

ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Tom Newman
SPORT: Men's Basketball
CLASS: Junior
DATE: Nov. 26, 2007

Tom Newman (Girard/Northwestern) has been named the ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR athlete of the week for the week of Nov. 26, 2007.

Newman aided the Behrend Lions to their third win of the season by defeating Westminster College on Saturday, Nov. 24. Newman contributed 12 total points and five assists for the blue and white. Tom was four for six from the floor including making six rebounds and three steals. The men moved to 3-0 on the season with the win.

The men's basketball team will open up conference play Wednesday, Nov. 28 when they travel to Mt. Aloysius to take on the Mounites. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. Then on Saturday, Dec. 1 the men's team will host Frostburg State in the Junker Center gym. The men will begin their second conference game of the season at 4 p.m.

Men's Basketball starts season off strong

By Tim Herr
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The Penn State Behrend men's basketball squad has gotten off to a hot start this season winning each of their first three match-ups. The Lion's first win came in the opening round of the Behrend tournament in an impressive 56-46 win to open the season against Bridgewater. Senior center Kevin Buczynski paved the way in the victory with his 19 points, 4 assists and 2 blocks. Behrend's next win came the following day in the tournament championship game against Baldwin-Wallace. Behrend beat the visiting Yellow Jackets in a tight game that resulted in a 73-68 win.

Against Baldwin-Wallace, Senior center Dan Zeigler and Buczynski were unstoppable in the paint with players both shooting 75 percent from the field. The two senior stand-outs led the Lions with a team-high of 15 points each.

Last weekend the Behrend squad faced off against a winless Westminster squad in the first road game of the season. The match-up, which culminated in an 80-65 rout, saw an explosive Behrend squad manhandling their opponent. Westminster trailed the game for all but a few opening minutes of the game and saw themselves trailing at halftime by a score of 36-25. The Lions led by as many as 24 points as the game moved along and Zeigler had the team high for Behrend with 17 points.

The offensive production has increased this season by a three point margin over last season with a team average of 69.7 points per game. The team is presently shooting a combined 52 percent from the field as well as 41 percent from beyond the arc which is presently the highest in the AMCC. The Lions normally stingy defense has yet to falter allowing an AMCC best 59.7 points per game. The squad is presently holding their opponents to a 42 percent shooting percentage. Look for this team to greatly increase their offensive output to match their defensive prowess much like we saw in the rout against Westminster in which they had 80 points.

Behrend head coach Dave Niland has remained consistent with

his starting lineup of Buczynski and sophomore forward Adam Potter in the frontcourt with sophomore Justin Kovac, juniors Tom Newman and Drew Seeker playing at the guard positions. Buczynski leads all teammates with an averages of 16 points, 7 rebounds, 4.33 assists and an AMCC leading 2.67 blocked shots per game. Newman and Potter have been shooting lights out thus far this season and have solid play across the stat sheet. The bench has been strong so far this season scoring an average 24.3 points per game.

Despite kicking off the season with three straight victories,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior Dan Zeigler helps lead the Lions to a 3-1 record.

Behrend stumbled for the first time this season on the road at Mount Aloysius. The Lions were unable to sustain the momentum they created throughout their first three match-ups as the team fell in their most recent game against conference opponent Mount Aloysius. After falling behind early against the Mounties, Behrend entered the half behind 43-30. The Lions were able to change the swing of momentum early in the second half, however, their efforts were too little and too late. Despite, the late game surge, the Lions fell to host Mount Aloysius 74-66.

Leading Behrend in both scoring and assists was Kovac, who contributed 16 points and five assists respectively. Seeker and sophomore guard Adam Kaiser tallied 12 points each in the losing effort. The battle on the boards finished closer than the score of the game may indicate with the Mounties slightly out-rebounding Behrend 29-24. However, defensively the Lions seemed uncharacteristically passive. Behrend allowed four Mount Aloysius players in double digits for scoring. Offensively, the Lions committed 12 turnovers to Mount Aloysius's nine.

The Lion's next match-up comes this weekend on Dec. 1, when Behrend will face off against Frostburg State at home in the Junker Center. Following that match-up the Lions will be back at the Junker Center on Dec. 5 in a can't miss game against visiting Hilbert. The Hawks boast a strong squad led by Dallas Reinard, last season's AMCC Player of the Year. The Lions were undefeated against both Frostburg State and Hilbert last season. In each match-up Behrend outscored both teams by an average of 17 and 19 points respectively.

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