

SPORTS

Lady Lions defeat Penn State Altoona 82-72

Second half 12-0 run brings victory to Behrend

continued from front page.

Richardson's drive to the basket and dish to junior Christine Krankota made the score 4-2 in favor of the Lady Lions.

Oldach scored the next five points for the Lady Lions as she drove to the hoop and banked in a

layup, made a foul shot, and connected with Krankota on a give-and-go pass for another layup putting Behrend up 9-3.

Senior Natalie Engel's layup gave the Lions a five point lead over Altoona 13-9.

Altoona was then forced to call a timeout because of the pressure

put on by Behrend's defensive full-court press.

The timeout did not help Altoona, as Engel drained a three-pointer right after, making the game 16-9.

Richardson put the Lions up by ten points in the first half when she stole the ball and took it the length of the floor for an uncontested layup which made the score 29-19 in favor of Behrend.

However, the Blue and White quickly saw their ten point lead disappear when Altoona went on a 12-2 run to tie the game at 33 apiece with 4:47 remaining in the first half of play.

With time winding down in the first half, sophomore Kelly Nowacinski put the Lions in front with a layup that barely beat the sound of the buzzer.

Going into the locker room, the Behrend Lions had a one point advantage 44-43.

Nowacinski led all scorers with 13 at the half.

"We actually liked how we were doing a lot of things both offensively and defensively [in the first half]," said Fomari. "We just needed to make adjustments on the boards and in our press."

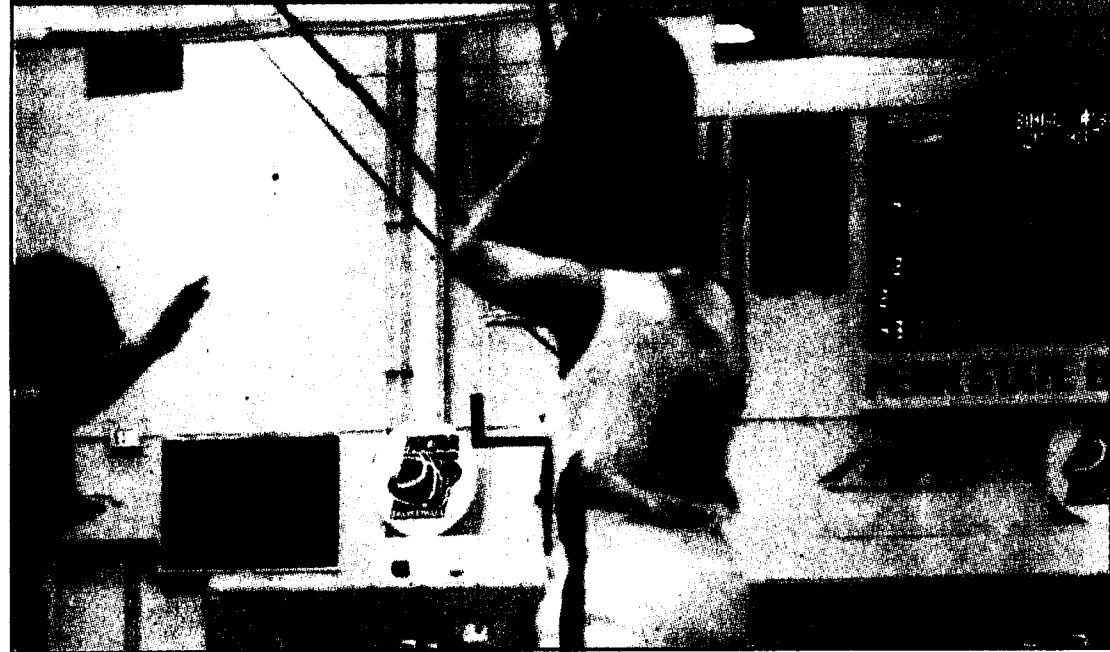
The second half did not start off well for the Lions as they turned the ball over and saw Altoona put the first points on the board in the second half which made the score 44-45.

