

Gorniak and Holmes sink 1000 points each

University Relations

When she sank the two foul shots that brought her career total to 1,000 points during the Cubs' January 23 clash with Gannon University, Penn State-Behrend's Sue Holmes reached one goal. Now she's reaching for another.

"I want to break Behrend's record for career points," said Holmes, her brown eyes shining, excited but defiant, during a reception after the game. "I love winning. I like setting goals for myself and meeting them. And I hate to lose. It's the worst thing in the world."

Chances are Holmes, who has slammed a total of 1,035 points during her collegiate career so far, will meet that second goal as she continues to threaten former Cubs' star Missy Stasenko's 1981-85 record of 1,057 points.

"She can do anything she puts her mind to," said Cubs Head Coach Karin Sobotta, who's been Holmes' mentor for both of the senior's two years at Behrend (Holmes transferred in 1985 after spending two years at Penn State's Shenango Valley campus). "Sue's one of our most experienced and most intense players. She's strong on offense and is toughening up her defensive moves."

"She's also a good motivator," continued Sobotta, now in her third year as the team's leader. "And she's got the ambition that keeps the team working and working right up until the clock runs out."

That ambition keeps Holmes at the top of the team's scoring pile with a 12.3 ppg average and has earned her a spot among the Cubs' most consistent rebounders with 7 rpg.

Despite her double-figure scoring, Holmes, who finished last season at 14 ppg and 9.1 rpg, is still below her peak performance. "I think it's because I'm playing a different role this year," she explained. Now I'm playing more of a forward. Last year I played center. It makes a difference because I play better inside than I do on a wing."

But Holmes still has her chances to take the ball inside. During the second half of the Cubs' 69-54 loss to SUNY-Brockport earlier this year, 33 racked up 22 points (20 of them tallied in the second half) as she went inside for the shots against her taller opponents.

"I love to play inside against big people. I guess it's because I'm smaller than most people expect. It's a challenge," she said. "I like

to be challenged."

That love for a challenge has been something Holmes has grown up with since she spent her days playing basketball in an unpaved driveway in Hermitage, Pa. twelve years ago.

"I started shooting baskets in sixth grade. I was always a tom-boy," she said, laughing. "All the kids in my neighborhood were boys. If I wanted to go out and play with the kids, I'd have to do things they wanted to do."

And one of the things they wanted was to play basketball. "We used to play in a neighbor's barn. It would be 20 degrees outside, bats would be flying around inside, it'd be 12 o'clock at night... And there we'd be, playing basketball, scared stiff because the barn was like 100 years old, with wooden floors that creaked. What a great place to play."

Now that her playing days are almost over, Holmes, who has reaped her share of honors at Behrend—she's been named to the Women's Keystone Conference First Team and has received the college's Cheryl Ramsdell-Anderson Female Athlete of the Year Award—is planning for her years away from the court. "It's

sad. When I first started, four years seemed like forever. Four years are a long time when you're a freshman. And here they are, almost over."

Because she wants "to make some changes," Holmes, a communications major, hopes to become a sports information director or an athletic director at a Division II or Division III school after she graduates this spring. She's currently gaining the experience she'll need on the job as an intern in Behrend's sports information office.

"As an athlete, I see a lot of things happening that I don't like. Not enough attention is paid to women's sports. The sports writers are coming around, but it's taking people too long to realize that we can play ball. That not just men have exciting games. I'd like to be in a position to get people out here for our games, so they could see what I mean."

"Right now, the people that come to our games, they mean a lot. It makes me feel really good when people come up to us after a game and say 'That was great. When's your next one?' It shows they believe in us. That helps us believe in us, too."



Randy Gorniak and Sue Holmes Photo by Rick Brooks

Gorniak's dedication is key

by Angela Papaleo
Collegian Staff Writer

Every individual strives for perfection, to break records and be number one. This is the case with senior Randy Gorniak, who scored his thousandth point against College of Wooster in Ohio on January 21.

Randy is a starting forward and captain of the men's basketball team. At 6'8", 225 pounds, he leads the team with an average of 20.8 points per game. According to the NCAA News, Randy is ranked first in Division III schools in rebounds with 16.5 per game.

