

# SPORTS

## Men's basketball turns in another big AMCC win

### DEFENSE IS KEY TO SUCCESS FOR THE BEHREND LIONS

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On Thursday night the Behrend Lions played host to the La Roche Redhawks at the Junker center in an AMCC conference match up.

The Blue and White got out to a very good start, dropping a smothering defensive blanket over the Redhawks. The Lions played a zone defense that kept La Roche scoreless for the first five minutes of the game.

"Tom Newman was great," Coach Tom Niland said. "Everyone fed off of his energy."

With great defensive play, the Blue and White jumped out to a 5-0 lead early in the first half, which quickly turned into a 13-2 lead for the Lions.

Behrend continued great defensive and offensive play throughout the first half. The Lions managed to hold the Redhawks to 16 points in the first half. With only seconds left in the half, Behrend's Steve Piotrowicz buried a three pointer that gave the home team a 33-16 lead at the break.

The Lions shot 13-23 from the floor, while La Roche only managed to make 28 percent of their shots.

The Lions continued both great offensive and defensive play in the second half. The La Roche offense began to click, but they were still no match for the Blue and White.

Even though the Redhawks got their offense moving, it seemed that the Lion's offense matched them shot for shot. La Roche was never able to get any closer to the Blue and White than 19 points.

The Lions did, however, get into a little bit of foul trouble in the second half, but it had no effect on the way the team played defense.

"We look to play our defense," said Behrend junior Adam Kaiser. "Our defense is a huge part of this team and we don't want to change that."

Thanks to the team's great defensive play, they were able to

tally a 25 point win.

"We practice hard everyday," Kaiser said. "We work on defense all the time and run a lot of defensive drills."

Behrend never let up and came away with a 67-42 win creating a four-way tie for first place in the AMCC conference.

The Blue and White were able to utilize the shot clock by running their offense and looking for good shots and getting the ball inside.

"We shared the ball a lot, I think," Niland said. "I think we played good together, and when you play good together, you have a good chance to win."

Adam Potter had an outstanding individual performance posting 24 points and six rebounds.

Kaiser also had a big game with 15 points and three rebounds. Kaiser was able to find the hot hand from behind the arc shooting 3-6 from three-point land.

"I have been struggling from behind the arc," Kaiser said. "I had a lot of confidence in my shooting tonight, and my team had a lot of confidence in me."

The Blue and White are having a great season so far. Their defense has been their trademark and it will surely continue to be that way.

The Behrend Lions will contin-

ue their AMCC play with a battle against Frostburg State at the Junker Center on Jan. 24.

With the AMCC having four teams atop the conference standings, the battle against Frostburg State will be very important for the Behrend Lions.

If the Lions can rack up another win, they can possibly create some space at the top.

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It should be very interesting to see how the rest of the conference play goes for the Blue and White this season.



Top: Adam Potter and Chris Saltzman team up to trap a Redhawk player on the defensive end of the court

Bottom: Adam Kaiser puts his shoulder down and drives past a La Roche defender



KEEGAN MCGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon  
Drew Seker goes up strong to block a shot against La Roche

BEHREND STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY  
EVERY TUESDAY



STUDENT MUST SHOW I.D.

## Athlete Spotlight: Kelly Nowacinski

By Christine Newby  
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Growing up in Erie, just minutes away from Behrend, basketball was not the only sport for Behrend sophomore Kelly Nowacinski.

In grade school, she played soccer, swam, and ran cross country in addition to playing basketball. She started playing basketball in fifth grade. At the high school level, Nowacinski attended Mercyhurst Prep where she concentrated on two sports: basketball and track.

Majoring in psychology, Nowacinski chose Behrend for two specific reasons.

"I chose Behrend because I wanted to stay close to home,"

said Nowacinski. "Also, because of the outstanding academic programs."

Nowacinski is now leading the Behrend Lions women's basketball team to victory. In an AMCC matchup against the Medaille Mavericks on Jan. 14, Nowacinski led the Blue and White with a game high 15 points, while shooting seven of 12 from the field. The Lions defeated the Mavericks, 59-47. Defensively, Nowacinski also contributed with five steals and one blocked shot.

Nowacinski played well in the game following Medaille in another AMCC game, this time, against Franciscan on Jan. 17. She ended the night with 17 points, five rebounds, and five steals in the 65-29 victory over



ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR  
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Kelly Nowacinski  
Women's Basketball  
Sophomore



KEEGAN MCGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon  
Nowacinski looks up the court for an open teammate



KEEGAN MCGREGOR/TheBehrendBeacon  
Nowacinski stands and waits for the game to resume

Franciscan.

The victory against Medaille at the Junker Center was meaningful and important to Nowacinski.

"My favorite basketball experience at Behrend thus far was beating Medaille this year on our home court," said Nowacinski.

Head Coach Roz Fornari is now in her sixteenth season at Behrend in the head coach position. Fornari has helped Nowacinski on the basketball court throughout her two years at Penn State.

"Coach has helped me overall with my defense and most importantly control on the court," said

Nowacinski.

The Lions have an overall record of 7-8 and are 5-4 in the AMCC.

"I feel that the team is doing very well thus far, even though our record may not indicate that," said Nowacinski. "Also, considering the fact this is the first year we are playing together and starting a whole new offense, everyone has adjusted really well and I feel as though we will peak at the right time."

The Behrend Lions women's basketball team will be back in action on Saturday Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. against Frostburg State.