

SPORTS

Women's volleyball off to a strong start

By Christine Newby
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With strong returning players and many new faces, the girls' varsity volleyball team won three out of the four matches in their invitational this past weekend held at Behrend.

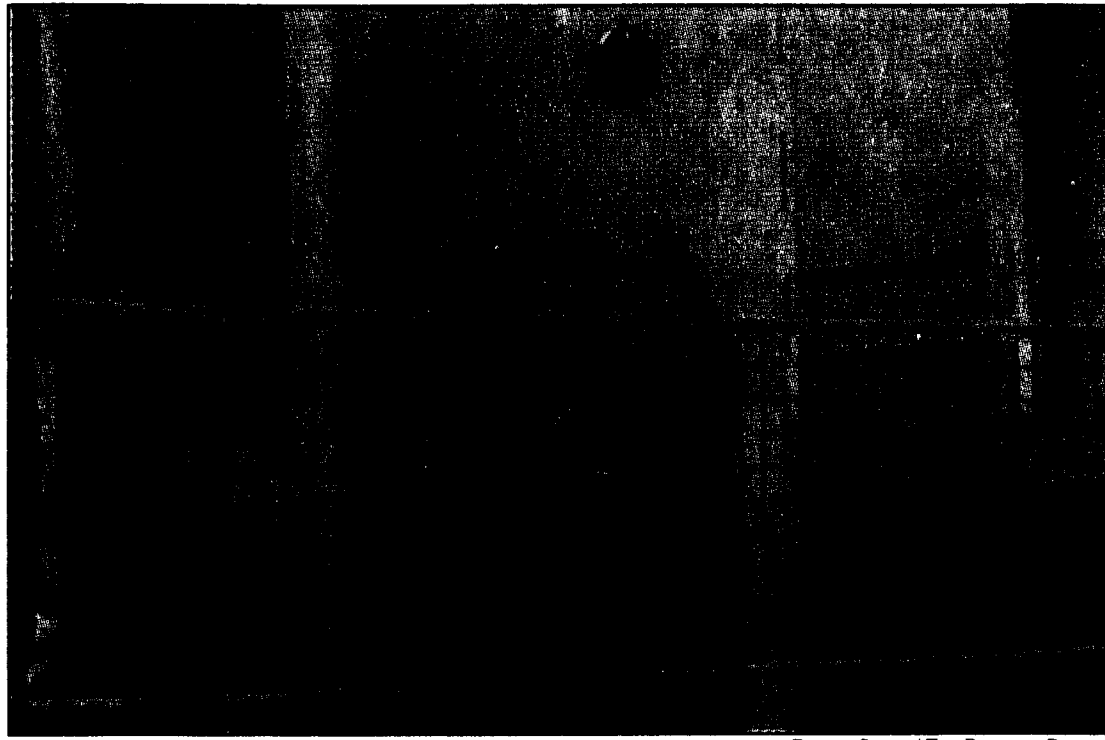
"I am very pleased to go 3-1," said Head Coach Phil Pisano who enters his fifth season at Behrend. "There were very athletic teams in the tournament. We played much better than the first weekend which gives us momentum for this week."

The Behrend Lions went 1-1 on Saturday with a 3-0 victory against D'Youville and lost to Notre Dame by a score of 1-3. Sunday was a very successful day for the team as they pulled through a tough match versus Daemen, winning 3-2 and then swept Fredonia 3-0.

"Our goals are pretty consistent from year to year. The main goal is to go to the AMCC Championship and then to the NCAA tournament. We also have little goals along the way like playing well at home and doing well in tournaments," explained Pisano.

The Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference, AMCC, is the conference that the Lions play in. It also consists of La Roche, Hilbert, Pitt-Greensburg, Pitt Bradford, Franciscan, Frostburg State, Medaille, Mount Aloysius, and Penn State Altoona. Coach Pisano is joined by two assistant coaches, Coach Gerry Vensel and Coach Paige Payer. Vensel is also in her fifth season with the Lions volleyball team, and Payer enters her first year.

