

BEHREND LIONS

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PENN STATE BEHREND ATHLETICS

Volleyball Wins AMCC Championship and Earns First-Ever Berth to NCAA Tournament

The Penn State Behrend women's volleyball team captured the AMCC championship after defeating Penn State Altoona in three straight games at the Junker Center in November. In the AMCC Championship Match, the Behrend Lions cruised to a 30-19 win in game one. The blue and white had to pull off a come from behind 32-30 win in game two, before ending the match with another close win, 30-26. With the win Behrend secured the first ever berth for women's volleyball in the NCAA Division III tournament.

"It was a total team effort. The players earned this championship with their hard work, focus, and dedication all season," said head coach Phil Pisano. "Everyone contributed to the win, and it was a real thrill to capture the championship in our home gym."

Behrend was led by junior Elaine Voltz (Saxonburg/Knoch) who had 14 kills, junior Lisa Wagner (New Castle/Laurel), who tallied ten kills and 15 digs, and senior Amanda Evans (Upper St. Clair/Upper St. Clair) who lead the team with 28 assists. Karla Murray (North East/North East) added ten digs, and freshman Brittany Hennessy (Hopewell/Hopewell) chipped in with ten digs and four aces.

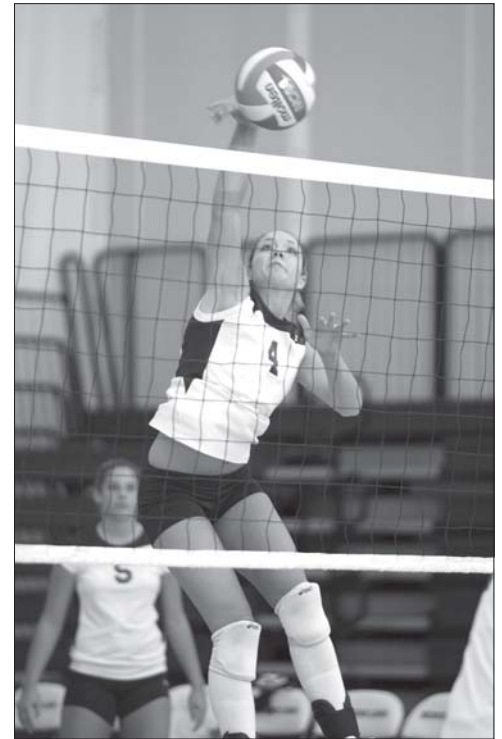
In the Mid-Atlantic Region of the NCAA tournament, hosted by Juniata College, #6 seed Behrend was defeated by #3 seed Gettysburg in three close games by scores of 30-26, 30-25, and 34-32. The Behrend Lions finished the season with a record of 26-8 and 9-0 in the AMCC.

Voltz was one of the bright spots for Behrend as she recorded 12 kills and five digs, while Evans led the way in assists, with 32. Murray was the team's other offensive threat, pounding eight kills.

The blue and white also received numerous honors from the AMCC. Voltz was named All-AMCC First-Team and also selected as the AMCC Player of the Year. Voltz, who also earned first team honors in 2004, led the conference in hitting percentage (.363) and ranked second in kills per game (4.19).

Also named to the All-AMCC First-Team were Evans and Wagner. Evans, who has three previous seasons on the All-AMCC Second Team, led the conference in assists per game (11.15) and is the career assist leader at Behrend with 4,615. Wagner, named to the second team in 2004, finished fourth in the conference in kills per game (3.62) and fourth in digs per game (3.78)

Hennessy was selected to the All-AMCC



Second Team and also captured the AMCC Newcomer of the Year award after finishing second in the AMCC in digs per game (4.85). Head coach Phil Pisano was also selected as AMCC Coach of the Year.

RUFFO PLACES SIXTY-THIRD AT NCAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Behrend's Brad Ruffo (West Middlesex/West Middlesex) finished 63 out of 211 runners on Saturday at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.

The junior finished with a time of 26:53 and is the first runner ever from Behrend to compete at the National Championships.

Forty-seven individuals were selected to participate in the championships. All

regions automatically qualified the first four individuals not on a team. Additional at-large berths were awarded to those regions with the first fifteen in previous year's championships.

Ruffo was named the 2005 AMCC Runner of the Year after finishing first at the AMCC Championships by finishing 12 out of 277 runners at the NCAA Regional on November 12.



PENNSTATE



Eric
The Behrend
College

HEAD COACH DAN PERRITANO EARNS RECORD-BREAKING WIN

In September, Penn State Behrend men's soccer coach Dan Perritano captured record-breaking win number 132 with a 1-0 home victory over Westminster.



