

SPORTS

Men's basketball team advances to AMCC semifinal game

By Shawn Annarelli
contributing writer
sma5189@psu.edu

The Behrend Lions (17-8, 13-5) outplayed, outwitted, and outlasted the Panthers from Pitt-Bradford (16-10, 13-5) to a 73-66 victory. In doing so, the Lions have placed themselves comfortably as the number two seed in this season's AMCC tournament.

The boys from Behrend avenged an earlier season loss against Pitt-Bradford, splitting

their regular season contests 1-1.

During pre-game warm-ups, tension filled the air as each side of the court featured opposing teams preparing to play for the second seed in the AMCC tournament, and to go along with it, the perk of a first round bye.

Senior Behrend players Tom Newman and Drew Seker were suitably introduced, with their parents at their side, before tip-off in recognition of their basketball careers at Penn State Behrend.

Head coach Dave Niland said short and sweetly of these two

young men. "You are not going to find two finer guys than Tom and Drew; great students, leaders, and players."

Over the course of their collegiate careers they have each accumulated a GPA of over 3.6, accrued an 82-29 record over the last four seasons, and claimed their spot as champions of the AMCC by winning last year's AMCC tournament.

In the Junker center, before a packed crowd of 1,192 fans, Newman and Seker led their team into a battle of will against Pitt-Bradford.

The Lions would face a tall mountain to climb from the start of the contest after failing to record a basket during their first six of seven possessions, and falling behind the Panthers 2-10 in the first six and a half minutes of the game.

To make matters worse, Newman and fellow Behrend starter Adam Potter fell into early foul trouble and were taken out of the game for a good majority of the first half.

"I can't say enough about how hard our freshmen played coming off the bench in their, [Newman and Potter's], absence," said Seker. "Once we got Adam and Tom back, our energy picked up."

The Behrend men were down by 11 points at the end of the first half 26-35.

Pitt-Bradford's Sam Moore and Dan Heisey had nearly run away with the game in the first half.

They were forces as Moore led all players with rebounds, and

Heisey led in points. Heisey scored 19 points and admirably recorded seven rebounds, while Moore scored a very respectable 15 points and came down with nine rebounds, all off of the defensive board.

To begin the second half of play, the Lions came out more aggressive than they ever have.

Their fearless style of play drew three early fouls against Pitt-Bradford starter Zach Moore, older brother of teammate Sam Moore.

Over the first 12 minutes of play, the Lions methodically battered and bruised the Panthers team into submission.

Kaiser was brilliantly active on each side of the court, as Newman led the Lions assertive play on offense and Seker did the same on the defensive side.

With 13:36 left to play the Lions began what was to become a stunning comeback.

The next six minutes would quite possibly prove to be the Lions finest of the season as they went on a 12-3 run and finally took their first lead of the game 48-47.

The remaining seven minutes and 43 seconds of the game unraveled as each side sprinted and bullied their way until the final buzzer.

The ever resilient foes clawed back and forth as Penn State Behrend held off the Panthers onslaught until there was only 2:10 left to play.

The Panthers Sam Moore drew a foul against Newman and connected on one of two free throws for Pitt Bradford to regain the lead 61-60.

The Lions were not to be denied, though. Behrend's Chris Saltsman outmuscled the Panthers Moore brothers to rebound his own shot and put it back up for two, giving the Lions the lead again 62-61.

Pitt Bradford would not be able to recover as the Lions forced them to intentionally commit five fouls in the final half minute of regulation.

As if they were made of stone cold ice, the Behrend men connected on nine out of 10 free throws due to the five Panther fouls.

The Lions finished off Pitt Bradford 73-66 for the second seed in the AMCC tournament.

Newman finished his last regu-

lar season game shooting four of five from the field, 11 total points, and a team leading five rebounds, despite playing for only 27 minutes.

Fellow senior Seker played an integral role in defending against the Panthers offense inside and around the key. Seker blocked two Panther shots, stole a pass, scored eight points, and caused chaos for any Panther near his zone.

Saltzman led Behrend with 16 points, Kaiser contributed 12, and Newman added 11 in the victory against Pitt-Bradford.

"At this time of the season, it's going to come down to who

wants it more," said Newman. "If we play as hard as we can and leave it all on the court, we will be where we want to be."

