



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 12:
2005 Track & Field vs.
2004 Basketball**

2005 Track & Field Head Coach: Brad Hackett Centennial Conference Champions

In 2000, the Muhlenberg women's track and field team scored 11 points and finished last at the Centennial Conference Indoor Championships. Five years later, the Mules



celebrated a championship on their home track.

Muhlenberg's climb to the top was steady, but not without its bumps in the road. The team finished seventh both indoors and outdoors in 2002, fifth in 2003 and fourth in 2004. At the 2005 indoor meet, the Mules were in first most of the second day and took a half-point lead into the final race. But in the 4x400-meter relay, Muhlenberg could only manage a fourth-place finish while Dickinson crossed the line second to capture the championship by 2½ points.

That set the stage for the outdoor meet, held at Scotty Wood Stadium. Considering the indoor result, and the fact that Gettysburg had won the previous two outdoor championships by a total of five points, it looked like another close finish was in the cards.

It wasn't. Muhlenberg ran an extraordinary meet, scoring 173½ points to easily dethrone Gettysburg by 33½ points – at the time the third-largest margin in CC outdoor history. It was the College's first conference track championship since the men's team won the MAC in 1944.

The Mules began the final day in third place but pulled away with incredible all-around excellence, winning a gold, silver or bronze in 16 of 21 events. They set or tied 11 school records and produced five NCAA provisional qualifiers.

Winning gold medals were Danielle Seiler (400 and 400 hurdles), who was named the meet's outstanding track performer, Jenna Belisonzi (5,000 meters), Meghan Douglas-Snyder (pole vault) and Sarah Mitchell (javelin).

2004 Basketball Head Coach: Ron Rohn Final Record: 19-7



Most of the other teams in this contest won a conference championship, played in the NCAA Tournament and/or were ranked in the top 10 in Division III. Not so with the 2004 basketball team, but then again, being different was what the Mules were all about.

Running a system modeled after the one used by the Grinnell men's team for years, Muhlenberg pressed, ran, substituted five players at a time every minute, shot three-pointers and became one of the most entertaining teams in school history.

The Mules finished the season with a Division III-record average of 10.2 three-pointers per game. Muhlenberg scored 90.8 points per contest, which led all NCAA divisions and made the team the fifth Division III squad to average 90.

The Mules forced an average of 35.4 turnovers per game and scored more than 100 points eight times, with a high of 116 twice. Everyone played a part: No player averaged much more than 16 minutes per game, and none averaged much less than five. The squad's top two scorers and rebounders, All-Centennial Conference seniors Jill Friedman and Susan Marchiano, played the same position and rarely took the floor together.

Muhlenberg finished the season with a 19-7 record and went 14-4 in the CC. The Mules lost in the semifinals of the CC playoffs to McDaniel, which went on to reach the "Sweet 16."