Perritano entered the contest with 131 wins which tied the all-time men's soccer record with the late Hall of Fame coach Herb Lauffer who coached the blue and white for 23 years from 1968 to 1990.

Perritano now boasts an overall men's mark at Behrend of 140-98-18 in thirteen years and also surpassed coaching win number three-hundred this season. Previously he has coached women's soccer at Monroe Community College, the University of the Redlands, and at Penn State Behrend. His win total at the three institutions including men's and women's victories is an impressive 306-174-33.

This fall the booters posted a 12-7 mark and earned another berth into the ECAC Southern Region Tournament. Several members of the Penn State Behrend men's soccer team have been honored with AMCC all-conference team status. Making the all-conference second team were junior goalkeeper Matt Zirnsak (Butler/Butler), who posted six shutouts this season and senior midfielder Mark Cipriani (Erie/Cathedral Prep), who finished the regular season with a team-high five goals.

The all-conference first team included three Behrend Lions, which tied Medaille for largest representation by one team. Among those honored were senior midfielder Justin Reese (Pittsburgh/Thomas Jefferson), who led the team with six assists, senior defender Bryan Blaszczyk (Erie/Mercyhurst Prep), who led all Behrend defenders with four goals, and senior defender Dan Bash (Pittsburgh/Thomas Jefferson), who added three goals including a game-winner.

Tennis Wins Sixth AMCC Women's Championship Title

The Penn State Behrend women's tennis team captured the 2005 Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Championship and their sixth overall at the Oxford Athletic Club in Wexford, Pa, in October.

Behrend posted a perfect 6-0 mark during the regular-season, entered the event as the number-one seed and favorite, and dominated at the championships. Behrend earned 16 points while Altoona had six points, Chatham three, and Frostburg zero. "Our goal was to make all the finals which we did," said head coach Jeff Barger. "We played outstanding doubles which set us up for the singles. All the ladies played hard and played well."

After cruising to their second straight title, the Behrend women's tennis team has also made a very strong showing on the all-conference teams, including earning both player and coach of the year. Player of the Year honors were given to Behrend sophomore Allison Mudrey (Hermitage/Hickory), who was also one of the six Behrend women named to an all-conference team. Coach of the Year was awarded to coach Jeff Barger, who



led his women's squad to an undefeated mark in the AMCC.

Other Behrend women on the first-team all-conference included, Mindy Calvert (Warren/Warren), Jenna Yankowski (Pittsburgh/Bethel Park), and Shelley Goodpastor (Sharon/Sharon), all three of which were on the list twice, once for singles and again for doubles. Susan Cooper (Pittsburgh/Mount Lebanon), and Amy Frizzell (Grove City/Grove City) also both made the first-team for doubles. Cooper and Frizzell also each made appearances on the second-team all-conference for their singles play.

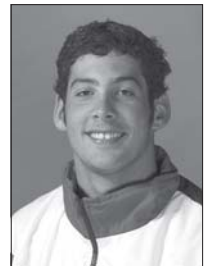
Water Polo Athletes Earn National Rankings

The final individual national rankings for the men's water polo season came out on November 2, and had multiple Behrend representatives. Anthony Spoto (Birmingham, MI/Birmingham) finished the season averaging 2.4 goals per game. With 56 goals, in just 23 games, Spoto finished at number nine on the goals scored list. Sophomore Andre Prankevicus (Miami, FL/Miami Beach) also made the list, averaging 1.7 goals per game. His 38 goals in 22 games was good enough to put him at 35 on the top-50 list.

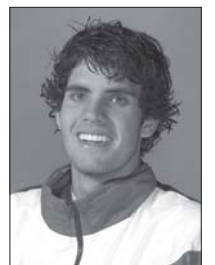
Both of coach Joe Tristan's goalkeepers made the national list for saves. Junior Leandro Azevedo (San Clemente, CA/San

Clemente) recorded 152 saves in 12.5 games, putting him at 13 on the saves list.

Azevedo's average of 12.2 saves per game was tops in the country. Tristan's other goalie, freshman Conor Powers (San Clemente, CA/San Clemente) saved a total of 106 shots in 10.5 games, putting him at 27 on the top-30 list.



Spoto



Prankevicus

Senior Holly Greiner Sets All-Time Scoring Record and Team Dominates All-AMCC Awards

Senior Holly Greiner (McKean/General McLane) established a new career record for goals scored and career points after an all-conference senior season. Greiner passed former Behrend standout Laura Furko (1998-2001) who was atop both career charts. Greiner completed her illustrious career with 42 goals and 103 points. Her 19 assists is also tied for most all-time with Bethany Cummings (1997-00).

