

BEHREND BEACON YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the stories that define the 2009-2010 academic year at Penn State Behrend

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DYNASTY

WOMEN'S TENNIS WINS SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE AMCC CHAMPIONSHIP

SHAWN ANNARELLI
sports editor
 October 23, 2009

The women's tennis team won their ninth AMCC Championship on Aug. 18.

The women's tennis program has won all nine of those titles in the past 13 years. This year marked the ninth championship season led by head coach Jeff Barger and the third for seniors Christy Calvert and Karen Hobaugh.

"Christy and Karen were great student athletes," Barger said. "They did the best they could do on and off the court. In four years they each overcame a lot to help us do well. They will be missed as leaders on the team."

Behrend, Penn State Altoona and Frostburg State were established as the top three contenders for the championship from the get go. Each team received nine points in doubles play.

Frostburg State got off to the fastest start winning two of the three doubles finals against Behrend's pairs. Only Behrend's number two duo of

junior Hillary Lasher and sophomore Leslie Durante could scrap out a finals win in doubles competition, 9-8, (4).

Lasher and Durante were the only two to record finals victories in singles and doubles competition.

Behrend went undefeated in every singles final to pull away from both Frostburg State and Altoona.

"I just told the ladies that doubles is over," Barger said. "Play singles the way we can play. Have fun."

Sophomore Arica Christman led the singles. Christman swept the top finals match and defeated Frostburg State's Elle Dannenfels (6-3, 6-2).

Christman and her doubles partner, sophomore Stephanie Catron, rebounded with victories in single finals after losing badly in the number one doubles final.

"Singles is my game," Christman said. "I have played her before. I knew that I could beat her. It was hard losing in doubles, but I wanted that singles title too much to let the loss get me down."

The match between Christman and Dannenfels pitted

the AMCC's top two players against each other.

The two went undefeated in AMCC play, except when they faced each other.

The rivals split

Emily Knott (6-2, 6-4) in the second singles final.

Lasher, Calvert, Durante and Hobaugh continued Behrend's path of destruction.

Calvert, playing with a severe shoulder injury, won the number four singles final, (7-6, 6-0), over Frostburg State's Megan Martin.

"I rank this AMCC title the highest among the rest we have won," Calvert said. "I ranked it the highest because I played in my last collegiate tennis match."

Hobaugh defeated Frostburg State's Jannil Sites (6-3, 6-0) in the number six singles final.

"This title will always be very near and dear to me," Hobaugh said. "While fighting for the victory on Sunday, I also kept in mind that it was the end of my last season. It was very bitter-sweet. I'm so proud of everyone's performance there."

Calvert and Hobaugh were cornerstones in building the women's tennis program's dynasty. Each displayed humbleness and gratification in reminiscing their exceptional reign as part of the AMCC's best women's tennis program.

"Over the past four years, I

have had the privilege to play among many talented tennis players who love this sport," Hobaugh said. "I've made some of my closest friends through tennis."

Calvert and Hobaugh each noted their gratitude towards coach Barger and expressed how rewarded they feel.

"Playing collegiate tennis was a dream of mine," Calvert said.

"I couldn't have been more fortunate to play for this team," Hobaugh said.

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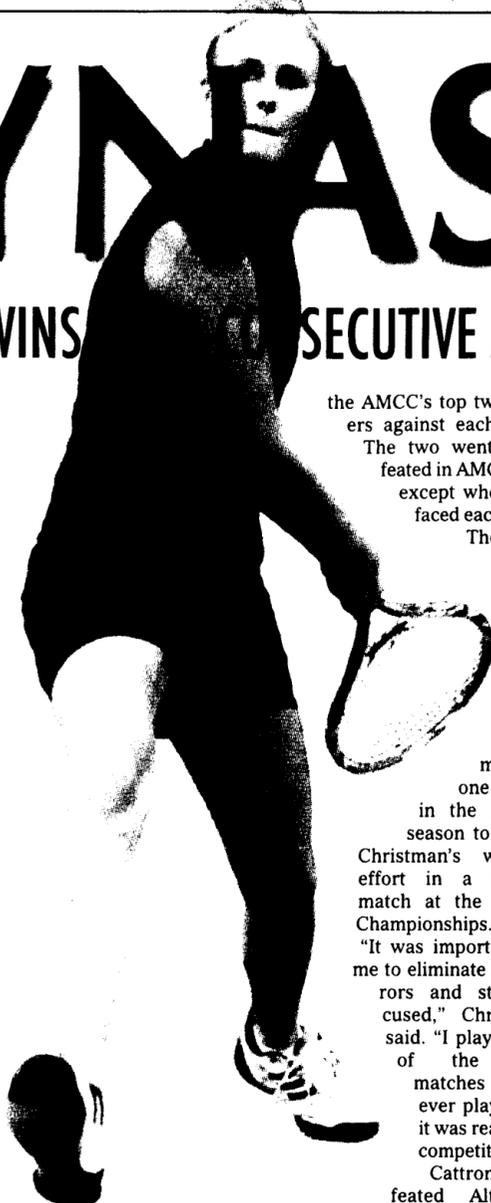
AMCC titles in last 12 years

7

More AMCC championships than any other team

5

Consecutive AMCC titles



Mens golf team wins AMCC championship

NICK BLAKE
sports editor
 October, 9 2009

The Penn State Behrend men's golf team is the AMCC champion.

