

Lacrosse team remains optimistic

By Matt Waronker
staff writer

Entering their eight season of official play, the Penn State Behrend men's lacrosse club has high expectations for the upcoming season. With over a dozen incoming freshmen to fill the roster, the returning starters are optimistic about the team's potential.

"I'm excited to see all the new freshmen that we have this year come together," said junior captain Matt Ogdon. "We have great potential this year to build on, and to surpass last year's success."

Last spring, the team went 3-4 in their conference, and 4-4 overall, coming just shy of reaching the playoffs for the very first time in the club's young history. This season appears to have the same potential.

"We've shown glimpses of potential in years prior, but last year was the first year it came together and we're looking to build off of that," commented senior captain A.J. Hopperstead. "This season we have tremendous depth for a young team, and I believe we have the ability to win our section and make the playoffs for the first time in Behrend lacrosse history."

To reach the playoffs, however, the team must first face a difficult

Empire West conference. Comprised of six other squads, including Buffalo State, Canisius, Fredonia, Niagara, Rochester Institute of Technology and St. Bonaventure, the Empire West could prove to be yet another meter stick for the growth of a young Behrend team.

"Ultimately, if all of our individual talent can be molded together and made into a team," noted senior club President Eric Marker, "then I think we can and will be

very dominant in our section."

Marker, has expectations for the club's performance off the field as well.

"On the field I would like to have a unified team, not individuals; however, off of the field I want to have more than a team; I want a family. I want the team to build relationships that can be carried onto the field. I want the guys to be able to trust one another on and off the field, and I would like our team to become more involved with on campus activities so we can build a positive stigma for ourselves," said Marker.

"We have great potential this year to build on, and to surpass last year's success."
~ Matt Ogdon

the club is still a long way from reaching varsity status due to lack of funding and proper facilities, among other things

"We are not varsity, so nothing will be handed to us," said Marker. "Although as a club we are on a great path of growth and success we as a club also need to let the administration and student body know that they should pay more attention to us."

Although more funding may be difficult to get, the club has little trouble eliciting support from the

student body.

"The students support us 110 percent," says Hopperstead. "I think the students may notice us more than they do some varsity sports," added Ogdon.

The team begins their fall schedule by hosting a fall "play-day" tournament on October 28. The team will face Niagara at 2 p.m. and Fredonia at 4 p.m. The tournament will be held at the Behrend Fields.

Soccer sets high sights

By Heather Heenan
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend men's soccer team is going in full swing and is looking for a win at the AMCC playoffs. The team has been looking forward to a stellar season for the last month. Coach Dan Perritano is very pleased with the talent and improvements on the team. The Lions lost their first game this season, which was on September 8 at Fredonia State, where they played Hiram. The last games are in November at the AMCC playoffs.

Perritano is the head coach this year. He has been coaching for 20 years and has been a coach at Behrend for 14 years. "The best part of coaching is the improvement of players throughout the season, watching a player become a senior, and the process of winning games," says Coach Perritano.

Perritano believes, "All the players are important to the game of soccer." He also thrives on players achieving all that they can in one season, being healthy, winning games as a team, having good team ethics, support one another as teammates, and players learning from their mistakes and improving.

Practice started long before August. Players had a summer regiment that they had to work at in the summer. But once August came, the players had to be ready for long and strenuous practices. A general practice is two hours long, usually from four to six. Practice would consist of working on what to do better in a game and; trying to fix the players' weaknesses on the field so it doesn't affect the team during a game.

Some of the teams they play this year are; Fredonia, Mt. Aloysius, Frostburg, Hilbert, Pitt-Greensburg, Chatham, Penn State Altoona, Medaille, La Roche, Pitt-Bradford and Lake Erie. The biggest competitors for Behrend this year as is always in the past are; Medaille, Penn State Altoona and Frostburg.

The key players this year are Sean Ruhlman, Keith DeNinno, and David Baleno. There are seventeen new recruits for the Lions. The seniors this season are Sean Ruhlman, D.J. Craven, and Josh Serafini. The captains this season are; Ruhlman, Serafini, and Baleno. The returning players are Ahmad Salim, Ruhlman, Chris Ream, Baleno, Marcus Taylor, Josh Serafini, DeNinno, Matt Dufford and Craven.

"We should expect the Lions to play best for the playoffs," says Perritano.

The Lions started the season with a 1-5 start and are currently hoping to improve to a 7-7-2 season.

