

Coach anticipates promising season

by Joe O'Keefe

Herb Lauffer is directing the Behrend soccer team for his 14th year as coach, and welcomes back an experienced club to a challenging slate.

Fifteen lettermen and eight starters returned this year from a team that finished 6-8 in regular season play last year. With experience a factor in success, Coach Lauffer said he is awaiting a promising season.

Despite the losses of two All-Conference players and both goalkeepers last year, the Cubs' lineup is an impressive one.

Junior Ed Bell led last year's team in goals scored with eight in the season, and is back.

Other returners include Tom Kennerd, a junior back, and senior midfielder Jeff Mandl. Their talents have been displayed throughout their Behrend careers, and should give a lot of support to Bell.

Equally notable was sophomore forward Rich Lawrence, who tied Bell for points scored with eight during his freshman season.

This year's Cubs will be co-captained by Mandl, Kennard, junior midfielder Rick Potts and senior back Bill Hildenbrand, all of whom should provide great leadership for their fellow Cubs.

The Cubs' 1981 schedule is a "demanding 14-game lineup," says Coach Lauffer. Featured on the slate are Western Pa. and New York clubs that proved to be no pushovers for the Behrend booters in previous matches.

Traditional powers Houghton, Grove City, and Roberts Wesleyan are among the three teams that made the District-18 playoffs a year ago, and Behrend will take on these clubs by season's end.

The Cubs will also face such area teams as Edinboro and Gannon both traditional rivals.

Coach Lauffer thinks his team has worked hard on preparation for this campaign. "If we can avoid the injuries, we should be able to field a fine team," he said adding that he expects the caliber of play to be a high one.

With the season now underway, the Cubs have faced trouble early. Behrend dropped its home opener to Indiana of Pennsylvania, 2-1. Tom Holdcroft, a freshman forward, scored the booters' lone goal, and was assisted by Scott Heasley (a sophomore back).

In spite of the loss, Coach Lauffer praised the efforts of sophomore goalie John Andrews, who had 13 saves in his first varsity soccer match.

Last Wednesday, the Cubs traveled to Geneva College and fell victim to a 4-1 thrashing. Potts scored on a 30-yard shot for Behrend's only tally.

"A lackluster effort," said Lauffer, commenting on the game. "We just didn't play well at all. We have to play with more

consistency - something that wasn't there in the Geneva game."

And on Saturday, the Cubs dropped a 2-3 decision to the Mercyhurst Lakers as their record dropped to 0-3. Despite two early goals by Potts, the Cubs couldn't hang on when the Hurst came back to win.

While concerned about a winless record in their three outings, Lauffer and his players remain positive in attitude.

"Having yet to win is frustrating, but we continue to work hard. Still, we need to work even harder, and especially avoid the peaks and valleys of inconsistent play. The boys have fine potential, and they're holding their own," says Lauffer.



Midfielder Jeff Mandl heads the ball upfield as Tom Kennard provides backup in the Cubs' 2-3 loss to the Mercyhurst Lakers.

Volleyballers look for success

The women's varsity volleyball team began its season this week. The team has great enthusiasm, high hopes and two victories.

Coach Jan Wilson says this about her team, "The girls have a great desire to play well. Although winning isn't all, it would certainly be an emotional plus for us."

After their opening games against Kent State and Lakeland, the team should be very happy. In the opener, the team defeated Kent 15-0, 15-9.

They followed that by chalking up another tally in their win column by taking Lakeland 15-9, 15-4.

Coach Wilson is impressed by the spunk of the team, saying that they "possess real heart."

The team consists of only one senior, Mary Rose, who is also the captain. She is backed by juniors Natalie Kuhn and Kathy

Rolph, sophomores DeEtté Bacon, Anne Moreland, Shelly Harper, and Carmen Tapia, and freshmen Rita Norvasia, Carolyn Ziegler, Kathy Ott, Sandy Rhea, and Barbara Schroeck.

"We lost a few key people this year, but the team is doing an outstanding job of filling those shoes," said the coach.

"Only our weakness seems to be our inexperience at working together. We seem to be at a very high skill level individually, but it will take some game play to help us to work smoothly on the court." Wilson sees this as no real obstacle, but thinks that as the season goes on, this will all happen naturally.

The team has a full schedule this year, playing two or three games each week. For the next few weeks, the schedule is as follows, with all games away: September 22, Mercyhurst, 6

p.m.; Grove City, 6 p.m.; September 26, Gannon, 2 p.m.; September 30, Westminster, 6 p.m.; October 3, Youngstown State, t.b.a., and October 8, Allegheny, 7 p.m.

"The team plays very few games at home, so if you get the opportunity, stop in to see them while they are around some evening. This team will certainly be a boost to the pride of Behrend College," says Claire DeSantis, the team manager.

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