

## Lady lions earn second seed in AMCC tourney

By Matt Waronker  
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend women's basketball team ended their regular season this past Saturday at the Junker Center with a decisive 72-53 victory over visiting conference foe Pitt-Bradford. With the win, the Lady Lions ended the season with an overall record of 20-4, and were able to tally an impressive conference record of 15-3. The Lady Lions conference record proved to be strong enough to earn them a number two seed in this weekend's AMCC conference tournament, as well as a first-round bye. The tournament will be held at top seeded Medaille College.

Behrend's first game of the tournament, which is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 23, pits the Lady Lions against sixth seeded Pitt-Bradford. Bradford earned their place in the tournament semifinals by defeating third seed-

ed Pitt-Greensburg 56-54 in opening round play.

Since Behrend's previous game was against this same Pitt-Bradford squad, head coach Roz Fornari expects a well-prepared Behrend team to take the floor

this Friday evening.

"Since we just prepared for [Pitt-Bradford] and got to see their game, we have a much more detailed look at the way their team will play," said Fornari. "We should be very prepared for this game."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The team huddles before a recent game.

In Behrend's previous meeting with the Bradford Panthers last Saturday, the Lady Lions dominated on both sides of the ball. After a close first half, in which Behrend held a slight 35-27 lead at the half, the Lady Lions

surged into the second half, building a substantial lead behind senior guard Brittany Mays, and her team high 20-point performance. The Lady Lions outscored Bradford 37-26 in the second half, and on the defensive side of the ball.

Behrend's constant pressure forced seven second half Bradford turnovers. The Panthers were held to 37% shooting from the floor for the game. Also contributing in the winning effort was sophomore forward, Victoria Innes, who shot seven of eight from the field for 16 points.

The tournament championship will be held on Saturday Feb. 24. The winner of the tournament will automatically receive a bid for the NCAA tournament. This bid, however, remains the least of the Lady Lions' worries.

"The NCAA tournament bid is an added goal at this point," said Fornari. "Winning the conference championship is our goal at this point in time. Right now we're focusing on the pressure to get through

Friday's game and then we'll focus on the championship and possible NCAA bids. However, I don't feel we need to get to that point to make it a good season, but it would be a very nice ending."

## Behrend hockey completes season above 500

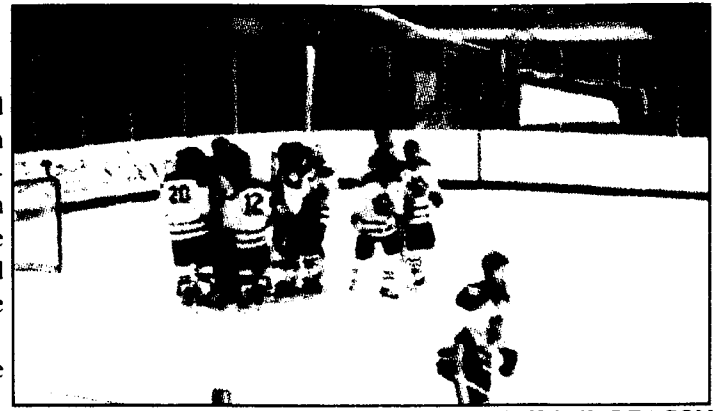
By Jessica Carlson  
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend Hockey Club ended their season last Friday with a record of 16-6-2. The season began strong in late Sept. with five consecutive wins. Unfortunately, it ended abruptly on Friday when the team lost to Saint Vincent 0-5.

The club is a part of College Hockey East (CHE). CHE is a club hockey league for the collegiate level. It's comprised of regional teams from colleges and universities in and around eastern Pennsylvania. CHE is divided into two divisions, the North Division and the South Division. Behrend is a part of the North Division, along with Robert Morris University (RMU), Case Western, Edinboro and the University of Pittsburgh. Teams who are a part of the South Division are California University of Pennsylvania (CalU), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Penn State Altoona, Saint Vincent, and University of Pitt-Johnstown (UPJ). Behrend's toughest opponent this season was CalU.

Along with being members of CHE, Behrend Hockey also is a part of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). ACHA gives the teams a chance to compete in a national championship, instead of just regional competition. In other words, CHE is more or less like the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), and ACHA is like the NCAA of hockey.

