

SPORTS

Women's Varsity Softball Team Aided By Strong Pitching

by Mindy Stasenko

Collegian Contributing Writer

Despite the April rain showers, the women's varsity softball team under the direction of head coach Jan Wilson has thus far compiled an overall record of four wins and five losses.

In N.A.I.A District 18 play, the Lady Cubs have recorded an impressive 4-0 record. In recent action, the Lady Cubs dropped a doubleheader to rival Mercyhurst, while sweeping a pair from Villa Maria College.

In the two April 18 contests between Behrend and the Lady Lakers of Mercyhurst, Behrend fell victim to the loss column by scores of 3-2 and 4-2.

In the extra-inning opener, the Lady Cubs maintained a 1-0 lead after five innings on a double by Mindy Stasenko who eventually

came around to score on a Kathy Ott RBI sacrifice. However, Mercyhurst came back with one run in the bottom of the sixth, one run in the eighth, and one run in the ninth to capture the victory.

Behrend could only manage one more run, an unearned run in the top of the eighth to finish up their offensive threats.

Despite the heartbreaking, opening game loss, the Lady Cubs came out strong in the second game. One of the featured events included an outstanding pitching performance by junior Darlene Leopold, who carries a 3-5 overall record and a 3-0 District 18 record. Leopold allowed only four hits over seven innings, striking out one batter, and walking three.

Behrend struck first blood by scoring two runs in the third inning, one an unearned run, and the

other run on an RBI single by Missy Stasenko, who recorded a total of three hits for the afternoon. However, Mercyhurst came back with three runs of their own in the same inning, two of which were unearned. The Lady Cubs were unable to score the rest of the way as Mercyhurst picked up one more run in the bottom of the fifth inning to close out the afternoon contests.

Despite the twinbill loss to the Lady Lakers of Mercyhurst, things turned around for the Lady Cubs on April 20 as they traveled to Villa Maria College, one of their District 18 opponents. Powerful offense and good pitching paved the way to two victories.

In the first game, Behrend overpowered their opponents by the score of 10-0. Behrend was blessed once again with a strong pit-

ching performance by Darlene Leopold. Leopold struck out a total of eight Villa Maria Crusaders, while allowing only four hits and no walks.

The offense supplied Leopold with a comfortable lead in the top of the third inning, igniting for six runs. RBI singles by Renee Harrison, Missy Stasenko and Kathy Snider, and an RBI walk by Mindy Stasenko was just too much for the Lady Crusaders to overcome.

The Lady Cubs went on to score three more runs in the fourth inning and one in the fifth inning to end their 10-0 rampage.

The second game of the doubleheader also ended in a District 18 win for the Lady Cubs as they defeated the Lady Crusaders of Villa Maria by the score of 13-3. Missy Stasenko, shortstop-pitcher, was awarded

the win for her first pitching performance of the season.

Once again, Behrend managed to get off to a quick start, scoring six runs in the opening inning. Laura Conley and Renee Wirth were credited with RBI singles. Two runs in the second inning, including an RBI single by Maria DiDonato and a two run shot by Renee Harrison, tallied up the remaining seven runs. Villa Maria managed to score their only three runs of the day in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Renee Harrison led the afternoon twinbill attack with four hits, three RBI's, followed by Kathy Snider's three hits, two RBI's, and Missy Stasenko's three hits, one RBI. Fine defensive plays were turned in by Roz Goodman, who assisted in a double play from her outfield position, and Kathy Fox, who performed perfectly at second base.

Behrend Coach Jan Wilson is extremely positive about the outcomes of the games, commenting on the fact that the Lady Cubs are playing really well against the tougher teams on the schedule.

As for District 18 playoffs, Wilson says, "The team has a good shot at making the District 18 playoffs, but it will depend on such factors as the outcome of the Point Park game, one of the top teams in the district, and also on the fact whether first-year varsity softball teams from within the district will send their teams to the playoffs, which partly depends on their corresponding records matched against their District 18 opponents."

The N.A.I.A District 18 softball playoffs will be held at Westminster College on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4.



Junior pitcher Darlene Leopold displays her winning form in a recent game against Thiel College. The Lady Cubs won 5-4.

Lady Cubs Even Out Record

On April 23, the women's varsity softball team closed out its regular season home games by defeating Thiel College 5-4. Darlene Leopold was the winning pitcher raising her overall record to 4-5. Leopold recorded a total of six strikeouts for the afternoon.

Offense came from Missy

Stasenko who went three for three while driving in a pair of runs. Renee Harrison drove in a run on a sacrifice fly, and Laura Conley drove in two runs, including the winning run, on two hits at four at bats. Missy Stasenko went two for three for the afternoon game. Behrend now has an overall record of 5-5.

Today and tomorrow only, senior honor society Omicron Delta Kappa will be collecting contributions for African Famine relief. Contributions may be made to Oxfom Cathlic Charities in Unicef at the ODK booth in the Reed Building.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Textbook Buyback at the BEHREND BOOKSTORE

Wednesday, May 8th thru
Friday, May 10th

• • • • •
\$ Special Clothing Sale \$
at the bookstore.

Selected items 20% OFF