

SPORTS

Despite setbacks, Lions make improvements

By Mathew Turner
staff writer

This past week has been quite hectic for the Behrend volleyball team. They saw their winning streak come to an end as they competed in the Westminster Invitational. They lost in the second place game 1-3 to Ohio Wesleyan, falling to fourth place. Once they returned home, however, the Lions were greeted with good news. Senior Amanda Evans was named to the all-tournament team. Evans had also been named AMCC volleyball Player of the Week. This marks the second straight week that a Lion has been honored with the award.

When asked about Evans, Coach Pisano said, "Amanda's improvement over the course of her career has been remarkable. She now plays with much more confidence and control and has grown tremendously in her

knowledge of the game. You can't say enough about how valuable she has been to the program. She's been a four-year starter, she is already the all-time assist leader in Behrend volleyball, and in my opinion she's the best setter in the conference. On top of all that, Amanda is an intelligent, caring, good person who is just going to be great at whatever she does after graduation."

The Lions returned to action at the Junker Center Tuesday night against the Buffalo State Bengals, eager to improve their record. They made quick work of the Bengals in three straight games: 30-19, 30-20, 30-17.

The Bengals fell in a hole that they could never climb out of. Down 14-4 they called a time out, which did little to stop the powerful Lions. Buffalo State never got within 10 points and lost 30-19. In the second game, the Lions roared again. Behrend held the lead for the entire match

and won 30-20, with Junior Lisa Wagner slamming five of her game high 11 kills. Behrend finished off Buffalo State in the third game 30-17. They relinquished the lead only once, falling behind 4-3 early on. They went on a 10-2 run and never looked back. With the win, Behrend improved to 8-6.

Many of the Lions contributed to the victory over the Bengals. Freshman defensive specialist Brittany Hennessy had 13 digs and three key service aces. Senior setter Amanda Evans played solid as usual. She accounted for 32 assists that went along with eight digs and seven kills. Junior outside hitter Lisa Wagner tallied 13 digs.

The Lions begin a road trip this weekend that includes the Lyscoming College tournament and then at Pitt-Bradford. Behrend returns home on September 29 when they will face Grove City.



Rob Frank/THE BEHREND BEACON

Freshman midfielder Lauren Sarnowski makes a move to get past an Allegheny defender in their loss this past week. The Lions take on Penn State Altoona in their next match this Saturday at 6 p.m.

Women's soccer team amidst preparations

By Raechul Bowser
staff writer

The women's soccer team is jam-packed with energy, enthusiasm and the hope that this season will lead to an advance to nationals. Though the season has only begun, the team is preparing for the AMCC (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference) battlefield with an overall record of 4-2-1.

A cloudy Saturday, September 17 marked another victory for the women's soccer team. The team traveled to Alliance, Ohio for a match against Mt. Union. With a score of 3-0, and an overall record of 4-1-1, the blue and white were victorious. Of the goals, the first two were scored in the first half by Holly Greiner and assisted by Kacie Burns and Michelle Newland. The second half of the game jump started with a goal completed by Kim Chapman and assisted by Lauren Sarnowski.

Head Coach, Patrick O'Driscoll stated, "We played quite well. We could have done better, but a win is always nice." O'Driscoll is proud that the team was just ranked number nine in the Great Lakes region. He adds, "We have a good squad across the boards."

Eleven of our finest lady Lions lined up for battle, opposite the Allegheny Gators, on the Behrend Fields, Thursday, September 22. Within the first twenty minutes, Nikki Frisbee scored a goal assisted by Heather Crawford. In the remainder of the first half, Allegheny scored three goals. "We gave up a few goals that were preventable," states O'Driscoll. In the second half, however, the Lion defense stopped the Gators from scoring again. Freshman midfielder, Brittany Tonio states, "I think we played better in the second half but we still could've played better overall."

