

Spikers setting it straight

by Hal D. Coffey
Collegian Staff

After three years of hard work on the men's club volleyball team, team president and coach, Kevin Hess, hopes that the organization will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

So far this season, the Behrend team is 6-2 in the Western Pennsylvania Volleyball Conference. They've played teams from Grove City, Slippery Rock, and Edinboro. Right now, they sit in second place, while a rematch with Grove City on March 18 may put them in first. Grove City won the earlier meeting this season. The regular season finishes with a home tri-match with Geneva and Robert Morris on March 20.

Although the team has only been competing seriously for around 4 or 5 years, Hess thinks they may make an impact in this year's playoffs. Hess commented, "A win over a highly ranked team, like Grove

City, would help us out emotionally and in the standings."

Since he quit playing soccer three years ago, Hess has been going all-out to coordinate the team. This season, IM director, Rob Wittman, has been the club sport director and has helped out.

Wittman doesn't believe that the club team will become a varsity sport anytime soon because there are only 37 Division III teams, most of which are in California.

Even if they do not have varsity status, the team hopes to build up attendance in the upcoming games.

The teams starters are Hess, Tim Stebick, Dave Hoffman, Geoff Bacho, Mike Phelan, and Jon Stolfus. These players, along with the other eight members, are looking forward to finishing the season strong and making a good playoff appearance.



Darren Schilberg/Photographer

Phelan good: Behrend Club Volleyball setter, Mike Phelan dumps the ball in a match against Slippery Rock last night.

Teams fall short at Ohio State

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What do you call a half court basketball game with 2 eight minute halves and all-out, aggressive, shoot-em-up play with free shoes for the winners?

The answer is the 1993 Schick Superhoops 3 on 3 tournament at Ohio State on February 20th. Penn State-Behrend sent the winners of the intramurals tournament to play in Columbus.

The men's team of Matt Nagy, Jim Shernisky and Steve Thompson were forced to play without big man Randy Joseph, who hurt his knee the night before in a pick-up game.

Without the luxury of subs, the Behrend men struggled in their two preliminary games. They lost to the Community College of Allegheny County, 49-40, and to Lorain CC, 52-40. Both opponents used a power game of short and second chance shots to knock off the Behrend team.

Even though their 3 point shooting was good in the first games, Nagy ignited the team in their first round game against Shawnee St. The team popped treys as well as outrebounded the Shawnee St. team on their way to the 29-23 victory.

In the second round, the host team from Ohio State ran off to a 9-0 start and finished going away, 54-40. A mixture of fatigue and lack of a big man contributed to

their playoff loss.

The ladies team of Beth Demacio, Sue Mazur, Lori Nadolny, and Jen Spencer did not fare too well as they went 0-2 in the preliminaries with losses to Franciscan, 25-7, and West Virginia, 39-17.

In the WVU game, the tallest member of the Behrend team, Demacio, went down with a twisted ankle. The ladies just tried to stay in it after that injury.

Against Central St. in the first round of the playoffs Demacio returned, but it was Spencer who came in later to keep it close. The ladies team seemed to be on their way to coming back until late fouls cost them the game in the 22-16 loss.

As for the overall tournament, Director Beau Ruggs believed that these 33 teams, 22 men and 11 women, had fun. He saw the fact that everyone made the playoffs as "a way for even the 0-2 teams to have a chance to play and enjoy themselves". Ruggs said that the winners would receive pairs of Reebok shoes and a trip to either Indianapolis or Philadelphia for the national level.

Altogether, the tournament, sponsored by the NBA, Schick, and Reebok, was a great place for recreational hoopsters to, as one of Ruggs' assistants Missy Garcher said, "have fun playing a sport they enjoy, while meeting other college students from all around the region."

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