

Momentum Needed To Spark Turnaround 4

Cub Eye Win Streak

The Behrend soccer team is in need of something (no, not new uniforms) and if they get it, it could turn their season around.

"We need to get some momentum going," said Coach Lauffer straight-forwardly. We can still finish second or third in our division, but we need back-to-back wins." So far, that's been a tough order for Behrend to fill. In fact, they've yet to come up with consecutive wins in what has been a hot and cold, up and down season thus far. The coach points out their dilemma. "We're at .500, then one game above, back to .500, then one game above." In other words, as the saying goes, "Somethin's gotta give."

However, if the results of the past games are an indication, it certainly won't be the Behrend defense. It has proved to be the most effective and consistent part of the Cub game and has kept them in contention in every game to date. Conversely, the offense has been sporadic. It has sputtered at times and been devastating on other occasions. That's the picture right now; a strong, reliable defense and a somewhat unpredictable offense. Last week the combination of the two produced some interesting results, though not entirely favorable.

On Wednesday the team was at Alliance where they dropped a 1-0 decision. In the following game versus Youngstown, the Cubs pulled an abrupt turnaround and ran away with a 5-1 victory.

Against Alliance the Cubs experienced one of their most frustrating afternoons of the season. The Behrend offense was in virtual command throughout the first half and repeatedly

moved the ball downfield against their opponent. However, they failed to finish strongly in their attack and most of their advances were continually stalled near the goal, often times with a defender kicking the ball away. When they did get a shot away, they just couldn't seem to zero in on the goal, a perfect example of this being one shot which barely missed, hitting the crossbar instead. "We just couldn't put the ball in the net," said Coach Lauffer in summing it all up.

All totaled, Behrend sent 22 shots flying at the Alliance goal, many of them deep inside their opponent's territory, and allowed only 12 shots defensively. Alliance got their only goal on a shot by their left halfback with 30 minutes remaining in the second half and it stood for the remainder of the game. The goal came on a corner kick and looking at this statistic, it becomes evident that, for the Cubs, it just wasn't their day. They had a grand total of 12 corner kicks and couldn't capitalize on any of them whereas Alliance had but three such kicks but cashed in on one for what proved to be the winning goal.

A corner kick comes about when the ball goes out of bounds after last touching a defensive player. The players then pack themselves in front of the goal and await the inbounds kick which comes from the corner and is booted just in front of the goal. The offense must shoot quickly if it is to take advantage of this close-in opportunity and the defense must clear the ball out as fast as possible to avoid surrendering an easy goal. To the novice soccer fan, this mass of people crowded together,

bumping and pushing one another in a frenzied attempt to get to the ball, bears a definite resemblance to a mugging or a taffy pull, perhaps.

Coach Lauffer was a bit disappointed with his squad's performance, feeling they could have had the game well in hand by half time. "We should have had a comfortable lead of two or three goals at the half. We had a number of scoring opportunities in the first half," he said. "Statistically, we dominated. But that doesn't assure us a victory."

The Behrend head soccer man explained that his team fell apart for a while but once they gained their composure, made an excellent comeback attempt. "After Alliance scored their goal, we had a spell where we panicked. We played rather sloppy ball for a while. We seemed to forget that we had thirty more minutes in which to score. Finally in the last fifteen minutes we played some very good soccer; we just couldn't score." Three outstanding saves by the Alliance goalie in those last 15 minutes also put a damper on any Behrend hopes.

In Youngstown, the Cubs fared much better in pummeling the host school, 5-1. "They're not as bad a team as the five to one score indicated. They had potential; they just couldn't put it all together," stated Coach Lauffer.

Such wasn't the case with Behrend as they put on an impressive showing throughout the day, despite playing on a terrible playing field, which was shorter and narrower than average and displayed a tree with branches hanging only a few feet above the goal. They moved to a 2-0 half-time lead on the strength of goals by Paul Peet and Mark Rudolf. In the second half, Jeff Leonard and Paul Newman found the net and Rudolf added his second score. "Both of those goals were picture goals," remarked Coach Lauffer on Rudolf's contributions.