With 12:46 left in the game, Altoona was up 48-55. Engel then converted on a much needed three point attempt, bringing the score to 51-55.



DANIEL SMITH/TheBehrendBeacon

Sophomore guard Amy Oldach passes the basketball.



DANIEL SMITH/TheBehrendBeacon

Top: Sophomore guard Kelly Nowacinski dribbles the ball while looking towards the basket.

Bottom: Senior guard Ellen Kolos looks for on open teammate.

Altoona was winning by eight points, 51-59, with 11:04 in the second half.

The Lady Lions closed the scoring gap to 63-64 as Richardson scored a three-pointer and Engel hit back-to-back threes at 6:55.

The Lady Lions then went on a 12-0 run which was the turning point of the game.

"The turning point in the game was when we went on our run in the second half," said Richardson.

"We were up by ten or so in the first half and then they caught back up. Then in the second half they were up by eight. We went on a run, made a couple clutch three point shots, and went from there. I think once we started making our shots on offense, our defensive intensity picked up causing more turnovers for Altoona and more scoring opportunities for us."

The Lady Lions performed well in the final four minutes of the game.

"I really liked how my team handled game situations," said Fomari. "They were composed and they listened well strategically. When we faced crucial situations, they were very focused and they executed really well in the last four minutes."

At 3:05 in the second half, Richardson pulled the Lions ahead by one when she made a jump shot in the key. Another clutch three point shot by Richardson put the Lady Lions ahead 74-70.

With under two minutes to go, Oldach converted on two free throw attempts and a shot from behind the arc which made the score 79-70 in favor of Behrend.

The final score was 82-72 and added another win to the Lady Lions record (11-10, 9-6).

Engel had a game high 19 points and was perfect from three point range, going four for four. Oldach contributed 18 points and four assists, Nowacinski scored 15 and also had four assists, while Richardson added 13 points and seven steals.

"Truthfully the starting five [performed well and made an impact in the game]," said Fomari. "They all impacted the game for the last four minutes, and during that stretch we changed the game."

According to Fomari, the team is ranked fourth in the AMCC standings behind Pitt-Greensburg, Penn State Altoona, and Frostburg.

According to the Behrend web-

site, the women's basketball team is nationally ranked in Division III basketball this season. They are currently ranked second in team steals at 17.0 spg. The website stated that in the AMCC, the Lady Lions are ranked number one with almost three more steals per game than any of the other AMCC opponents.

Rachel Richardson leads the team in the steal category.

Averaging 3.6 spg ranks Richardson 27th nationally.

The Lady Lions have three regular season games left.

The team travels to Franciscan and La Roche before finishing the season at the Junker Center on Feb. 21 against Pitt-Bradford.

"All four of these games are key for the rest of our season," said Richardson. "We beat all but Bradford the first time around so for us to win out would be huge. All of these teams have a potential at making a run for the playoffs, so we control our own destiny. We have to play each game like we did this past Saturday, with high energy, good pressure, and the want to win."

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ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NAME: Tom Newman
SPORT: Men's Basketball
CLASS: Senior

Penn State Behrend senior Tom Newman (Girard, Pa./Northwestern) was named the Enterprise RENT-A-CAR Athlete of the Week for the week of February 9, 2009.

Newman was a key part to the Behrend Lions 2-0 week against AMCC opponents. Newman was 5-for-8 from three-point range against Hilbert on Wednesday. Newman would finish the game with 21 points and add eight rebounds and three assists.

With his aggressive and hard nosed defense Newman got three steals and cleaned up the glass for five boards against conference foe Penn State Altoona on Saturday. He would chip in seven points and four assists in the 77-60 win to keep the blue and white atop the conference standings.

Newman is averaging 5.5 rpg and 7.8 ppg in his senior year. Newman is nine points away from reaching 800 points for his career. Newman has also accumulated 420 rebounds to date in his four years as a Behrend Lion.



DANIEL SMITH/TheBehrendBeacon

Athlete of the week, Tom Newman, drives to the hoop.