

## Swim team getting ready for the championship meet

By Jessica Carlson  
contributing writer

As the regular season concluded for the Penn State Behrend Swimming and Diving team, all participants now have their eyes set on the championship meet. On Wednesday, Feb. 6 the team departed for Grove City College to participate for the first time ever in the AMCC Championship Invitational. "This is the first opportunity for our swimmers and divers to be recognized by the conference in their efforts. It should be a fun and exciting meet," says head coach Jen Wallace.

The swimming and diving program at Behrend is fairly new to the athletic department. It began in 2001, and since then, the program has grown exceptionally. The 2006-07 season marked the largest incoming class in Behrend history by bringing in 29 new men and women to the team. With such a large incoming group, Wallace had high expectations of this season. Her hopes have been matched thus far with an improved regular season record of seven wins and four losses, as opposed to last year's 1-10. "They brought an enthusiasm and desire our program had been lacking in the past few years. It has been wonderful watching them grow and learn throughout the season," says Wallace.

Newcomers to the team are not the only ones making a splash in the pool.

The returning athletes for the women's side are senior captain Leah Haller and junior Missy Pilewski. Last year, Pilewski made a mark in Behrend swimming history by becoming the first female to qualify for ECAC's where she

placed 12th in the breaststroke. Returning swimmers for the men are juniors Dustin Fairchild and Anthony Spoto. Fairchild holds the record for the 200-yard, 500-yard and 1650-yard freestyle events, while Spoto holds the 100-yard freestyle event record.

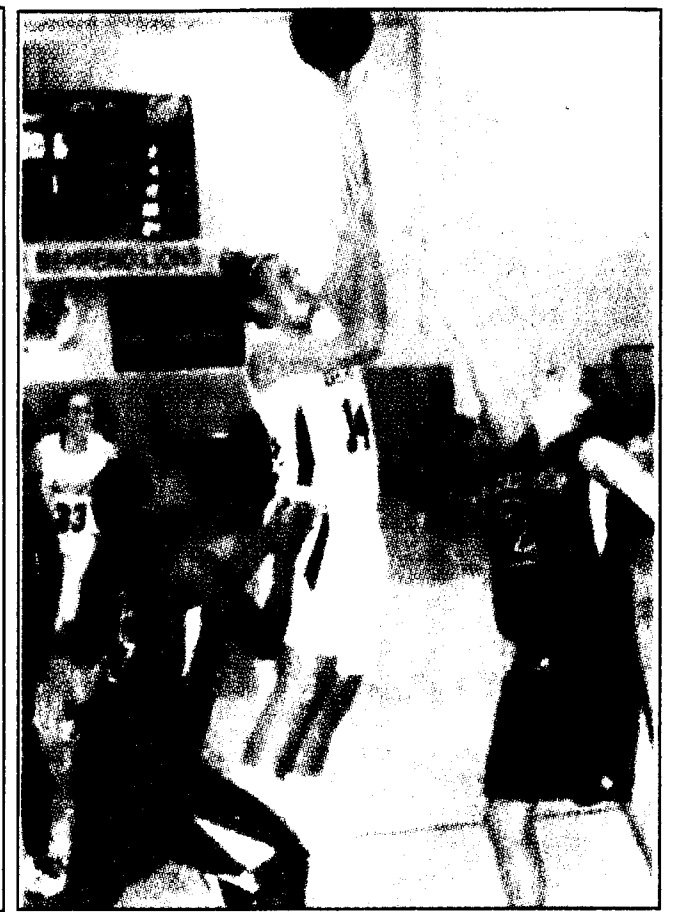
There are three divers who are part of the team for Behrend as well. All three are freshmen, two men, A.J. Kondash and Jacob Bernstein, and one woman, Michelle Quail. Kondash has been named AMCC men's diver of the week while Quail has been named AMCC female diver of the week this season.

Throughout the season, the team contended in tough conference meets against schools such as Buffalo State, Edinboro, Penn State Altoona, and Frostburg State. Other teams they competed against outside of the conference were Bethany College, Mt. Union, St. Vincent and Nazareth. The first half of the season took place before Winter Break, with the men's record at 4-1 and the women's at 3-2. Over break, the team took a training trip to Boca Raton, Florida, where they endured grueling early-morning workouts, knowing that the hard work and dedication would eventually pay off. Regular season meets concluded on Jan. 26.

