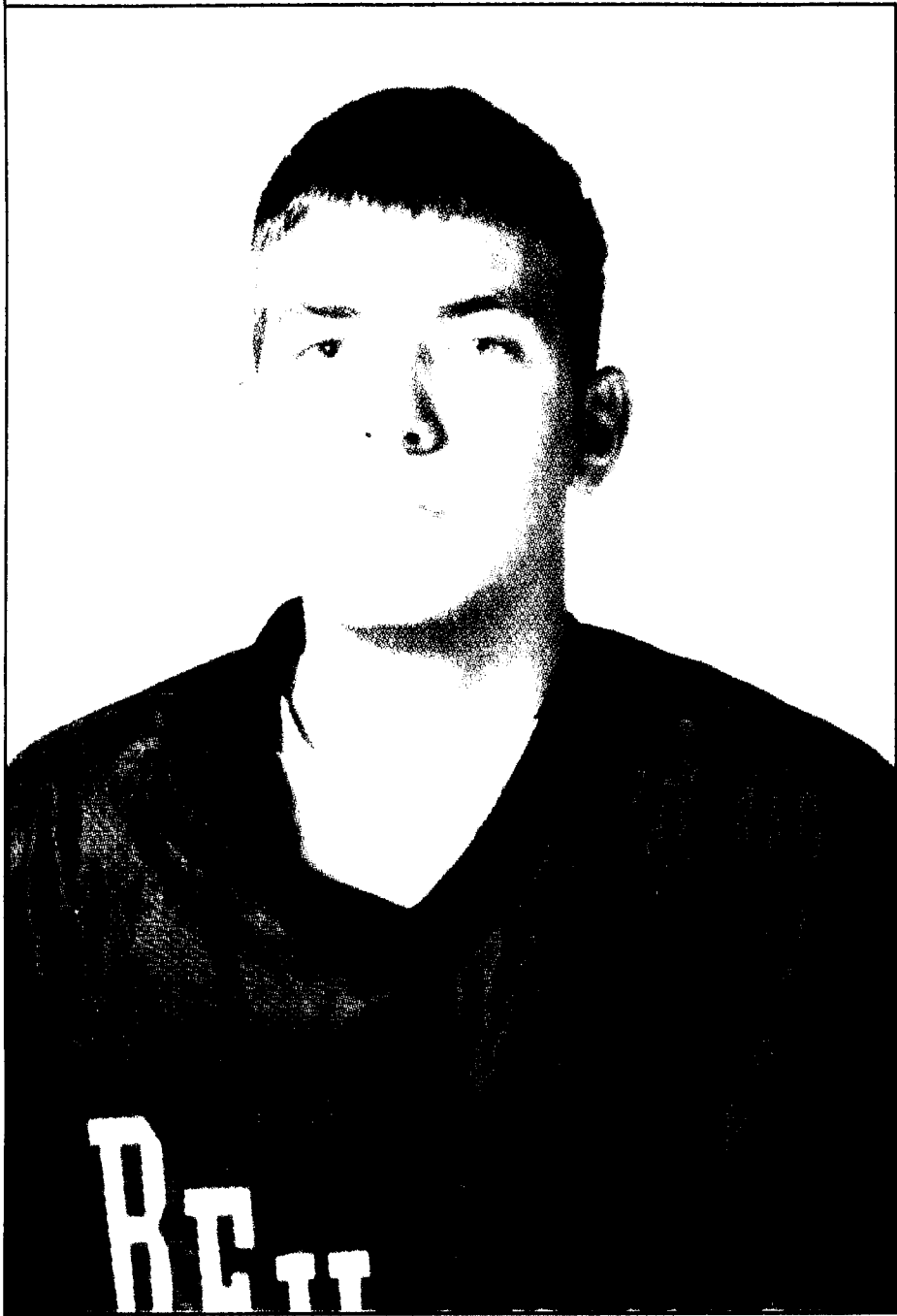


## HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Kevin Buczynski  
SPORT: Men's Basketball  
CLASS: Junior  
DATE: December 3, 2006

Kevin Buczynski (Erie/Villa Maria) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week.

Buczynski put together a pair of impressive performances last week, as the Behrend men started their conference schedule 2-0. Buczynski chalked up a game-high 23 points along with eight boards in a 14-point victory over Mt. Aloysius. He was 9-13 from the floor and 5-7 at the line in 22 minutes of action. Buczynski stepped up again three nights later when he led all scorers with a 26 point performance as Behrend disposed of Frostburg State, 69-56.

