

sports

Moments of Brilliance All Decked Out

by Marjorie Surovic
Collegian Staff Writer

The Penn State-Behrend Women's team has had its moments of brilliance. Coach Karin Sobotta has managed to teach these Lady Lions that in order to win hard, they must first play hard.

The Lions' match against Mercyhurst resulted in a 0-9 loss. "No one likes to lose," said Coach Sobotta, "but at least the team has learned from losing matches rather than just losing. The team knows that great skill doesn't always win the game. Strategy as well as luck play an important part in every win."

The Westminster match was also not a good match for the Lions. The windy weather, as well as the impressive opponents, helped to blow the Lions away, again the final score was 0-9. "One highlight of the game was when Jane McKnight lost in three sets, she was playing number three singles instead of her usual number five," said Coach Sobotta.

Gannon, a Division two school, was the next opponent on the Lion's schedule. Senior Shari Stumpo boasts the only singles victory for the match. Her winning

score of 6-2 and 7-6 felt odd. "Shari came into my office the morning of her match and said she was going to win today," said Coach Sobotta, "I guess she was right."

The rainy weather make it impossible for the Gannon doubles matches to be completed. "We may have a fighting chance to win if we could have played our doubles matches," said Coach Sobotta. "Doubles were really good for us this year. We've had no troubles or complaints and the two-teamed players have complimented each other right from the beginning of the season."

"Kelly McConnell played real well and was a double winner of the Suny-Fredonia match," said Coach Sobotta. Kelly won at number five singles with a score of 6-2, 6-1. Jane McKnight helped Kelly with her second win by playing number three doubles with a score of 6-3, 6-7, 6-2. "McKnight and McConnell played until 7p.m., they refused to leave the court without that win," said Coach Sobotta.

As a returning player, Kelly McConnell was asked what improvements she saw in the team this year. "This year's team was not separated into cliques and there

were few personality clashes. I think that's important because it really gives us a sense of team unity," said McConnell.

Not only is this year's team unified, but its skills have steadily improved. "The team has definitely progressed this year, not only in match experience, but in drilling skills. We can now concentrate on practice matches rather than on drills," said Coach Sobotta. This is important because hands on practice is needed to prepare the team for the Rochester Tournament.

For the Tournament held on Oct. 9 and 10, Coach Karin Sobotta will be taking the top eight players on her team. "We can't afford to take all 12 players because of the lack of funds," said Coach Sobotta. The number one singles will be played by Kathy Veazey and Richann Bryant will also play number one.

Kathy Veazey is a sophomore who, while not an aggressive player, constantly keeps the ball in play. Richann Bryant is Coach Sobotta's best freshman player on the team. "Richann accepted the challenge of playing number one singles which she could have played number two. She's very competitive and her best strength is that she sticks tough real well," said

Coach Sobotta.

Aside from Bryant and Veazey, the Tournament roster includes six other players. The singles line up includes Jane McKnight and Kelly McConnell at numbers three and four and Shari Stumpo and Chris Huff at five and six.

The doubles teams will include Richann Bryant and Kathy Miller at number three will be Kelly McConnell and Jane McKnight. Pulling up the tail end of the doubles will be Shari Stumpo and her partner, Jenn Vila.

The Lions will be all decked out in their new tennis skirts and jackets, which were purchased through the Puma Preferred Player's Program. These sharp threads are sure to intimidate upcoming opponents in the Rochester Tournament.

"There has to be a special something present when the individual players hit the court. Something just has to click that makes everyone work as a team. We've got that something special," said Coach Sobotta. The new uniforms will provide the team with a polished look that tells opponents that the Lions are dressed for success.



Freshman Richann Bryant prepares to return a volley.

photo by Marybeth Zowastowski

New Complex: A Report

David Bruce
Collegian Sports Editor

Three years ago, Behrend administrators earnestly began planning the construction of a new life-fitness complex to take the place of outdated Erie Hall. Initially, completion was expected by the Spring of 1988, this spring.

As you can tell by now, it is not going to happen. Ground has yet to be broken on the \$6.8 million sports complex, in fact, the money has yet to be raised.

Let's start at the beginning...In 1952, Erie Hall was built to meet the needs of 550 students, today there are over 2500 students at Behrend and Erie Hall is woefully inadequate (Just ask the Men's Volleyball Club or anyone who wants to shoot hoops in the winter).

So, plans were drawn up for a massive complex, which would in-

clude a 4000-seat gymnasium with a floor three times the size of Erie Hall's. The plans also called for a swimming pool, six racketball courts, two training areas and several classrooms and offices.

At first, the funds were to be raised by the private sector. When that plan proved to be unsuccessful, Behrend turned to the state (and encountered massive red tape in the process).

Now, over two years later, the sports complex is on a high priority list for the next meeting of the Capitol Budget Committee. This meeting will take place sometime this winter, and an answer could be reached by this spring.

Even if the state does allocate the funding, it is only the beginning. Jack Burke, Associate Provost said, "I don't even want to guess when it will be completed...not before five years."

An architect has developed drawings for the new complex, but

a proposed sight has not been set aside. The leading candidate is an area of University-owned land across Jordan Road behind the row of houses. The complex will cover an area of over 80,000 square feet, not including a parking lot.

Dean Burke also discussed the future of Erie Hall, including a possible facility to tide the campus over until construction is completed on the new complex. But plans for the gym after that are unclear. Perhaps the first floor will be converted into classrooms or safety offices, or a financial aid department. The most popular idea is to leave Erie Hall just the way it is and use it as a recreational area in conjunction with the new complex.

Until the dream of a new sports complex comes true, students at Penn-State Behrend must continue to contend with limited gym time and space, unventilated weight rooms and a closet-sized training room.

Men's Club Gets Ready

by David Bruce
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend Men's Volleyball club began practice last week, boasting a strong veteran team.

Twenty-four players showed up for the first practice, including nine returning members. These veterans include Senior Steve Stegnam, President of the club, and Juniors Steve Shadle and Tim Wilson.

Wilson outlined the fundamental differences between a club sport and a varsity sport. "We are not officially recognized, and we don't receive our money from the Athletic Department but rather from the Student Government. Also, we don't receive the services of the trainer during our matches."

In addition to their practices, the club also has been scrimmaging Gannon's team on Sundays. Their actual season does not begin until January, and a travelling team will not be chosen until then. The club is still looking for players, if you are interested, simply show up at a team practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 10:00.



Tim Wilson preparing for another volleyball season.

photo by Marybeth Zowastowski

Men's Baseball Fundraising

by Richard Cain
Collegian Staff Writer

The Behrend Baseball team held its annual 100 inning fundraising game Sunday, October 4. This year's winner was the veteran squad, outscoring the rookies, 19-18. The key to victory came in the 91st inning when center fielder Tom Partridge tripled in the winning run.

Overshadowing the excitement of this game was its real purpose, to raise money for the team's spring break trip to Florida. Coach

Bari was disappointed that the profits from the game totaled only \$2100.00. This is quite short of their goal, which means they will have to come up with other fundraising activities. For those interested in showing some school spirit and donating to the cause, keep an eye out for notices on fundraisers beginning toward the end of this month.

Aside from his money raising woes, Coach Bari is happy about the improvement of his team in all areas. The defense has improved

immensely along with the pitching staff. The Coach believes that with a little more work from the players on the field (and off the field for a few of the players toying with their academic eligibility) the Lions have a real shot at being a competitive team in the spring.

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