

Lions Pulling It Together

Marjorie Surovic
Collegian Staff Writer

The Penn State-Behrend Women's Basketball team began their season with a 12:01 a.m. practice in Erie Hall on Oct. 15. The team has had its ups and downs, but steadily they are pulling it all together to have a winning season.

There are only nine players on this year's team, and some sports critics see this as a potential problem. If an injury was to occur, the team would not have many replacements waiting on the bench. However, it's not the number of players that makes the team, but it's the talent of players themselves.

"This year's team is very intelligent and basketball smart," said Coach Karin Sobotta. The team's intelligence, however, is not its only strength. "These dedicated players are very self-confident and team supportive," said Coach Sobotta.

The team consists of 5 "veterans" and 4 new players. Returning from last year's team are: Bobbie Bauer, Lisa Butch, Lisa Dorenkamp, Chris Huff and Michelle Madison. "Everyone is dedicated and willing to give 100 percent," said Lisa Dorenkamp who, along with Chris Huff, are the team's co-captains.

The team's biggest weakness appears to be a lack of experience. "We don't have any seniors playing, only one junior and four sophomores... which is going to be tough because freshmen usually look up to the juniors and seniors to set examples," said Michelle Madison. Michelle is one of the sophomores that will be called upon to provide leadership. "I'm really happy with Michelle because she is quiet, but she is definitely a leader by example," said Coach Sabotta.

"Our team has a lot more confidence this year. Everybody is on the same level of confidence and it really shows on the court," said Coach Sobotta.

One player who has really worked hard over the summer, as well as in practice, is Bobbie Bauer. "Bobbie has improved 100 percent and she has the desire to play," said Coach Sobotta.

Coach Sabotta has asked each player to keep a notebook to help improve their mental game. These notebooks contain motivational tips, defensive and offensive plays, rule changes and percentages of successful shots.

"I think the three-ring binders are a very good idea because they will help us chart our progress and determine where we can improve

our game. We also get motivational tips to help us mentally perform better," said Lisa Butch, the team's lone junior.

Because this year's team is so young, Coach Sobotta is counting heavily on freshmen and transfer players to play an integral part on the team.

"Connie Armstrong is a fundamentally sound and extremely

coachable player with good basketball sense," said Coach Sobotta. "Tammy Altman is a small, but talented guard who looked good at our first scrimmage. She is very coachable and easily takes the ball inside."

Not only are the players dedicated, but the coaching staff works hard to assist the players.

Coach Sobotta's two assistant coaches are Mike Alexa and Bill Peppicello, who coach offense and defense, respectively.

The Lady Lions' first test will be the Fredonia Tournament on Nov. 20 and 21. Then they play Mercyhurst on Nov. 24 and then play in the Behrend Tournament on Nov. 2 and 28.

Athletes of the Week

Dave Bruce
Collegian Sports Editor

Paul Hurley and Gwen Jones have been chosen as athletes of the week.

Paul is a freshman on the soccer team. He went to Mercyhurst High School and is a defensive back for Behrend's team.

Coach Herb Lauffer called Paul a "steady, important player who has set up many scoring opportunities during the last few matches."

Coach Lauffer also commented on the clutch defense Paul has played, especially in the Pitt-Bradford match, which Behrend won 1-0.

This is the second consecutive award for Gwen Jones, a freshman on the women's volleyball team, who was chosen athlete of the week for the Oct. 29 issue.

Coach Jan Wilson said, "Gwen is probably our best offensive player; she has improved much in backcourt play."

As a freshman, Gwen has taken charge of the team and has had outstanding matches against Grove City, Bethany Salem and Canisius. Congratulations to both athletes, and if any former Athletes of the Week have yet to pick up their free two-dinner coupons, please stop by the Collegian office.

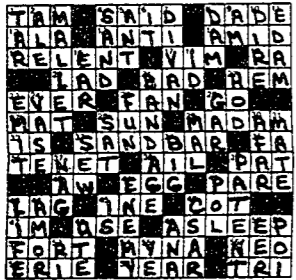


Paul Hurley: Defensive Star



Gwen Jones: Two-Time Winner

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Tough Defense Keeps Lions Competitive

Rick Cain
Collegian Staff Writer

The Lions soccer team rounded out their season last week with seven matches in two weeks. On October 21, the Lions hosted Grove City and lost 6-1. The Grove City offense was on the board in the first three minutes of the match against a tough Lions team who just couldn't seem to get things to go their way. With Grove City out-shooting the Lions 14 to 8, and with only a 5 to 4 cornerkick

advantage, the final score does not give justice to the Lions tough play. (Joe Kushon scored the Lions only goal.)

The Lions then traveled to Allegheny and were shut out 3-0. Allegheny dominated with a 18 to 3 shots on goal edge to go along with a 10 to 2 cornerkick advantage. Head Coach Herb Lauffer said, "We were caught flat in the middle of the first half and just couldn't get anything going in the remainder of the match."

The Lions next match ended in a heartbreaking 1-0 loss to

nationally-ranked Fredonia in overtime. The Lions were locked in a defensive struggle through regulation but Fredonia scored during the first overtime session. They were then unable to capitalize during the remainder of the period against solid Fredonia defense.

