

A "Thorne" in opponents' side

by Alice Lingo
Collegian Staff

From Vincentian High School in Pittsburgh, standout senior "swingman" Byron Thorne is Housing and Food Services' Athlete of The Week.

Not only is Thorne a returning letter-winner for the Lions, he was also nominated to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette's "Fabulous Five" basketball team in high school.

Also, to encourage younger children to play basketball, he coaches at various camps throughout the summer.

This past weekend during the Hamot Classic, hosted by Behrend, Thorne placed himself 10th on the all-time scoring list with 946 points,

surpassing former Behrend coach Doug Zimmerman.

He added an additional 23 points to that total on Monday night against Washington and Jefferson.

He is also now second to teammate Don Plyler in career steals with 115.

Prior to the Lion's game against Washington and Jefferson, he was averaging 21.3 points per game, 7.3 rebounds per game, and 4 assists per game.

In the Hamot tournament he poured in a career high 37 points in a rough 96-93 loss to Olivet College in the finals.

Thorne has high aspirations for his team. He pointed out that they have a couple of new players, but everyone has been

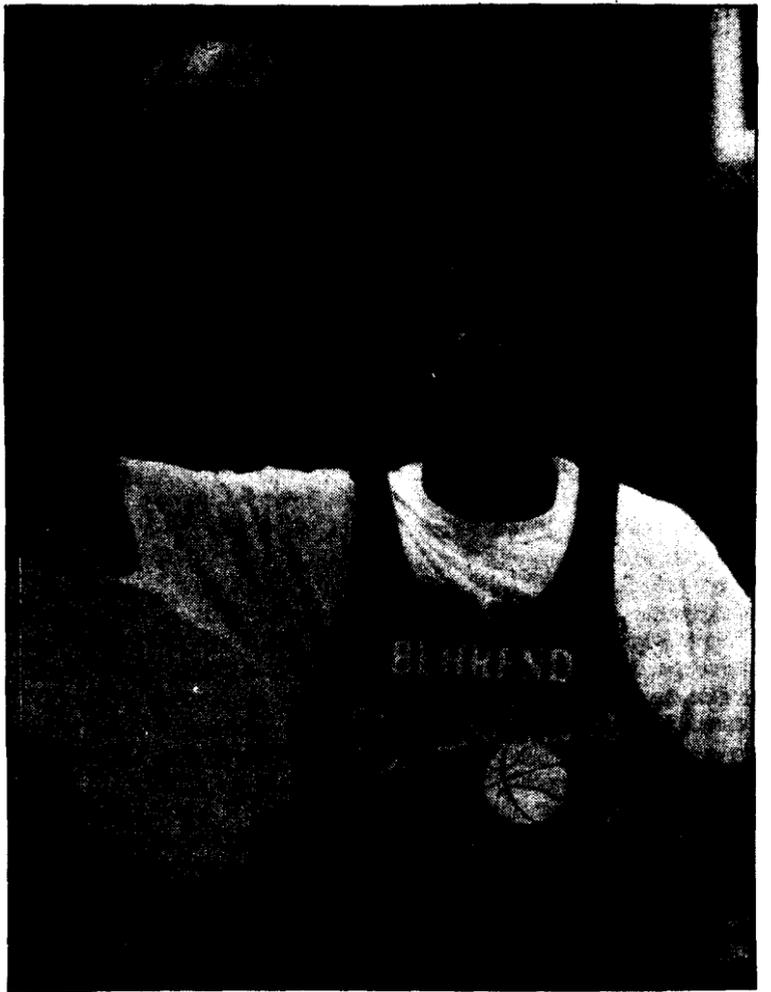
playing well.

"It seems like we're climbing this big mountain and we can't get to the top, but once we reach the top the rest of the season should be successful," he said.

He expressed that first year head coach Joe Shapiro is doing a fine job. "He has a positive attitude and is a positive motivator," said Thorne.

Thorne has set some personal goals for himself this season, with the biggest one being to pass the 1000 career points mark.

He can realize this goal on Friday night at home against SUNY-Fredonia by scoring 31 points.



Amel Balcica/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Roundball: Senior swingman Byron Thorne needs only 31 points to surpass the 1000 point mark for his career.



