

SPORTS

Volunteer assistant coaches committed to women's basketball program

By Christine Newby

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Commitment, dedication, devotion, loyalty, and an extreme love for the game describes both volunteer assistant coaches Amy Stranahan and Becky Reed for the Behrend Women's basketball program.

Stranahan has volunteered for sixteen consecutive years while Reed had volunteered for twelve straight years under head coach Roz Fornari, who is in her sixteenth year at the position.

"They both have loyalty to me and the program," said Fornari. "They invested themselves into something that they truly believe in and stayed with it."

Coaching for sixteen and twelve years, both Stranahan and Reed have impacted and made a difference in a countless number of players' lives.

"They have impacted so many players' lives," said Fornari. "A crazy number of lives; it's ongoing."

In 2006, Reed was inducted into the Behrend Lions Athletics Hall of Fame. Players came back to support their assistant coach because of the mark she left on them.

According to Fornari, there was a Hall of Fame dinner and then reception, which was held at the Logan House in celebration for Reed's accomplishment.

"There was a whole group of players that came back for it [the dinner]," explained Fornari. "I didn't initiate them to come back, I didn't send out a letter, they just came."

Current senior basketball players, Ellen Kolos and Natalie Engel, agreed that Stranahan and Reed both have impacted the team in a positive way.

"Coach Reed and Stranahan have been great for our team the four years I have been here," said Engel. "They are always there when we need them for anything and are an intricate part to the program and its success. We all love them and are grateful for everything they do for us."

Stranahan and Reed are very helpful during the games for Fornari.

"Reed and Stranahan have a certain spark about them," said Kolos. "They



DANIEL SMITH/TheBehrendBeacon

From left to right: Coach Stranahan, Fornari, and Reed

make things easier for coach Fornari in game situations by keeping stat charts that help us see where we need to improve during games. Reed also helps us in practice by playing defense and challenging us to be better."

Fornari, Stranahan, and Reed have traveled together to numerous destinations for basketball tournaments in the past sixteen years. According to Fornari, they went to Italy and Las Vegas three times, Tennessee, Massachusetts, New York City, Kentucky, and Columbus.

Stranahan and Reed carry and perform different roles to the Lady Lions basketball team.

"Stranahan helps with planning and travel," said Fornari. "She had a vital role with changing and implanting our offense this year. She is more reserved and does more work with the posts."

On the other hand, Reed works with the opposite end of the court along with the guards and brings a different personality to the team.

"Reed works with the defense and guards," said Fornari. "She is chatty, active, will jump into the drills, and has a lot of energy. She is very vocal and outspoken with the players and good at giving feedback."

Stranahan and Reed have a never end-

ing love for the game of basketball.

"I'm still part of the game that I love," said Stranahan. "Coach Fornari has kept us around so we must be doing something right. Who wouldn't want to come back year after year?"

Stranahan and Reed both graduated from Penn State Behrend. Stranahan played volleyball for Behrend and Reed

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- Coach Fornari

played both basketball and softball.

According to the Behrend website, Reed led her teams to two ECAC Championships and a trip to the NCAAs in her basketball career.

"Behrend athletics gave good life lessons to me," said Reed. "[Volunteering] is my way of giving back. It is also a way to stay involved as an alumni."

Being a part of the Behrend Lions

women's basketball team is like another family to the assistant coaches.

"The people are great, like a family," explained Reed. "It is my home away from home and an extension of family. I enjoy how it keeps me active and developing players."

Not only feeling like another family, but the atmosphere and feeling like a kid again is another reason why the coaches enjoy volunteering.

"I enjoy staying with the team atmosphere," said Stranahan. "It keeps me a kid at heart. I like seeing how players adapt and grow throughout the years. It is fun."

Stranahan and Reed bring along a fun, joking atmosphere to the team.

"We are pretty laid back and like to joke around a lot, so it's kind of fun to bring a new assistant coach in," said Reed.

Along with adding a fun atmosphere to the team, the players are thankful to have the volunteer assistant coaches around because they provide knowledge and understanding about the game.

"They make things fun," said Kolos. "They make the atmosphere around them somewhere you want to be. They are both very easy to talk to and very helpful with the knowledge of the game they both have."

Stranahan and Reed share the same favorite memory, the NCAA bid in the 1993-1994 season. At that time, Reed was still playing while Stranahan was coaching. It was the first time in history that the Behrend Women's basketball team participated in the NCAA Tournament. According to Stranahan and Reed, the team played in Erie Hall and the gym was packed to the point where it was standing room only.

Stranahan is employed at RailPower where she has worked for three and a half years and is the Control Systems Engineer.

Reed has been working for General Electric for nine years with the Lean Materials Management.