Behrend hockey is a fairly new program, starting just five years ago. The Behrend athletic department currently does not have the funding to sponsor a hockey team, thus the reason why they are considered a club team. The team practices three times a week at Mercyhurst College and JMC Ice Arena, while their home games are



Ryan Gallagher/THE BEHREND BEACON  
The hockey team gathers on the ice during a game this season.

played at Mercyhurst and the Igloo Ice Arena.

Because the team is a club sport and not a varsity sport, there are a lot of responsibilities for all 32 members of the team to keep the program running. Papers must be turned in on time and funding needs to be taken care of, amongst other tasks. President D.J. Craven has displayed his leadership ability on the ice, as well as off. Craven was named Ed Bittner G.M. of the Year because of his excellent Student-Leadership this season. Other members of the team who help with the program are Vice President Brysten Jones, Treasurer Josh Grumski, Secretary Dan Thiessen, and Fundraiser Andrew McLachlan.

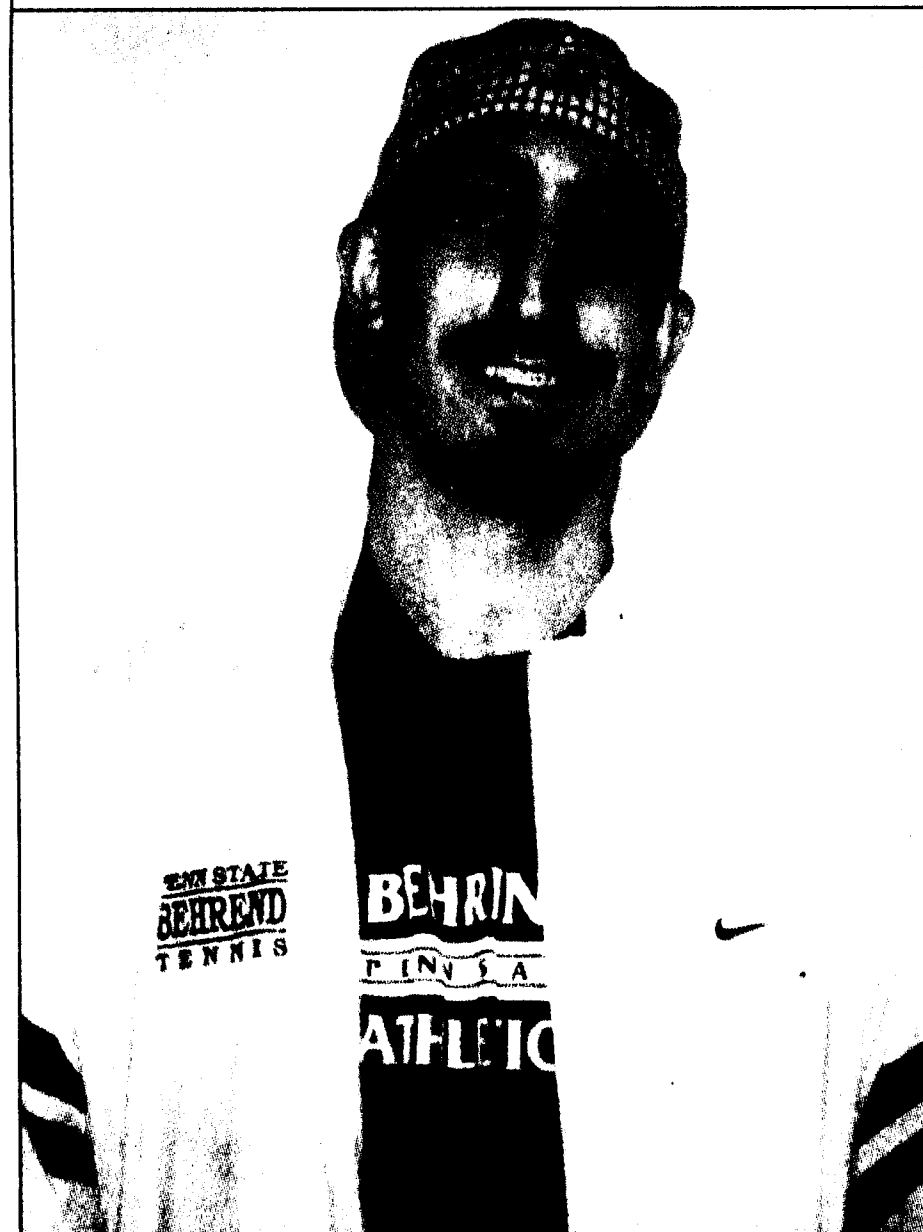
Although the team did not finish on top this year, high hopes still remain for next season. "This team has really come along over the years. With the players returning and a good incoming freshman class, this team has a great shot at a CHE title," said Junior Forward Andy McLachlan.

