

Sports

Big week

Spikers streak to five wins and take Alfred tourney's runner-up trophy

by Steven R. Smith
The Collegian

The women's volleyball team capped their most successful week of the season last week by placing second in the Alfred University Volleyball Tournament last weekend.

The week saw Behrend's spikers quickly raise their record from a dismal 3-10 to 8-11 by defeating Case-Western, Alfred University, Washington & Jefferson once each, and SUNY-Fredonia twice.

"I'm really proud of them," said Coach Jan Wilson. "They learned how to win last week. All they needed was some confidence."

According to Wilson, that confidence builder came early last week's match with Case-Western in Cleveland.



Erica Scribner: Named to all-tourney team at Alfred.

"We lost the first two games really quick, we were just playing terrible. But during the third game we served the eyes out of the ball," said a pleased Wilson.

That spark, and the service aces of veterans like Pam Allshouse, Erica Scribner, and Kelly Jordan, rallied the team to a

major come-from-behind victory over the Case-Western squad. The final game scores were 13-15, 6-15, 15-9, 15-1, and 15-5.

"We just played great together," says sophomore spiker Sara Moss. "Our starters are strong, and we've got a bench that we can call on."

The next opponent for the lady spikers was an experienced team from SUNY-Fredonia.

The spikers met this experience with a veteran of their own: Erica Scribner.

"Erica had a great match," said Wilson. "She had 18 kills and 3 aces. They (Fredonia) couldn't stop her."

The spikers made short work of their opponents and went on to

win the match (15-10, 18-16, 15-10), giving the Lady Lions a two game winning streak.

Coach Wilson commented on the wins.

"Sara (Moss) was really invaluable in those first two wins, she came off the bench strong. In that second game against Fredonia she came in with seven straight serves. She saved the day."

The Lady Lions took their winning streak to the Alfred University Volleyball Tournament. Their opening round opponent was SUNY-Fredonia, the team they had beaten the night before.

"We were confident, but it's tough to beat a team back to back," said Wilson.

The teams confidence stemmed from the return of starter Lori Connick, who had missed the previous five matches because of a torn calf muscle.

Connick supplied some confidence by not only coming back to start, but by leading the team to victory (4-15, 15-4, 15-12) with 10 kills.



Jim Pierdomenico/The Collegian

Proud team: The women's volleyball team left last weekend's Alfred Tournament with a few more wins, a little more confidence, and less room in their trophy case. The spikers managed a second place finish at the tourney, posting four wins before losing in the title game. Team members are from left to right (sitting) Angela Coston, Aisha Norflett, and Chrissy Whiteman. Standing from left to right are Jessica Powell, Lori Connick, Sara Moss, Erica Scribner, Kellie Jordan, Pam Allshouse, and Alexis Pasteur.

"They thought they had us figured out and went after Erica and Alexis (Pasteur), but we had an 'ace' up our sleeve with Lori," said Wilson.

That first round win sent the spikers up against the tournament's hosts, Alfred University, a very deep, veteran

"The confidence keeps building. We won that first match, and it was the turning point for the whole week, and I hope for the whole year."

- Jan Wilson
Volleyball coach

squad.

The spikers seemed to be taking turns in the spotlight, and freshman Chrissy Whiteman decided that this match was her time to shine. She led the team in putting the ball on the opponents floor with 10 kills.

Trophy winners

Whiteman's play and a balanced team attack shut down the Alfred middle-hitter who went on to be voted most valuable player of the tournament. The Lady Lions rolled on, winning 15-10, 12-15, and 15-12.

The victory over Alfred put the Behrend squad in the semifinals against the team from Washington and Jefferson College.

In this match Behrend simply caught their opponents off guard and made the most of it, winning in two games (15-4, 16-14).

"We played really well. They (Washington and Jefferson) woke up in the second game, but it was too late," said Wilson.

The win threw the winded spikers into their first tournament final of the year. They were pitted against a team they had already beaten a day earlier: Alfred University.

The spikers lost the first game, but came back to win the second on the strength of Scribner's 14 kills and four aces.

Unfortunately, that win turned out to be a last gasp, and the

Lady Lions settled for the runner-up title, losing 8-15, 15-11, and 5-15.

"We put up a good fight, but we're not in the shape we want to be in. In that last game we had a mental and a physical lapse," said Wilson.

Although the Lady Lions had to settle for the second place trophy, they along with their coach were proud of the accomplishment.

The spikers were also proud to point out that Scribner was honored for her tough play over the weekend by being named to the all-tourney team.

Coach Wilson sees this past week, and more specifically the third game of the Case-Western win, as a turning point for her team.

"The confidence keeps building. We won that first match, and it was the turning point for the whole week, and I hope for the whole year."

The spikers will try to start a new winning streak tomorrow night in the Juniata tournament.

Softball squad in weekend tourney

The Softball Fall Invitational will be held this weekend October 6th and 7th at 11th and Hess Street in Erie.

Behrend will play against Allegheny College, Robert Morris College, Mercyhurst College, and Gannon University.

Head Coach Brett Banker said, "This tournament will be very competitive and a good test for the team."

The Lions play Allegheny at 9 am Saturday morning for their

first test. The Gators went to the NCAA Division III championships last spring.

At 1 pm, Division I Robert Morris from Pittsburgh will take on Behrend. Robert Morris is a good Division I team that should give the Lions some trouble.

The other two teams are Division II squads, which Behrend will play on Sunday. The Lions will first play against Mercyhurst at 10 am and then will meet Gannon at noon.

Mercyhurst and Gannon are two very competitive Division II teams.

"The Invitational will be a great test early, playing teams from each NCAA division," said Banker.

Coach Banker will be taking twenty-two players, eleven of which are returning from last season. The Lions have lost only two players from last year's 19-9 squad.

- Tony Viola

Behrend sports scoreboard

For games from Sept. 27 to Oct. 2

Soccer

Sept. 29
Mercyhurst 5, Behrend 1
First half scoring: 1 (M) Melody 36:42; 2 (M) Sheldon 20:40; 3 (M) Melody 2 18:07.
Second half scoring: 4 (M) Melody 3 39:04; 5 (B) Daoudi 34:00; 6 (M) Eback 22:51.
Shots: Mercyhurst 15, Behrend 5.
Corners: Behrend 4, Mercyhurst 1.
Saves: (B) Double 3, (B) Spear 5, (M) Jett 2.

Volleyball

Sept. 27
Behrend 3, Fredonia 0
15-10, 18-16, 15-10
Alfred Tournament
Sept. 28-29
Behrend 2, Fredonia 1
4-15, 15-4, 15-12
Behrend 2, Alfred 1
15-10, 12-15, 15-12

(continued on page 14)