

SPORTS

Swim team makes strides

By Jackie Schwabenbauer
contributing writer

The Penn State Behrend men and women's swimming and diving teams have entered into their seventh season of competition. Both teams are made up of a lot of new faces. This year they will welcome 29 rookies onto their teams. Head Coach, Jen Wallace will return for her fourth year. Wallace, a swimming alum of the University of Pittsburgh, joined Behrend as assistant coach in 2000. Also returning this year are assistant coaches Joe Tristan and Gordy Schmidt. This will be Tristan's fourth season and Schmidt's fifth at Behrend as assistant coaches. Wallace welcomes the return of both. "I am happy to have Joe and Gordy on our team. Joe brings a vast amount of experience to the sprinters and Gordy's love and knowledge of sports is unsurpassed" said Wallace. "I'm very proud of how we have been swimming, we have a lot of room for improvement but we just need to keep working hard."

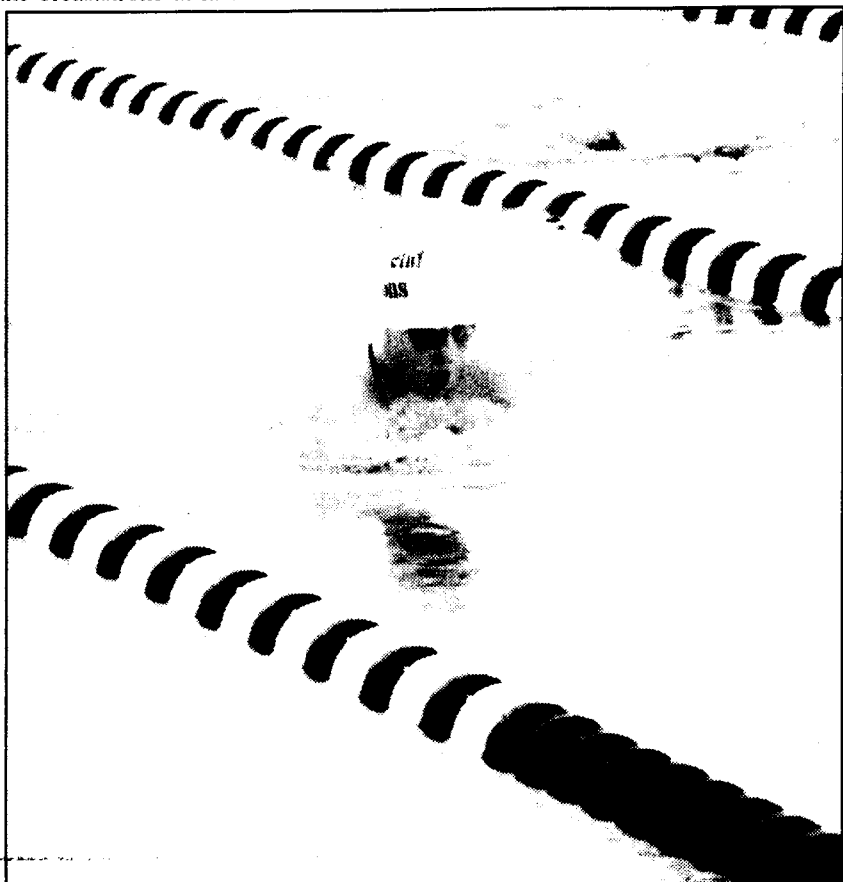
The women's team has only two returning swimmers this year, senior captain Leah Haller and junior Missy Pilewski. Last season Haller shined in many freestyle events. Pilewski placed 12th in the breaststroke at last season's ECAC's. She was the only member of the Behrend team to go to the competition. Pilewski and Haller will be seasoning a new class of 10 girls. Haller feels that having new members can be a great thing for the team. "We are having a very successful season this year and even though there are a majority of freshman swimmers, we are all very close like a family. The close relationships we have with each other allow us to get through the hard practices and have fun on our long trips to far-away meets," said Haller.

Two returning juniors, Anthony Spoto and Dustin Fairchild, represent the men's team. Spoto, the school record holder for the 100 meter freestyle, is expected to head to the ECAC Championship this season. Fairchild broke two records his freshman year, the 200 and 500-meter freestyle event. Together these two will guide a new group of 15 men. This season marks the first

time that swimming will be recognized as a conference sport. Pitt-Bradford, Penn State-Altoona and Frostburg State will all join Penn State Behrend in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) first swimming season. Coach Wallace looks forward to working with her team and has hope of bringing home the first AMCC trophy to Behrend. Haller says she also has faith in both teams. "I'm very excited about the teams swimming for AMCC. I am confident that we will place very well," said Haller. With this season bringing an AMCC championship meet to our pool the teams are training around the clock. "We still have our regular practices everyday, sometimes twice a day. Over Christmas break, we are traveling to Boca Raton, Florida to train and prepare," said Haller.

