

ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Carissa Johnston
SPORT: Women's Volleyball
CLASS: Sophomore
DATE: Oct. 1, 2007

Carissa Johnston (Cambridge Springs/Cambridge Springs) has been named the ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR athlete of the week for the week of Oct. 1, 2007.

Johnston led the blue and white to a pair of conference wins last week. Behrend dropped Hilbert and Pitt-Greensburg in three straight games. Johnston delivered eight kills, three digs and a pair of serving aces against the Hawks. She followed by pounding 10 kills and snagging five digs against Pitt-Greensburg. Behrend is now 12-5 overall and 3-0 in the AMCC.

Next up for the Behrend Lions will be a tournament at Fredonia State this Friday and Saturday. Behrend opens with Mt. St. Joseph and Oneonta and Saturday they battle Rochester and Fredonia.

Men's Water Polo struggles in first month

By Matt Waronker
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Back to the basics. Perhaps one of the most cliché statements in the world of sports, however in Joe Tristan's case also the most necessary. The head coach of the Penn State Behrend men's water polo team feels his squad needs to start back from the bottom and work their way up after a taxing month of September in which the Lions played 18 games in less than a month. Of the 18 matches the Lions only came away with four victories.

"We need to hammer down on our fundamentals," said Tristan. "Our passing, our extra man offense, and our perimeter play need work, and then from there we can move forward."

The Lions closed out September with a block of four home games this past weekend at the Junker Center. Behrend was able to split the series, taking two out of the four matches improving their overall record to 4-14. The Lions recorded both wins against Salem International with scores of 15-6 and 14-6. Behrend's two losses came against crosstown rivals Gannon and Mercyhurst by scores of 11-10 and 14-3 respectively.

Against Salem International, the Lions jumped out to early leads in both contests and never looked back. In their first meeting with the Tigers, Behrend came out strong, scoring 10 unanswered goals before the half. Salem eventually answered, scoring six goals to close out the game, however, their late run wasn't enough to regain the steep deficit. Freshman center Jon Bacon added an impressive four goals in the victory. In similar fashion to their first meeting the Lions exploded to an early lead in game two against the Tigers. Behrend scored six goals in the first half of play and went on to defeat Salem 14-6.

In their second match of the weekend Behrend lost a heart-breaker in the final minute of play against a stingy Gannon team. The match was tough for both squads, with each team unable to

lead by more than a single goal at any point in the game. This trend lasted until only seconds were left on the clock when the Golden Knights scored the game winning point. Senior Andre Pranckevicius led the Lions with three goals. Freshmen Matt Pluta and Bacon each contributed two goals in the losing effort.

"In the beginning we all had great communication against [Gannon], but in the late stages of the game we started to lose that," said sophomore Robert Westhelle who had nine saves against the Golden Knights. "They saw our breakdowns and were able to use it to their advantage."

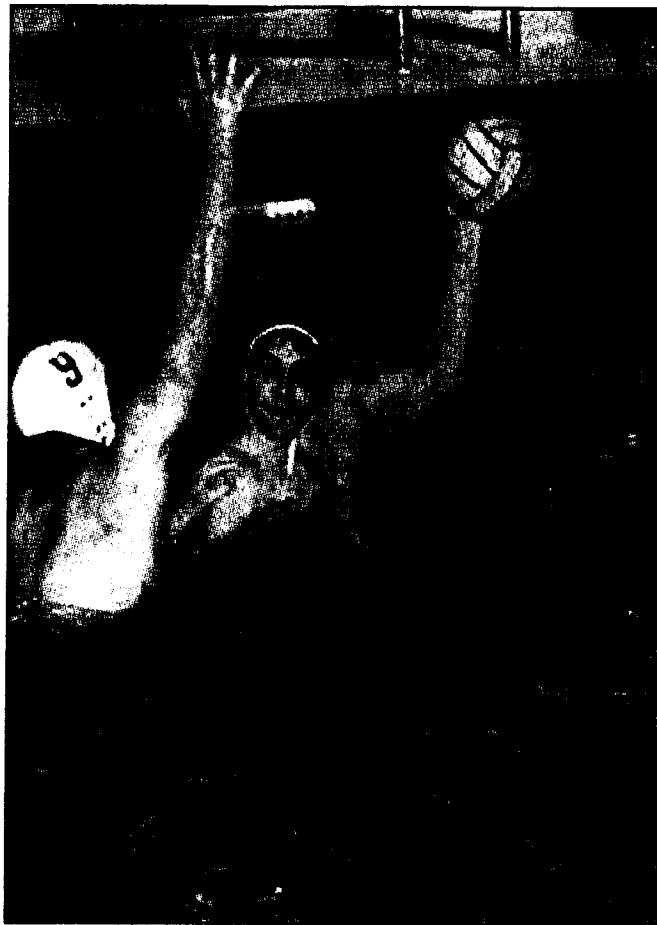
In their final match-up of the weekend, the Lions were defeated by a dynamic Mercyhurst team. Unlike their earlier matches of the weekend when the team appeared to score at will, Behrend never seemed to make any significant offensive runs and lost a hard fought battle 14-3. Freshman goalie Keith Yaegle had a stellar performance, recording 18 saves on the day. Yaegle is currently ranked second in the nation in saves.

"Our intensity wasn't as high as it needed to be against Mercyhurst," said senior Anthony Spoto. "We started off on the wrong foot and definitely let them take the momentum. Once they had the momentum it was hard to stop it."

The Lions have just over three weeks until their next game; a rematch against Mercyhurst, to correct their flaws. Coach Tristan feels the time off will be positive for the team.

"I think the time off will help the team focus," said Tristan. "We'll use the time off to take a look back and see what we've done right and what we've done wrong."

Spoto, the team's leading scorer, who is also ranked fourth in the nation in scoring, agrees with his



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Junior driver Ian Johnson looks towards the net.

coach.

"We definitely need work on our conditioning and fundamentals, and we need some time to mentally recover," said Spoto.

"Our confidence right now is down but once we prepare we'll forget about the [Mercyhurst] loss and we'll be itching to get back in the pool and play. When we get to that game we'll be ready."

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