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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Conley gets MVP at tip-off tourney

SAMANTHA MYERS
staff writer

Behrend sophomore history major Russ Conley, has been named the Athlete of the Week for his performance in basketball.

Conley plays center for the Behrend Lions. Conley started playing basketball in the seventh grade thanks to the encouragement of his uncle.

"He always coached girls' basketball and he would come [to] visit and take me shooting," said Conley. "He taught me how to shoot and refined any problems."

Conley started his career playing baseball, his favorite sport, until the ninth grade when basketball became his main priority.

Conley is from Transfer, Pa. and graduated from Reynolds High School. When asked about how he feels being named "Athlete of the Week" Conley said, "It's great. If you play hard and smart, it will happen eventually."

The last game Conley played was against Medaille.

"We were up by 1 at half 23-24. Chris Saltzman number 32 went off for 19 the second half and led us to the victory," said Conley. Conley combined with Shane Skelly to score 25 points. Conley was able to capitalize on the pressure and score two attempts from the charity stripe to extend Behrend's lead to eight. The Lions won this game 66-62.

When asked why Conley chose to play for Behrend, he replied that the team was good and he could learn and get better from the coaches.

"They are always encouraging everyone on the team to be great academically. Respect and hard work are some of the things that both coaches stress." This advice has helped Conley most during the off-season when he uses this time to practice and refine his game.

Conley remembers his high school basketball career well. His most remembered game was during his senior year against Wilmington. It

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

MEN START SEASON OFF HOT

ELESE MERKOVSKY
sports editor

Even with all the snow that has hit Erie, the Behrend men's basketball team is bringing the heat, starting the season off hot with the best record since the 2003-2004 season. With a 6-0 start, the men have relied on a strong core of returning players led by captains, Chris Saltzman and Justin Kovac.

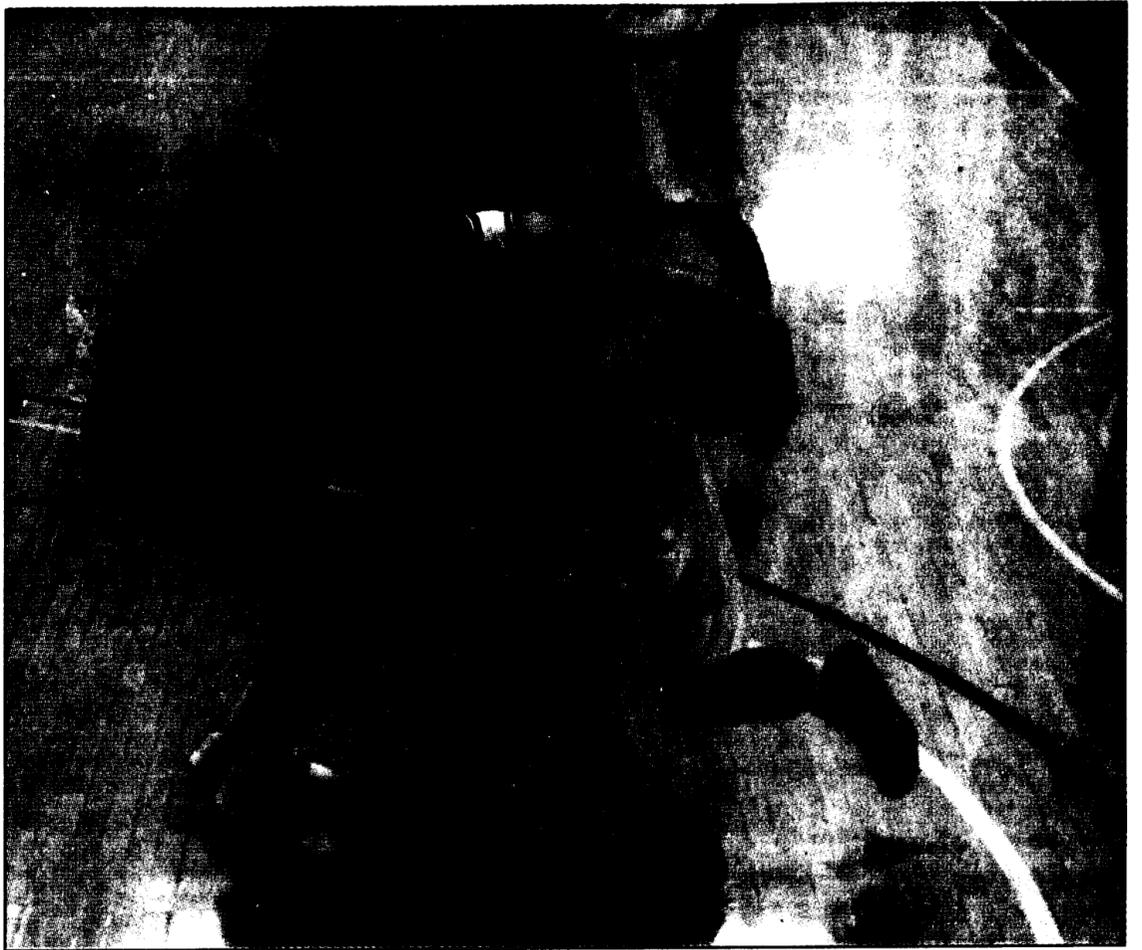
Also the team has seen the impact of having back Patrick St. Andrews after a knee injury last year and 6'8" freshman Shane Skelly has seen time in all six

Behrend 75
.....
Altoona 44

games. The Lions have a strong bench and have had 10 players see time in all six games. With the ability to move players around and have confidence in the entire lineup has allowed Behrend to roll past most of their opponents.

