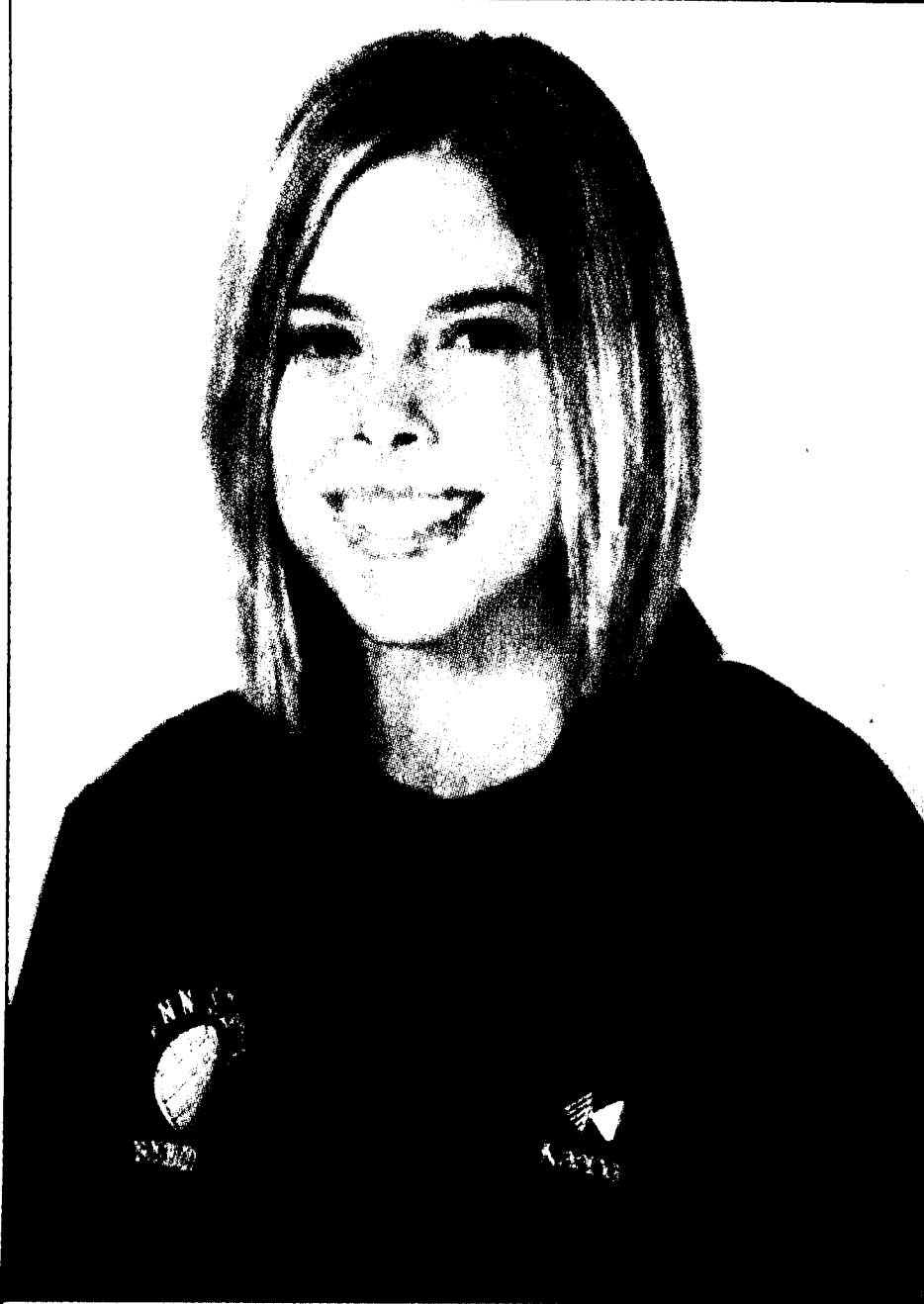


HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Karla Murray
SPORT: Women's Volleyball
CLASS: Senior
DATE: November 13, 2006

Karla Murray (North East/North East) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week.

Murray worked for 35 digs in three matches in this past weekend's Eastern College Athletic Conference Tournament. Behrend finished as the ECAC Runners-up going 3-1 on Friday and Saturday and won the 2006 AMCC Regular-Season Championship.

