

SPORTS

Lady Lions Soccer on the prowl for ECAC Title and finishing touch

By Kelly Houghton
staff writer
November 11, 2005

The ECAC title is up for grabs this weekend, and the Behrend Women's Soccer Team is ready to capture it as they go in to the tournament ranked number one. Behrend battled with Frostburg for the AMCC Championship last Saturday for the second straight year. The team entered the championship ranked number two in the conference but played with the heart and determination of a number-one team. The Lady Lions fell 4-3 in the penalty kick shootout, which determined the final of the scoreless 110 minute regulation play. They lost to rival Frostburg, but the team remains hopeful going into the ECAC Tournament this weekend at their home field.

The women have had an overall winning season with a current record of 14-2-4 and have proven themselves to be fierce competitors in the 2005 season. With seven members recognized by the all-AMCC team, more than any other team in the conference, the Penn State Erie Lady Lions have more to be proud of than just their winning season. Stephanie Bowen and Michelle Newland have completed their four-year careers at Behrend with four straight all-conference selections, and junior Dara Nielsen joined them on the all-conference first team. Senior Holly Greiner, junior Kara Struski and freshman Nikki Frisbee earned second team hon-

ors. Seniors Kacie Burns and Heather Crawford received honorable-mention tributes.

The Lady Lions are the number one seed going into the ECAC Tournament at the Behrend Fields this weekend. They will play Franklin and Marshall or Gettysburg, based on the quarterfinal winner of Wednesday's game. The games will take place on the Behrend Fields on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 11 am and 2 p.m., and the two finalists will fight for the championship on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 1 p.m.

The Penn State Erie Women's Soccer Team has appeared in the ECAC Tournament four times and is looking to secure the championship this year. With the leadership of head coach Patrick O' Driscoll, the ladies feel that their goal of the ECAC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sophomore Emily Rogan boots the ball down field after a tough defensive stop last week.

Driscoll is definitely within their reach. Coach O' Driscoll was named AMCC coach of the year this past weekend and he is confident going into the semi-finals of the ECAC on Saturday.

"I definitely think that we can win this tournament. I will be traveling to Gettysburg to watch the teams play, so we will have that advantage going into our game Saturday. We have to perform like we have been all season, and we will clinch this championship. We have the home field advantage, and all our fans, friends and family will be there to cheer us on. It's going to be a great weekend," says O' Driscoll.

Senior forward and leading goal scorer Holly Greiner will be one to watch in the tournament.

The Lions will be seeing a lot of action from this strong footed powerhouse who currently holds the

school record for most career goals. Greiner has 43 career goals, after breaking the previous record of 35 goals on Oct 11 in the game against Pitt-Bradford. Greiner is one of six seniors who will lace up their cleats for the last time of their college career and step on the Behrend fields this weekend.

"This year our team has had the best team unity that I have experienced in my four years of playing here, and I am proud to be part of this team," said Greiner. Coach O' Driscoll says he has already

"This year our team has had the best team unity that I have experienced in my four years of playing here."

-Holly Greiner

started recruiting for next season to replace the strength and experience of the graduating seniors.

"I will be missing these seniors next year; they are a great group of young women. I am looking forward for the other players to step up, they are all good players. The seniors

are lucky to host these last games of their career at their home fields. It will be a good weekend to end their season and careers with," says O' Driscoll. Stop by the fields this weekend for some exciting soccer action, and cheer on your Lady Lions to an ECAC championship win.

Men's and women's diving team off to great start

By Matt Brendle
staff writer
November 11, 2005

The diving team of Behrend's men and women's swim team is having a great season. They took first place against Buffalo State, which was followed by a successful "Blue and White" meet, where Behrend's swim team split up into two teams and competed against each other for friendly competition. At their latest meet against Fredonia State on the Nov 9, Alejandro Nieto took first place, scoring a win for men's diving.