Behrend Hockey is coached by Giovanni Duchini. More news and information about the team can be found at <http://eteamz.active.com/psbhockey/>. More information regarding games, team standings, scores and points can be found on the College Hockey East website at <http://www.collegehockeyeast.com/index.asp>.

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## HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Jim Palmer  
SPORT: Men's Tennis  
CLASS: Senior  
DATE: February 12, 2007

Jim Palmer (Sharon/Sharon) has been named the Housing and Food Services Athlete of the Week. Palmer won both his third-flight singles match and second-flight doubles match. He took care of Waynesburg's Jeff Canning 6-0, 6-3 and then paired up with teammate Garret Grenek to win doubles 8-4. The team shut out Waynesburg 9-0 to improve to 1-1 on the season. Palmer will look to find a place back on the AMCC All-Conference Team. He was named to the All-Conference Second-Team as a junior.

Next up for men's tennis will be the Franciscan University of Steubenville at home on Mar. 3. The men head to Hilton Head, S.C. on Mar. 10 for a week that includes seven matches against teams from all over the eastern U.S.

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

## Men's basketball head to AMCC tournament in good position

By Matt Waronker  
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend men's basketball team closed out their regular season with a 55-53 victory over conference rival Pitt-Bradford this past Saturday at the Junker Center. With the win, the Lions, who finished the season with an overall record of 18-6, climbed their way into second place in the AMCC conference.

In what was to be their final home game of the season, the Lions gave the Behrend crowd one last dose of their signature defense, holding Pitt-Bradford to 38% shooting from the floor for the game. Behrend's defense continually staggered the Panthers offense, containing Bradford's normally prolific shooters and holding the team to a season low 53 points. While Behrend's offense had trouble capitalizing off of their defense's success, the Lions were nonetheless able to hold off Bradford in the low-scoring contest, maintaining their slight lead throughout the entire game. Behrend was led by junior center, Kevin Buczynski, who led all scorers with 20 points. Buczynski also contributed seven rebounds and three blocks while freshman guard Justin Kovac scored eight points and dished out four assists.

The win, which marked the Lions' 16th overall conference victory, earned Behrend the number two seed in this season's AMCC conference tournament. The victory also gives Behrend a considerable amount of momentum, as the team rides back-to-back victories all the way into Painesville. The victories, which came against third seeded Pitt-Bradford and top seeded tournament host Lake Erie, were significant since both teams are among the top three teams in the AMCC conference.

This momentum, although only two games strong, remains undeniable among the Behrend team.

"The Lake Erie and Pitt-Bradford wins were big for us because we could face both teams in the tournament this weekend," said freshman guard Adam Kaiser. "We have a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The men's basketball team brings it in before a game. good mentality going into the tournament. Along with the wins, we have had some good practices preparing for this weekend. I really think our team has come together and that is helping us a lot down the stretch."

The Lions will face third seeded Pitt-Bradford in semifinal action this Friday. Pitt-Bradford advanced to the semifinals after defeating sixth seeded Penn State Altoona 61-49. The tournament championship will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, and the winner of the tournament earns an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

## Opportunity for involvement

If you're looking for a chance to volunteer your time towards a good cause, Penn State Behrend has the perfect opportunity for you. TOPSoccer will be starting up it's seventh year at Behrend and will run every Wednesday from March 21 through May 9 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Junker Center Gym.

TOPSoccer is a community-based program developed by U.S. Youth Soccer and is aimed at giving children with special needs the opportunity to learn and play soccer. Behrend men's soccer head coach, Dan Perritano, started the program at Behrend in 2002 after learning about it at a coaching convention.

During the eight week time period, you will serve as a coach for one child. The children involved in the program have a wide range of disabilities, from



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Kara Struski and Emma Perritano share a laugh at last year's program.

autism, down syndrome and cerebral palsy, to visual impairment and some with severe developmental impairments. Your time and commitment to each child will be repaid with the bond that you will develop with your player.

This is a great chance to meet other Behrend students as well as members of the local community. Don't have any soccer experience? No need to worry, there are several soccer players who volunteer, along with Behrend men's and women's head soccer coaches, Perritano and Patrick O'Driscoll, to help you along.

If you are unsure, come to the Junker Center classroom, downstairs, for the organizational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to give something back to the community while helping others.