The youngest team in this competition was the only Muhlenberg squad to win a Centennial Conference championship last year — and the Mules did it in impressive fashion.

As a team, Muhlenberg finished the first day of play in first place with a season-low 351 through 18 holes, and they held strong through the unfavorable weather conditions of the second round as well to win their second CC title.

The Mules' total of 724 strokes was the second-lowest in CC history and was 30 strokes ahead of second-place McDaniel, the five-time defending champion. It also broke the previous College record for a two-day tournament — which Muhlenberg had set one week earlier at Kutztown’s Golden Bear Invitational — by 42 strokes.

Freshman Kimberly Snyder made an immediate impact for the Mules, breaking the school record for lowest round in each of her first three tournaments. She also earned medalist honors at the CC meet by shooting a 162 over the two days of competition — which Muhlenberg had set one week earlier at Kutztown’s Golden Bear Invitational — by 42 strokes.

Junior Dana Lynn Bielecki finished the CC meet in fourth place, tying Snyder with an 86 in the second round. Senior Kristen Amore finished in a tie for eighth by shooting a 185 and won the Helene Hospodar Award — named for the late coach of the 1990 field hockey team.

Most teams win their conference championships at the end of the season, in a playoff tournament. The 2004 Muhlenberg women’s tennis team effectively won the Centennial Conference championship in its first match of the season.

The Mules were poised to have an outstanding year after winning their final 10 matches in 2003 — without a senior on the team. Their biggest obstacle figured to be defending CC champ Swarthmore, which was ranked 16th in Division III and had a 15-match CC winning streak when it came to Muhlenberg to open league play.

A 9-7 win at No. 2 doubles proved to make the difference as the Mules toppled the Garnet, 5-4.

With the exception of a 5-4 win at Franklin & Marshall, in which the Mules were without their No. 1 singles player, they were hardly challenged the rest of the CC season. Muhlenberg shut out six of its CC opponents en route to a perfect 10-0 mark and its first outright CC title.

The Mules finished with an overall mark of 12-3, including a school-record seven shutouts. The 12 wins tied a school record. All three losses came to teams that received NCAA tournament berths. Muhlenberg ended up ranked 28th in Division III and received consideration for the NCAAs.

Senior Gena Ross and sophomore Amy Schmidt reached the doubles final at the CC Individual Championships, and Schmidt also made the singles final. Both earned selection to the All-CC team for singles and doubles.