

Lady Lions rule

by Paul Benim
Contributing Reporter

For the fifth straight season, the Lady Lions' softball team improved on their success from the previous year. This year's ECAC Regional Title capped a spectacular spring that included a record-breaking 29-6 record.

The regional crown was achieved through a dramatic 2-1, eight-inning victory to give Penn State-Behrend the 1993 NCAA Division III ECAC Softball Championship.

This is the third time in five seasons the softball program has gained a berth into post-season play. The history of the Penn State-Behrend softball program is outstanding.

Over the past five spring seasons, the program has displayed an impressive mark of 107-42. This 72% winning percentage carried over into the 1992 campaign under rookie coaches Paul Benim and Bill Graham.

"This year's team was extremely special to me for a variety of reasons. Simply put,



Amel Balcica/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Veni, vidi, vici (I came, I saw, I conquered): Laura Connor comes off the bench to provide some offensive punch. She was one of seventeen players that contributed to the Lady Lions' success last spring.

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Paul Benim
Head Coach

we played and executed an excellent game of fundamental softball," said head coach Paul Benim.

"We received major contributions from the 17 members associated with this team, and it paid off with twenty-nine wins, and an ECAC Championship."

The Lady Lions set new club records for most singles, doubles, triples, homeruns, and stolen bases in a season. In addition, they were recognized as having the fourth best winning percentage in the nation, 83%, based on their 29-6 record.

They were led by senior standout, Darcie Bradley (Franklin, PA/Venango Christian). Bradley, the MVP of the Championship Series, hit .430, and had 49 hits, scored 39 runs, stole 18 bases in 18 tries, and drove home 27 runners. The latter four categories are new Behrend seasonal records.

The most consistent part of the team this passed season was the excellence on the hill. The ace of the staff was sophomore, Cherie Varrassa. Varrassa had a magnificent season going 15-2 with a spectacular 1.18 ERA.

This sophomore from Corry, PA set single season records for most wins, strike-outs, and shut-outs in a season.

Varrassa was backed by Casey Putteman (Pittsburgh, PA/North Allegheny). Putteman became the school's all-time win leader with her 14-4 won-loss mark.

This softball team had several outstanding qualities. The outfield rotated four members who added speed and run support to the squad.

Terry Pegher (Wexford, PA/North Allegheny) started in leftfield. Terry had 32 hits and drove home a team high 27 runners.

Freshman Carrie McDougall (Erie, PA/Iroquois) played center and hit .326, scored 27 times and had the game-winning RBI in the ECAC Championship game.

Freshman Julie Stocker (Pittsburgh, PA/Mt. Lebanon) and Jenny Young (Cambridge Springs, PA/Cambridge Springs) split time in rightfield. Stocker had four game-winning RBI's this past season and Young used her speed to steal 11 bases and score 15 runs.

The bases were covered with experience. The infield was sharp defensively with sophomores Sue Mazur (Wexford, PA/North

Allegheny) at third base and Karen Strait (Warfordsburg, PA/Southern Fulton) covering second.

The two consistently made the routine play and frequently came up with the spectacular. Mazur scored 30 runs which made the record books, and Strait drove in 21 runs, which gives her 47 RBI's in only two seasons.

Time at firstbase was split between freshman Tanya Cekovich (Pittsburgh,

PA/Blackhawk) and Becky Reed (Albion, PA/Northwestern). Cekovich played solid defense while Reed chipped in a respectable .290 batting average. Kelly Orga (Pittsburgh, PA/Shaler) and freshman Laura Conner (Pittsburgh, PA/Trinity) served the club in back-up roles.

Behind the plate, the Lady Lions received terrific performances from catchers Megan Musante (Edinboro, PA/General McLane) and Emmy

Arnett (Springboro, PA/Conneaut Valley).

These two anchored the team with their defense. Musante had a defensive fielding percentage of .986, while Arnett's .989 percentage led the entire team.

This softball team demonstrated aggressive tendencies especially on the base-paths, and it paid off. The team's 91 stolen bases in 102 tries almost doubled the second most in history. The Lady Lions could often be seen taking the extra base and applying pressure on the defense by running aggressively.

"Every time we took the field, I expected to win. This group of 15 individuals is extremely talented and rose to every occasion. By defeating the seventh and twelfth ranked teams in the nation and winning the program's second ECAC Championship, this program has established itself as a softball powerhouse; and today's players have but one expectation--to move forward, and history is on their side," concluded Benim.

The Lady Lions lost two players to graduation and five more to other educational pursuits, but with a solid incoming recruiting class and a core of returning players, the softballers will remain on top in the 1994 season.

Senior shortstop Darcie Bradley and sophomore pitcher Cherie Varrassa were named to the ECAC Southern Regional All-Star Team for their excellent play. Bradley and Varrassa were also recognized by the National Softball Coaches Association as being worthy of All-Region honors.

Intramural Sports

Low Impact - Intense 30 minute workout

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Victoria Erie Hall	Victoria Erie Hall	no class	no class	no class
7:30 - 8:30 pm	no class	no class	no class	no class	no class

Abdomen (ABS) Workout - Intense 25 minute upper and lower abdominal workout

NEW TIME →

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:30 - 12:00 pm	no class	Victoria Erie Hall	no class	Victoria Erie Hall	no class
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Victoria Erie Hall	no class	Victoria Erie Hall	no class	no class

FEE: 50 cents per class - charged to your student account.
Faculty and staff will be billed.