

Lions Clinch Winning Season

by Todd J. Irwin
Collegian Staff Writer

Coach Doug Zimmerman has a way of summing things up. "Well, we put a lot of points on the board," said Zimmerman on the Lions 137-113 victory over Alfred University last Wednesday.

That wasn't all the Lions accomplished. They also broke a few things: Alfred's 14 game winning streak; Behrend's single game scoring record as a four-year college; and an eight year losing record streak.

When the Alfred Saxons entered The Pit last Wednesday night, they held a 14 game winning streak. In the first half, both teams held true to their similar quick paced, high scoring playing styles. The Lions held a slim half time lead, but broke out in the second half with three scoring spurts that buried the Saxons.

With six minutes left and the Lions holding a comfortable lead, the Saxons were instructed to make the Lions do their scoring from the foul line. The Lions responded by making 33 of 39 free throws in those six minutes.

"We shot well," said Zimmerman. The Lions sunk 49 of 60 free throws, shot 58% from the floor, and busted 10 of 21 three pointers.

The Lions boasted six players in double figures, including a personal best 30 point performance by junior Dave Gurska. Also adding to the

extraordinary scoring effort were Chris Viscuso with 24 points, Randy Baughman with 23 points, Rick Demski with 20 points, Bob Minford with 18 points, and Mo Pringle with 10 points.

The victory brought the Lions to 13-9 while handing Alfred their first lost in 15 games to drop their record to 17-4.

The 137 points scored by the Lions broke the school's single game scoring record as a four year college, and tied the scoring record set at Behrend in 1968 as a two year school.

With only three games remaining in the regular season, the Lions have clinched their first winning season in eight years, and the first since Coach Zimmerman has been at the reigns. Those three games might just determine weather or not the Lions receive a bid for the ECAC postseason tourney. Zimmerman describes Buffalo State, ranked 3rd Division III team in the nation, as a big test. Geneva is also on a roll, and Keuka is on the road, which is never easy.

Buffalo State proved to be too difficult of a test for the lions, as the Bengal's improved to 20-2 on the season with a 110-63 victory.

The Lions, now 13-10, were hampered by poor shooting as they shot 29 percent from the field. Buffalo State, who shot 61 percent, held a big rebound advantage 54-30.



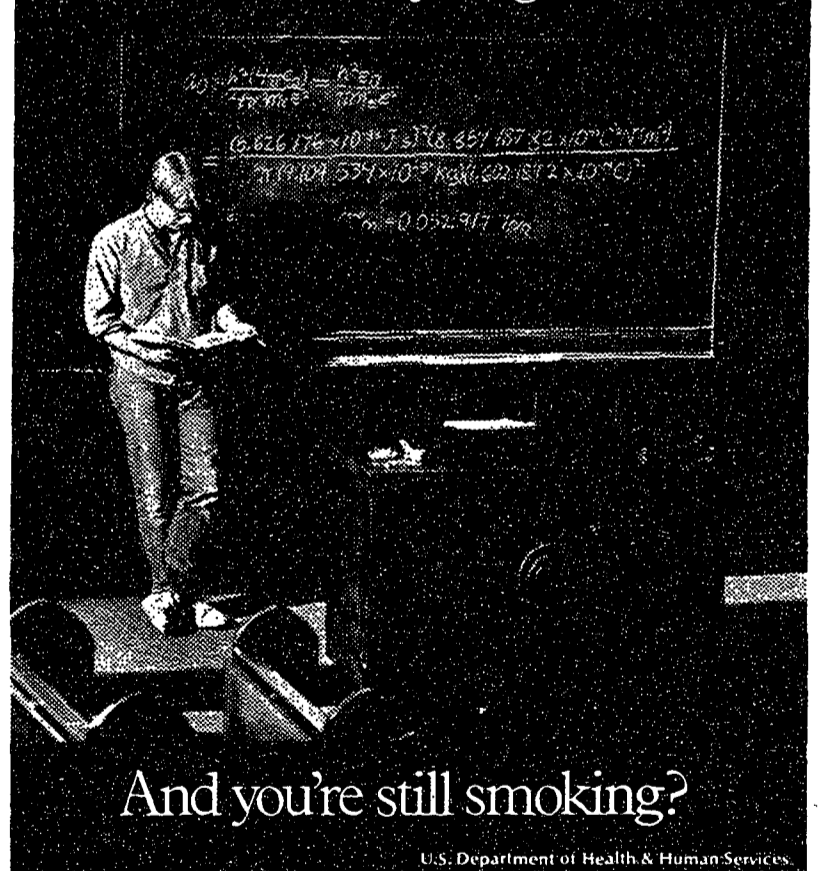
Frank Keller makes a move inside during the Lions' blowout of Alfred University. The victory assured the Lions of their first winning in eight years. photo by Jeff Majcher

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