Murray led the Behrend Lions Volleyball squad to a school records for wins (29) and winning percentage (.879). The Behrend Lions also earned their first postseason wins ever in the ECAC Tournament. Penn State Behrend will lose five seniors from the 2006 team, as Murray, Paige Payer, Elaine Voltz, Lisa Wagner, and Katie Ward wrap up their careers by finishing with a 55-12 record the past two seasons.

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

Volleyball gets closer on season

By Matt Waronker
staff writer

Still reeling from a heartbreaking loss in the AMCC finals, the Penn State Behrend Women's volleyball team entered the ECAC Division III South Volleyball Championships looking to finish the season on a positive note. The tournament, which was hosted by New Jersey City University (NJCU), saw a second seeded Behrend team overcome the bitter taste of a lingering loss and reach yet another tournament finals match. The Lions carried a 27-3 overall record into the tournament and defeated Lebanon Valley and Westminster before falling to host NJCU in the championship match. Behrend began the tournament sluggishly, dropping their first game to Lebanon Valley 27-30.

"In our first game we were still nervous and a bit unsure of ourselves," said head coach Phil Pisano. "The Altoona game was still in our minds, but once we got past that first game we settled down and relaxed."

The Lions quickly evened the score with a decisive 30-21 victory in game two and closed out the match with wins in games three and four. Senior Elaine Voltz tallied a team high 19 kills while seniors Lisa Wagner and Karla Murray contributed 24 and 18 digs respectively.

"A big key for us against Lebanon Valley was for us to relax and realize that we need to just enjoy playing," said Pisano.

The victory over Lebanon Valley moved the Lions into the semifinals where they would face third seeded Westminster College. In this, the second meeting of the season between the two teams, the Lions fought a grueling defensive battle against a powerful Westminster team.

"They're a strong team, but we played well defensively," said Pisano. "We definitely out-worked them and were able to keep our rallies alive. I really feel our conditioning was the advantage in that match."

Although it took four tough games, Behrend managed to pull out a win against a strong Titans squad. Voltz recorded yet another outstanding performance, finishing with 25 kills and eight blocks. Leading the team's pivotal defensive effort was sophomore Brittany Hennessy, who tallied a season-high 31 digs.

In the championship match the Lions faced host and top seed NJCU. The Gothic Knights entered the match with an impressive 33-8 overall record and a much more impressive home winning streak of 32 matches. A key to the Knights dominance at home came from junior middle blocker Lizzelle Cintron. Cintron, the ECAC tournament MVP, tallied a tournament high 34 kills against Behrend. Cintron also became the all-time leader in kills in the history of the league and moved into seventh place in Division III history in career kills with 2,248.

"She was unstoppable," Pisano said of Cintron. "She's probably the best Division III player I've ever seen." After falling a game behind early on in the match, Behrend was forced to execute a conservative style of play.

"We just hoped to keep it close," said Pisano. "We tried to take advantage when she [Cintron] was in

the back and score as many easy points as we could."

After fighting back to even the match at one game apiece, Behrend struggled to overcome Cintron and the aggressive Gothic Knights. The Lions were defeated 30-28 in a close third game. Despite an offensive surge late in the fourth game, the Lions were unable to stop the Knights. New Jersey City University defeated Behrend three games to one to claim the championship. Behrend was once again led offensively by Voltz who posted a team high 17 kills. Senior Lisa Wagner contributed 11 kills while freshman Brooke Gallentine tallied an impressive 42 assists.

The Lions closed out their season with 29 wins, a Behrend school record. The team also earned their first ever postseason victory in the ECAC tournament. Despite losing five seniors, three of whom earned postseason AMCC honors, the Lions look forward to carrying their momentum over into next season.

