

## Behrend female diver earns NCAA bid

by Andrew McLachlan  
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Becoming a national champion is not a common thing for a student at Penn State Behrend. For one, most of our sports, whether it is a club or varsity sport, compete at a Division-III level and even though we have been successful within our conferences, our showings at the national stage have been nothing to brag about. Behrend freshman Krystal Kovach will look to change this trend within the next month.

Kovach, who is a diver for the Behrend Swimming and Diving team, has been a standout all year for the defending Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) champions. Recently, at a meet against Penn State Altoona and Frostburg State, Kovach's scores were good enough to qualify for a bid at the Women's NCAA Championship held in Ohio Wesleyan on Mar. 13. Even though she is extremely motivated, her

sights were on other things than nationals. "I was really just trying to qualify for the ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) championship. When they told me that my scores were good enough for nationals, it was quite a shock," said Kovach.

A graduate from Charters Valley High School, Kovach was never on a diving team until joining Behrend. "I actually started diving this past summer," says Kovach. "I really didn't even know that we had a diving team at Charters Valley until after I graduated." Kovach has been a gymnast since she was little and learned to dive after she was hired to work at a diving event. "I pick up on it pretty



Kovach is the first Penn State Behrend diver to qualify and earn a bid for the NCAA title

quickly and have really enjoyed it," said Kovach.

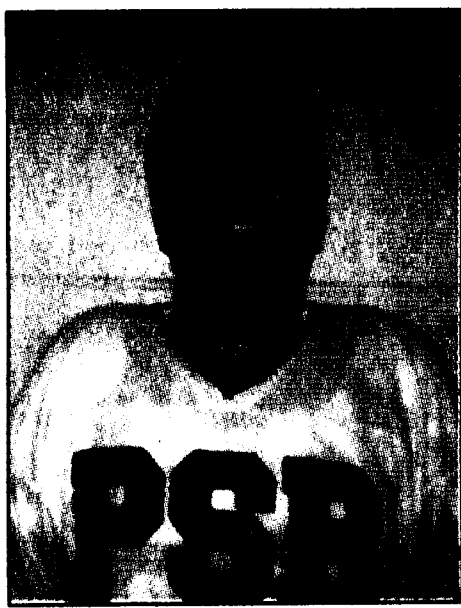
While looking for colleges last year, Kovach was searching outside of the state, but ended up at Behrend after falling in love with the campus. "My mom really wanted me to stay local and I could not be any happier being at Behrend," says Kovach. When visiting the campus, Kovach and her mom got a chance to speak with Behrend's Swimming and Diving Head Coach Jen Wallace. While only having about two months of experience, Kovach joined the team, unknowing of what was ahead of her. "I'm a big fan of just being

outside and involved in activities, so I saw the team as a chance to be apart of something great and have something to occupy sometime while I was up here," says Kovach.

While excelling at diving, Kovach admits that she does have some faults. "I am by no means a good swimmer and at times I can be clumsy." With Kovach preparing for ECAC and the NCAA's, she knows that if anything, it will be a great experience. "It was something that I thought that was out of reach and unachievable, but now I am just really excited to compete and hope for the best." Kovach is one of the two divers that is on the Behrend roster and is the only female diver on the team.

Behrend's female swimmers currently are 6-7 on the season, putting them in first place in the AMCC. The men are also in first, with a record of 8-3. The next match up for the swimming and diving team is the AMCC championship, held in Grove City on Feb. 14. Kovach will also travel to the ECAC championship that will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa on Feb. 29.

## Meet the Sports Editors



**Andrew Stuart McLachlan**  
sports editor/co-editor-in-chief/writer

Andy "Mac" McLachlan has been writing about sports for as long as he has been playing them. His love for sports is not only exploited through pen and paper, but also with skates and an ice rink. He has played on the Behrend men's hockey club team for the past four years of his college career. Along with checking players on the rink, he also spends time out on the links driving golf balls. Not only does he play and write about sports, but he is also a dedicated Dick's Sporting Goods employee, helping other athletes enhance their performance quality by selling golf equipment to Erie residents. You could say his life is dedicated to sports. His favorite teams are the Pittsburgh Penguins and Michigan Wolverines. His dog, Buster, was named the *Beacon Fan of the Week* for the March 28, 2008 issue.

McLachlan will be graduating this May with a degree in Communications and Media Studies.

This summer McLachlan will be traveling to California to intern for USC football.