Expectations are high this season. The Lions were ranked number two in the 2008 AMCC pre-season rankings. The 2007 champion, Frostburg State University, was the number one team in the presea-



Behrend defenders block a hit by D'Youville players in Friday's game.

son rankings. "Frostburg is our strongest opponent in the AMCC," said Pisano. "Capital and Mt. Union are the two strongest non-conference teams."

The team is made up of 14 players total: one senior, three juniors, two sophomores, and eight freshman. With such a large number of freshmen this year, the team is hoping for their adjustment from high school to college volleyball to be a smooth one. "The freshmen have done a very good job so far. They have stepped up in the last few games which is a big reason why we have gotten off to a good start," stated Pisano.

"Our team is a very close team off the court which makes playing with each other on the court so much easier and more fun," said the lone senior, Brittany Hennessy. "I think we have to have good team chemistry to achieve the goals we set for ourselves throughout this season. There are more freshman this year than upperclassmen, but honestly it doesn't feel that way because the freshmen came in feeling like a part of the team."

Hennessy recently just broke the school's career digs record, which was held at 1,776 digs by former player, Danielle Bemis. Hennessy now has 1,905

digs in her career as of September 9, 2008. "I feel very excited about my all-time school record. I have worked extremely hard during my volleyball career and achieving such a great accomplishment was well worth the hard work. I could not have done it without my teammates or coaching staff pushing me to become the best player I can be," explained Hennessy.

An essential and vital part to every team sport is leadership. Pisano said, "All the upperclassmen have been leaders. We have not voted for or designated a captain."

With an overall record of 7-2, the Lions are proud of their season start. "So far our defense, aggressive serving, and being consistent in our serve and receive have been three areas where we have done well," said Coach Pisano.

Three junior starters return for the season. Junior Brooke Gallentine, was named to the All-Tournament Team during the first weekend at the Thomas More Invitational. Junior Sheila Ogden, was named All-Tournament Team for the Behrend Invitational and was the team's 2007 MVP. Junior, Carissa Johnston, was named honorable mention for the All-Conference last year.

"Brittany, Brooke, Carissa, and Sheila have worked to become better leaders this season," said Coach Pisano. "They help set the tone for how practices will go and each of them find a different way to contribute including being vocal leaders, leaders by example, encouraging and inspiring leaders, and leading as a hard worker."

This weekend the Behrend Lions have a busy schedule as they travel to Westminster for a tournament where they will be facing Capital, Georgian, Grove City, and Mount Union.

"It's Browns Week!"

What do the Steelers need to do to win?

First, Steelers fans, don't panic. The Browns, though they received a lot of hype in the off-season, flopped in week one. So, what do your black and gold heroes need to do to send the Brownies packing like the Cowgirls, your other hated rivals, did last week?

Last week, the Steelers offensive line responded to offseason criticism and doubt by opening holes the size of the Great Wall of China for "Fast" Willie Parker to run through.

If they can do it half as well they should be able to dominate Cleveland's front defensive line. Often, Tony Romo had what seemed like hours to throw in last week's debacle versus

Dallas.

A lot will depend on Ben Roethlisberger. He set an NFL record for accuracy in an opening game last week, going 13 of 14 on his throws. Again, a lot will be riding on a repeat performance from the offensive line, but Ben looked great last week and will hopefully be able to poke holes in Cleveland's defense.

Special teams and defense has to be controlled by the Steelers. Jeff Reed will be kicking away from Josh Cribbs and hope for a repeat performance from Lamarr Woodley and Lawrence Timmons to beat the Browns into submission.