Stranahan travels with the team to away games, while Reed does not travel.

"They go to whatever they can," said Fornari.

Fornari's understanding and flexibility is crucial to Stranahan and Reed managing their work schedule along with volunteering as the assistant coaches.

"Coach Fornari totally understands if we can't make it," said Reed. "We can make it when we can make it, and she is very flexible about that."

Without Stranahan and Reed being a part of the program, two vital keys for the Lady Lions success would be missing.

"Both are great at helping us out at practice and on game days," said Engel. "They are important on the bench as they help keep track of statistics that are important for our team to know in order for us to win games. Their presence means things run smoothly and how they should. If they weren't there it would be very evident something is missing."

THIS WEEK'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Women's (9-8) and Men's (12-6) Basketball team play a double-header against AMCC opponent, Penn State Altoona. The women's game starts at 1 p.m. followed by the men's at 3 p.m. in the Junker Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The Women's and Men's Basketball team plays another double-header against Medaille. The women's game starts at 6 p.m. and by the men's at 8 p.m.

home games in bold

LAST WEEK'S SPORTS

All wins in italic text

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

M. Swim: Behrend 37 Grove City 57

W. Swim: Behrend 33 Grove City 56

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

M. Basketball: Behrend 78 Pitt-Greensburg 64

W. Basketball: Behrend 40 Pitt-Greensburg 69

M. Swim: Behrend 84 Mt. Union 129

W. Swim: Behrend 78 Mt. Union 133

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

M. Basketball: Behrend 81 Hilbert 59

W. Basketball: Behrend 88 Hilbert 16

All scores based from Sports Calendar and individual team page results. If your sport is not listed and you feel that it should be, contact cis5060@psu.edu

Editorial: Behrend Steelers fans not cocky, but passionate

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The following article is a response to last week's editorial titled "Cocky Steelers fans have another thing coming".

While the "non-Steeler" fans were anxiously hoping for their perfect, dream scenario of Kurt Warner and Larry Fitzgerald hoisting the Vince Lombardi trophy, Steeler fans knew that's exactly what it was. A dream.

Although it was a close game the Steelers proved all of their fans right and won their NFL record, sixth Super Bowl at the demise of the Arizona Cardinals and all non-Steeler fans.

After winning their sixth Super Bowl, Behrend Steelers fans do have something to be proud about and should express their emotion.

It is not a cocky emotion or feeling that Behrend Steelers fans show, but instead a passion that lives inside of every true Steelers fan which fans cannot help but express.

"Behrend fans are more about the passion," said Behrend student Ben Heald.

Behrend Steelers fans were overwhelmed with joy as the final seconds on the clock ticked off and the Steelers were victorious.

"I was jumping up and down on a chair after they won," said Behrend student and Pittsburgh resident, Nate Stockman.

Other Behrend Steelers fans showed their excitement via Facebook.

"I texted a lot of people and even updated my Facebook every time the Steelers scored. I am a

passionate Steelers fan, I can't be cocky," said Behrend student Liz Horn.

The Pittsburgh Steelers now have more Super Bowls than any other team in NFL history. If that doesn't qualify them as an NFL juggernaut, then maybe these stats will.

They have a quarterback who has won two Super Bowls in his first five seasons in the league. They have a coach who has won his first Super Bowl in his second year in the league. They have a defense that ranked number one in the league. They overcame the hardest schedule in the NFL. They have one of the largest fan bases in the country, Steeler Nation, you may have heard of it. They are a legitimate contender year in and year out. Do we need to continue?

What we really want to say is that we Steeler fans aren't cocky. We have an untamable passion and love for our team. Had the Steelers lost Super Bowl XLIII, chances are that Steelers fans would have been physically ill for at least a week. That practically happens when they lose regular season games. That's just how we are.

The Steelers are our team. Of course we're going to talk them up and make them seem like best thing that has ever happened. It's just what fans are supposed to do. It's the same way for Yankee fans with baseball, and Redwing fans with hockey and the Celtics with basketball.

In the Super Bowl, Steeler Nation dominated the crowd with fans decked out in black and gold as they twirled their Terrible Towels around in the air and supported their football team. Fans came with their faces and bodies painted to display how much the Steelers mean to them.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh police estimated the Super Bowl parade in downtown Pittsburgh on Tuesday, Feb. 3 had a total of 350,000 Steelers fans jammed packed on the streets. The city alone has a population of 312,819 according to the U.S. Census Bureau from the most recent statistics in 2006. So the number of people that attended the parade surpassed the city population. That statistic defines Pittsburgh Steelers fans.

There was a 100,000 increase in fans compared to the team's last victory parade in 2006.

According to the NFL website,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Diehard Steelers' fan decked out in his black and gold