

# SPORTS

## The Fornari factor

By Nicole Raffle  
contributing writer

"It's a lot of time, and a lot of effort, but in the end it's always worth it," says Behrend's women's basketball head coach, Roz Fornari. Fornari just finished up her fourteenth season as head coach, sealing over 243 victories. She gladly holds the title of Behrend's all time leader in women's victories.

In her 14 seasons, Fornari clenched the 1995-1996 ECAC Southern Region Championship and has twice been the AMCC Tournament Champions in the 1998-1999 and 2003-2004 seasons. To add to her list of accomplishments, Fornari has been named AMCC Coach of the Year by her peers four times.

"If it was up to me and the team, she would have won again this year," said junior basketball player Meagan Bielani.

Fornari didn't start her career coaching at Behrend, and she didn't start it by playing basketball. During her four years of college at Hofstra University, Fornari played softball on a scholarship.

"Basketball was my passion, but softball was how I was going to school," said Fornari.

During her junior season, Fornari became a student assistant to the basketball program. Fornari completed graduate school at Alfred University, becoming strongly involved with the basketball program there. After the completion of her graduate degree, Fornari made her way to Behrend, where she would become an institution for the basketball program and start her long career within the walls of Erie Hall.

"It's a small compact space," Fornari said. "I didn't have to yell as hard."

With five years spent in Erie Hall, the original gymnasium on the Behrend campus, the construction of the Junker Center was a big deal. Fornari explained that having a larger gym was good for the team but harder on her voice. If she wanted to talk to one of her girls on the other end of the court, she had to scream to get their attention. After several seasons of constant yelling and not talking, it took a toll on Fornari's voice.

Fornari had strained her vocal chords over the years of intense coaching. To fix the problem, doctors went in and placed a voice enhancer under the skin. The enhancer helps her to speak for a long period of time without much strain. Yet the problem isn't completely fixed, her voice will still go after an intense game or a long season. The off-season gives her time to rest. However, Fornari does have some remedies to help her through practices, games and lectures.

"I have a huge supply of gum and suckers always on hand," said Fornari.

Fornari's voice has changed the way she speaks to her team during games.

"It's a way to keep calm, and by the time I get to what I need to say, it comes out nicer," said Fornari laughing.

Since she can not yell across the court when she wants to critique something or suggest improvement, her team has to come to her. It allows for time to get her point across.

Fornari is not just a staple in the basketball community, but to the Behrend community as well. Fornari and her team offer mini camps and clinics in the off season. They also make a huge effort to support the men's basketball program at Behrend, traveling together and cheering each other on. Her hard work and dedication at Behrend just keeps going.

"She helps each player individually and as a team," said Bielani. "She does an awesome job of developing team unity every season."

Fornari has had an outstanding impact on the basketball program. She continues to keep it growing and becomes more successful with each year. At the end of her fourteenth season, all Fornari had to say was, "I can't wait for next year."

## Women's water polo struggles to stay afloat

By Jessica Carlson  
staff writer

The Penn State Behrend women's water polo team has had a rough start to its season this year. The team started off the 2007 season with a loss to Grove City, but bounced right back at the Behrend Invitational with a victory over Utica. Unfortunately, it is the only win thus far for the women. However, with a record of 1-6 and more than 10 games remaining, there is plenty of time for a turnaround.

Competition is not easy for the women's water polo team. The team is a part of the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA), and often plays against Division One schools such as the University of Michigan and Indiana University.

"Our toughest competitions will be against nationally ranked University of Michigan and Indiana University," said Head Coach Joe Tristan.

After an unfortunate early end to their season last year, the Penn State Behrend team is more than ready to be back in action. With five returning players and nine newcomers, hopes of a successful season have been on all the players' minds.

"With the many freshmen in addition to the talented upper classmen, I am hoping to have a winning season," says sophomore Kaitlyn Rinn.

Joe Tristan coaches both the men's and women's water polo teams and assists the swimming and diving teams. This will be Coach Tristan's fourth season returning as head coach.

"I am looking forward to a fun season that will allow our program to excel and be competitive," says Tristan.

Along with being in a tough division, the women's team is fairly young. The team includes five returning starters and nine newcomers. Of the five returning starters, Cara Ludwig, Brittany Yost and Alexis Puhala are the three seniors. Ludwig is the career leader in goals and in 2005 she became the first water polo player to be named to the CWPA Western Division All-Conference Team. Yost is the team captain and Puhala was last season's most improved player.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alexis Puhala looks to pass to a teammate.

The only junior contributing to the team is Amanda Wiest, who has racked up a total of 22 goals during her first two seasons. There are two sophomores this year, Kaitlyn Rinn, who was named 2006 rookie of the year, and Sarah Breese, a transfer student from Allegheny College. Amanda Bradford, Mary Baumer, Katie Knight, Morgan Pasi, Christie Ryan, Karyn Thornberry, Danielle Wilson and Jenny Zeyfang round off the team roster as the eight incoming freshmen.

"The freshman to look out for is Amanda Bradford," says Tristan.

