the opposing defender(s).

"We used three different guys on Doane to try and stop him, but they couldn't. Water polo is more about being a smart player than getting in the 'zone'. Doane saw our defense and knew immediately how to score on it," said Tristan. "Next time we face a tough 2-meter, we will try to change up the defense a bit in hopes of better results."

Anthony Spoto continued to shine as he led Behrend with a hat trick. Justin Ryder, Brandon Sieber, and Steve Schleicher contributed with one goal apiece.

The team finished 6-17.



SARA KAMBER/BEHREND BEACON

"Spirit Against Cancer" raises \$7,000 for charity

Penn State Behrend's fourth annual Becky Hubler Decker Dance and Cheerleading Competition, held Feb. 12, generated \$7,000 for the American Cancer Society with more than 2,000 people attending this unique event in the Junker Center.

48 teams participated in the competition that ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dance and cheerleading teams from middle school, junior high, junior varsity, high school varsity, college and all-star (open) squads participated winning awards in several categories.

"Spirit Against Cancer" was created in memory of Becky Hubler Decker. Her commitment to the community, serving as dance coach at Penn State Behrend, cheerleading coach at Edinboro University, she was captain of the Invaderettes dance team and a member of the Buffalo Bills (Jills) dance team. All proceeds from this special event will benefit the American Cancer Society.