

SPORTS

Behrend Soccer takes on Medaille

By Nick Blake
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The men's and women's soccer teams concluded their regular season this past Tuesday with games against Medaille.

The Lady Lions lost 3-2 in a very strong effort against the Lady Mustangs. The Lions came out strong and possessed the ball most of the game.

The Mustangs struck first with a quick goal from Laura Freeman 16:40 into the game. Her goal was followed by a goal from Danielle Radlich, which came 23:44 into the game.

The Lions didn't give up however. Five minutes after Radlich's goal, Behrend answered with one of their own. Freshman Heather Klimuska scored on an assist from fellow freshman Lindsey

Steinsdoerfer.

Senior Lion Nikki Frisbee was very pleased with the play of the freshmen. "All the freshmen show great effort to give it all they've got on the field," said Frisbee. "They are working very hard and it shows."

The half ended with a score of 2-1 in favor of the Mustangs. The Lions came out in the second half ready to play.

Seven minutes into the second half, Freeman scored her second goal for the Mustangs. Once again the Lions answered quickly. Six minutes after Freeman's goal, Frisbee scored one of her own.

Unfortunately, the Lions were unable to score again, but finished the game strong.

The Behrend men also played Medaille and a win would have given them the regular season

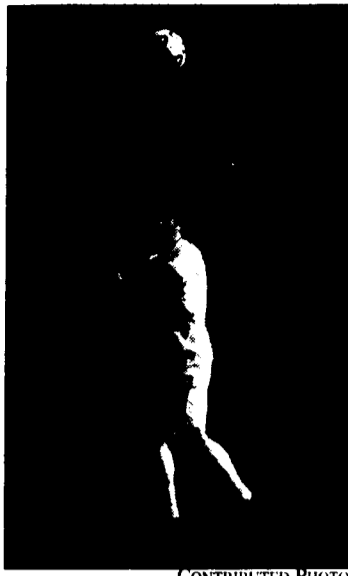
conference title.

The Lions played a very strong game that ended in a 1-1 tie. The Blue and White scored first when freshman Kyle McKinney buried his first goal of his collegiate career, 36:07 into the game. The first half ended with the Lions leading 1-0.

Medaille scored 64:28 into the game, getting a goal from Josh Meier. That would prove to be the final goal scored in the game, even after going through two overtime periods.

Lions' coach Dan Perritano was pleased with the way his team performed. "Our team is peaking at the right time," said Perritano. "Our last three performances have been typical playoff performances."

Postseason play begins for the men and women on Saturday. They will be playing in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Behrend player prepares for a header AMCC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament will follow if they should make it that far.

"Off the Wall"

Each week, managing editor Connor Sattely picks a widely accepted NFL view and disputes it in his editorial column, "Off the Wall." Think he's wrong? Let him know and your rebuttal might make next week's edition.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning hoists the Lombardi Trophy

Who was the best team last year? Answer: N.Y. Giants.

By Connor Sattely
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Who's the best team in the NFL?

On a week to week basis, sports fans have a veritable army of sportscasters assailing them with information and breakdowns on games to help them reach their own conclusion. ESPN experts assemble a list of Power Rankings every week, imitating college football, giving each team a ranking 1-32 based on that week's performance.

But, what about all-time? Talking about the NFL through the Super Bowl era, the Steelers, 49ers, and Cowboys come to mind. The era of the Dolphins, perhaps, puts them at the top. How would one decide who has been the best NFL team since the Super Bowl era?

First, I don't think there's any way to balance out the disadvantage that expansion teams are subject to in this conversation, so let's get that out of the way. Sorry Carolina, Houston et al., you simply can't be the best team since 1967 if you have only been around a handful of years. Secondly, I've argued with plenty of sports fans on the subject of how to choose the best team in the history of the NFL, and everyone seems to have their own theory: some favor regular season records, others go by some arbitrary fan agreement on who is the best, yet others go by simple wins and losses for the entire season, regular and postseason both included.

I think the best team in the NFL last year was the New York Giants. No, not the Patriots, who went on a 16-0 regular season run, blowing out almost every team they faced (close games against the Ravens and Giants). The Giants were the best because they won the Super Bowl. The year before last, the Colts were the best; before that, the Steelers; before that, the Patriots for two years. Each year, the best team in the NFL is the team that wins the Super Bowl.

The first argument that I hear when I share this opinion is it's just one game. True. It is. But it's

the game. It's literally the game to decide who the world champion is in American football. If the Patriots won every single game last year, and lost that game, they are not the world champions. They are certainly the second best team (just like the Bears, Seahawks, Eagles, and Panthers were the second best in recent years), but they are not the best.

Almost in response to my arguments with friends, ESPN did an All-time power rankings in which they compiled huge amounts of statistical evidence to determine the 1-32 rankings of all teams since the beginning of the Super Bowl era. They used a point system which added points for Super Bowl victories, seasons with 12 or more wins, fan interest (based on consecutive sellouts, Monday Night Football appearances); it took away points for things like Draft Busts (Ryan Leaf, etc.), or losing seasons.

Guess who was at the top? The Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers essentially tied for first, with the Cowboys taking a slight edge; the San Francisco 49ers came in third. Statistical evidence is fantastic, it adds a legitimate ring to that conversation, but my theory is more simple than that. Take out the statistics, analysis of fans; base it simply on who's won the most Super Bowls.