Rudolf was also on the other end of one goal as he chipped in with an assist. Steve Motycka, who "did it all," according to Lauffer, had two assists as he moved the ball quickly downfield and set up shots to the middle. John Fleming also had a productive day, coming up with two assists, also. The Youngstown goalie put in a hard day's work, too. He had 35 shots sent in his direction and made 18 saves. Behrend goalie Mickey Brosius had things a little easier as his teammates held Youngstown to a paltry total of eight shots.

In the remaining game, Coach Lauffer is banking on student support to help things along. He points to the fact that this year's team is fast and exciting, and at times, explosive. The home game against Edinboro is one the coach and his players are particularly anxious about playing. "They're right down the road from us so, of course, we really wanna do it to 'em" Behrend's soccer team has been full of surprises all season long and most likely will have a few more to unleash before they call it quits. Come see for yourself.



The girls tennis team is diligently working, trying to secure impressive strokes against the opponents.

Women's Racquet Squad Gets Useful Experience

by Mary Beth Zabel

The women's tennis team had a bad week, as they played three matches and lost all three. Wednesday, they played Edinboro, who defeated the Cubs by a score of 8-1. But worse scores were to be seen in the upcoming weekend. The only girl to score a win against Edinboro was Donna Gugie, who played fifth singles.

Friday, the women traveled down to Grove City, to be defeated by a score of 5-0. Saturday morning, the team traveled down the road to Slippery Rock and suffered the same defeat, as the previous day, 5-0.

Since the matches were scheduled so close together, the girls were able to make it an overnight trip. Many of the girls were able to visit their friends at Grove City, while others took in a movie. The following morning, they went to Slippery Rock and played their match. The match was followed by lunch and then the girls took in a volleyball and field hockey game.

Even though the tennis games were not victories for Behrend, the weekend visit to the two colleges proved to be quite interesting and entertaining.

Talented Roster Leaves Cubs Striving For 20

by Bob Kenny

The Behrend Cubs' 1974 Basketball season will be opening against Roberts-Wesleyan on Nov. 30, on the Wesleyan floor. This year's team boasts returning lettermen, and seven very promising freshmen. Practice began on Oct. 14, and the first scrimmage will be played on the Cubs' floor on Oct. 26, at 3 pm. Other pre-season games will include two more bouts at home on Nov. 2, and Nov. 4. However, no time has yet been set for these games.

The trio of Junior players is as follows: Larry Szoszorek at 6'4". He finished with an average of 9 points per game last season. Jeff Gillette, also 6'4", is currently at main campus for the fall term, however he will be eligible to play just in time for the third game, which will be against Thiel. He will be working out with the Cubs on weekends, and off days. As a two-year veteran in his third-year at State, he is no stranger to the Behrend Court. Paul Ruland, 6'3", completes the trio of Juniors. A pivot man, he's known for his pick-and-roll ability.

The sophomores are Fred Bartonicki, Jim Davis, Larry McAleer, Jack Weber, and Jack Nill. McAleer led the Cubs in scoring last season, while Davis took top rebounding honors.

The teams depth is supplemented by seven promising freshmen. John Kennedy from Harborcreek is an impressive 6'6". Mark Chesk, 6'4", is from Girard. Rusty Cunningham, 6'3", hails from North East High School, and Jack Gordon, 6'2", comes from Iroquois. Eddie Evans, 6'2", played for Academy in the 72-73 season. Chip Murchez, 6'4", from State College, and Pat

Gahr, 6'1", from Elk County Christian Team complete the list.

Coach Sweeting rates this year's group of freshman as the best since the 1968 season, when the Cubs tallied 20 victories. The optimistic coach has this to say, "I'm real happy with the group we have to work with this year. It's the best group of freshmen we've had."