In response to the question of how the season turned out in regards to past seasons, Pilewski summed it up by saying, "Each season is always better than the last, with new faces and new races."

Championships will be held this weekend, Feb. 8-10, at Grove City College. Those who qualify at Grove City will advance to ECAC's, which are to be held at Harvard University.

## Defense is key to Lady Lions' success



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ellen Kolos calls out plays down the court and Meagan Bielamin goes up for a shot for the Lady Lions.

By Matt Waronker  
assistant sports editor

"Defense to offense." This mantra has been the cornerstone of the Penn State Behrend Women's Basketball team since day one. Head coach, Roz Fornari preaches this tenacious style of defensive play, stressing the importance of rebounding, defensive pressure, and steals. "Our preparation usually focuses on defense going into games," says Fornari. "Defense will always spark the offense."

This spark that Behrend relies on from its defense has helped lead the Lady Lions to a stellar overall record of 18-3 and a second place conference record of 13-2. In their last four wins alone, Behrend has outscored their opponents by an average of 25 points, holding all four opposing teams to under 60 points for the entire game. Against conference foes Hilbert College and Penn State Altoona, Behrend held both teams to under 40 points. The Lady Lions defeated both teams in dominating fashion, outscoring each by over 30 points, and winning 72-38 and 79-40 respectively. However, in a pivotal conference match-up against Medaille, the Lady Lions fought to ignite any sort of offensive spark, but fell short, losing 72-68.

Against Penn State Altoona, the Lady Lions were able to turn that defensive spark into an unstoppable fire. Behrend's 79-40 rout of Penn State Altoona capped a 15 game winning streak and boosted their conference win total to an impressive 13 victories.

Behrend was tremendous on both sides of the ball. On offense, the Lady Lions had plenty of help, with four players reaching double digits in scoring. Senior guard Brittany Mays led all scorers with 15 points. Junior guard Julia Andrus contributed 13 points while junior forward Meagan Bielamin and sophomore forward Victoria Innes had 10 points each. On the defensive side of the ball, the Behrend defense held the entire Altoona squad to single digits in scoring as well as forcing over 20 turnovers, and holding Altoona to a miserable 28 percent shooting for the game.

With a huge win against Penn State Altoona under their belts, a confident Behrend squad traveled to Medaille College this past Wednesday night, Feb. 6 to battle for the top spot in the AMCC. Entering the much anticipated rematch with rival Medaille, Fornari was well aware of their opponent's potential. When the two teams met earlier in the season, Behrend was able to squeak by in a nail-biting 50-49 finish. "We knew it would be a close game and a tough game," says Fornari. "Our half court offense played well, but the turnovers really hurt us. When you are playing possession for possession with a team, you can't afford the turnovers."

Despite a solid effort, Behrend committed over 20 turnovers and lost the battle under the boards, getting out-rebounded 38-29 by Medaille. Behrend was led by Andrus who contributed 23 points and four assists. Mays and Innes had 16 and 11 points respectively.

The Lady Lions will spend the next week on the road against conference opponents La Roche and Lake Erie.

"Defense will always spark the offense."

-Head coach  
Roz Fornari

## HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NEW STATE

NAME: Kim Chapman  
SPORT: Indoor Track and Field  
CLASS: Sophomore  
DATE: February 5, 2007

Kim Chapman (Cranberry/Seneca Valley) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week. Chapman became the first ECAC qualifier of the season for women's indoor track and field when she ran the 500 meter run in 1:23.35 this past Saturday, Feb. 3 at Mt. Union. Chapman placed third in the event and gave the team six points. The women finished in seventh place overall in the meet.

Chapman qualified for the ECACs in the same event last season with a qualifying time of 1:23.01. She went on to earn All-ECAC recognition in the event. Chapman is coming off a freshman season in which she qualified for ECACs in five separate events.

Men's and women's indoor track and field will compete again Saturday, February 10 when they travel to Slippery Rock for the Slippery Rock Invitational.

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

Interested in sports and want to get involved? Contact Dani Brown at [DNB5003@psu.edu](mailto:DNB5003@psu.edu) or Kara Struski [KRS255@psu.edu](mailto:KRS255@psu.edu) to get started.

## THIS WEEKEND

### "Spirit Against Cancer"

Fifth Annual Becky Hubler Decker  
Dance and Cheerleading Competition

When: Saturday, February 10, 2007

Where: Junker Cener

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society

Competition will include dance and cheerleading teams of various levels ranging from middle school to college and all-star squads