"It was fun controlling a medium of Behrend sports and making sure the hockey team always had an article." - McLachlan



**Jessica Lee Carlson**  
sports editor/writer

Carlson has been writing for the Beacon since her sophomore year at Behrend and became an editor for the last semester of her senior year. Along with being a writer, she has also been a part of the Behrend women's soccer team for the last four years. The women made trips to the ECAC tournament her freshman and sophomore year, and the NCAA tournament her junior and senior year after beating Frostburg both years for the AMCC title. Along with knocking balls around on the field, she also is the PR Director for the SGA and is a TOPS Soccer volunteer.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, it's not hard for Carlson to pick the Steelers, Pirates and Penguins as her favorite sports teams.

Carlson met McLachlan in 2004 when they had English class together with Prof. Al Richards.... Four years later he suggested she become a sports editor.

Carlson will also be graduating in May with a degree in Communications and Media Studies.

"Being a part of the Beacon staff has been a lot of fun. I wish I could have become more involved earlier but you can only do so much." - Carlson

## Men's basketball grabs AMCC division title

by Ryan Smosna  
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Feb. 22, 2008

The Behrend Men's Basketball team kept up their winning ways this past week and will now host the AMCC Tournament Friday, Feb. 29 and Saturday, March 1. The latest victims of the Lions fury were La Roche and Lake Erie.

Last Saturday the Lions played a tight game against conference foe La Roche. La Roche came into the game in fourth place in the AMCC conference, but left with a loss and serious jeopardy of not making the AMCC Tournament. The Lions had to fight for every basket and once again senior center and AMCC player of the week Kevin Buczynski played a dominant game.

Buczynski scored 31 points, had 11 rebounds, and three blocks in the Lions win 59 - 51. Buczynski said "we knew La Roche was going to come out and play hard" and that they did. At the end of the first half the Lions were down by a score of 27 - 24. However, in the second half the Lions came out determined to keep their winning streak going. The men turned up their defense to another level and pounded the ball inside to a red hot Buczynski. Senior forward David Gahan dropped a game high three assists to help his teammate surpass the 30 point mark. The win against La Roche set up a heavy weight match against conference rival Lake Erie.

On Wednesday night the Lions took sole possession of first place in the AMCC and received the bid to host the AMCC Tournament. In front of the largest crowd this year, the Lions came out with energy and enthusiasm. Early on in the game the

Lions were hot from the field: sophomore Adam Kaiser was nailing three pointers like they were going out of style. The Lions also got help from senior forward Dan Zeigler and sophomore forward Adam Potter. Potter and Zeigler cleaned the glass throughout the game snatching rebounds when necessary.

Behrend again played with intensity on defense and at the end of the first half the Lions were up 32 - 23. But the Lake Erie Storm fought back in the second half and generated turnovers and open three

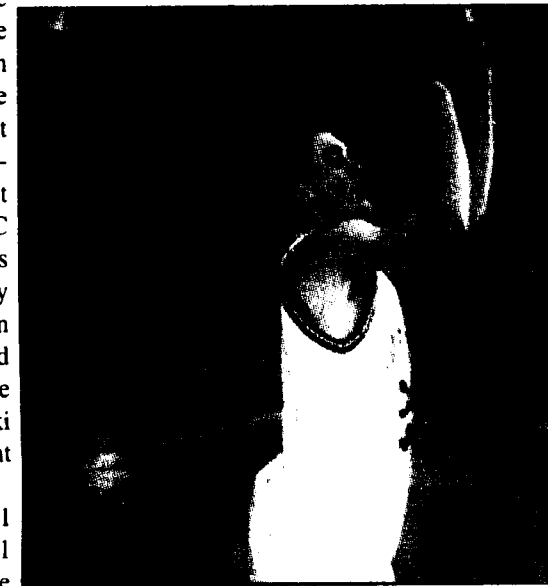
point shots. Once again the Lions had an answer for Lake Erie. Each time the Storm got within a handful of points Behrend fought back and got open looks at the basket. Senior guard Doug Straub stroked home three very important three pointers in the second half. Also senior center Buczynski battled inside the paint to hit some clutch baskets.

The story of the game was the sharp shooting by the guards. Kaiser and company continued to stroke home three pointers all night. Kaiser had a game high 16 points shooting an

amazing 5 - 6 from the three point line, while Behrend shot 12 - 22 from beyond the arc as a team. Kaiser said "we knew we had to play well and hit our shots to win" and the win was a huge one because the Lions will now host the AMCC Tournament next weekend.