"I realize looking back when I was a freshman the great job the senior class did stepping up and taking control of the team," said Saltzman. "This year our practices are the staple of our great play. Practices are more competitive and we push each other harder this year than any other year."

Senior forward Saltzman,



Eric Dye / The Behrend Beacon

Junior Patrick St. Andrews drives to the hoop against Penn State Altoona. St. Andrews, Nick Thorsen, and Russ Conley all recorded 15 points in Saturdays game. The team started their season 6-0 with the best start since the 2003-2004 season.

who was named AMCC Player of the Week, and scored a season high of 28 points against conference opponent; Medaille, where the lions pulled off a tight win of 66-62. He finished the past week with a remarkable 20 points,

six rebounds, and two assists per contest. Saltzman was named AMCC Pre-Season Player of the Year, and so far he has proved his ability in two conference wins so far this year. The 6'3 forward has the physical ability to drive to

the hoop; but can hit shots all around the perimeter. With a combined 49 points with sophomore center Russ Conley, the Lions captured the Behrend Tip-Off Tournament. "Our team realizes how good we can be if we all stick

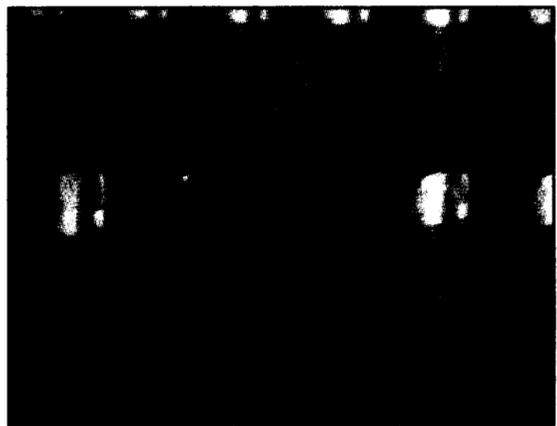
together," said Saltzman. "The mood of our team this year is family and were going to stick by that even when things are not going well."

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Behrend makes history against Gannon

KAELA BISHOP
senior reporter



Eric Dye / The Behrend Beacon

With the first win ever against Gannon in school history, Behrend starts the season of with confidence

For the first time in school history, the Behrend men defeated Gannon 116-114. At the Junker Center pool, it was a close race throughout the entire meet but by the end, Behrend proved to be the better team.

"It was a great win," said head coach Jen Wallace. "Anytime we perform well against a Division II scholarship program is a great meet. To win is awesome. Considering we have never been close before, that is just icing on the cake. It sure makes me proud of my team."

The Lions won eight of the 13 events. The first event was the 200-yard medley relay. The team consisted of Clay Altemose, Dane Dombrosky, Andrew Opalewski, and Dane Dombrosky. The team finished in a time of 1:40.63 to grab the lead right off bat, 13-4.

"I was ecstatic once I realized what we had

just done as a men's team," senior Ben Stunk said. "This is the first time in ten years were the men's team has even come close to in points against Gannon, much less defeating them. It is now evident that our program is going somewhere, and hopefully will continue with its growth."

Brendan Lacey had collected two individual wins during the night and took first place in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:47.12. Gannon managed to get the edge after the fourth event 37 - 36. Opalewski claimed second place in the 50-yard freestyle in 23.01 seconds just behind the Golden Knight's first place winner.

"We still have room to improve on the finer points throughout our races, such as turns, starts and finishes," said Strunk. "After all, in swimming, that half a second lost can be the

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PSU FOOTBALL

Spartans spoil senior day, clinch bowl game

CODY BUYP
staff writer

For eighteen seniors it was their last time running out of the Beaver Stadium tunnel into the hollowed ground where they have gone 22-4 the past four years. However, a lackluster three quarters by

the Nittany Lions led to a 28-22 loss to the Spartans. The Nittany Lions were able to get into the Outback Bowl on New Year's Day against Florida though, even with their mediocre 7-5 record.

Edwin Baker went to work on the first drive, and the vaunted Michigan State run-

ning game produced the first points of the game.

Then something that has been uncharacteristic of Penn State: two holding penalties and a questionable screen pass call on third down resulted in a Collin Wagner field goal.

From that point on it was

all Michigan State. Quarterback Kirk Cousins had all day in the pocket to find his targets down the field as Penn State's defensive line failed to achieve any pressure.

It was the lack of the classic Penn State defense that hurt the most to fans, but the offense began to sputter

again shortly after.

On their first drive of the second half once again there was a questionable play on third and short. Penn State tried a reverse with Devon Smith that resulted in a loss of nine yards.

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Behrend Bottom Line

STEELERS

Steelers' fan base reaches way past the Steel City. Full story on Page B4

HUNTING AND FISHING

Bear season may be over but James Wade prepares you for next year. Full story on Page B3

VOLLEYBALL

Wrap-up of the year for the women's volleyball squad. Full story on Page B3