

Sports

Paulsen's squad takes roller coaster ride

Hoopsters split weekend homestand

by Brad Kane
The Collegian

"We've been frustrated and we've been disappointed, but we're not discouraged."

It was this statement by Behrend Men's basketball coach Fred Paulsen that neatly sums up what has been a roller coaster ride for his club this season.

Take the past weekend, for example. On Saturday, the Lions ran into a well-polished St. Vincent College squad, stumbling in a 55-40 loss before rebounding Sunday to beat St. John Fisher College 53-47.

The former contest was a rough one for Behrend. "They (St. Vincent) were by far the best team we've played all year," said Paulsen. "We knew coming in we would be in for a tough night."

Tough night indeed. The Lions held a 3-2 lead following Freshman Don Plyler's three-pointer early but lost it soon after and never recovered. The Lions got close, tying the game on two occasions later in the half though.

The first time, a Randy Baughman field goal knotted the game at 12 with ten minutes to go in the half and two minutes later a Chris Viscuso drive tied the contest at 14.

The Bearcats broke it open after that, taking a 25-19 lead at the half. Behrend gained some momentum just as the half ended when Baughman drained a jumper with no time remaining.

The momentum stayed with the Lions at the outset of the second half as Baughman scored again and Demski netted a lay-up while drawing a foul in the process. The senior center missed the ensuing shot, however,

allowing St. Vincent to stay a bucket away. Two minutes later Demski drew Behrend within two again on a bucket, but failed once more on the three point play attempt.

From there St. Vincent took off, reeling off eight straight points to put the game away for good, staving off a minor Lion rally that brought the blue and

white to within six with just over five minutes to go.

For the game, Demski led the Lions with 12 points and nine rebounds. Baughman scored eight as Plyler netted six on a pair of three pointers.

On Sunday, Behrend regrouped to beat the Cardinals. The Lions took a 30-23 halftime lead and then held off St. John Fisher to



Air Demski: Forward Rick Demski goes up for two against St. John Fisher defenders in Sunday's 53-47 win. Mike Benson/The Collegian



Up and in: Freshman guard Don Plyler puts in two while surrounded by St. John Fisher players. Mike Benson/The Collegian

get the win in a close second half.

"We played well," said Paulsen. "We did a good job of controlling the tempo, even though we made more mistakes in the last three minutes than we had all the game. It was a good win though, coming off of Sunday's loss."

In the game, Plyler racked up 17 points as Baughman helped out with 15 and Demski added nine.

Plyler has emerged as a force on the Lion team recently, having moved into a starting spot on the club over the semester break when senior Viscuso went down with a broken finger. Viscuso has since returned, but has stayed on the bench as both players have produced more in their new roles--Plyler as a starter and Viscuso as the team's sixth man.

"I'm not taking anything away from Chris," said Paulsen, "but he's more intense and productive coming off the bench."

Basketball

Men's

Jan. 27

St. John Fisher (47)

Moore 7-16 3-3 17, C.Sullivan 4-17 0-0 8, Leggett 2-2 2-2 7, Fletcher 3-6 1-2 7, Whitmore 2-4 0-0 5, Brown 1-4 0-0 3, Crowley 0-0 0-0 0, Trapp 0-2 0-0 0, Buckingham 0-1 0-0 0, Lindstrom 0-1 0-0 0, E.Sullivan 0-1 0-0 0, Behrend (53) Buzalla 2-6 1-2 5, Thorne 0-3 1-2 1, Demski 4-9 1-1 9, Baughman 5-10 4-6 15, Plyler 6-11 2-3 17, Viscuso 2-6 0-0 4, Floyd 1-3 0-0 2, Clark 0-1 0-0 0

Three-point goals: St. John Fisher 3-16 (Leggett 1-1, Whitmore 1-1, Brown 1-2, Moore 0-4, C.Sullivan 0-8), Behrend 4-8 (Plyler 3-5, Baughman 1-1, Viscuso 0-9). Fouled out: None. Rebounds: St. John Fisher 36 (Fletcher 8), Behrend 32 (Buzalla 9). Assists: St. John Fisher 9 (Leggett, Crowley, Moore 2), Behrend 12 (Baughman 5).

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