Buczynski leads the Behrend Lions in both scoring (17.8 ppg) and rebounding (6.6 rpg). The men will be in action in the Junker Center on Saturday, December 9, when they welcome the Pitt-Greensburg Bobcats at 8 p.m.

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

## Mens basketball gets off to an undefeated conference start

By Matt Waronker  
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Men's Basketball team is already experiencing success this season. After finishing second in their opening tournament, the team has jumped out to a 3-0 conference record.

The team opened its season with an impressive 65-50 win over Elmira College in the annual Behrend Tip-Off Tournament. Playing their trademark shutdown defense, the Lions held Elmira to 37% shooting and forced a staggering 22 turnovers. After leading by only two at the half, Behrend pulled away after the break, outscoring the Soaring Eagles 36-23 in the second half.

Junior center Kevin Buczynski, last season's AMCC Player of the Year, carried the offensive effort with 28 points, 12 rebounds, and a pair of blocks. Buczynski shot a near perfect 10-12 from the foul line. Also scoring double digits was sophomore guard Tom Newman who contributed 13 points.

Behrend's win over Elmira advanced them into the tournament championship game against Ohio Wesleyan. With a 96-31 win over D'Youville in the semifinals, Ohio Wesleyan presented few, if any weaknesses.

"They're an outstanding team in every way," Behrend head coach Dave Niland said of Ohio Wesleyan. "They have very few weaknesses and to compete with a team of that level is tough. They're very disciplined at both ends of the court."

After starting the game shooting a frigid 39% from the floor, the Lions found themselves behind quickly. The Blue and White only managed to put 22 points on the board by halftime and trailed 49-22 as they went to the locker room. Although Behrend showed a few signs of life in the second half, shooting 15 of 25 from the field, the Lions just couldn't handle the size of Ohio Wesleyan. The Battling Bishops dominated, out-rebounding Behrend 34-18, as well as holding all but one Lion below double digits in scoring. Freshman guard Justin Kovac contributed 10 points in the 84-64 losing effort. Buczynski and junior center Dan Zeigler were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

In a non-conference game against Allegheny College three days later, the Lions took an 11 point lead into halftime. The Lions came out flat in the second half, being outscored 35-23, and dropped the close decision 55-56.

In their first conference match-up of the season, Behrend defeated a tenacious Mount Aloysius team 73-59. Behrend blazed out of the gates with a 24-4 lead midway through the first half and appeared to be cruising to an easy win. Buczynski scored 16 of his teams 23 points in the first half and helped lead the Lions to a commanding 43-23 halftime lead. After the disappointing loss to Allegheny, the team knew no halftime lead was safe.

"At halftime we spoke about Mount Aloysius comeback ability and about how we needed to stay focused and take care of the ball," said Niland.

However, despite Niland's precautions, the team entered a second half that was hauntingly similar to that of the Allegheny game. Ignited by a string of turnovers and a few hot hands for Mount Aloysius, the Mounties surged back into the contest. With barely six minutes left to play, Mount Aloysius had cut Behrend's lead to two points.

"We turned the ball over and missed eight lay-ups," said Niland of Behrend's second half difficulties. "It was not from lack of effort, but the three point shot will keep people in games and they hit three's."

The Lions, however, would respond in the closing minutes of the game by going on a 16-4 run to claim their second win of the season.

Riding the momentum of the Mount Aloysius win, the Lions hit the road against conference foes Frostburg State and Hilbert, and pulled off two decisive victories in the process. The Blue and White calmly defeated Frostburg State 69-56. Buczynski led the team in scoring in both games with 26 points against the Bobcats and 12 points against Hilbert. The Lions manhandled the Hawks 59-39.

Behrend currently sits in second place in AMCC standings with a 4-2 overall record. The Lions are an undefeated 3-0 in conference play. The Lions continue in AMCC play, hosting conference rival Pitt-Greensburg this Saturday, December 9.



Dave Gahan drives to the hoop for the Behrend Lions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Senior Class Gift 2007 Committee is looking for Volunteers!

Almost every graduating class since 1861 has made a memorable and lasting gift to Penn State, showing their philanthropic support of the University.

You can participate in this great tradition!

Your participation will help make a difference here at Behrend.

Committee members collect gift proposals, and will help establish a list of three potential gifts for consideration that students will vote on as the 2007 Senior Class Gift.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the voting process.

This committee is not limited to seniors!



If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, contact Rebecca Grimaldi at 898-6367 or rcg12@psu.edu