

Sports

Zimmerman takes position at Gannon

Ends seven year stint at Behrend

by Susan Cepicka
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend suffered a coaching loss over the course of this past summer.

Doug Zimmerman has given up coaching the basketball Lions in favor of the Lady Knights of Gannon University.

The announcement was made at a press conference on July 25, 1990 by Gannon President Dr. M. Daniel Henry.

Along with being head coach of the women's basketball program, Zimmerman will also coach tennis and teach in Gannon's College of Education.

The number one reason for the move was that Zimmerman would be directly involved in Gannon's athletic administration.

He is the new assistant athletic director, and has an opportunity for advancement.

As an Erie native, he did not want to pull his two daughters out of school in this area. Moving downtown to Gannon did not require any type of relocation for him and his family.

All of these aspects, plus a salary increase and more exposure at a bigger basketball school caused him to take advantage of the opportunity.

Zimmerman had been head coach of the men's basketball program since 1983.

He finishes his Behrend career as the third all-time winningest coach.

He accomplished this despite having to play almost half of the games against NCAA Division II opponents and over 60 percent of the games on the road.

If nothing else, Zimmerman improved the recruiting situation here.

For instance, his recruiting skills have brought talent to the program, such as Randy Baughman, David Garcia, Rick Demski, Chris Viscuso and many others.

"I think it (recruiting) is a better situation now than when I got there at Behrend," said Zimmerman.

He is also responsible for the new schedule. The 1990-91 season features 13 home games, with a home

tournament to kick off the season.

Due to the poor facilities, it is difficult to get other schools to play here. It is hoped that the renovations to Erie Hall will alleviate this problem.

Behrend was "frustrating," stated Zimmerman.

The continual promise of a new gym and forgotten pledges of assistants to help with the recruitment and development of new talent became more and more difficult to deal with.

At Gannon, facilities and staff are not a problem. Gannon also has a scholarship program that helps tremendously in recruitment.

These perks are all part of the reason that Zimmerman has left Behrend.

When asked about coaching women's instead of men's basketball, Zimmerman replied, "When it comes down to it, you're still working with kids, you're still teaching."

Women do not have the same physical attributes as men do, but "the strategy is still the same" explained the coach.

He is looking forward to a successful season at Gannon and a prosperous future in Erie.

While there were many plusses in leaving, it was still difficult for Zimmerman to leave.

When the decision was made, he wanted the opportunity to tell his players himself. Because of a press leak, this was difficult and Zimmerman had to act quickly.

He sent letters to his team, and sat down and discussed the changes with the seniors.

Baughman, Viscuso, and Demski will be playing in their senior year, their last year of eligibility. Their reaction to the change was of disappointment but understanding that the move was good for their coach.

On Zimmerman, the coach who was responsible for bringing "The General" here, Baughman had many good things to say.

The one that stood out the most was simply, "I'll miss him."

Paulsen takes over

Successful coach to lead men's basketball team

by Tony Viola
Collegian Staff Writer

Frederick Paulsen will be the new head coach of the Behrend basketball team for the 1990-1991 season.

Paulsen has been coaching at the collegiate level for fifteen years, ten years as a head coach. Paulsen's record as a head coach is 155-104, a sixty percent winning rate.

Paulsen's last coaching job was at Huron University in South Dakota, where he was a head coach for six years. Paulsen's team won four conference championships and two district championships, including a 13-4 playoff record.

Paulsen has also won some prestigious awards. Paulsen was named South Dakota Sports Writers "Coach of the Year" in 1989. Paulsen was also District 12 "Coach of the Year" in 1986 and 1988.

Paulsen also coached Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Minnesota. In two years, Paulsen's record was 27-15. Paulsen was named Central Conference "Coach of the Year" in 1984, when his team had a record of 21-2 including a sixteen game winning streak.

