

BASEBALL

Lions steal two from Pitt-Greensburg, fall to Wooster

KAELA BISHOP
Staff Writer

During a week of tough competition, the Lions were able to gain footing in the conference due to the strong leadership shown by veteran players.

The Lions defeated Pitt-Greensburg in both games of a doubleheader, taking the team to an 8-2 record in conference play.

"I feel we can definitely come through when we need a big win. We have a lot of guys who have been here for a while, won a lot of games, lost some games, and know what it takes," senior third baseman Dustin Dubensky said.

The Behrend Lions annihi-

lated Pitt-Greensburg during the first game of the double header.

Going 3-for-5 with one RBI and scoring four runs was Senior shortstop Josh Fyffe.

Another senior showing leadership through his performance on the field was third baseman Dustin Dubensky. He went 3-for-5 with one RBI and scored three runs.

"The experience rubs off on the younger guys on the field and in the dugout, and I think our team knows we are and likes to be the team to beat," Dubensky said.

Freshman Matt Bittner and junior right fielder Geoff Lang benefited from the play of the upperclassmen.

Bittner went 3-for-4 with five RBI and scored one run as the designated hitter.

Lang went 3-for-5 with two RBI and scored two runs.

On the defensive side of the field, senior pitcher Steve Miller did not give up a single run in the six innings he pitched.

Miller struck out 10 batters and only allowed four hits.

The Blue and White won the game with a final score of 18-2.

"We played a good solid two games on both sides of the ball," Dubensky said. "We got two outstanding pitching performances from Steve Miller and Ryan Jacobs."

In the second game against Pitt-Greensburg, Jacobs

pitched a shutout, allowing just two hits and striking out nine.

In the third inning, junior Eddie Kessler got on base by a walk. Fyffe then brought Kessler and himself home with a two-run shot to right-center field.

The Lions would add another run from Lang to post a 3-0 win.

Behrend put up a good fight during the first game of a doubleheader against the No. 4 nationally ranked Wooster Fighting Scots.

The team was able to attain eight hits, but Kessler would be the only Lion to score.

"Their pitchers did a great job shutting the door on us when we had runners on base,"

Dubensky said. "We needed to get some of the runners we left on base in the early innings across the plate, especially against an opponent like them."

Senior Ryan Antolik pitched the first six innings, keeping the Wooster offensive numbers low.

Antolik allowed four hits, two runs, and struck out five, but it was not enough to beat Wooster. Behrend took the loss 2-1.

The second game started off with a bang. Wooster was first to take control of their bats and jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the first inning.

The Lions answered, though, by scoring five runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Lang led the team going 3-for-4 with two RBI and scored three runs.

Fyffe went 2-for-4 with one RBI and scored two runs.

Both teams tallied nine hits but Wooster was able to execute with runners on.

In the end, Wooster took their second win of the day by a score 15-8.

The two losses took the Lions to an overall record of 17-9.

"Everyone in the league is gunning for us and I think we all like proving to them on the field that Penn State Behrend is the best team in the conference," Dubensky said.

The Lions' regular season ends on May 1 at Frostburg St.



Senior third baseman Dustin Dubensky went 3-5 and scored three runs in the Lions' game one win over the Pitt-Greensburg Panthers.

Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon

WOMEN'S WATERPOLO

Lady Lions find success at CWPA Regional Tournament

ELESE MERKOVSKY
Staff Writer

After a weekend at Conn., the Lions found themselves with more wins in a season than they have seen for the past five years with two overtime wins.

From April 10 to April 13, the Lions made the trip to New London, Conn. to take part in the CWPA Regional Tournament.

Leaving the tournament with a 3-2 record, the teams got to take on some skilled teams, and were able to compete in each game. The team showed their

ability by winning both games in overtime.

"It was great to watch the girls come from behind in the final seconds to push the game to overtime," head coach Joe Tristen said. "It was also great to watch the girls rally together as a team and grab the two victories in overtime."

Senior goalie Jenna Zeyfang helped to defend the post with 106 saves this year and 12 steals, and led the team along with co-captain Danielle Wilson.