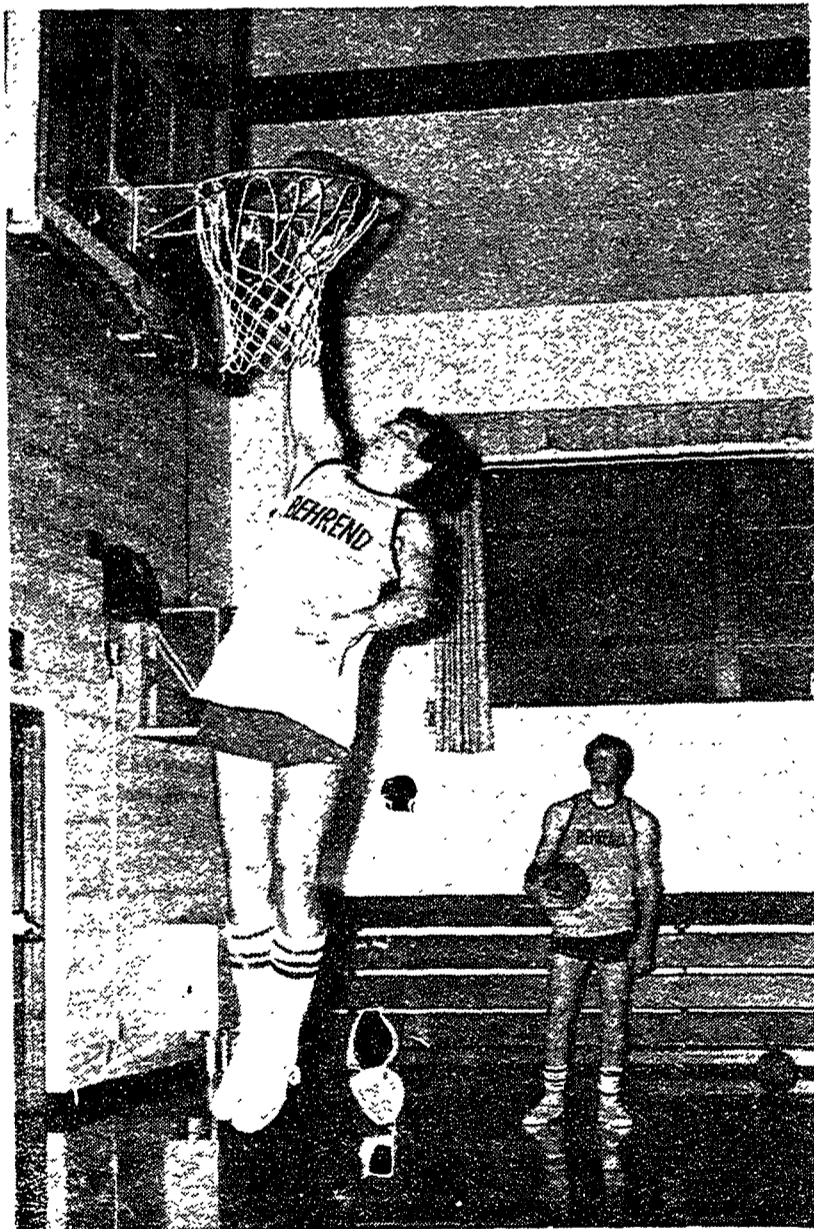
The Roberts-Wesleyan game should be interesting, since the Cubs scored a victory over them last year. RW will certainly be looking for revenge.

Westminster is next on the schedule. The Cubs will play them here on December 4. The toughest team that the Cubs must face, however, is Edinboro.

Coach Sweeting emphasized, "We definitely have to be tougher this year. I don't think we'll be embarrassed. The biggest problem we have is choosing the best five players to compose the starting line-up."

With a team that boasts eight returning lettermen and seven outstanding freshmen, how can anyone afford not to be optimistic this season? Behrend has been plagued the last two seasons by the transfer from Junior College to Senior College competition.

With the experience and depth of the team, we should be able to look for a winning season, possibly a repeat of the 20 victory season in '68.



Cub basketball player goes through paces in preparing for season opener.

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