Paulsen was an assistant coach for Michigan State University in 1978-1980. This is when the Spartans won the national championship in 1979 behind Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

For the Lions this season

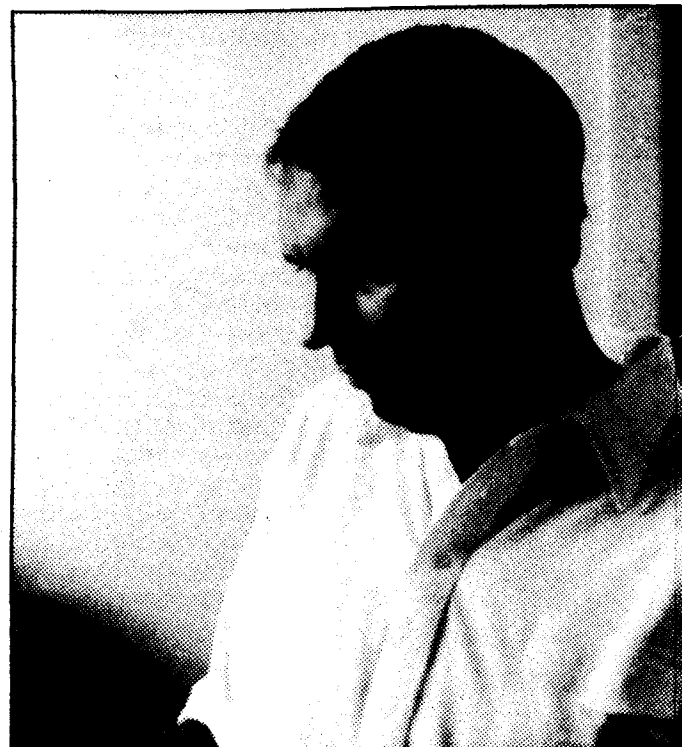


photo by Mike Schell

New coach: Fred Paulsen, the new men's basketball coach, prepares for the upcoming season

Coach Paulsen said, "My philosophy won't change. My team will be extremely prepared and competitive."

Paulsen hasn't hired an assistant coach yet. Last year's assistant, Jim Hamilton, is being considered for the position.

Since Behrend had a disappointing season last year, Coach Paulsen feels that, "The fear of failure is a very big motivator and will help this season."

Paulsen wants to get more organized and settled in before he starts the season. Paulsen's wife, Marilyn Ann, and his three sons are still living in Michigan. Paulsen is very busy trying to get settled in on campus and trying to find a home in Erie.

As if Coach Paulsen wasn't busy enough getting organized, he is also teaching three sections of golf and two sections of health.

Players discuss coaching change

by Susan Cepicka
Collegian Staff Writer

The change from Zimmerman to Paulsen will hopefully bring changes to Behrend that will deliver a prosperous season.

The magic of motivation and enthusiasm is evident in the players this season.

When asked about the change, senior Randy Baughman said, "At first, we were concerned about Zimmerman leaving, due to how late it was in the year, but we are not disappointed at all in the outcome."

Baughman is the starting point guard for the Lions and he is in his last year of eligibility.

An Erie native, Baughman decided to stay in this area due to Zimmerman's promise of first year playing time.

Play he did, and for three long seasons, he performed extremely well for Zimmerman.

When Zimmerman decided to leave, Baughman and some of his teammates were concerned about who would replace him. They contacted Athletic Director Herb Lauffer and expressed their concern.

In answer, Lauffer allowed seniors Baughman, Chris Viscuso, and Rick Demski to hold the final interviews and express their inputs on the

choices of applicants. Their choice was unanimously Fred Paulsen.

"We have to grasp his program," said Junior transfer from Gannon Gregg Blair.

Blair was recruited by

"At first, we were concerned about Zimmerman leaving, but we are not disappointed at all in the outcome"

**-Randy Baughman
Senior Point Guard**

Zimmerman when he graduated from Youngstown High School in 1984. He had already enlisted in the Navy and was unable to attend college.

When his four year enlistment ended, Blair came home to Pennsylvania to go back to school and chose Gannon because he was given a scholarship.

Learning that Zimmerman had left does not concern him because he has been forced to deal with new coaching and staff changes

throughout his 14 years on the court.

Blair, a 6'9" forward who claims to have been the smallest boy in his class until the seventh grade, should make a big impact on the team this year.

On the coaching change, he does not see it as a one way street. "He has to learn us," says Blair.

At Gannon, Blair saw a different type of athletic program in which it was basketball first and classes second.

At Behrend, he claims to not have that type of pressure on him anymore. "I am known as a college student here, not as a basketball player," remarks Blair. "I just want to play here."

Just freshmen center forward Kevin Mock, the new season will bring new challenges with a new coach, and new possibilities of getting off the bench and getting playtime.

Mock is a six-foot-seven Pennsylvania native. He has six years of experience and played varsity ball for Oxford High School near Philadelphia.

As far as a new coach, Mock is undecided but will play for any coach that Penn State will throw at him.

"I am looking forward to it, it's a new experience playing in college."