

SPORTS

Behrend men move on in ECAC Tournament

By Matt Waronker
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend Mens Basketball team defeated Grove City 76-46 in ECAC first round play Wednesday night at the Junker Center. The top seeded host Lions dominated eighth seeded Grove City, manhandling the PAC conference champion Wolverines at both ends of the court. The victory, a 30 point rout, marks both the Lions 20th overall win of the season as well as their largest margin of victory thus far this season.

Behrend's initial road back to Erie and into the ECAC tournament, however, was bittersweet. While home court advantage and the top seed of the ECAC tournament is an impressive accomplishment, the Lions were one basket away from a trip to the NCAA tournament. That infamous basket, a Tom Newman jumper as time expired, fell short, sending Behrend back to the ECAC

tournament for a second straight year. The loss, a 59-58 heartbreaker against rival Lake Erie, awarded the Storm not only the AMCC title, but an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

In a match-up as even as they come, the Lions held the lead against Lake Erie for the better part of 39 minutes. However, a deep three-pointer with 4.7 seconds remaining stole the lead for Lake Erie, earning them the AMCC's bid for the NCAA tournament. Both Behrend and Lake Erie shot 39% from the floor for the game, however, the Lions had trouble holding onto a 27-18 half-time lead, giving up 41 points in the second half. Junior center, Kevin Buczynski led all scorers with 21 points.

Despite the loss, the Lions were awarded the top seed in the ECAC Southern tournament. The Lions started off strong against Grove City in their first round match-up, outscoring the Wolverines 11-0 to start the game. While Grove City pressured the Lions with an early run, the Wolverines were no match for Behrend's defense, as the Lions held Grove City to 37%

shooting from the floor for the game and forced 19 turnovers. After taking a commanding 38-24 halftime lead, the Lions continued to dominate throughout the second half, keeping their lead in double digits for the remainder of the game.

Head coach Dave Niland attributes much of the team's success to their ability to get off to such a quick start.

"We made our shots early," said Niland. "We definitely had a nice intensity about us, and got ourselves some nice runs."

Sophomore guard Drew Seker led all scorers with 17 points while freshman guard Justin Kovac and junior center Dan Zeigler each added 15 points in the winning effort. The Behrend men shot and impressive 9 for 11 from beyond the arc for the game.

The victory sends Behrend into the ECAC semi-finals where they will face fourth seeded Juniata College on Friday March 2nd. The remainder of the tournament will be held at DeSales University.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sophomore Newman gets the rebound.

Behrend Athletes Receive Honors

BASKETBALL

Freshman point guard Justin Kovac was elected the Newcomer of the Year by the AMCC.

Kevin Buczynski (junior) earned a spot on the AMCC all-conference first-team.

Brittany Mays (senior) has been named to the AMCC Women's Basketball first-team.

Julia Andrus (junior) was selected as a member on the AMCC honorable mention team.

SWIMMING and DIVING

Senior swimmer Leah Haller was named AMCC Swimmer of the Year and was also selected first team all-conference in two freestyle events.

Michele Quail (freshman) was named AMCC Diver of the Year and selected to first team all-conference in two diving events.

Freshman Colby Seibert was named AMCC Newcomer of the Year and was selected to the first team all-conference teams in the two butterfly events.

Sarah Breese (sophomore) made AMCC first-team all-conference team in three events.

Freshman Tom Weir was awarded Newcomer of the Year and was named all-conference in two events.

Junior Dustin Fairchild was recognized as Swimmer of the Year. He qualified for all-conference in six events.

Freshman A.J. Kondash was recognized as Diver of the Year and was named all-conference first-team in two events.

For full listings visit the AMCC website at <http://www.amconf.org>

Lady Lions' season ends with loss to Moravian

By Matt Waronker
assistant sports editor

The Penn State Behrend Women's Basketball team ended their 2006-2007 season with a rare home loss to Moravian College Wednesday evening at the Junker Center. The Lady Lions, who were defeated by Moravian 72-56, tallied a phenomenal regular season home record of 13-1, making the home loss uncharacteristic for the Behrend women. The first round loss to the Greyhounds also eliminated Behrend from the ECAC tournament and brought their overall record for the season down to a mark of 21-6.

The Lady Lions began their short post-season run in the ECAC tournament after a disappointing AMCC tournament showing. After defeating sixth seeded Pitt-Bradford 65-52, the Lady Lions fell to top-seeded host Medaille College. The Mavericks defeated Behrend by a convincing score of 66-39. After shooting a dismal 4-of-30 from the floor in the first half, the Behrend women found themselves in a 20 point hole at the half.