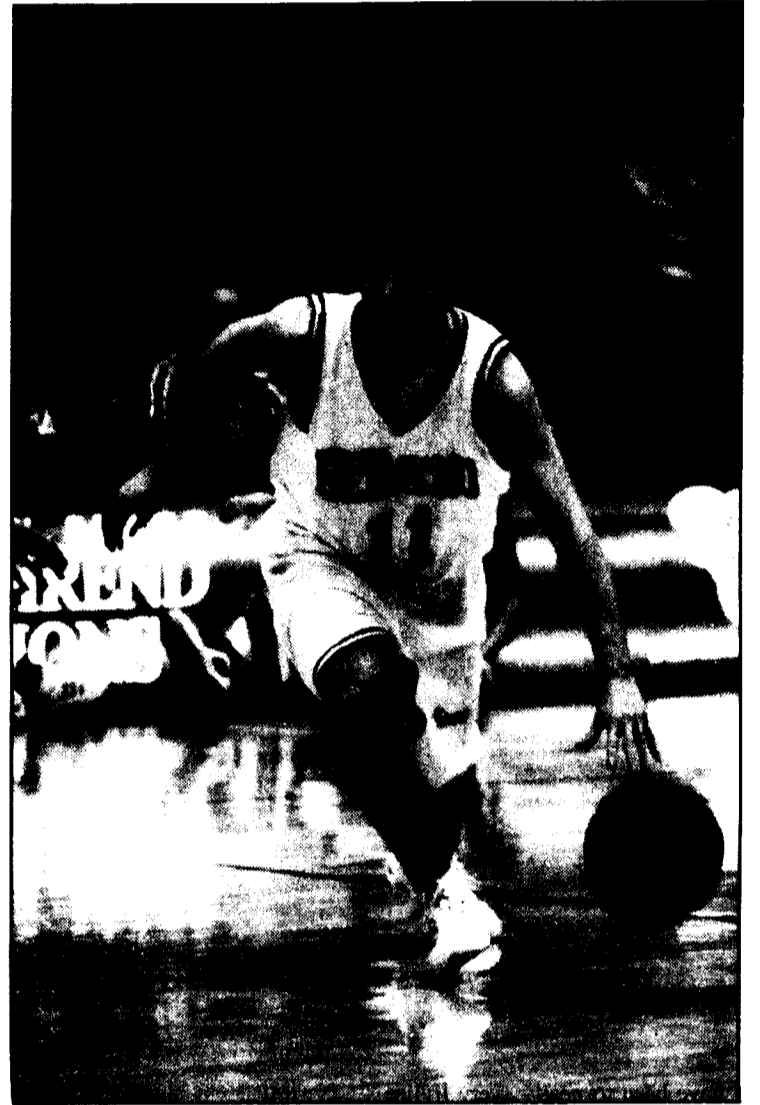
In regards to the game, Kaiser said. "I think the key to our win tonight was our defense and the ability to take care of the ball, limiting our turnovers."

The Lions forced 11 Panther turnovers, while committing just three of their own.

The Lions play the Panthers in the AMCC semifinals against the winner of the Pitt-Bradford and La Roche game. Whoever wins this best out of three matchup will play for the AMCC Championship on Saturday.



Top: Freshman Steve Piotrowicz commands the Behrend offense.
Bottom: Freshman Pat St. Andrews grabs the rebound and secures the ball.



DANIEL SMITH/TheBehrendBeacon
Junior Adam Kaiser looks ahead while dribbling.

THIS WEEK'S SPORTS SCHEDULE

home games in bold

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The Men's Tennis (1-1) team plays Westminster at home at 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Swimming and Diving team compete at the ECAC Championships in Boston.

The Women's and Men's Indoor Track team compete at the Marietta Open at 10 a.m.

The Men's Basketball team (17-8) play in the AMCC Semifinal game at 8 p.m. against the winner of Pitt-Bradford and La Roche.

The Baseball team plays in Roanoke, VA at 12 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

The ECAC Championship continues for the Swimming and Diving team.

The Baseball team plays in Roanoke, VA again at 12 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

The Men's Basketball team plays in the ECAC/NCAA Tournament at TBA.

Rachel is still in the lead while Connor is three games behind her. Christine had a huge week last week and is one win in front of Nick. Matt comes in last place.

Want to play? Email cen5056@psu.edu for a list of next week's games to see if you can "beat the experts".

Beat The Experts

	Connor	Matt	Rachel	Christine	Nick
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL					
Indiana @ Penn State	Penn St.	Penn St.	Indiana	Penn St.	Penn St.
#20 Illinois @ #9 Michigan St.	Mi. St.	Mi. St.	Mi. St.	Mi. St.	Illinois
#4 Memphis @ Southern Miss	Memphis	Memphis	Memphis	Memphis	So. Miss.
#18 LSU @ Kentucky	LSU	Kentucky	LSU	LSU	LSU
Florida @ Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Tennessee	Tenn.	Florida
#10 Marquette @ #1 Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Marquette	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Marquette
#14 Wake Forest @ Maryland	Wake F.	Wake F.	Wake F.	Wake F.	Maryland
Bowling Green @ Akron	Akron	Akron	B. Green	Akron	B. Green
Buffalo @ Kent State	Buffalo	Buffalo	Kent St.	Kent St.	Buffalo
NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL					
Penn State @ #14 Ohio State	Ohio St.	Penn St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.
Miss. St. @ Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Miss. St.	Alabama	Alabama
#11 Duke @ #10 North Carolina	UNC	Duke	Duke	Duke	UNC
#4 Stanford @ UCLA	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	UCLA
Washington St. @ Arizona St.	Arizona St.	Wash. St.	Arizona St.	Wash. St.	Wash. St.
Oregon @ Oregon St.	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon St.	Oregon St.	Oregon
Virginia Tech @ Georgia Tech	V. Tech	G. Tech	V. Tech	V. Tech	G. Tech
Iowa @ Northwestern	Northwestern	Iowa	Northwestern	Iowa	Iowa
Pittsburgh @ #8 Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville	Louisville
Season Totals:	65-42	58-49	68-39	64-43	63-44

LAST WEEK'S SPORTS

All wins in italic text

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

M. Tennis: Behrend 9 Waynesburg 0
W. Basketball: Behrend 84 Pitt-Bradford 74
M. Basketball: Behrend 73 Pitt-Bradford 66

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

W. Basketball: Behrend 60 Medaille 69

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