"Even though our back to back wins in overtime this past

weekend were mentally and physically tiring, they were the most enjoyable games of the season because we came together as a team to earn our wins," Zeyfang said.

Tristen credits success this season from all players being able to step up to the challenges faced by the team.

"I am very proud of my team's performance this weekend; the wins were a great motivation for us to perform better," Zeyfang said.

Stef Pontillo and Tegan Boland have been working extremely hard at the frontcourt

offense helping to score goals, and Kendell Duffy and MaryEllen Spooner have been a dynamic push in the defense.

Danielle Wilson, Kim Ballentine and Jillian Sebrosky have really made good work of perimeter play.

"This season has probably become more successful because now we actually know how to play as a team and our aggression has really stepped up," Pontillo said.

The team has worked really hard to overcome the past years of disappointment and

has really competed in the conference. Utica has been one of their bigger competitions this year.

"Working as a team to come back from a 5-1 deficit to pull the overtime win against Utica College has been one of the highest points of the season," assistant coach Anthony Spoto said.

This weekend, the team takes on Chatham University in the Junker Center at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

"We have a game against Chatham this Saturday... everyone should come and cheer us

on because we have beat them before, but it doesn't always mean it will happen again," Pontillo said. "We just have to keep our head in the game and play hard."

Finally, the team will take on Carthage College in the first round of the CWPA D-III Championship on April 23.

They lost earlier in the season, but look to compete against them again.

"Our last meeting was extremely physical and aggressive, so I know we are going to have a hard battle right out the gate," Tristen said.

SOFTBALL

Strong defensive play leads to doubleheader sweep

SEAN NEELY
Staff Writer

Senior Emma Hahn and freshman Brooke Tarasovich went on a hot streak on the mound to sweep conference opponent Hilbert.

On April 13, the Lions defeated their divisional opponents in both games of a doubleheader.

Hahn and Tarasovich combined struck out 12 batters, while only surrendering a total of one run on 10 hits.

Behrend and Hilbert both offered good pitching, getting themselves out of base loading situations by producing key strikeouts.

The bottom of the fourth inning saw Behrend push for the first lead of the game with a single by Beth Chidester that loaded the bases.

The Lions were unable to capitalize, though, and left the runners stranded.

Finally, in the bottom of the sixth inning, Behrend struck in high-scoring fashion, and finally got to the

Hilbert Hawks pitcher.

Behrend took advantage of key fielding errors by the Hawks.

A passed ball got by the Hawks' catcher. From then on, it was all Behrend, as a single by Kessi Osborne opened the flood gates.

Morgan Griffin followed up with a two-run double.

The Lions would go on to win the first game by a score of 5-0. Late-inning heroics powered the way to their first game victory.

Game two also saw a defensive struggle, but Behrend had everything go their way.

Tarasovich, like Hahn, would also pitch a complete game.

Hilbert had no answer to the dominance of both Behrend pitchers.

The Lions would score early in the bottom of the second. Highlighted by a Mary DeMino triple, the Lions would gain an early three-run lead.

Hilbert would eventually score in the top of the sev-

enth, but, it was too-little-too-late. Behrend would go on to win game two by a score of 4-1.

"We started off slow today, and it took us six innings, but we stuck with it," head coach Stacy Pondo said. "We took advantage of our opponents' mistakes. We came back and focused when needed."

Behind Behrend's pitchers came a brilliant defensive effort.

"We have confidence right now," Hahn said. "We've stressed on defense all week, and it showed today."

Tarasovich also stressed the collective team effort.

"Our team's camaraderie is here, so we are playing as a team," Tarasovich said. "As always, we are working hard. Today, this showed."

Behrend improved to 4-4 in the AMCC Conference, sitting in sixth place behind rival Penn State Altoona.

Behrend now turns their attention to conference opponent Mt. Aloysius on April 17.



Senior pitcher Emma Hahn teamed up with freshman Brooke Tarasovich to dominate the Hilbert Hawks in a doubleheader sweep. The duo gave up a combined total of one run in the doubleheader.

Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon