

SPORTS

Men's soccer maintains winning ways

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than a minute to play. Their second win of the week came a little easier to the Lions, but they still played a competitive game. On Tuesday, Oct. 18 the Lions sent yet another team home with a loss. They beat Thiel College 2-0. The first goal was scored by Jamie Thomas with about 17 minutes left in the half. He was assisted by teammate Rob Milani. The second Behrend goal of the night came less than one minute later and that secured the win for the Lions. They forced Thiel to play defense most of the game, only allowing them a total of three shots on goal.

Behrend has only two more games left in the season and both are against conference teams. The Lions will travel to Mt. Aloysius on Oct. 22 and they will play at 3:00 pm. Then on Oct. 25 they will play at Medaille ending regular season play. The AMCC conference championships will begin on Oct. 29 and continue through Nov. 5. The location and times of the championships have yet to be announced, but all Penn State students are encouraged to come and support the men's soccer team.

The Behrend Men's soccer team has only one week left before the AMCC championships. After adding two more wins to their record this week, the Lions are confident that they will be ready to take on the challenges they will face in the playoffs.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, Behrend was at home against AMCC conference team Frostburg State. Although the game was evenly matched and both teams showed excellent skill, the lions sent Frostburg home with a 1-0 loss. Each team had 11 shots on goal and as the game came close to an end, many thought it would end in a tie. It was clear however, that Mark Cipriani wouldn't stand for a tie when he buried a pass from teammate Mancilli Loffreda into the net with less than six minutes left in the game. The game became intense in the last few minutes and Behrend player Dan Bash was ejected from the game with less

Lady Lions focused conference crown

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consented to a tie in double-overtime. Coach O'Driscoll believed that his team played "really well" against Frostburg. Although he categorized his team's play in the second half and overtime as dominating, he stated that they just "couldn't put the ball in the back of the net." However, O'Driscoll is confident in his team's play in their next matchup against Frostburg. "We

Your Penn State Women's Soccer team has been demolishing competitors all season and has yet to falter as the season draws to a close. The Frostburg Bobcats made the long trip to Penn State Erie last Saturday in what was the game of the season. Hungry for the conference title, Behrend entered the game against the Bobcats with fire in their heels and determination in their hearts.

Junior Kara Struski, a prominent player and a key reason to Behrend's success this season, believed that "the game against Frostburg was the biggest game of the year and the deciding factor on whether or not we would host the AMCC tournament."

Frostburg, who finished 8-1 in the conference last season, conquered our Lady Lions in 2004 with a score of 2-0. This year, Struski commented that the team prepared both "physically and mentally" during practices the week of the Frostburg showdown in hopes of protecting their home field. Struski's optimism in sending Frostburg "back to Maryland with nothing but a loss" wasn't fully achieved, however, as Behrend

"We are all on the same page with our style of play."

-Coach Pat O'Driscoll

definitely will do well the next time we play them, hopefully in the conference championship," said O'Driscoll.

The tie against Frostburg means that Behrend is currently the second seed in the conference, hav-



Rob Frank/ THE BEHREND BEACON

Junior D.J. Craven maneuvers around a defender from Thiel. Behrend defeated Thiel 2-0 to increase their record to 11-3. Jamie Thomas scored for the Lions. There also was an own goal.

ing tied twice in contests against Pitt-Greensburg and Frostburg. Frostburg's first and only tie this season was to Behrend. O'Driscoll stated that the team's two ties were a disappointment. "We felt that we were a better team in both games," said O'Driscoll.

Frostburg now possesses a conference record of 6-0-1, while Behrend holds an equally impressive record of 7-0-2. Behrend improved their record to seven wins as they defeated Thiel College in action on Thursday.

Although a non-conference game, Behrend demolished Thiel 5-0. With only one senior and one junior on the team, the Thiel Tomcats are still on the prowl for their first victory off the season. Last September, Behrend also found little trouble in shutting out Thiel, winning the game 2-0. In that match up, Senior Michelle Newland dominated play, scoring both goals.

However, both Behrend and Frostburg have two conference games remaining, leaving the door

wide open for a clear champion. Frostburg St remains the only team capable of standing in Behrend's path to the conference championship O'Driscoll, in only his second season as head coach, has yet again led his team in an impressive season jam-packed with victories. However, O'Driscoll and his team aren't finished yet. The lady lions nonetheless have their eyes on the prize of the conference championship.