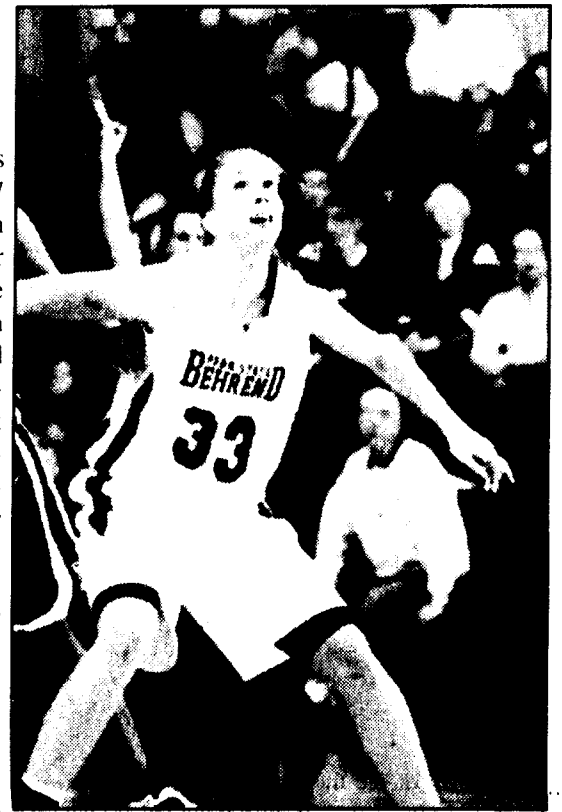
"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket," says head coach Roz Fornari. "We didn't play sloppy, we just played tight."

In the second half, Behrend's perimeter troubles continued, as the Lady Lions only managed to improve their shooting to a mere 24% from the field. Much of the teams offensive troubles were the effect of Medaille's constant defensive pressure.

"Their pressure gave us a poor shot selection," said Fornari. "They became more aggressive and we became less aggressive. They took us out of character."

The Lady Lions shot a season low 19% for the game. Behrend was led by senior guard Brittany Mays who scored 16 points. Mays also led the team with 11 rebounds.

Against seventh seeded Moravian in first round ECAC tournament play, the second seeded Lady Lions were able to take a 9-0 lead to start the game, however, the opposing Greyhounds raced their way back into competition, taking the lead late in the first half and never looking back. Behrend was able to pull within three at halftime, but



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Victoria Innes boxes out her opponent.

after an early Moravian run to start the second half, Behrend fell further behind the Greyhounds and were unable to match Moravian's momentum. Leading the Lady Lions offensively were Mays and sophomore forward Victoria Innes who each had 13 points. Mays contributed a team high 10 rebounds. Also aiding offensively were junior forward Meagan Bielanin and junior guard Julia Andrus, who both contributed 11 points in the losing effort. Defensively, the Lady Lions began to shut down in the second half, allowing Moravian to shoot an impressive 58% from the floor. The Greyhounds outscored Behrend 42-29 in the second half. This year's tournament marked Behrend's seventh appearance in the ECAC tournament.

Despite the loss, the Lady Lions are optimistic towards next season. With only one senior currently on the roster, the Behrend women look to return four of five starters as well as this season's large, talented freshmen recruiting class.

Track and fielders qualify for ECAC's

By Tommy Phillips
staff writer

The Behrend track and field team picked up two more ECAC qualifiers at the Mount Union Invitational this past weekend. The team also set three new school records at the meet.

Senior Jon McKinney qualified for the ECAC Championships with a jump of 43'9" in the triple jump. He finished in first place in the meet at this event. He is the only male ECAC qualifier this year.

Two men's relay teams put up great performances at the meet. In the 4 x 160-meter relay, freshman Doug Stevenson, sophomore Phil Stuczynski, freshman Vinny Krawiec, and freshman Mike Ferraro set a Behrend record with a mark of 1:16.05. The mark was good

for second place in the event. In the 4 x 400-meter relay, freshman Rob Shrawder, freshman Kenji Ikeo, sophomore Matt Cherpak, and freshman Jordan Telin finished in first place in the meet with a mark of 3:43.04.

For the women, freshman Virginia Rogers-Owens set a Behrend record in the 55-meter dash, finishing in second place in the event with her mark of 7.53 seconds. She qualified for the ECAC Championships with her performance. In the 1000-meter run, Jenny Bailey finished in second place with her time of 3:12.42.

In the 400-meter dash, sophomore Kim Chapman set a Behrend record with her mark of 62.03 seconds. She also finished in second place in the 300-meter dash. She will be competing in the 500-meter run at the

ECAC Championships.

Coach Greg Cooper said he was pleased with the team's performance at the event. "They've done very well," he said. "The indoor season is now over, besides the ECAC Championships, so they have a month to prepare for the outdoor season. They have a lot of potential." Cooper said his team has certain goals for the upcoming outdoor season. "We'll be shooting to get as many chances to the ECAC Championships as possible," he said. "We want to perform well in the Mason-Dixon meet."

Those who qualified for the ECAC Championships will compete this weekend on Friday and Saturday. The ECAC Championships will be held at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

INTRAMURAL UPDATE

DEADLINES:

4 v 4 Coed Volleyball - last call for entries
Email your team to rww3@psu.edu
Tournament is Sunday, Mar. 4 at 7 p.m.

6 v 6 Volleyball - Friday, Mar. 9

HAPPENINGS:

Ping Pong and Arena Football are still going and standings can be found here:

http://www.behrend.psu.edu/athletics/intramurals/IM_pingpong.htm
<http://www.behrend.psu.edu/athletics/intramurals/IMarenafootball.htm>