The win over Wooster was of great excitement to everyone. And although the breaking of the record should have also been cause for celebration, for Randy it was not as great as it could have been. "No one really checked the points up till then," said Randy. "I was more concerned with exceeding the rebounding record which stands at 1,002. I have 924 and 11 games left". Fortunately he only needs eight per game, therefore we should see this event occur very soon. But though his team did not

have anything planned for that evening (because no one knew until it happened) they did not let the episode go unnoticed. After the game against St. Vincent, Coach Zimmerman presented him with a game ball at a reception they had in honor of his success.

Dedication is the key. Until this past summer Randy never played in an official league during the off season, nor did he attend any

trophied from is performance in both the Millcreek league in Erie and another in Ripley New York. The two leagues he participated in (4-5 nights a week) were with other members Randy referred to as "winners". They were very good ball players and they taught him how to deal with both success and failure.

Randy's main goal toward the

there is a lot expected of Randy. Sometimes this pressure causes him to make mistakes. The team's record is now 7-11. "The biggest problem I've seen since I've been here is we've never had the same team at the end of the season as we started out with," he regrets. This is unfortunate and causes the inability to maintain confidence as a whole. This plus the added disadvantage that some players only see Behrend as a two year school. It makes it difficult to build up a team that is comfortable playing with each other and that familiarity you obtain after being out on the court with the same people for four years.

When asked about his plans upon graduation Randy replied, "As far as incorporating basketball into my career, well that has yet to be decided. I'd like to go overseas and play. I'd love to go for both the sport and the travel."

"We have to end up strong, we can't let attitudes get in the way."

camp, unless it was to be a counselor. His training consisted of basically street ball with friends. He received all his instruction from older brothers, as he comes from a family of 11 children which are very athletic. The semester he was ineligible he received many

team is both rebounding and scoring. But there is a great amount of emphasis placed upon his leadership qualities. He feels it's more important to actually achieve what they're striving for than just to sit back and talk about it. With his height and ability combination,

Soccer moves inside

by Sean Weaver
Collegian Staff Writer

Although green grass and warm temperatures are few and far between, the Penn State-Behrend men's soccer team begins preparation for their up and coming season. The preseason indoor soccer competition has been an important part of training for the team in the past and continues to do so during the off season.

As the team competes at indoor matches some adaptations were made in the new and different playing atmosphere. The team, for the most part, will be playing on regular basketball courts. The hard floor surface and walls as fair territory gives the team a quick-moving game and an opportunity to improve their skills of quick response and agility. The goals range in size anywhere from five feet in width by ten feet in length to seven feet wide by twelve feet long. In some cases

this means a more accurate type of scoring due to the smaller goal area.

"It forces players to work under pressure..." says coach Herb Lauffer, "...after they adapt to that indoor pressure, they will return to the regular sized field and learn to utilize the space they're given and make it work to their advantage."

The entire team will participate in the indoor training preseason. On Feb. 20-21 the team travels to the Sewickley Indoor Sports Fitness Center in which 16 teams will participate. On March 14 the Cubs move on to Grove City College to vie at another indoor match. Coach Lauffer says he hopes to get in another indoor match before the regular season begins.

So until the green grass shows and the sun burns warm, look for the men's soccer team indoors improving and preparing for their spring schedule.



Soccer in the gymnasium Photo by Julie Clough

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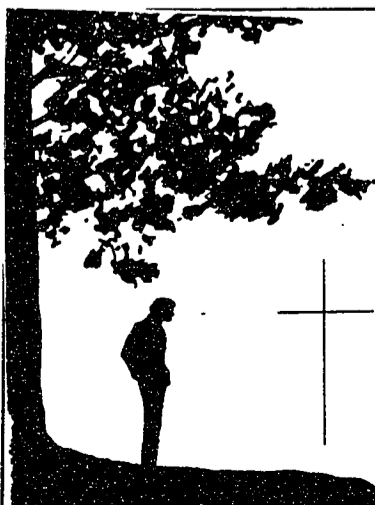
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