

Roller coaster

After a disappointing loss at Oberlin, the Lions outclaw the Bobcats in home den

by Susan Cepicka
The Collegian

"You're outta here!" Usually after a remark like that, the coach kicks some dirt on the ump's shoes and stalks off to the showers, muttering some charitable words under his breath.

Of course, that was kind of tough for Behrend's Coach Paulsen to do, since basketball floors aren't usually covered with dirt.

Nonetheless, that's what happened in the final minutes of Saturday's match against Thiel College as Paulsen was ejected on his second technical foul of the game.

The game finished with Behrend defeating Thiel, 76-66. The win came after a disappointing loss to Oberlin on Nov. 29 when a 12 point advantage quickly deteriorated into a 4 point deficit.

"It was definitely a team victory," commented Coach Paulsen on the Thiel victory. During the course of the game, a total of eleven players aided in the triumph.

The starting lineup for Saturday night's game saw a change at one of the forward positions. Freshman Byron Thorne replaced junior Jeff Cowan in the lineup. "Byron is giving us more right now. We play better defense when Byron's

on the floor," Paulsen remarked. "Our five starters are the best unit on the floor."

In a strategically devised system, Coach Paulsen centers his style of coaching around tough, aggressive defensive play. He adds about Thorne, "He is our defensive leader. There is no question about it."

"We're trying to turn the corner right now. We're trying to pick it up a notch and get on a winning streak."

- Chris Viscuso
Senior guard

Paulsen also strongly depends on his seniors, Rick Demski, Chris Viscuso and Randy Baughman, to lead the team. Paulsen said: "Our seniors have to be the leaders. There is a lot of pressure on them to perform." The demanding coach added that, "They are getting better every game." He said that this is due to them becoming more familiar with his system of coaching and playing.

When asked about the game Saturday night, guard Viscuso said, "We won it on defense.

What's keeping us winning is our defense." The twelve-point scorer also added that, "We're trying to turn the corner right now. We're trying to pick it up a notch and get on a winning streak."

A strong bench was definitely a factor in the Thiel game added Viscuso. "Damon Floyd was a big rebounder, and Chris Morrow and Don Plyler played good defense. They all contributed from the bench."

About relief coming from the bench, Baughman agreed with Viscuso, "We had a contribution from the bench, we had more players out." There were six relief players that supported the starters.

The one past reliever, presently starter, is Byron Thorne. The 6'2" freshman forward was noted as saying, "I was excited about starting, and I will do anything for the team." On Coach Paulsen's use of the bench during the game, Thorne said, "Coach is getting more confidence in the bench, and that's giving the bench more confidence in themselves."

Freshman reliever Chris Morrow has enjoyed increased play time in the last several games. "I'm excited. I wasn't expecting it." The 5'11" Erie

Sports



Mike Benson/The Collegian

Where's the foul?: Men's Basketball Coach Fred Paulsen questions the validity of a referee's call in Saturday night's game with Thiel College.

native credits a lot to Paulsen, "He's an excellent teacher, he knows the game well."

Morrow has shown promise as a guard, when asked if he thinks he will be doing big things in the future, he quickly replies, "I hope so."

In Saturday night's game against Thiel, Coach Paulsen's first technical foul seemed to help

the momentum of the Lions a

bit. "The team rallied around that and used it to our advantage," remarked Baughman. After Paulsen was bounced from the game, his players went on to take a check in the win column.



Mike Benson/The Collegian

The "J": Reserve guard Rick Clark cranks up a shot over a Thiel College defender.



Mike Benson/The Collegian

Pick and shoot: Senior Rick Demski sets a screen for Freshman forward as Byron Thorne cuts loose with a jumper against Thiel College last Saturday.