Amel Balcica/Collegian Photo Coordinator

Get open: Sophomore guard Becky Reed looks to get the ball into the post.

Home sweet home

by Paul D. Young
Collegian Staff

Featuring a 6-2 record and a modest three game winning streak, the Penn State-Behrend women's basketball team is quickly gaining momentum as the fall semester winds down.

Their latest victory came Tuesday night at Erie Hall in the form of a 90-63 thrashing of Westminster College in front of over 300 supporters.

Coach Roz Fornari believes that her experienced squad simply "out-talented" their opponents. "We played everybody in the first half," remarked the first year coach.

The Lions held a 15 point lead at the break and coasted home from there. Behrend shot just under 50 percent from the floor for the game and four players posted double figures in the scoring column.

Forward Karen Strait (jr.) led the way with 16 tallies. Heather Shearer (sr.) contributed 15 points and the pair of Anne Bonner (sr.) and Emmy Arnett (so.) chipped in with 14 a piece.

Senior point guard Wendy Ebinger tied a school record by notching her 306 career assist. Ebinger, a graduate of New London High School in Ohio, recorded seven assists for the game.

On Thursday, December 2 the Lady Lions traveled to Hiram and came away with a 84-74 triumph.

Despite trailing by a point at the intermission and being hampered by Bonner's early foul trouble, the Lions roared back in the second half to finish with a ten point victory margin.

Shearer compiled 27 points, seven rebounds, and four

assists, shooting over 50 percent from the field. Senior Becky Swartz threw in 16 points and hauled down five rebounds. Rounding out the scoring for the Lions were Ebinger and Michelle Grover (sr.) with 13 and 10 points respectively. All-purpose player Ebinger had six steals as well.

"We're playing better team basketball," said Fornari. "However, we do need to work on boxing-out on our rebounds."

The Lady Lions meet Houghton College at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Erie Hall.

Tomorrow they oppose Fredonia at 6:00 p.m. in the first game of a double header with the men's team.

The Lady Lions will have a short Christmas break, as they resume practice on January 2.

Lighting up the scoreboard

by Joe Mottillo
Collegian Staff

"We played great," said men's basketball coach, Joe Shapiro, of Monday's 100-89 loss against Washington & Jefferson.

He continued, "If we played as tough against Olivet (whom the Lions lost to in the Hamot Classic), that game would have been a different story."

Behrend opened their home season last Friday against Castleton State in the Hamot Classic. The Lions started off

slow, but came away with a 42-35 half time lead.

They started off the second half with a 13-2 run, but Castleton wouldn't back down and brought the game to within three. The Lions held on for a 90-87 win.

Byron Thorne led the Lions with 20 points and 9 rebounds. There were four other Lions in double figures to round out a well balanced scoring attack. Matt Parker led Castleton with 29 points.

In the evening's other game, Olivet defeated Thiel, 81-77 in

overtime to set up a Behrend-Olivet championship.

Both teams came out gunning as 24 3-pointers were attempted in the first half. Behrend trailed 45-41 at the half.

The Lions picked it up in the second half, but couldn't win their third Hamot Classic title in three years. Thorne led the Lions again with a Hamot Classic high of 37. Don Plyler added 23 with five 3-pointers. Chad Sutton added 18.

"Byron, Donnie and Chad are playing great basketball right now. We just have to raise our

inside game to the same standard," said Shapiro.

In the consolation, Castleton defeated Thiel 107-84. Parker led Castleton with 30. Thorne and Plyler were named to the All-Tourney Team, along with Parker of Castleton (29.5 ppg in the two games), Sean McWhorter of Thiel (19 ppg) and Jason Heckathorn of Olivet (20 ppg). Darin Weber of Olivet was named MVP for his 20.5 ppg and 7.5 rpg performance.

In the W&J game on Monday, Plyler made nine 3-pointers and set a Behrend record.

"I was in a zone. Things were just dropping," said Plyler.

His 35 points along with Thorne's 23 and Sutton's 14 weren't enough as the Presidents had all five starters with 15 points or better, led by Terry Wilkins 24.

"We played very well. They hurt us on the inside. Hunt got in foul trouble early," said Shapiro.

"I love our offense. We're running the floor well. Our full court defense is great. The thing which we need to work on is our half court defense," said Shapiro.