The men and women's teams are both coached by Gordon 'Gordy' Schmidt. The men's diving team, led so far this season by Dan Wiltrout and Alejandro Nieto, are looking to build up from last year, improve and refine their techniques and keep getting wins. The women's team is comprised of two freshmen, Suzette Noel and Kapeka Galazia, who are working on building a solid base after last year's only female diver, Cathrine Franklin, graduated.

Cathrine holds the Behrend record for "Women's Top One Meter Diving Score."

Wiltrout stated, "Things are looking really good. Alex and I are looking to improve on our stuff, and [we] are improving very quickly and should definitely prove to be an asset to the Penn State Behrend Diving team." Dan has two years of previous diving experience under his belt from high school. Alejandro has no previous background, but for him, diving has come naturally as Dan mentioned when asked about Alejandro's performance. Kapeka is a gymnast, which will help her with the flips and twists of competitive diving. Suzette has no prior background with diving.

The divers have expressed an interest in wanting to somehow raise money or find space on the swim budget for better practice equipment, such as a special trampoline with a belt and pulley system. This would allow

them to practice more difficult dives and also increase the accuracy of their current dives. "Smacking face" on the water can be painful and disorienting, not to mention discouraging from pursuing a harder dive. These trampolines would help boost the confidence and comfort of the divers, which would reflect in higher scores. Practicing different dives without fear of "smacking face" would also allow more focus on technique, which is one of the bigger focal points of this year's practices.

With only two or three available practice times a week, each one has to be intense. The shortage in time is due to the fact that the pool is used for so many other purposes. Divers must work around the water polo and swim team practices, as well as other classes such as scuba diving and kayaking. This, along with the class schedules of the divers, creates a lot of conflicts, which results in a low amount of practice compared to all the meets they need to compete in.

With more meets waiting to be won this season, the next being against St. Vincent on Nov. 12, the diving team is in prime condition for the challenges ahead and always working hard. Expect dazzling twists and tight tucks in the air followed by beautiful low-splash entries from Behrend's men and women divers.

"Things are looking really good... [we] are improving very quickly and should definitely prove to be an asset to the Penn State Behrend Diving team."

- Dan Wiltrout

Behrend men set for their first televised game this season

By Matt Burneisen
staff writer
January 27, 2006

The Behrend men's basketball team is playing their first televised game of the season this week. On Friday Jan. 27, they will take on rival Frostburg State at the Junker Center. Image sports will be broadcasting the game live at 5:45 p.m., with coverage beginning with the women's coaches' commentary. The Men's game will begin at 8 p.m. on channel 12 for Adelphia subscribers and on channel 20 for Time Warner Cable.

Hot off a 75-44 win over Hilbert at home on Tuesday night, the Blue and White should be ready to take on the Bobcats. Kevin Buczynski led the team with 22 points and 8 rebounds, while Senior Justin Jennings had a season high 4 steals in the match up; he is a 5-10 Guard in his senior year. Freshman Tom Newman and Sophomore Ben Gasbbarre, averaging 4.0 and 3.9 points per game respectively, will also start. J.J. Ferguson added 15.6 points per game averaging 65% and is a 6-4 senior from Clarion Limestone.

After the weekend of play, Penn State Erie remains in second place behind Lake Erie College. However, they are only one game behind Lake Erie. With a two game winning streak, they should continue winning into the weekend. Frostburg State Senior Dan Ryley was a Division III leader in his last game with 9.3 rebounds and helped lead his team to a 107-83 win in their last game. A strong teammate Marcus McIntyre matched Ryley also recording a double-double in that game.

Following the Frostburg game on Friday, Penn State Erie will take on the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats at 6 p.m. in the Junker Center. The last time they met in Greensburg, Penn State Erie lost in a close 68-65 game. Daniel Waajid recorded 12 rebounds in that game, leading his team. More recently, Duke Cooper led the Bobcats with 22 points and six assists in their last victory. Daniel Waajid led the game with 11 rebounds and contributed greatly to the Bobcat victory.