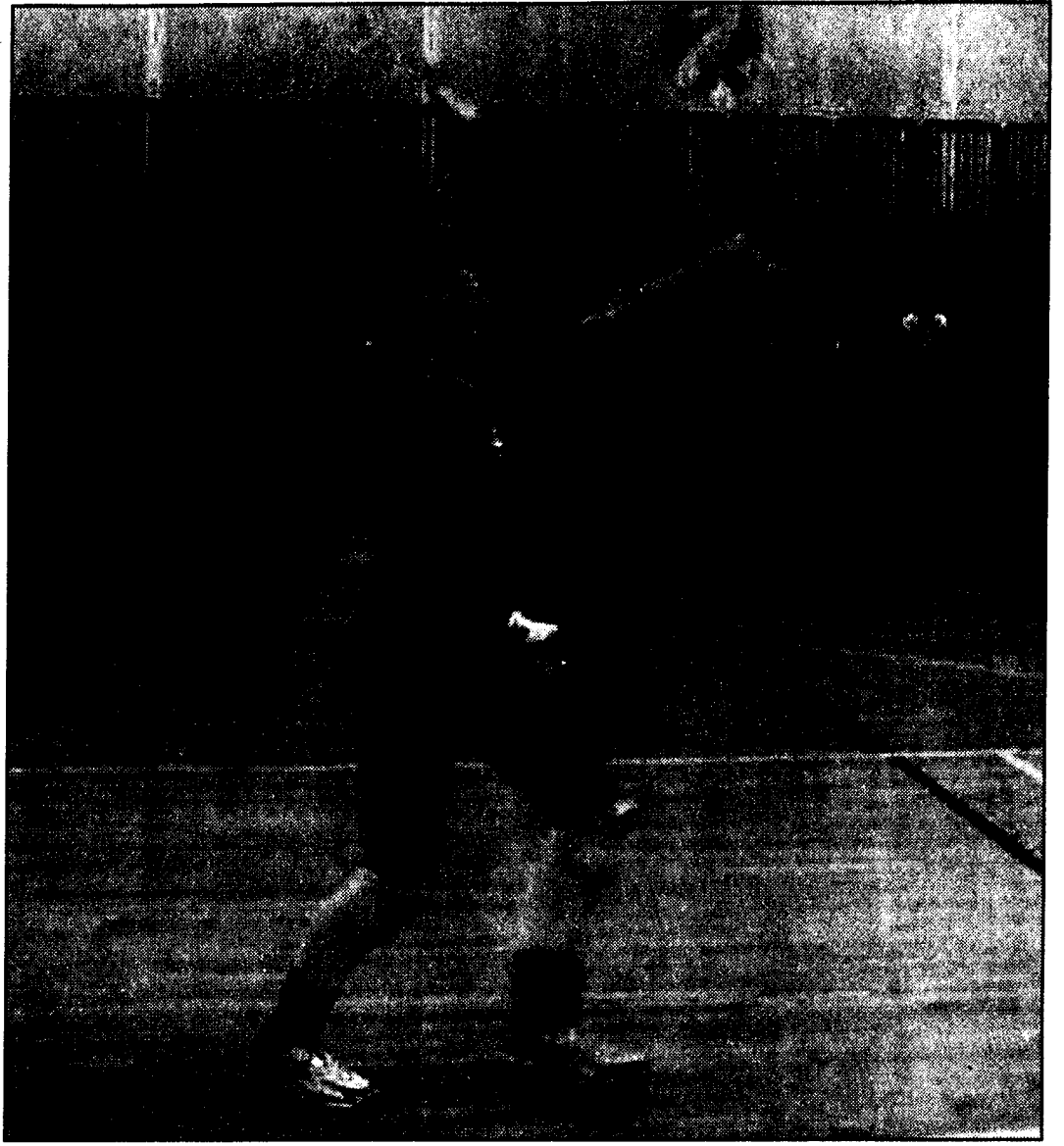
Though this non-conference game resulted in a 3-1 loss for Behrend, O'Driscoll is optimistic. He states, "It is never pleasant to lose. This shows we have some things to work on, but that's a good way to learn." The women's soccer team has been runners-up for the AMCC title for the past three seasons. From coming so close, the Lions are working towards that title with full force. Tonio states, "We still need to work on certain things, but that doesn't hurt our momentum."

The Gators also had positive comments. Midfielder, Kelsey Boivin states, "We were pretty evenly matched." Goalkeeper, Beth Van Parys agreed, "It was a well fought game."

This season's squad is comprised of an array of ages, including ten freshmen. O'Driscoll is secure with the squad's chance of victory. He said, "We have six solid seniors and good younger players as well so there's good competition to get out on the field. They mix together well, work hard at practice and focus on their goals."

Junior goalkeeper, Dara Nielson, has proven to be a great element to the team. She has qualified as AMCC and ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) Div. III Mid-Atlantic Region Goalkeeper of the Week for the second week in a row. Nielson made twelve saves in 200 minutes of play against Carnegie Mellon on Tuesday, September 13. In the September 22 match, O'Driscoll was proud of Nielson's effort. He said, "She made some great saves!"

The next game is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 24 at Penn State Altoona. This is the first conference match of the season. O'Driscoll hopes that "[the team] will win conference and go on to nationals. Nationals will provide a good experience for the team."



Tiffany Mak/THE BEHREND BEACON

Junior outside hitter Lisa Wagner gets ready to attempt an overhead serve. Wagner and the rest of the Lions' squad is getting ready to travel to the Lyscoming College Tournament this weekend.

Men's water polo rises above challenges

By Heidi Weismiller
staff writer

Penn State Behrend men's water polo team took three unfortunate losses this past week in the pool. "We have a fairly young team," said head coach Joe Tristan, who pointed out that only one senior will graduate this spring.

On Saturday the seventeenth they left Slippery Rock University with a 15-5 loss. "This was our starting point for the next few games," said Tristan. He attributes his team's loss to a few very critical errors. "It could have been a close game," he said. All five Behrend goals were scored by sophomore Anthony Spoto. Behrend goalies had a very productive game with junior Leandro Azevedo saving five shots by the Rock and sophomore Connor Powers saving six.

So far this season the men's water polo team has played 11 games. Tristan feels that his players are beginning to come together and work well. "We started to play very well as a team," he said. He feels that "when we play them later, we will have a much better game."

