# **Cubs Squeak Past Point**Park To Enter Playoffs

by: Joe O'Keeffe

Behrend's Cubs won their final Erie Hall appearance this season, edging out powerful Point Park College, 64-63, last Friday night. The win avenged a 79-57 drubbing by the Pioneers a week before.

A capacity crowd inspired the Cubs to their finest performance of the season. While the Pioneers boasted big guns like Jim Strichland (17 ppg) and Joe McMillan (15 ppg), Behrend wasted no time in asserting its usual aggressive role. Don Vaughn once again led scorers with 25 markers

Tom Blythe added some productivity, hitting on nearly every perimeter shot for 19 points. Cubs' playmaker Shawn Thamert also shined brightly on offense, dishing out a new school record 15 assists, breaking his own record from the previous contests.

The first half saw the two clubs exchanging shot for shot, which tied the score on ten occasions. Despite pressuring defense, the Pioneers' Strichland and McMillan kept tipping missed shots for some key scores. Still, Thamert and Ty Vaughn shut off the Point Park passing attack, by forcing bad passes and gathering

STREWE

Tom Blythe in action at Mercyhurst. Center photo by Jeff Lewis.

a number of turnovers.

The battle for the boards seemed to be a war, with Vaughn and Blythe challenging the Point Park front line. Vaughn again won the war, bringing down 19 rebounds. Whistles were blown throughout the contest, in which several Cubs missed several opportunities at the free throw line, where they hit on only 10 of 19.

But some key three-point plays guided the Behrend attack to important leads in the first period. Blythe sank an 18-footer and drew a foul with just under two minutes to go. At the foul line, he completed the freebie to give Behrend a four-point advantage.

After the cagers from the Steel city started to come back, Thamert picked off a pass and sank a layup that put the Behrend margin to four again. The Pioneers then went on a shooting spree, earning 35-33 lead at the intermission with Strickland's tip-in.

In the second half, Behrend burst out to a five-point lead on jumpers by Vaughn and Blythe. Point Park's front line then assumed command of the game, and Shep Robinson fell victim to foul trouble, the Pioneers staged a comeback and tied the game 38-all.

Throughout the second period, the lead seemed to be tied at different stages, as the two clubs exchanged shots once again. Steve Aden, after replacing Robinson, grabbed a key rebound, and tipped-in his own shot at 4:20 and Ty Vaughn's jumper made it 62-57, Behrend.

The last two minutes saw a skein of whistles called on both teams. Vaughn fouled, bringing Point Park's McMillan to the charity stripe, where he hit on both of his free throw attempts. Shep fouled out with under a minute remaining, but Thamert stole the ball and raced down the Erie Hall hardwood. Thamert hit his pair of free-throws, giving his fellow Cubs a 64-61 advantage.

Don's foul of McMillan gave the Point Park forward a chance for some freebies. The two free throws cut the Behrend advantage to one. The Cubs then inbounded when Thamert was fouled again. Thamert missed the opportunity, but as Point Park tried a desperation shot, time had expired.

Behrend had won a heart stopping thriller, 64-63.

RECORDS FALL AS
CUBS STOP-GENEVA

Earlier in the week, the Cubs entertained the Tornadoes of Geneva College. The visitors tried to change their game by slowing down the game's pace. However, Coach Sims' Cubs controlled the pace and wound up crushing the Tornadoes, 89-66.

Though they held a short 5-2 advantage, Geneva had difficulty in containing Don Vaughn. Don poured in 31 points of his own, which was one shy of the single game record set by his brother Greg two seasons ago. Don did manage to set records for most season points, once of 444 and career rebounds, 789. Each mark was once held by his brother Greg.

Behrend began to assert itself early in the first period, building a lead of 21-13 at 9:10. Don keyed the inside attack of six shots all inside the key box. The Cubs never relinquished their pace and wound on top, 34-19 at halftime.

Blythe came along in the second period when he canned one jumper after the other. Geneva failed to slow down the big forward, who contributed 26 markers for the evening.

Thamert broke (Kevin Hudson's) mark for assists by handling a then-record 14 assists.

Though the offense had its share of bright moments, the defense didn't slack either. The Behrend "D" limited the opposition to 43.8 shooting from the field and also won the rebounding battle, 49-20.

Editor's Note: Behrend also won its final game of the season at Grove City, 52-50. The Cubs finished the campaign at 10-15, including an 8-8 tally in District 18 play. Having qualified for playoffs, Behrend will play its first playoff contest March 1st.

## Lady Cubs Even At .500

After losing the Allegheny last week, the Lady Cubs came back to beat Pitt-Bradford in their last home game of the season, and evened their record to 11-11.

After taking an impressive 39-19 lead at halftime, the Lady Cubs went on to win 69-43 over the Lady Panthers.

Leading scorers were Diane Metzgar with 16, Missy Stasenko with 12, and Molly Heidecker with 10. Leading rebounders were Nat Kuhn with 13 and Kathy Ott with 8.

The Lady Cubs last game is the 20th, away at Grove City. They are first seeded in the District 18 playoffs, and play on the 22nd at Geneva. If they win they play again the 24th and if they win again, it's off to New England for the finals.

The Lady Cubs were down awhile, losing three close games in a row, but the Cubs were also down a player. Mindy Stasenko was out with a bad cold missing all three games, but don't worry, her cold is almost gone and she'll be ready to play in the first round of District playoffs

of District playoffs.

Nearing the end of the season, I'd like to mention some stats held by the players. First, Mindy Stasenko. She is the leading rebounder with 141 rebounds this season. (That's 7 per game). She's also the leading point scorer with 295 points, 15.5 a game. Mindy also has the most blocked shots; 33, which averages out to about two a game. The next stat holder is Diane Metzgar. She holds the stats for the most assists and steals: 75 and 74 respectively. Diane also has the highest foul shooting percentage with 85 per cent.

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