It was a very close battle that took two days and a tiebreaker to decide, but the men's golf team defeated the defending AMCC champion Penn State Altoona team to take the title.

Both teams finished with a two-day final score of 617, but Penn State Behrend claimed the title due to the tiebreak.

This AMCC title is the first for James Bowen as a head coach for the Behrend Lions, and he was extremely proud of his team.

"I just couldn't compose myself, I was just so happy for those guys," Bowen said.

The tournament started on Oct. 4 and the Behrend Lions jumped out to a 299-303 lead

after the first round at Tom's Run Golf Resort in Blairsville, Pa.

Senior Pat Petraglia led the Lions with a tournament best, first round score of 70, which was two under par for the course.

"The focus that Pat [Petraglia] had on that first day was unbelievable," Bowen said. "That focus that he showed, and that two under for the first day really lifted the other guys up."

All of the scores tallied by Behrend on the first day were in the 70's, giving the Lions a very productive first day.

Penn State Altoona has a very good golf program, so the Blue and White knew what they were going up against.

"[Penn State] Altoona is a great team, and with them chasing us we knew we had to do our best," Bowen said.

On day two of the tourna-

ment, the Behrend Lions shot a 318, but Penn State Altoona answered with a 314, tying the teams' two day total at 617.

In the event of a tie, the best score of each team's number five golfer is used to decide the champion, and the Behrend Lions had the best fifth score, earning them the title.

Division III does not give out golf scholarships, and Bowen stressed how much his team loves the game.

"These guys are tired, they've missed a lot of class and I commend them for that," Bowen said. "We can't give out scholarships, so they're out there playing because they truly love the game."

Penn State Altoona had won the AMCC championship the previous three years, so the victory for Behrend was very special.

"It was thrilling, I had so many coaches congratulating



Contributed Photo

The newly minted AMCC mens golf champions, The Penn State Behrend Lions

me and my players," Bowen said. "It's not that anyone dislikes Altoona, but they were the defending champs and they were dethroned."

The Behrend Lions also won

the AMCC championship in 2004, but the most recent one will surely stick with the team forever.

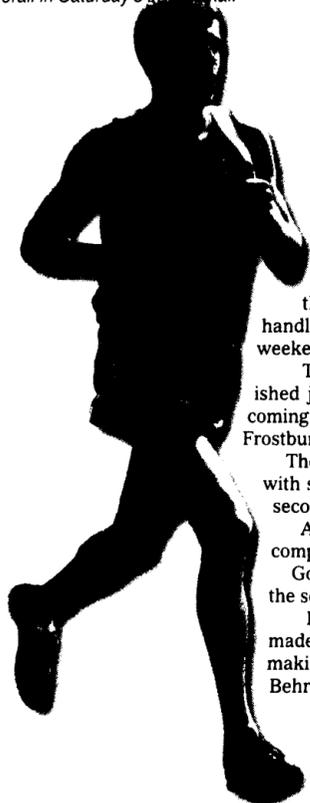
"I just can't state how great and exciting the entire tourna-

ment was," Bowen said.

The championship earns Penn State Behrend an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, which will be played in May 2010.

Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon

Out in front: Senior Kevin Gorny, above, has been one of Behrend's most consistent leaders. He finished first overall in Saturday's invitational.



AMANDA STETZ
staff writer
 October 6, 2010

For the third straight year, the men's cross country team has taken home the AMCC Title, deftly handling all challengers this weekend.

The women's team finished just short of the title, coming in third overall behind Frostburg State University and Franciscan.

The Behrend men's cross country team dominated the field, with seniors Kevin Gorny and Andy Iams finishing first and second overall, respectively.

Along with the team's success, there were individual accomplishments as well.

Gorny was named the AMCC Champion of this season for the second time since 2007.

In addition to repeating success, both Gorny and Iams made the All-Conference Team for the fourth year in a row, making them the only the fifth and sixth men in the history of Behrend's Cross Country to do so.

"It was pretty exciting," Iams said. "I've been running for 10 years and to end my running career with a Conference Championship and as a runner-up with these guys is amazing."

Champs

Gorny, Iams lead Men's cross country to AMCC title

For the women, the main competition was Frostburg State University and Franciscan University, last year's defending champions.

"We ran our hardest," said junior captain Liz Keller. "Franciscan is a tough team. They deserved everything that they won today. They will still be a tough team to beat next year, as their best runners will be returning next

year."

Running through the muddy fields from the weather overnight as well as the morning's presented a challenge for all teams.

"The field was terrible," said senior captain Kevin Gorny. "The mud was thick and my time was affected by it. But we were racing to place, not for time, and I was real proud of my team."

Under Gorny's lead, the men also earned 17 points, the lowest - and best - number of points a cross country team has scored in the history of the AMCC.

"Both men's and women's teams ran excellent races," said Behrend's head coach Greg Cooper. "Our women ran well and I'm pleased with Jenna [Fatica] and Emily [Berry]. As for the men, one of the hardest things to do in sports is to do what you're supposed to do. It was awesome for them to step up and stay focused."

Senior Andy Iams finished second overall, seven seconds behind teammate Kevin Gorny.