The Lions then lost to arch rival Mercyhurst, 2-0. Coach Lauffer, "To beat Mercyhurst you have to break their defense early. We were unsuccessful and in doing so we lost a very intense physical match."

The Lions next match was against NAIA champion

Houghton on Halloween. Houghton grabbed the lead for good in the first half with two goals that would prove to be all the offense in the match. The real loss for the Lions in this match was stopperback Tim Fry. Fry suffered a severe quadriceps injury, which later required surgery. Goalie Mark Yingling was also hurt in this match but was able to recover for the next match.

NCAA Division 2 ranked Gannon was the Lions next opponent and were just too much for them. Gannon would win this match 5-0

against a Lions team who proudly stayed tight without rolling over against their superior adversary.

Finally on November 5, the Lions ended their season on a positive note by defeating Pitt-Bradford 1-0, in a blinding snow storm. Senior and co-captain Joe Kushon scored the game winner, his fourth of the season, and sophomore goalie Mark Yingling recorded the Lions fourth shutout of the season. Coach Lauffer was happy with the win saying, "It is always nice to come back with a victory to end the season."

On looking back on the Lions season as a whole, their final 5-13 record does not tell the whole story. The Lions, having no conference affiliation, have one of the toughest schedules in the country for a Division 3 school. A large number of the opponents are highly ranked either regionally or nationally. They also happen to play most of their matches in the North Western Pennsylvania area,

where everyone knows the weather changes faster than one can open an umbrella.

Coach Lauffer said, "Under very unusual conditions, we were able to stick together as a unit. I think the players accept the fact that when we won, we won as team and when we lost, we lost as a team. They represented themselves and Penn State well and I am proud to have coached them."

In totaling up the stats, senior co-captain Joe Kushon led the Lions with five goals, to bring his career total to 24, second all time in Behrend history. Eight players on the team had one assist, while Mike Cifelli and Gary Smelko led the team with two each. Giving credit to defensive standouts, senior co-captain Dave Titley and teammate Doug McCarthy had excellent year helping out sophomore goalie Mark Yingling. All things considered, these leaders helped keep a struggling team together through the worst of times.

626



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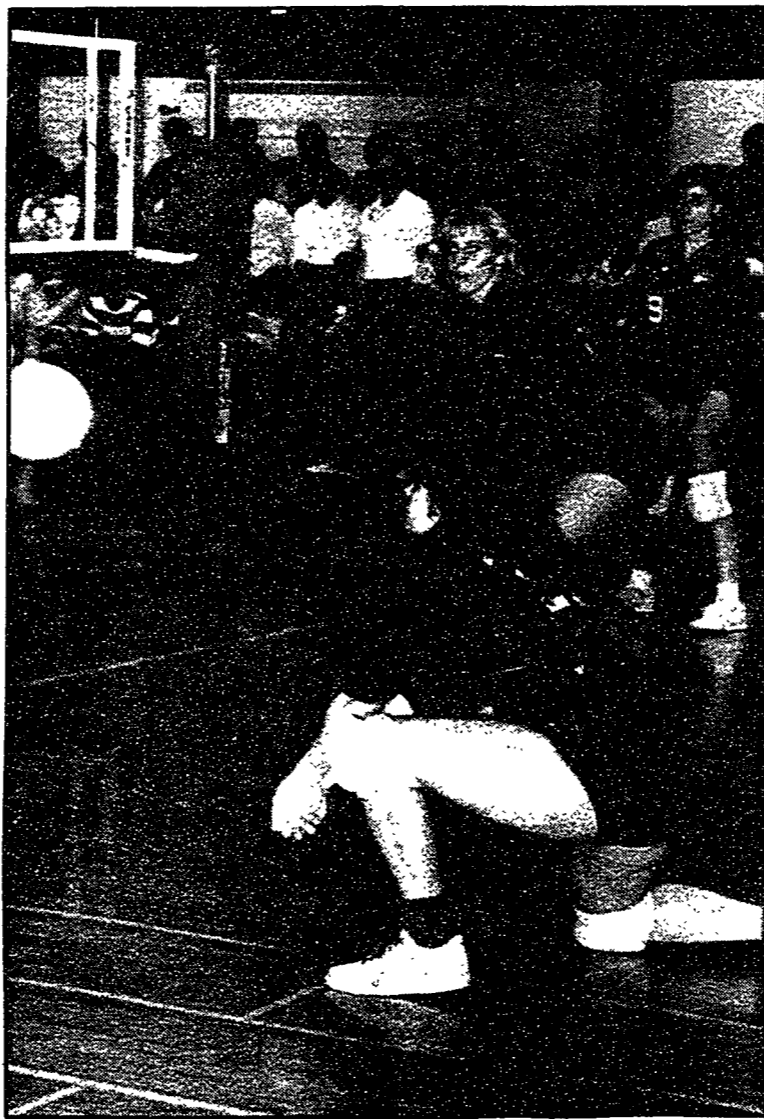


Photo by Mary Beth Zawistowski

Gwen Jones returns a shot as Kathy Williamson and Erica Scribner watch.