Next Tuesday night, Behrend will host Medaille for their final regular season game of the season. In the most

recent game between Penn State Erie and Medaille, Penn State posted a 69-29 victory. J.J. Ferguson scored 19 points, and Kevin Buczynski scored 10 points. The 6-7 sophomore also led the team with nine rebounds, eight of them on defense, and two blocked shots. Medaille is a strong team, and like all teams in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference is respected by head Coach Dave Niland.



Jeremy Korwek / THE BEHREND BEACON

Freshman guard Tom Newman shoots over a defender in last game. Newman helps the Lions with four points per game

Penn State football continues to win games



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Head Coach Joe Paterno eagerly looks on as his Penn State football team embarks on their weekly battle.

By Matt Davidson
contributing writer
November 4, 2005

Penn State football, what can I say? Just when all was lost we get a super senior along with some super freshman to boost our roster and take us to the number one spot in the Big Ten.

Northwestern check, Minnesota check, Ohio State check, Michigan...well let's get this out of the way. If we couldn't keep them from getting into the end zone from 50 yards away in less than 40 seconds, then we didn't deserve to win the football game. It doesn't matter whether

the two seconds was fair or not, the fact is if our defense was so good, and if they wanted to win, then we should've stopped them.

The last time Penn State was this awesome, or even ranked for the matter, was 1999 when we had the talents of Lavar Arrington and Courtney Brown on the team. Keep in mind these two were gone the next year. This team's offense is centered on four - that's right four - freshman wide-outs that have all consistently played at a level higher than any Penn State receiver I've seen. The only Penn State receiver that was drafted I can remember Bryant Johnson, and he's somewhere around third or fourth on the depth chart of the Arizona Cardinals and he in no way produced like any of these players.

An even more important factor is our rushing game. The amazing thing is that 10 of 21 of our rushing touchdowns have come from our quarterback, Tony Hunt. He leads in yards on the team with 807, compared to other running backs around the league may be modest, but considering he averages 6.2 yards per carry puts him among the elite of any runningback in college football or football in general. Some credit has to be given to the offensive line - actually a lot of credit has to be given to the offensive line. There are only

three players on the team that haven't gotten at least four yards per carry. Seeing as though you only need three yards on every carry to guarantee a touchdown on a drive that's pretty good.

Now the defense, excluding the Michigan game, is the best in college football as far as I'm concerned. Now, I also said that Penn State was the best defense in college football last year, but this year the offense occasionally gives them a break by keeping them off the field. This seems to have made all the difference for players such as Paul Posluszny, Calvin Lowry, Dan Connor, Tamba Hali, Alan Zamaitis, and Scott Paxson. Posluszny has been particularly effective being nominated to the semifinals for Munger, Bednarik, and Butkus awards. I expect to see another NFL draft record for Penn State players in the future on what looks like defense alone.

Some people may say "What about Penn State's future?" Michael Robinson is already a super senior and he is obviously a critical part of this offense. Well, Anthony Morelli was the number two recruit in the nation going into the 2004 season and he might not be too bad. We can't expect him to be able to get 10 rushing touchdowns, but once these freshmen receivers are more disciplined I expect to see the kind of West Coast offense that Penn State has never had. There is a reason why Morelli was put in to throw some Hail Marys during his freshman season.

I have a question for those of you who had the nerve to doubt Joe Paterno: How does it feel to be wrong?

Last Week's Sports Trivia 101 Answer

Pittsburgh Penguin Sidney Crosby is the youngest player in the NHL to have amassed 100 points in his rookie season. What NHL player holds the record for most points in his rookie season?

Answer: The NHL Player that holds the record for most points in his rookie season is Teemu Selanne with 132 Winnipeg Jets. (Answered by Andy McLachlan, Dan Thiessen, and Jeff Wemmell).