There are three upcoming dual meets left in the season. The next match is home on October 18 against Hilbert. The following match is also home, against Penn State Altoona on October 21. The last dual meet is away at Case Western Reserve on October 24. On October 28, the AMCC Championships begin and they run through November 4. On November 8, there is the NCAA/ECAC Tournament.

Support the Lions on the final two dual meets at home.

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Allison Mudrey
SPORT: Women's Tennis
CLASS: Junior
DATE: October 16, 2006

Allison Mudrey (Hermitage/Hickory) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week.

Mudrey led the Behrend Lady Lions to their third straight AMCC Championship. Behrend held off Penn State Altoona by one point. This was the program's seventh title since the conference began in 1997.

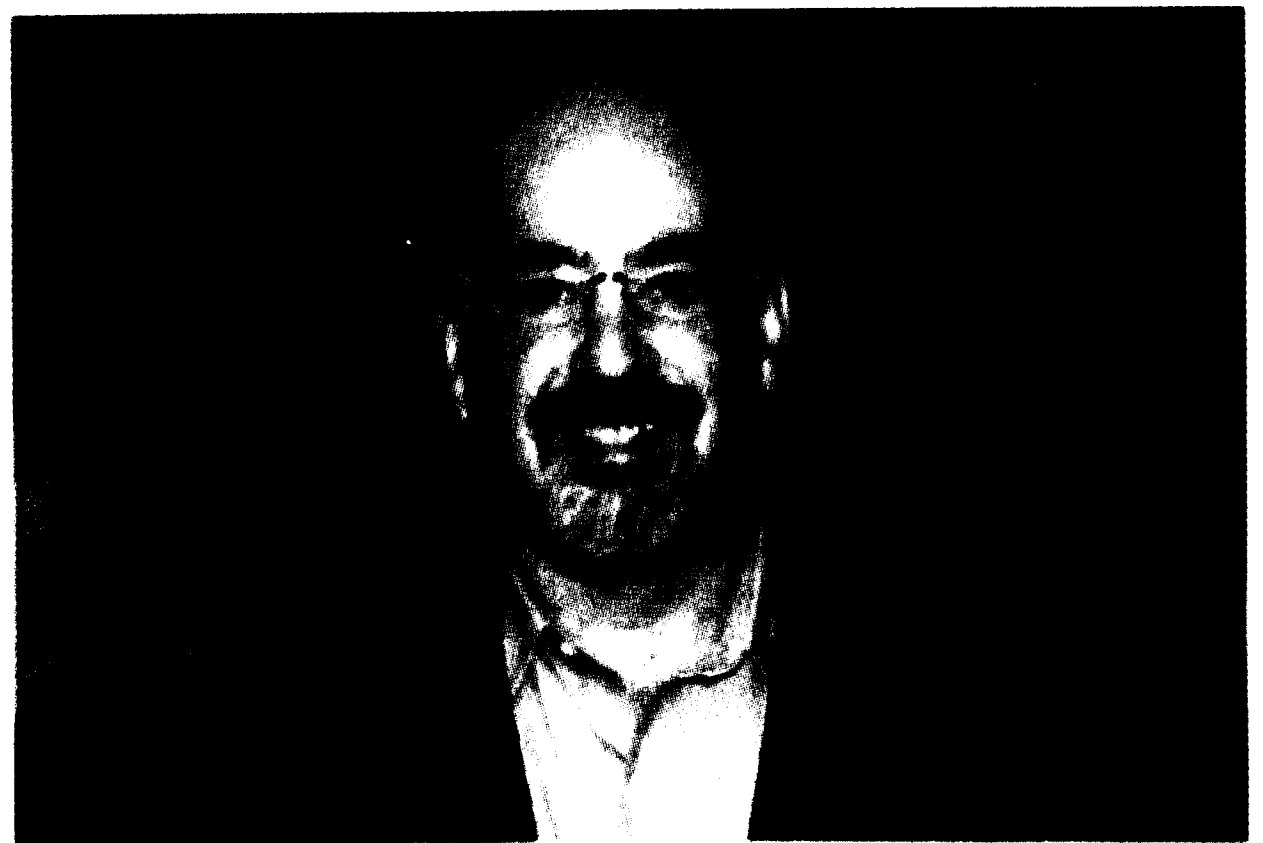
Leading the way for the women was Mudrey who won 6-1, 6-0 in the first match and 6-1, 6-0 again in match two to take home individual honors at #1 singles. Mudrey also teamed up with Mindy Calvert (Warren/Warren) to win #1 doubles 8-0, 8-5.

Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week is selected by the Sports Information Staff.

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