O'Driscoll believes that his team has greatly progressed over the season. "We are all on the same page with our style of play," said O'Driscoll. Hopefully the Lady Lions will perfect this style the next weeks, bringing home a championship to the campus and community of Penn State Erie.

Be sure to wish the girls good luck as they travel from Behrend to Mt. Aloysius and Medaille next week, protecting their unbeaten record.

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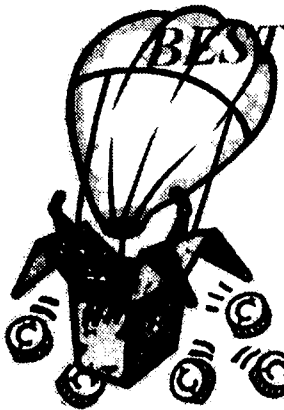
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Sports information makes magic happen

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Imagine a world (or Behrend athletic department) that looked something like the following: a basketball game without an announcer, which would eliminate the starting lineups and play-by-play action; a track team that didn't have a media guide made for them, which would prevent anyone from knowing anything about this elite group of runners; or a volleyball game without the scorekeeper, which would make the referees have to keep a mental note of the score in a fast-paced game while simultaneously making calls during this frenzied state. Also, think of when you walk into the Junker Center and grab a game program out of that wooden podium. What if the programs weren't in the podium?

Can't imagine that world? Me neither. That's why we've got to thank our lucky stars for the people in sports information department who make the behind-the-scenes of Behrend athletics happen. Some of the behind-the-scenes actions include updating Behrend athletic websites, distributing press releases, calling other athletic departments, reporting scores to the local media outlets and creating media guides. Media guides are those colorful pamphlets that are made for each Behrend men's and women's athletic team, which give a brief biography of each player and coach and also give an overall summary of the team.

Paul Benim is the director of the Sports Information Department, or the "SID" as it is commonly called. Benim has served as the head of the SID for over 11 years now.

"Sports information is an exciting field," Benim said. "Every day has a new twist. It is enjoyable to assist in getting a student-athlete's name in the paper or to promote their accomplishments."

Behrend's volleyball coach, Phil Pisano, is the assistant SID director. The SID also has a new graduate assistant, Corey Steadman. Steadman hails from the Rochester, NY area and is at Behrend in place of former assistant graduate student and track sprint coach, Keith Ceroni, who now serves in Allegheny College's SID.

"I am fortunate this year to have both Phil and Corey's assistance," Benim said. "These two guys are doing great work for our athletes and teams. I am very appreciative of their efforts."

Behrend's SID has undergone a major metamorphosis in the last couple of years. They have grown from covering 10 sports to 21,

from having zero webpages to possessing the largest body of webpages here at Behrend, and from having zero media guides to having 14 last year. Also, the fact that Behrend joined the AMCC in 1997 and that the NCAA now requires a Statcrew computer program to be used during home events has posed quite the challenge for the SID crew because of all the collaboration that needs to take place.

However, the SID has responded to the changes remarkably well despite Benim's struggle to balance being the head baseball coach and SID director, Pisano's balance of volleyball coach and SID assistant and Steadman's balance of graduate classes and SID assistant.

Behrend's sports information department also requires the help of several work study students who do office work and run a majority of the Behrend athletic events. You might have seen some of these students sitting at the big table by the player benches, especially at home basketball, soccer and volleyball games. Duties of the work study students can range from something fairly intense such as running the scoreboard, shot clock or the scorebook to something as simple as playing the National Anthem CD before games start.

Work study employees have the daunting task of trying to keep the rules straight for all the different sporting events they work at. This can get quite confusing at times if you're not thinking straight, daydreaming a little bit, or have had a long day. In general, if you have work study and love the college athletic scene, then a sports information department position is for you.

"I love getting to watch all the sporting events while being paid for it, especially since a lot of my friends play on the teams," said work study student, Paul Henry.

Another option is out there if you love sports and are a communications major in your seventh semester standing, you can complete an internship with the SID for college credit. Only 120 hours are needed to obtain the full three credits. The internship must be approved by the head of the communications department, Dr. Cathy Mester. Once approval is met, then you can register for your internship on eLion. The internship consists of a flexible schedule with a combination of office work as well as game day duties. The internship, along with the work study SID position, looks great on a resume.

The SID has been taken for granted. This is only natural. Try to keep in mind that a lot of hard work goes into game preparation that isn't seen. The athletes aren't the only ones demonstrating their sports capabilities.