For those of you who think that the Patriots were the best team last year, you are simply wrong. The World Champions in American Football are the New York Giants. This is coming from a Steelers fan, too.

Years from now, people will be looking back at the 2007-2008 season and wonder who was the best. They will look at the Super Bowl and decide that it was the Giants.

This year, I'll be glad to explain who I think is the best team. I'll be certain exactly who it is on Feb. 1, 2009.

Submissions should be mailed to cis5060@psu.edu and should contain no less than 250 words. All submissions will be considered for publication.

Behrend pulls upset at Johns Hopkins

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Behrend's Men's Water Polo pulled off their first win against Washington and Jefferson in at least eight years this weekend at the Division III Eastern Championships at Johns Hopkins. The Blue and White played four games at the event, which spanned Oct. 25 through Oct. 26.

On the first day of the championships, the Lions took down Connecticut College 21-12, and lost games to host Johns

Hopkins 5-20 and MIT 15-21. On the final day of the event, they took down a strong Washington and Jefferson team 12-9. The online athletic records of the team only date back to 2000, the Lions have posted a no wins versus their division rival, since.

"Everything really clicked this weekend," said sophomore Jon Bacon. "I don't think we've ever beaten them before, at least not that I can remember," he said. "Even people who never really even played water polo that much before played great."

Bacon attributed most of the success to the team's practices. "When you have a bunch of kids on different skill levels, at the beginning of the year it can drag a bit. But at the end of the year, when everything clicks, that's when you have something special."

Head Coach Joe Tristan, in his fifth season as Behrend's coach, explained that communication was one of the keys to victory. "Our communication led to greater conversion on our shooting," he said. "21 of 28 against Connecticut College, 12 of 25 against W. and J. We played 4 complete quarters, and I can't ask for anything more from these players."

Behrend finished third in the tournament, behind host Johns Hopkins and MIT. After their two losses, the Lions faced a formidable challenge. We knew we could still place in the top three, said Tristan. So, getting some sleep, eating a good breakfast, traveling and warming up as a team for the third game were major factors.

Bacon and Matt Pluta were selected to the All-Tournament 2nd Team. According to Tristan, Behrend has had at least two players selected to the team every year since 2004.

Matt and Jon will join a great group of Behrend players on this list. They played very well.

Tristan also realizes that teamwork played a huge role in their wins. "The team effort was apparent in all of our games on both offense and defense," he said. "Any time the ball went to two meters, we had 3 players crashing to the ball, we played a great drop defense to shot block and communicated very well on the offensive end."

The Behrend Lions now look forward to the Southern Division Championships at Princeton. They will then play the Eastern Division Championships at Navy, followed by their NCAA Championships in early December.

We're not finished yet, said Tristan. Our focus is turned to play and finish better than last year.

The Lions' good finish at the Eastern Championships, said the coach, will be a great way to lead into the next games. They're going to be a great stepping stone to the Southern Championships, he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Behrend players work hard to defend their goal

Beat The Experts

Connor is still maintaining a lead over the rest of the staff, but Rachel is starting to creep towards first place.

Matt and Ryan roll in tying for third, and Chris sits in last place.

Where would you place?

Take a look at next week's schedule on NFL.com and e-mail your picks of the game to cis5060@psu.edu.

NFL	Connor	Matt	Rachel	Ryan	Chris
N.Y.J. @ Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	N.Y.J	Buff.
New England @ Indi.	Indi.	N.E.	Indi.	N.E.	Indi.
Jacksonville @ Cinci.	Jack.	Jack.	Jack.	Jack.	Cinci.
Baltimore @ Cleveland	Balt.	Balt.	Balt.	Balt.	Clev.
Tampa Bay @ K.C.	T.B.	K.C.	T.B.	T.B.	K.C.
Houston @ Minnesota	Houston	Minn.	Minn.	Houston	Minn.
Arizona @ St. Louis	Arizona	Arizona	S.L.	S.L.	Arizona
Green Bay @ Tenn.	Tenn.	G.B.	Tenn.	Tenn.	G.B.
Miami @ Denver	Miami	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver
Dallas @ N.Y.G.	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	N.Y.G	Dallas
Atlanta @ Oakland	Atlanta	Oakland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Oakland
Tie-Breaker Pittsburgh @ Wash.	+3 Wash	+4 Pitt.	+3 Pitt.	+9 Pitt.	+10 Wash.
Last week: * denotes winner	6-7	8-4	7-5	8-4	4-8
NCAA					
#1 Texas @	T.T.	Texas	Texas	T.T.	Texas
#7 Texas Tech Wisconsin @	Mich. St.	Wisc.	Wisc.	Mich.St.	Mich St.
#23 Mich. St.					
#8 Florida @	Georgia	Florida	Georgia	Florida	Georgia
#6 Georgia Pittsburgh @	Pitt.	N.D.	Pitt.	Pitt.	N.D.
Notre Dame					
#15 Florida State @ Georgia Tech	F.S.U.	F.S.U.	F.S.U.	F.S.U.	G. Tech.
Last week: * denotes winner	4-1	3-2	5-0	2-3	3-2
Season Totals:	88-37	75-50	84-41	75-50	65-57