

Athletics: Men's Lacrosse

2011 Review

Led by a defense that allowed just 8.07 goals per game, the fewest since 1971, the Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team knocked off a pair of teams that would go on to reach the NCAA Tournament.

But three one-goal losses in conference play were enough to keep the Mules (5-9, 2-6) out of the postseason.

Muhlenberg started the year with a loss at Marywood before playing three straight games against teams that would go on to make the NCAA Tournament.

The Mules lost at Montclair State before breaking into the win column by doubling up future Landmark Conference champion Scranton, 10-5. After falling at nationally ranked Stevens, Muhlenberg finally got a chance to play at home, jumping out to a 5-2 halftime lead before dispatching St. Mary's (Md.), 9-5.

The Mules lost a heartbreaker at Franklin & Marshall, 6-5 in double overtime, and then returned home to face perennial power Gettysburg.

The Bullets led 9-7 after three quarters, but the Mules scored four in a row, including two goals in nine seconds from juniors **Clint Watkins** and **Corey Aferiat**, for an 11-10 win. It was the first win over Gettysburg in program history and gave Muhlenberg at least one win over every team in the Centennial Conference.

However, the celebration was short-lived as the Mules dropped three in a row to Swarthmore, Washington and Haverford by a combined five goals. But an 8-5 win over McDaniel kept Muhlenberg alive in the CC playoff race.

Taking a break from conference play, the Mule seniors went out on a strong note with a 13-11 win over then-No. 19 Rensselaer on Senior Day. **Brent Siebold** tied two school records with seven goals and eight points.

Needing two wins to qualify for the postseason, the Mules came up short, falling to top-10-ranked Dickinson and at Ursinus to close out the regular season.

Junior **Nick Rispoli** earned first-team All-CC honors after leading the conference in ground balls per game (5.36) and faceoff winning percentage (.614). He set school single-season records for ground balls (75), faceoffs won (116) and faceoff percentage.



Brant led Muhlenberg in caused turnovers (28) and is second in program history with 158 ground balls.

goals, 7 assists) and **Michael Carpetto** (4 goals) and freshman **Tommy Glancy** (5 goals, 1 assist) helped out on offense.

While juniors **Jonathan Fritog** (8 ground balls, 6 caused turnovers) and **Chase Nadell** (8 ground balls, 2 goals), and sophomores **Ian deRuiter** (20 ground balls, 12 caused turnovers) and **Zach Weiner** (16 ground balls, 7 caused turnovers) played important roles on defense.



Lisa Youngentob

Siebold finished his career in the top five in Mule history in goals (2nd, 79) and points (5th, 102).

Senior **Mike Horowitz**, who finished with 164 saves, earned the second all-conference honor of his career when he was named to the second team along with classmate **Tom Brant**, who picked up 54 ground balls on the season, the fourth-best single-season effort ever by a Mule.

Watkins was also named to the second team after tying for the Mule lead with seven assists to go along with 12 goals, while Siebold finished the year in the top 10 on the Muhlenberg single-season lists for points (8th, 31) and goals (6th, 26).

Seniors **Zachary Armstrong** (6 goals, 1 assist) and **Andy Curley** (18 ground balls, 9 caused turnovers) closed out their careers with solid seasons, while classmate **Charlie Helm** scored the first goal of his career against McDaniel and added another against Rensselaer.

Juniors **Alex Ardolino** (16 goals, 6 assists) and **Aferiat** (8 goals, 3 assists), sophomores **Doug Rheiner** (11 goals, 3 assists), **Jack Reilly** (7