

# SPORTS

## Athlete Spotlight: Arica Christman

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ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR  
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**Arica Christman**  
**Women's Tennis**  
**Freshman**

Behrend freshman Arica Christman has had a first year at college which not many students can match. In the first few months of her Penn State Erie experience, she has torn through the regular season of tennis on one of Behrend's best women's tennis teams, travelled to the AMCC Championships, and walked away as one of the team's most valuable players in their Championship weekend.

Her start in tennis was not so dramatic; she began playing tennis in ninth grade, continuing through high school at Sharon playing on the varsity tennis team. All of her friends were on the team, and she knew it would be a great place to just have fun. Over time, her love for the game developed, and when time came to apply for college, a decent athletic program was a must.

"I knew I wouldn't play at University Park," she says. "Behrend was perfect; it was close to home, and gave great athletic and academic opportunities."

Her impressions of the school up until

now have been great. "Coach [Jeff Barger] has been awesome. He's really laid back, not too strict, and makes it a great environment to have fun." She also knows that the friendships that she has made during her time on the team will continue throughout college. "All of my friends are here," she says.

At the beginning of the season, she knew that the team was good, but didn't know what to expect with the rest of the season. "I wasn't sure how we'd do late in the season, but at the championships, everyone did great. We did really good."

Christman was one of the biggest leaders in the Lions's victory. According to the Athletic Department, she took the number one spot in singles play, winning 6-1 and 6-3. She also took the number two doubles with teammate Stephanie Catron, winning 8-5. They beat Frostburg, who was ranked first amongst competitors, to claim the title.



SPORTS DEPARTMENT  
Arica Christman prepares to serve.



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon

A Behrend Water Polo player prepares to block an opponent's shot on the goal in the Junker Center pool.

## The Behrend men's water polo team prepares for playoffs

By TJ Banas  
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The Behrend's Men's Water Polo team was defeated in their last game of the regular season, but now looks ahead to the post season.

Men's Water Polo had a brutal match in the Junker Pool on Oct. 18, as they lost to the Washington and Jefferson Presidents in overtime, 8-6.

In the first quarter, the Behrend Lions took an early goal from sophomore center Jon Bacon.

In the second quarter of play, there was a lot excitement as both team scored a goal.

The first came from Washington and Jefferson Presidents Senior Andrew Whittam. The next came from Lions junior utility Jacob Bernstein. This ended the second quarter 2-1 in favor of

the Blue and White.

The Presidents held off the Lions offense, giving up no goals in the third and scoring one of their own.

The Lions were able to fight back in the fourth quarter, scoring three more goals. The first came from Bacon, his second of the game, and sophomore defenders Matthew Pluta and Kevin Wolak scored the other two.

Washington and Jefferson scored two goals in the fourth quarter to even the score to 5-5, forcing the game into overtime.

In overtime, Washington and Jefferson scored three goals, to Behrend's two, finishing the game 8-6 in favor of the Presidents.

Both of the Lions' goals in overtime came from Bacon, who ended the game with four goals.

"I'm glad I was able to convert on the goals when needed, but we still didn't

get the win when we should have," he said.

Behrend players Keith Yaegle and Robert Westhelle both played well in the goal and had key saves throughout the game.

"I feel that we are ready for whatever the upcoming teams throw at us," said Westhelle.

After the game, many of the Lions players felt as if they should have won, and felt that this game gave them much to think about and to work toward in the upcoming practices.

"We will focus more on scoring, and scoring the easy goals when needed," said Head Coach Joe Tristan.

Amongst Tristan's improvements for the team lie many problems with the team's offense. Moving the ball continually, converting on every opportunity, and putting the ball in the net are all things that he will work with the team on.

"You cannot win if you don't score, being that the game of water polo consists of putting the ball in the net," said Tristan.

In the upcoming practices before the championships, the team will be focusing on putting the ball in the net, and converting on every aspect of the game.

Tristan then added that the team will be shooting for third in the Division III NCAA Eastern Championships on October 25, 2008, which will be held at John Hopkins. This game will be played against Connecticut College at 1:00 p.m. and then later against Johns Hopkins at 4:00 p.m.

The season will conclude with the NCAA championships on Dec. 2 and 3.



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon

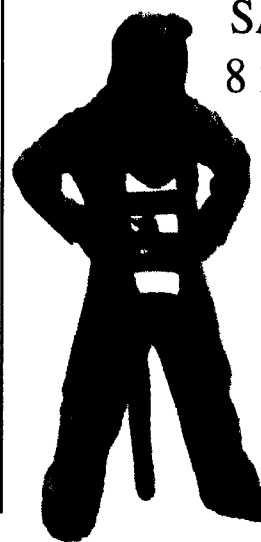
A Behrend player directs the Lions's offense on the way to a goal.

## BIG TEN SHOWDOWN



#3 PENN STATE  
VS  
#9 OHIO STATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25  
8 P.M. - NETWORK: ABC



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