

## Sports Bits

by Matt Cissne  
The Collegian

**DYNASTY:** The Duke University Blue Devils (3-0) are once again ranked #1 in the nation after defeating the Michigan Wolverines 79-68 Saturday in a classic college basketball matchup. The Blue Devils followed up Saturday's win with a 103-72 thrashing of Northeastern on Monday night. Duke is trying to win its third consecutive NCAA championship.

**BEWARE:** Here is a warning to NBA teams: Stay out of the garden! That's Madison Square Garden, home of the New York Knicks. The Knicks (11-6, first place in the Atlantic division) are 9-0 at home after defeating the Seattle SuperSonics 100-88 Tuesday night behind Patrick Ewing's 33 points and 16 rebounds.

**MY PICK:** Well last week I finally got one right for a change, and now I am aiming for two in a row. This week the Washington Redskins will beat the Dallas Cowboys 28-17 in the RFK stadium where the 'skins are 5-1 this season. Washington's offensive line is finally healthy and they have played their best games of the season the past weeks. Two weeks ago, they defeated Phoenix 41-3 and last week they travelled to New York and defeated the Giants 28-10. (Oh, by the way, the Redskins are my favorite team, even though I am from Philly.)

**BIG MONEY:** Four major league baseball all-stars signed big contracts this week. Barry Bonds signed a six year contract with the San Francisco Giants that guarantees him \$43.75 million. Pitcher David Cone signed a three year, \$18 million contract with the Kansas City Royals, and pitcher Dave Stewart inked a two year, \$8.5 million deal with the Toronto Blue Jays. Not to be outdone, outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. agreed to a four year contract for \$24 million.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** I wish everyone a happy holiday season and good luck on your finals. I would like to thank the entire Collegian staff for a great semester, and I especially would like to thank Keith McFall and Alicia Hartman for their help in the sports section.

JACE HAPPY 21st

# Athlete of the Week Guard guides Lions

## Don Plyler leads the Lions to Hamot Classic Title

by Keith McFall  
The Collegian

The Athlete of the Week for this week is Don Plyler, a standout point guard on the Penn State Behrend's men's basketball team. He is a fifth semester Behrend communication major from Meadville, PA.

He attended Maplewood High School where he played three years of varsity basketball. Don was recruited by former Lion's coach Mike Zimmerman prior to his freshman year here.

This past weekend with the Hamot Classic invitational Don netted 44 points in two games. In the first game on Friday, he had 16 points against Hilbert College.

The next night Don netted 28 points against Defiance College to lead the Lions to the tournament win. Don was 10-17 from three point range and 16-25 overall.

He added three assists and six rebounds, and had just five turnovers in the two games. "Don has been struggling a little lately and I'm happy for him that he could put out two

performances like that at home," said Coach Fred Paulsen.

Don has set a couple of goals for himself for the season and he hopes he attains them.

The first is to be a little more consistent each game in his shooting. "I didn't want to score five points one game and 25 the next. I want to hit somewhere in the middle," said Don.

He is also concentrating on his defensive play this year. "Good defense creates a good offense, so I'm always working on improving that," he said.

Don has also set some team goals he hopes they can achieve this year. The main goal is to get back to The East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) finals and win.

He also wants the team to win games they know they should win. "We lost a few games last year that we should have won because of blown leads in the second half," he said.

Another goal is for the team to play together consistently. "We will face a lot bigger teams than we are this year, and



Julie Coughenour/The Collegian

**Hot Shot:** Junior pointguard Don Plyler takes a shot during the Hamot Classic.

the key to winning those games is working together," he said.

Besides playing basketball, Don participates in intramural softball and volleyball in the off-season. In the summer he works for Channel Lock Tools Inc. near his home and he also plays in a summer softball

league.

Don plans on finishing his career at Behrend and graduating in the spring of 1994. After graduation, he is undecided on whether he will attend graduate school or try to get a job.



Julie Coughenour/The Collegian

**Leapin Lizards:** Junior guard John Hawthorne goes up strong during a game against Defiance College.

## Lions corral title

by Joe Mottillo  
The Collegian

Like packs of outlaws, Methodist, Defiance and Hilbert rode into Behrend to have a little shoot-out with the sheriff, the Lions.

The shoot-out was called the Hamot Sports Medicine Basketball Classic. The place wasn't the OK Corral, but Eric Hall. In the end, only one team was left standing.

On a cold Friday night, the Defiance College Yellow Jackets came out with all guns loaded against a winless Methodist team. Methodist wasn't as quick out of the draw as the Jackets, and they fell 102-63.

The second game featured the Penn State-Behrend Lions in their 1992-93 home debut against the (3-2) Hilbert Hawks. Behrend came in with a 1-3 mark and a chance to repeat as Classic champions.

Hilbert game out firing away as they took an early lead on the Lions. The Lions clawed their way back to tie the game at 34-34. They had a ton of momentum going into the second half after they overcame the early deficit.

The Lions pulled out the big guns in the second half as they shot 73% to shoot down the soaring Hawks 78-59.

Stephen Respress, Don Plyler and Byron Thorne led the Lions in scoring with 20, 16, and 18 points respectively. Thorne added 8 assists while Plyler canned 4 out of 7 from three-point land.

The Lions moved on to play a Defiance team that was averaging over 90 points in their 4-0 start.

The consolation game pitted Methodist against Hilbert. Hilbert pulled down third place in the tourney as they won 80-66. Richard Ernestine of

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