

Lady Lions on the Prowl



by Missy Mace
Collegian Staff Writer

"We are playing very well defensively", says coach Brett Banker of the girls softball team.

This explains their present 3-1 record as opposed to their 8-16 record last year. The team has had many cancellations due to weather and therefore they will be playing eight to ten games a week from here on out. Fifty percent of their opponents are Division II schools such as Clarion, and upcoming opponents Mercyhurst and Gannon.

Their first doubleheader, after several cancellations, was against Geneva. They split the games, winning the first game 6-0 and dropping the second game 6-3. In the opener, pitcher Erika Renwick pitched a five-hit shut out. She also had a three run double with the bases loaded.

In the nightcap, Geneva jumped to a 4-0 lead with four walks and two errors. Behrend got close in the fifth inning with the

score 5-3, but lost 6-3. Their loss resulted from a combination of too many walks and not making enough of plays. They had a total of three errors in the game.

On April 9, Behrend faced Clarion in a doubleheader. Renwick (2-0) pitched a three-hit shut out. Renwick has walked only one batter in 10 innings and has yet to give up a run. The Lady Lions scored all four of their runs in the fifth inning. Behrend successfully bunted four consecutive times. The Lady Lions ran aggressively, forcing Clarion to make mistakes, and took the first game 4-0.

In the second game, freshman Beth Balizett had her first collegiate win, 3-2. Behrend scored all three runs in the fourth.

The Behrend softball team "finally understands" what coach Banker wants. Banker summed up, "As long as they understand what I want and what our strategy is, we will do very well, despite the fact that we play mostly Division II schools."

The Lady Lions' Tammy Altsman makes contact against Mercyhurst on Tues. April 11. The results of this match-up were not available at press time.

photo by Marybeth Zawistowski

Lions Get First Win of the Season Against Fredonia

by John Musser
Collegian Staff Writer

"I don't think our record tells what kind of team we have", said a frustrated Michael Bari, Behrend's Men's Baseball team head coach, who so far have compiled a 1-12 record.

The Behrend nine have had a tumultuous spring so far, suffering from bad weather, which has kept practices indoors, injuries, and a schedule that has the Lions mostly playing against Division II and NAIA schools.

The inclement weather has moved baseball practice indoors to Erie Hall. "I think we have had five or six practices outside", said

Bari. The weather may have also had an affect on their record. "Because of the weather, we've missed four home games and two road games. Those six games (against Division III teams) we probably would've won."

Injuries to key personnel have also been a factor, something the talent poor Lions can ill afford. According to Bari, "Our best pitcher has a bad back, our starting second baseman has a bad ankle, and our catcher has been banged up with a bad knee and elbow."

The schedule has also been unfriendly for the Lions. "We played our first 10 games against NAIA schools, and their combined record is 48-13." Bari pointed out

that while NAIA schools can give out scholarships to their players, something Behrend can not do. In other words, NAIA schools can attract quality athletes more easily than Behrend.

In their eleventh game, Behrend lost a close game (7-4) to a nationally ranked Allegheny team. Allegheny, a Division II team, has a 10-3 record.

All eleven losing efforts were away.

Over the past weekend, the Lions finally found the win column against SUNY-Fredonia. After dropping the opener 9-7, Behrend came back to take the nightcap, 10-8. Freshman Chris Kolivoski bagged the first win for the Lions. "He shows a lot of promise. He's been doing it at the mound and at the plate (.333 BA) for us," said Bari.

Other bright spots for Behrend are freshmen Frank Luchowski, shortstop Pete Zulich, and catcher Greg Kotcamp. Luchowski leads the team in hits and has a .345 BA.

Lions' captain Tom Partridge (left) is ready and waiting at first.

photo by Richard Cain

The Lions next six games are at home, including West Virginia Wesley (17-3) who has already beaten Behrend three times. According to Coach Bari, "We hope to do some damage" in the upcoming home stand.



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