Just one day later, Behrend lost to Washington and Jefferson on the road in a very competitive game. "It was an interesting game," said Tristan. Behrend had a strong 4-2 lead in the game in the first quarter. In the second quarter, however, three of Behrend's starters were ejected from the pool for having too many personal fouls. "We

lost our number one shooter and two top defenders for the rest of the game," said Tristan. As a coach, Tristan is proud of his team for rising above the challenge presented. "We were still able to come back and score seven more goals," he said. Both goalies had some good saves throughout the game: Powers with 11 and Azevedo with six. Goals were scored by Andre Prankevicius who had six, Spoto, Steve Schleicher, Rody Acelor, Roy Cho and Mike Hughes. "Overall we played well as a team," said Tristan.

On Wednesday, Behrend was inched out by Gannon University in a 12-10 loss. "This was one of our best games as a team," said Tristan. The score was close throughout the game and was tied in the last two minutes. "It was one of the best team efforts I can ask for," said Tristan. Goals were scored by Justin Thoresen, two; Prankevicius, four; Acelor, two; Spoto and Cho. Once again, both goalies played well. Powers had four saves and Azevedo had seven. Tristan believes that the team did not capitalize on a few opportunities that could have turned the game around, but he was proud of his team and said, "It was a great game all around."

The men's water polo team has an important game coming up this week at home in the Junker Center Pool. They play on Saturday September 24 against Washington and Jefferson. The game will be played at 7 p.m.

Practice pays off for women's tennis

By John Bigus
staff writer

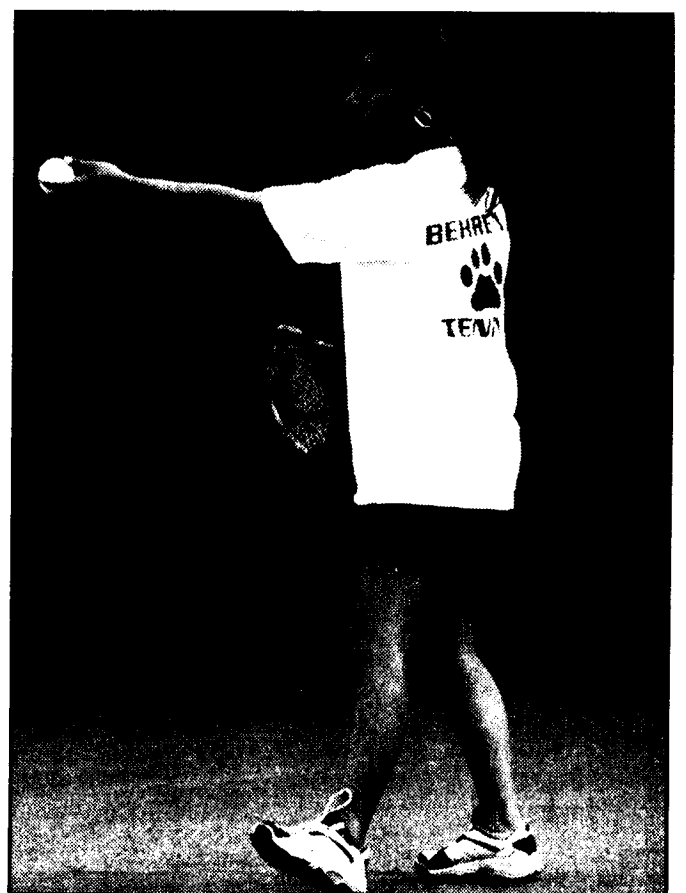
Penn State Behrend's Women's Tennis team was warming up before their match last Tuesday, September 20th before playing their ninth game of this season. Amy Frizzell, Women's co-Captain, projected victory in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC).

"I expect good things because we're already 6-2. We beat both conference teams 9-0. We only lost two players to graduation last May. We have good momentum." Last year saw the women's team win the 2004 championship after a season with a record of 14-3 and a conference record of 6-0.

Speaking about Tuesday's game against Fredonia Amy said, "We beat Fredonia last week 6-3, so I'm [going to] say we're not underestimating their abilities but we're going into the match pretty confident." Practice paid off when they won 5-4 with fans and friends standing in support around the courts and in the bleachers.

The Women's team played three matches in the last week, and will play three more back-to-back this weekend. They also played the the Behrend Invitational immediately before, on Saturday, September 10. Complimenting their effort has been stand-out Allison Mudrey, who was named AMCC women's tennis player of the week. She was also the 2004 AMCC Player of the Year, and she shows no sign of slowing down. She is a sophomore this year, and is majoring in business.

The team practices for two hours every day on at least three non-match days per week during the in-season. Weeks and weekends are dedicat-



Kathryn Carstater/THE BEHREND BEACON

Sahiba Warrich, women's tennis team, sets up for a serve.

ed to the sport, and they travel hundreds of miles constantly. The farthest they travel is Frostburg State is in western Maryland. Their 6-2 record has seen them play all competitors except John Carroll and Altoona.

This weekend, they are playing Westminster, Frostburg and Penn State Altoona in that order, one per day, from Friday, September 23rd through Sunday, September 25th. Be sure to catch your Women's tennis team at their next home game on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. All of their home games are played at the courts across from the Lilley Library.