"I am very excited about our first ever AMCC championship meet. I know that both the men and women are going to give their all and will be a top team in the competition. We just need to practice hard from now till then and be at our best when the meet rolls around," said Wallace

You can catch the next meet in the Junker Center on January 13, at 1 p.m. against Edinboro.



Jenny LaFuria sets the pace in the 100 yard breaststroke earlier this season against Buffalo State

Dan Mitchell/THE BEHREND BEACON

Lady Lions basketball team finds success at beginning of season

By Jordan Gilmore and Dan Mitchell
sports editors

The Lady Lions were victorious in the opening round of the Behrend Tip-Off Tournament, dropping the Waynesburg College Yellow Jackets by a score of 67-43. The women took a 32-17 lead into halftime and never looked back, adding 35 points while holding Waynesburg to 26. Senior guard Brittney Mays went 7-13 from the floor for 14 points to lead the offense. Junior guard Julia Andrus added 11 and sophomore forward Victoria Innes dropped in 10. Junior forward Anne Preister led the team with eight boards.

In the championship game, the Blue and White weren't able to hold on to a nine-point halftime lead. Fredonia State put 38 points on the board in the second half and held the Lady Lions to 19 to take the championship with a 55-45 victory. Mays scored a double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds in the losing effort. Innes added 14 points and was perfect from beyond the arc.

The women traveled to Fredonia the following Saturday to avenge that loss. In the rematch the Lions held a slim lead at the break. At the end of regulation the score was all knotted up at 64. In the overtime period Behrend went on a 14-2 run to win the game 78-66. Mays posted 20 points and seven rebounds. Andrus led the team with four steals and added 18 points. Innes added a double-double with 11 points and 11 boards. Freshman guard Kayla O'Connor added 10 points.

Behrend opened AMCC play with an easy 81-40 home win over the Mt. Aloysius Mounties. Mays put up 18 points in only 22 minutes. "Brittney has an exceptional drive that she uses to push herself and the rest of the team. She is a tremendous leader on the team and has helped the freshman women make the transition into college basketball," said coach Roz Fornari. Freshman forward Jenn Emberg pitched in with 16 points and O'Connor dropped in 13 of her own.

Despite 19 points from Andrus, 16 from Innes and 11 from Mays, the Lady Lions were unable to stop Frostburg State in their next game. Behrend scored 38 points after going into the breakdown by one, but were unable to keep Frostburg from putting up 41. The Blue and White out-rebounded the Bobcats and held all but two of their players to less than 10 points but fell 66-62.

The women next traveled to Hilbert College on Wednesday to try and bounce back from the disappointing loss at Frostburg. In this game, the women held a 40-20 lead at the half and never looked back. Mays and O'Connor led the team with 11 points each. Sophomore guard Natalie Engel added 10 points and five rebounds. The Lady Lions rolled to a 67-35 victory over the Lady Hawks and improved their conference record to 2-1.

"We have been playing good basketball, we just need to keep improving. I am pleased with how our freshmen are contributing but we can't be content, we need to continue to improve but keep the consistency that we have been playing with," said Fornari.

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Intramural Weekly Update



Rob Wittman/INTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES

Jillian Pawlak, Jenna Hilbert, Michelle Yakelis and Julie Oggier celebrate the Herbets championship in 3v3 Basketball.

Recent Results:

3v3 Basketball finals took place Monday, November 20.

Burning Lumber won the men's competitive division. The team was made up of Garret Richardson, Dan Nelson and Ryan Smosna.

Eric Murillo, Mark DelGreco and Tony Muraco of the Steel City Souljahs topped the men's recreational division.

The women's division was won by the Herbets, also known as Jillian Pawlak, Jenna Herbert, Michelle Yakelis and Julie Oggier.

Deadlines:

The deadline for 5v5 Basketball is Friday, December 15.

Current Sports:

Balls Deep, Nattie Light, Shuttlecock 1 and Steel City lead the men's leagues. Chick Magnet 1, Willa and Shuttlecocks lead the coed divisions.



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