NFL WEEK II

PIT VS CLE

Matchup and Breakdowns by Connor Sattely
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Team Leaders

Passing	Comp	Att	Yds	TD
PIT - Ben Roethlisberger	13	14	127	2
CLE - Derek Anderson	11	14	114	1
Rushing	Car	Yds	Avg	TD
PIT - Willie Parker	25	138	5.5	3
CLE - Jamal Lewis	13	62	4.8	0
Receiving	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD
PIT - Heinz Ward	6	76	12.7	2
CLE - Kellen Winslow	5	47	9.4	1
PIT - Heath Miller	3	26	8.7	0
CLE - Steve Sanders	1	18	18.0	0

"It's Steelers Week!"

What do the Browns need to do to win?

First, Browns fans, don't panic. Your team is only 0-1, and it's early. Your team needs your support to beat your rival to the east.

First, the Browns have to improve on defense. They gave up a ridiculous 30 first downs to Dallas, and allowed the Cowboys to go 8-11 on third down conversions.

You can rely on Josh Cribbs for a spark on special teams, but don't expect to get kickoffs right up the middle. Other return men might have the duty fall to them, namely Steptoe, and they must step up to give the offense good field position.

The Browns' highly-touted

offense fell flat in week one. In NFL's stat sheet, the Browns Offense ranked 29th in the league.

Count on the offense to try to go to the air against the Steelers' questionable secondary. If Braylon Edwards can hang on to more passes than he dropped last week, the Steelers will be falling over themselves to try to stop you.

Expect parading in the streets of Cleveland this week if the defense can hold their ground against Willie Parker and Big Ben. The 0-9 curse might be broken this week. Steelers week will seem a lot less formidable in winter with a win in fall.

Athlete Spotlight: Karen Hobaugh

By Connor Sattely
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Six years ago, in her freshman year of high school, Karen Hobaugh hardly thought she'd be making headlines in college as a tennis player. Deeply involved with her high school softball team, Hobaugh, who is now a junior at Penn State Behrend, was having a great time pitching as part of the team. She had been playing softball for ten years, and it looked like it was a sport she could continue into college.

In tenth grade, scoliosis forced her to reconsider her choice of sport.

"I had to weigh the decision," she says, "on whether to keep pitching and eventually throw out my arm, or pick a different sport that I could play for years."

That sport, which Hobaugh quickly fell in love with, was tennis. "It's a lot less political than softball; you just come trained and prepared to fight for a spot."

Doubles play is her favorite part of tennis because she gets to play alongside one of her best friends, Christy Calvert. Together, the two of them have a great time messing around in practice and at events but team up to be one of Behrend's most formidable tennis duos. "We have a great time, and that's an awesome part of it," says Hobaugh. "But the best part is beating teams while you do it. We got to take on a very good team this weekend and beat them, and that was awesome."

Frostburg State, in its Feb 5 match against the Behrend women's tennis team, fell as the blue and white took them down with a 9-0 score. Hobaugh and Calvert played a vital role in leading Behrend to victory in their



DANIEL SMITH / THE BEHREND BEACON
Junior Karen Hobaugh returns a serve during tennis practice on Thursday.

doubles win. Hobaugh also proceeded to win at fourth flight singles, while her teammate dominated at second singles, propelling the team to a lopsided victory. Hobaugh was undefeated in singles play.

Hobaugh selected Behrend from an education standpoint. An accounting and finance major, she felt that Behrend was a source of a great education. What she found in the tennis program was a great hand-in-hand benefit of education with athletics that she quickly took advantage of.

"The coaches here are awesome," Hobaugh says. "[Tennis head coach] Barger is the perfect coach. He emphasizes academic success; he won't let tennis take over your life, but is respectful of his players and wants to get the best out of them."

Coach Jeff Barger would have much of the same to say about one of his star athletes. "Karen is a very great person to have on the team, and I'm glad she chose Behrend," he said in an e-mail to the Beacon.

The Behrend athlete plans to stay in Erie for all four years of her education. Good news for the athletic program at the college: she also plans to stick with tennis until she graduates - making the most of the opportunity she realizes may come only once in her life.

"I'm very lucky to have found such a great college with an awesome athletic program."



ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Karen Hobaugh
Women's Tennis
Junior