

Soccer Squad Shoots for Winning Season

Men's team hopes to improve upon last year's 7-11 mark

This year's edition of the men's soccer team appears to have all the necessary ingredients for a successful season.

The '88 Behrend Lions, who finished 7-11 as they competed in the East Coast Athletic Conference and the Western Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Soccer conference, were a young team comprised of many freshmen that gained valuable experience and playing time.

Those who benefited from the extra playing time includes the All-Conference sophomore front line of Vince Pedraza, David Beck and Eric Filoon. Big things will be expected from all three forwards, especially Beck, who was the team's leading scorer

with four goals and four assists for eight points.

Pedraza, who is currently on the disabled list for another three to four weeks with a shoulder injury, will probably miss the first three to five games.

According to Coach Lauffer, he hopes "that Pedraza can complete the rehabilitation on his shoulder and be ready to play by mid-season."

Returning mid-fielders include All-Conference senior Kenny Krum and senior Tom Kerr, junior Mike Mihalvic and sophomores Matt Gallagher and Sam Candelucci.

Fullbacks include the All-Conference brother tandem of Jeff and Jay Varcoe, a sophomore and

senior respectively. Other returnees are sophomore defenders Kevin Hess and Brian Heider. The fullback position is also

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**-Herb Lauffer
 Soccer Coach**

strengthened by the addition of freshman Tony Viola.

In addition, freshman Jeff Hockenberger is expected to make an immediate contribution at

sweeper, the last line of defense before the goalie, using his quickness and aggressiveness.

Junior Chris Hahn, sophomore Ken Granhalm and freshman Tom Bajus all will battle for the goaltending position. Granhalm is expected to start today at Allegheny.

Despite several preseason injuries, the Lions enter today's opener on a positive note after winning last Saturday's alumni game, 4-0. The Lions used their superior team speed and ball control offense to win the game.

This year's schedule includes two new non-conference opponents in Brockport (NY) and Buffalo State. While this may make it more difficult for the

young Lions to improve record wise, Lauffer hopes that it will make his squad more competitive.

"We played some very good soccer against some tough opponents last year. Adding these non-conference opponents can only help us improve as a team."

Lauffer also noted that his charges are more than eager to get the regular season under way.

"We've been training since August 19, and I think the guys are anxious to play. We found out a few things about the capability of the squad during the Alumni game on Saturday, and now I believe its time to turn the team loose and see what happens."

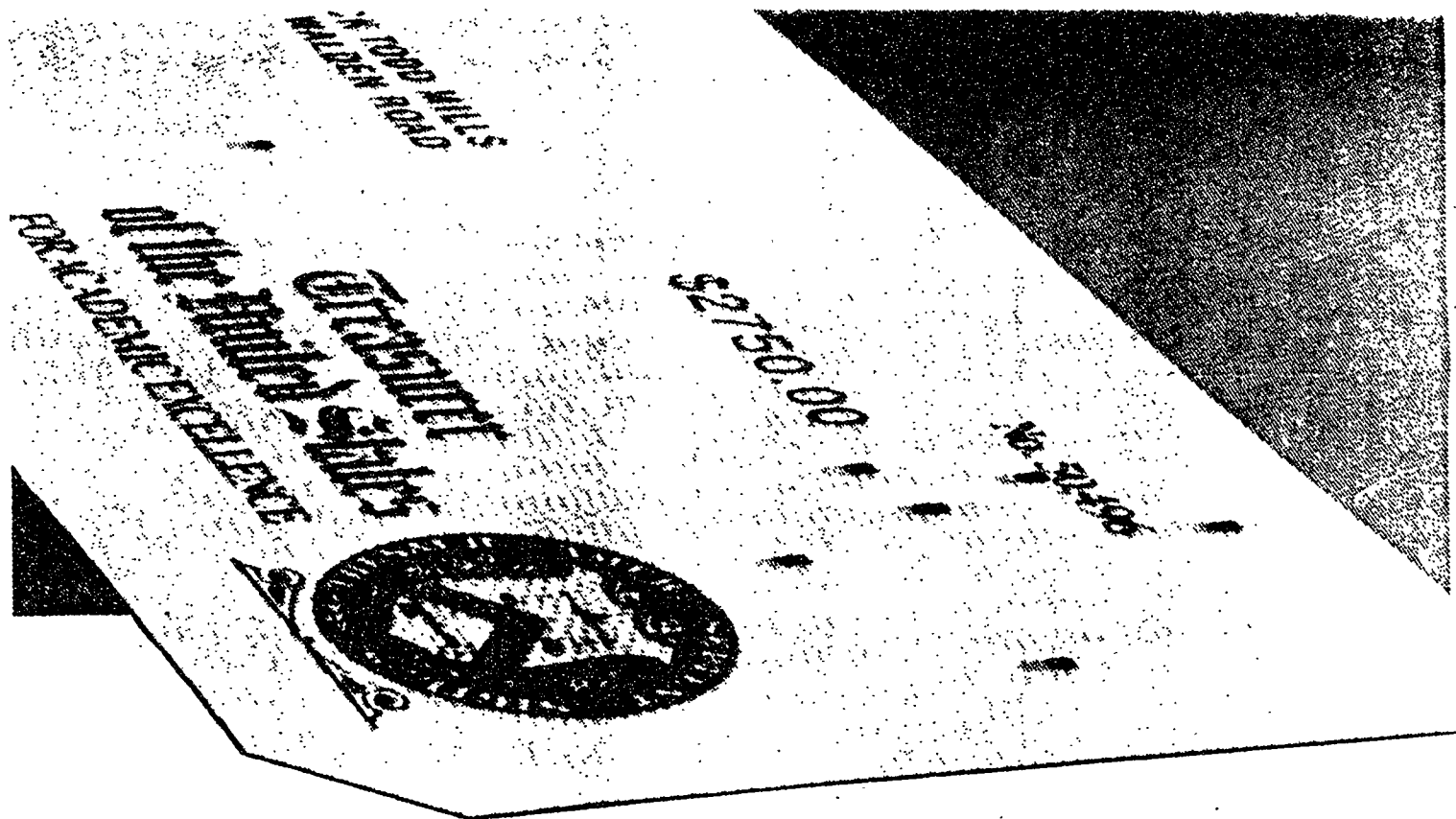
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