The Behrend women's soccer team had another special season in 2005. Behrend played in the AMCC Championship game for the second straight year and the seventh time overall, but fell in overtime after a scoreless contest 4-3, via a shootout. Behrend was then awarded their fifth ECAC Tournament

appearance and selected to host the event as the number-one seed. The blue and white were upended by the eventual champions of Gettysburg College and completed the season at 14-3-4. "It is a great honor for our program to be selected as the top seed in the ECAC Tournament," said head coach Patrick O'Driscoll. "The team worked very hard this year and deserved the opportunity."

Named to the 2005 All-AMCC first-team were seniors Michelle Newland (Glenshaw/Fox Chapel) and Stephanie Bowen (Pittsburgh/Peters Twp.) who were honored in each of their four seasons while playing for Behrend. Junior goalkeeper Dara Nielsen (Cranberry Twp./Seneca Valley) finished an

incredible with 69 saves and nine shutouts and also made the squad.

Making the second team was Greiner (McKean/General McLane), who led the team with 14 goals, junior Kara Struski (Meadville/Meadville), who finished with a team-high eight assists, and freshman Nikki Frisbee (Valencia/Mars), who contributed 11 goals and seven assists on the year. Earning all-conference honorable mention was senior midfielder Kacie Burns (Cheswick/Springdale). Burns finished the season with seven points.



Holly Greiner

Dave Niland Reaches Milestone Win Number Two-Hundred

Penn State Behrend men's basketball head coach Dave Niland earned coaching victory number two-hundred in Behrend's 77-75 win over Wesley. Behrend battled Wesley for forty exciting minutes and hung on by two to pick up their first win of the season.

"I am thrilled to be a part of Penn State Behrend basketball," said Niland who is in his twelfth year. "I am real fortunate to have had a chance to coach several terrific players at Behrend." Niland, the all-time leader in men's basketball coaching victories at Behrend, has led the Behrend Lions to eleven straight winning seasons.

Niland's career mark at Behrend is an impressive 201-97. He has also been named the AMCC Coach of the Year six times.

With Saturday's win, Behrend then played Mt. Union in the tip-off tournament championship game and moved to 2-0 with the 73-62 victory. The blue and white were led by tournament MVP, sophomore Kevin Buczynski (Erie/Villa Maria), who finished with 13 points, six rebounds, and three assists. Also named to the all-tourna-



ment team was sophomore David Gahan (Erie/East) who had a game-high 21 points and seven rebounds.

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Behrend Lions Home Events

Date	Event	Time
January 3	MBB, Allegheny	7:30 p.m.
January 6	WBB, Penn State-Altoona*	6:00 p.m.
January 6	MBB, Penn State-Altoona*	8:00 p.m.
January 7	WBB, Mount Aloysius*	4:00 p.m.
January 7	MBB, Mount Aloysius*	6:00 p.m.
January 13	MWSD, Mt. Union	6:00 p.m.
January 14	WBB, Pitt-Bradford*	6:00 p.m.
January 14	MBB, Pitt-Bradford*	8:00 p.m.
January 24	WBB, Hilbert*	6:00 p.m.
January 24	MBB, Hilbert*	8:00 p.m.
January 27	WBB, Frostburg*	6:00 p.m.
January 27	MBB, Frostburg*	8:00 p.m.
January 27	MWSD, Grove City	6:00 p.m.
January 28	WBB, Pitt-Greensburg*	4:00 p.m.
January 28	MBB, Pitt-Greensburg*	6:00 p.m.
January 31	WBB, Medaille*	6:00 p.m.
January 31	MBB, Medaille*	8:00 p.m.
February 11	"Spirit Against Cancer Competition"	9:00 a.m.
February 17	WBB, La Roche*	6:00 p.m.
February 17	MBB, La Roche*	8:00 p.m.
February 18	WBB, Lake Erie*	6:00 p.m.
February 18	MBB, Lake Erie*	8:00 p.m.
February 25	MTN, Waynesburg	1:00 p.m.

* indicates AMCC Game

Men's Basketball to Receive Schoenfeld Award

Head Coach Dave Niland and the men's basketball team have recently been awarded the Schoenfeld Award by the Collegiate Basketball Officials Association (CBOA).

The Schoenfeld Award is an annual award given to a college or university which the CBOA identifies as having "the highest degree of sportsmanship, character,

and ethics among their players, coaches and spectators." The award is the highest honor that the CBOA annually bestows on any collegiate institution. "It is an honor for our team and the university to receive an award that symbolizes such positive characteristics," Niland said.

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