



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 11:
2003 Softball vs.
1992 Volleyball**

2003 Softball
Head Coach: Ruth Gibbs
Final Record: 16-21
Centennial Conference Champions



It was more than a tale of two seasons for the Muhlenberg softball team in 2003. It was more like five or six seasons.

The Mules opened the season at the Rebel Spring Games in Florida, where they went 1-6. Upon their return, they were swept in three straight doubleheaders to head into Centennial Conference play with a 1-12 record and school-record 10-game losing streak.

Muhlenberg started CC play by winning eight of its first 10 games, then lost four in row to traditional championship contenders McDaniel and Ursinus, the two losses to McDaniel by a combined 29-4.

Entering the CC playoff tournament as the fourth seed and decided underdog, the Mules did much better against regular-season champion McDaniel in their second try, winning 2-0 in eight innings. They went on to win two out of three from Gettysburg, capturing their third CC championship in four years.

Muhlenberg went 2-2 in the NCAA Tournament, beating Hunter and Kings Point but losing to teams ranked seventh and 13th in Division III.

Four of the Mules' starting position players – 1B Kelly Berg, C Kate Dischino, OF Nicole Sarno and SS Becki Toth – were named to the All-CC first team.

1992 Volleyball
Head Coach: Frank Marino
Final Record: 27-6
Middle Atlantic Conference Southeast Champions



The 1992 volleyball team is not only the winningest in the history of Muhlenberg College athletics, but is also one of the few with its own nickname and mascot.

After going 2-16 in 1989, the Mules improved to 7-11 the next year, then took a big leap to 20-9. In 1992, two seniors who played on the two-win team as freshmen helped set a school record for all sports with 27 wins. The record has been approached in the 15 years since but never matched.

At the heart of the team was a group of juniors who were known as "The Buttermakers." The nickname came from a story about a group of frogs who happened upon a large vat of milk that allowed for easy entry but impossible exit. All the frogs sank to the bottom and perished, except for the one who continued to kick and kick until the milk solidified and was turned to butter, allowing him to climb out.

The obvious moral of the story was if you keep kicking and trying, you will eventually succeed. And succeed they did. Armed with a doll of Kermit the Frog, Muhlenberg opened the 1992 season with seven straight shutout wins, capturing Cedar Crest's tournament. Later, they reeled off nine straight victories, including a 3-0 shutout of Widener that clinched the program's first MAC Southeast title.

Seeded fourth in the MAC playoffs, the Mules hosted fifth-seed Western Maryland in the first round and were defeated, 3-0.

Senior setter Julie Fogt and junior hitter Linda Hicks were named to the MAC Southeast All-Star Team.