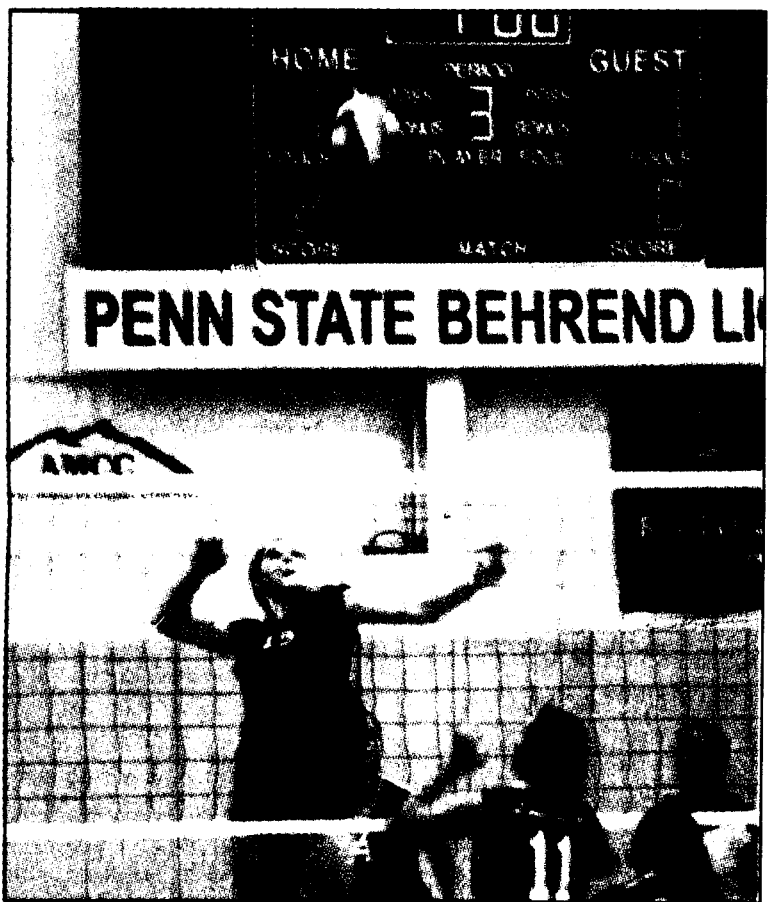
"Our spring season will be crucial," said Pisano. "It will be the first time we practice without the seniors so there will be an opportunity for others to step up and battle for the chance to make an impact".

The impact of the seniors, however, is not to be lost on Coach Pisano.

"These seniors have made this a stronger team with a stronger reputation than when they had taken over," said Pisano. "They helped this team progress into something great and I can only hope the younger players have learned a lot from them."

"Once we got past that first game we settled down and relaxed"

- Phil Pisano



Dan Mitchell / THE BEHREND BEACON
Freshman outside hitter Lorena Babbitt goes up for a kill in a recent match at the junker center.

Superlative soccer season ends

By Heather Heenan
staff writer

The Behrend women's soccer team ended their season last weekend at the NCAA tournament against top ranked Messiah. The Lions clawed to the end but lost the match by a final of 6-0. Despite this loss, the women had a very successful season, winning the AMCC Championship, earning a spot in the NCAA tournament and posting a record of 14-6-1.

Head coach Patrick O'Driscoll says the team had to work hard all year to achieve this success. "The girls played tough throughout the whole season. At the beginning of the year, the girls won some games and lost some, and then they started playing together and pulled to together to win the AMCC Championships and of course, move on to Nationals," he said.

Even though Messiah ended the women's season, O'Driscoll says he is happy for the opportunity to face such a premier team. "This was good experience for the Behrend Lions; they are not going to see a team like this in regular season. The loss to Messiah was a disappointment for the girls, but it was a great learning experience and something they will never forget for the rest of their lives. The girls should be proud for where they made it to thus far. It was a thrill and privilege to coach these talented girls." According to coach O'Driscoll.

Whitney Putnam had a great chance to put the Blue and White on the board first, but the Messiah goalie was equal to the task and denied her scoring chance. Messiah played hard in the first half, putting up three goals before the break. The strong attack continued in the second half as Messiah doubled their lead and shutout the Lady Lions. Freshman goalie Kayla Frost made a record 11 saves for Behrend, but it just wasn't enough in the losing effort.

Behrend will only lose one senior for next year in outside midfielder Kara Struski. After four years on the Behrend squad, Struski finishes as the school's all-time assists leader and helped lead the team to an AMCC championship title.

The Behrend women's soccer team had six members earn All-Conference honors for their efforts during the 2006 season. Earning All-Conference First-Team honors were Nikki Frisbee and Emily Rogan. All-Conference Second-Team honors went to Beth Manganaro and Frost. Earning All-Conference Honorable-Mention's were Putnam and Struski.

Next year's Lady Lions will benefit from returning most of this year's lineup. The lessons of this recently ended season will help the team repeat its success next year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Behrend goalie Kayla Frost makes a save in a recent game.

Unlimited Tanning

Until 2007 only \$29

In our Bronze Series Beds until December 31, 2006

4 West Penn 11330 N. 38th St.
 Buffalo Rd Pittsburgh Ave
 869-8825 314-0294
 Peach & Noodle Rd
 Arizona from the Hillbrook Mall

Designer Skin
 Coupon Code: 88
 www.sunyourbuns.com