Some of the teams the women will be facing this season include Gannon University, Slippery Rock University, Washington and Jefferson, Siena, Carthage and Queens.

"After having to end the season early due to illness and injuries last year, we are looking forward to a successful season this year," says Wiest.

The Lions will be home for their next two matches. On Saturday, March 24 they face Indiana University at noon and Sunday, March 25 they will play Michigan at 9 a.m. They will remain in the area for a game at Mercyhurst on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

## INTRAMURAL UPDATE

### DEADLINES:

6 v 6 Volleyball-Last call for entries!  
E-mail your team to [rww3@psu.edu](mailto:rww3@psu.edu) ASAP!  
League play begins March 26

Outdoor Soccer - Friday, March 23

Track Meet - Friday, March 23

### RECENT NEWS:

Team Cake Eaters were crowned Arena Football Champions

Ishtiaq Ul Haque and Manal Malik were named Ping Pong Co-ed Champions



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Above: Team Cake Eaters Garrett Richardson, Jameson Curtis, Ryan Smosna, and Jacoby Curtis pose after winning the Arena Football Championship  
Right: Ishtiaq Ul Haque and Manal Malik capture Co-ed Ping Pong Championship



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Want to get involved on campus? Want to make a positive difference in other people's lives? Looking for a rewarding experience? Behrend's TOPSoccer is a community-based program aimed a giving special needs children the opportunity to learn and play soccer and needs more volunteers!

For information and a chance to help contact Men's Soccer Head Coach Dan Perritano at [dpp2@psu.edu](mailto:dpp2@psu.edu)!

## Hockey fights: Violence on ice or team tactic?

By Andy McLachlan  
contributing writer

Throughout the history of ice hockey, the sport has had to deal with the controversy of fighting. Accepted by the sport and only punished with a five minute penalty or a game suspension, fighting is not only practiced a lot in the sport, it is considered a major component to the game.

Whether people like it or not, fighting in hockey is a huge part of the game. Like car crashes in NASCAR, fighting not only gets fans in the stands, but it can help a team win a game. An essential part to a professional hockey team, or even a junior team, is a tough enforcer that brings fear to the opposing team.

Even though hockey is the only professional non-combat sport to accept fighting, they do have written rules that fighters have to follow. Like boxing, if fighters do not follow certain rules, their penalties can be extended or they could end up receiving a suspension.

Some former professional players have made careers out of being excellent fighters on the ice. Former Pittsburgh Penguin Rick Tocchet came into the league as an undrafted fighter for the Philadelphia Flyers. Through his toughness, he gained a spot on the Flyers team and worked on his skills to become a premiere power forward in the league.

So why would fighting in hockey still be controversial if there are written rules to prevent serious injury and it has been a part of the sport for years? Basically, it's due to violent acts on the ice from professional players that have people questioning

the sport. Though there have been many violent acts over the years, certain ones, especially fights, have given hockey a black eye in the media.

In 2000, former Pittsburgh Penguin Marty McSorley was arrested and banned from the league for one year when he swung his stick and struck, then Vancouver Canuck, Donald Brashear in the head with his stick. Brashear suffered a grade three concussion and returned to continue his career. Former all-star Todd Bertuzzi almost did jail time when he attacked forward Steve Moore from behind. The attack on Moore not only led to a year suspension, but he ended the career of the young Moore.

Just recently this year, enforcer Chris Simon of the New York Islanders took a baseball swing at New York Ranger forward Ryan Hollweg's face, which was seen many times a day on ESPN. With more unfortunate acts of violence like these, it will only increase the bad rap that the game has received.

Eric Thiessen, a freshman at Penn State Behrend and a goalie for the Penn State Behrend Ice Hockey Team, believes that fighting in hockey is just a part of the game and can be used to help a team.

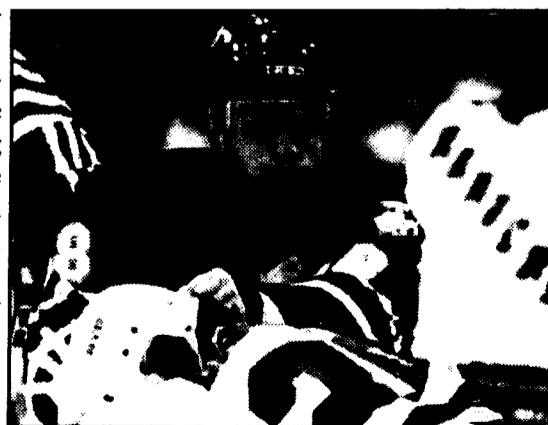
"It's always been an aspect in hockey, so not only do I think that it's ok, but most teams use it to get intensity back into their team," said Thiessen.

It is unlikely that hockey will ever ban fighting. The NHL has put their foot down for any serious issues involving fights, but for the most part, it is just part of the game. It is the nature of the game of hockey to have a certain edge to it, so it stands out from the pack. The fighting aspect of hockey keeps the game interesting and intense.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former goaltender, Patrick Roy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Retired Maple Leaf player, Tie Domi, duking it out