

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Lady Lions lose key game



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon  
Juniors Amy Oldach (11) and Kelly Nowacinski (32) defend against Medaille's Kacie Mills (15).

SHAWN ANNARELLI  
managing editor

Penn State Behrend's tenacious full-court press defense could not hold off the AMCC's first place team, Medaille College.

"Playing at Behrend is always one of our toughest games every year," said Medaille Mavericks junior forward Mandy Sahhar. "They are the most physical team in the AMCC."

Sahhar tallied nine rebounds, two blocks and two steals for Medaille.

The Lady Lions did not waste time playing hard-nosed basketball. Medaille did not score until 15:40 in the first quarter. Behrend went on an 8-0 run in the first 4:20 of the game.

Behrend freshman forward Taylor Lotis had the early hot hand and scored the game's first two baskets, each 3-pointers.

"We realized we needed to step it up," said Medaille junior guard Kacie Mills. "Our coach told us that Behrend is a good team and that they would not give us the game. We had to earn this win."

Mills led all players in the game with six shots made and 15 points scored.

Medaille finally scored its first points when sophomore point guard Meghan Dougherty's hit a 3-pointer.

"The game got turned around after we actually scored," Dougherty said. "We started to get some open shots after that and everything clicked for us."

Medaille did not just click. They rolled. Behrend did not score for slightly over 11 minutes as Medaille went on an 18-0 run.

"We just did not shoot the ball well from the outside," said Behrend head coach Roz Fornari.

"They challenged us to beat them from the outside, and we took 40 3-point shots tonight. We did not make enough of them."

Behrend made 10 3-pointers for a .250 shooting percentage. The Lady Lions were even worse inside as the team made only seven of 35 2-point shots.

At halftime, Behrend trailed 22-14.

The closest Behrend got to Medaille's lead was with 13:52 remaining in the game. Behrend junior guard Kelly Nowacinski scored a 2-pointer to make the score 28-25.

Medaille responded by gaining a 12-point lead over the next 10 minutes of the game. The Lady Lions began fouling the Mavericks and were down 55-50 with 34 seconds remaining. Three Behrend fouls and five Medaille points later, the Lady Lions' fate was decided.

Behrend junior guard Amy Oldach was instrumental in keeping the Lady Lions in the game. She led Behrend with 13 points and five assists.

"Medaille started finding the shooter well at the end of the game," Oldach said. "We were trying to pound it inside, but their zone defense didn't allow us to drive to the hoop like we usually do."

Behrend freshmen guard Aly Eagle was a key contributor off of the bench. She led the Lady Lions with four steals and recorded 11 points.

"Medaille came out in a one-three-one zone, but it did not throw us off of our game," Eagle said. "We played one of our best games defensively, but we didn't finish off good looks on offense."

The Mavericks are the only team in the AMCC undefeated against conference opponents.

"Everyone is out to get us," Dougherty said. "Our opponents have nothing to lose and we do. We need to come out stronger in games to continue our undefeated streak."

The sentiment runs deeper for Dougherty's teammates.

"We were ranked to be the AMCC's fourth place team at the beginning of the year," Mills said. "We can prove we are better than that, and we want to keep our winning streak alive to get into NCAA competition."

Behrend and Medaille should both be contenders when the AMCC Tournament commences.

"We would love the opportunity to play Medaille again," Eagle said. "If we shoot better we will give them a good scare and hopefully a loss."

## Athlete suspended

SHAWN ANNARELLI  
managing editor

A Penn State Behrend volleyball offseason is a dormant period for players and a hectic time for head coach Phil Pisano, who entertains high school recruits on almost a daily basis.

But this offseason has gotten an unexpected shake-up after one player was indefinitely suspended.

"A player has been suspended indefinitely for a violation of team rules," Pisano said.

The player's identity and circumstances of the situation leading to the indefinite sus-

pension will not be released.

Behrend's volleyball team is coming off of its sixth straight winning season. The Lady Lions failed to defend its 2008-2009 ECAC Championship title when the team was ousted in the first round of the ECAC Tournament by number five-seeded St. Vincent College.

The team also lost to number one-seeded Frostburg State in the 2009-2010 AMCC Tournament Championship final.

Despite recent turmoil, the Lady Lions could return up to 13 players for the 2010-2011 season. Training camp for returning team members begins in April 2010.

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