The men play a game on Saturday Feb. 23rd against Pitt Bradford in which a win or loss will not affect them in the standings. Next week the Lions will rest up and prepare for what looks to be another dramatic finish to the AMCC.

**The Behrend men's basketball team will host the AMCC Playoff Tournament.**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Senior Doug Straub was vital against Lake Erie

## Behrend hoop star receives ESPN honor

By Jessica Carlson  
sports editor  
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Feb. 22, 2008

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, stellar Behrend women's hoop star Julia

Andrus was named to the *ESPN The Magazine* All-District Academic Third Team. She was chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Andrus has started in all 24 games - to date - for the 2007-2008 season. She just placed herself in the top-ten all-time scoring list tallying 941 total points thus far. She averages 12.8 points and 3.9 rebounds per game.

Andrus performs well both on and off the court. Her work ethic and high performance numbers per game also reflects in her schoolwork. She has managed a GPA of 3.88 throughout her four years at Behrend and is majoring in Biology. She is planning on pursuing something in the medical field with her Biology degree.

Last season Andrus started in all 27 of the Lady Lion games as well as being named to the *ESPN The Magazine* All-District Academic Second Team. She averaged 12.7 points per game as well as 4.1 rebounds per game.

Throughout her four years of play, Andrus has received a number of honors and awards both as an athlete and as a student. She received the AMCC All-Academic honor as a sophomore and junior, as well as named to the All-AMCC team. All three of this years seniors were named to the AMCC All-Academic Squad in the 2006-2007 season.

The women currently sit No. 4 in the AMCC standings after they fell a hard-fought battle against the No. 2 Lake Erie Storm on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The game against the Storm was also senior recognition night for the three senior Lady Lions. Accompanying Andrus were forwards Meagan Bielanin and

Anne Priester who were acknowledged for their four years of contribution to the women's basketball program.

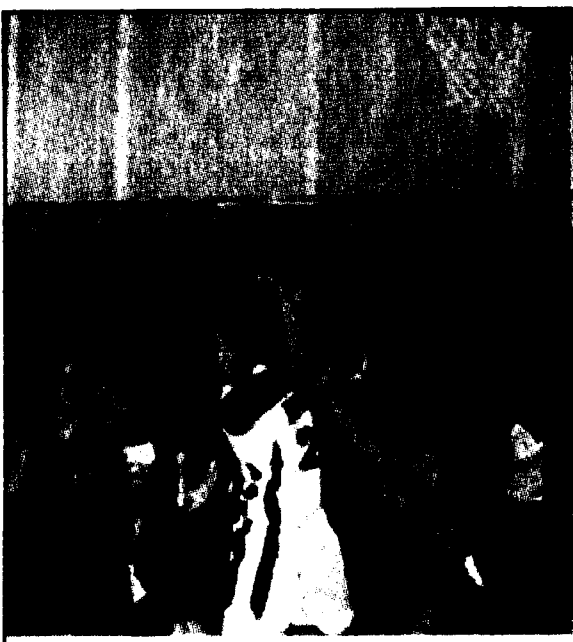
All three seniors have had a noticeable impact for the Behrend women's team. By contributing high number on offense, as well as averaging strong numbers on defense, the seniors have played in the postseason in all four years of their play.

Last Saturday, Feb. 16, the women had a big win over the LaRoche Redhaws. The Lions were tied with the Redhaws for No. 4 prior to the start of the game with an AMCC record of 9-6 and clinched the standing by a final score of 53-48.

Behrend Lions wrap up their regular season on Saturday, Feb. 23, when they travel to Pitt-

Bradford for a 2 p.m. match up. Pitt-Bradford sits in the No. 9 spot in the AMCC standings with a struggling record of 3-14. It should be a sure win for the Behrend women on Saturday which would finish off their regular season at 11-7 in the AMCC and 11-14 overall.

The Blue and White have clinched a spot in the AMCC play-off tournament, which will begin after Saturday's game on Feb. 26. Opponents and location will be announced after the regular season final matches on Saturday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Behrend athlete Julia Andrus drives in for a layup

## ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**NAME:** Nikki Kaschauer  
**SPORT:** Softball  
**CLASS:** Junior  
**DATE:** May 2, 2008