



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 8:
2000 Softball vs.
1965 Field Hockey**

2000 Softball
Head Coach: Ruth Gibbs
Final Record: 18-18
Centennial Conference Champions



The Muhlenberg softball team came close to its first Centennial Conference championship in 1999, finishing a game out of first place. The Mules accepted a bid to the ECAC South Tournament, losing to King's in the championship game. That taste whetted the team's appetite, so much so that they got "See You in the Postseason" printed on their 2000 t-shirts.

For the first month of the 2000 season, however, postseason play looked like a far-fetched notion. Playing in tournaments in Florida, Maryland and New Jersey, Muhlenberg struggled to a 4-12 start, although it was against some tough competition that left the team well-prepared for CC competition.

After splitting their opening CC twinbill against defending champion Gettysburg, the Mules won nine of their next 10 games. They took command of a tight race by sweeping Ursinus, at the time ranked 16th in Division III, and clinched their first CC championship with a sweep of Washington.

With the conference title came an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, so everyone could indeed see Muhlenberg in the postseason. Sent to Salem, Va., for the Atlantic Regional, the Mules were eliminated in two games, both decided in the final inning.

Muhlenberg found ways to win in spite of some odd offensive statistics. The Mules' No. 3 batter scored almost twice as many runs as their leadoff hitter, and their No. 9 hitter drove in more runs than their cleanup batter.

Senior Heather Dreby was named CC pitcher of the year, and classmates Cristina Genna and Melissa Nardi also earned first-team All-CC honors. The team's fourth senior, Christine Biechy, was a third-team all-region pick.

1965 Field Hockey
Head Coach: Jean Hecht
Final Record: 8-0



Even for a Muhlenberg field hockey program that was used to dominating its opposition, the 1965 season was nothing short of remarkable.

Muhlenberg field hockey started in 1959 with a modest four-game schedule and did not lose until its 31st game, in 1963. The Mules had a 54-2-4 record in their first nine years, culminating with a 6-0-1 mark in 1967.

Without question the most impressive of those seasons was 1965, when Muhlenberg won all eight of its games and outscored its opponents 55-1.

The Mules reached double digits in goals against Upsala (12-0), Wilkes (10-1) and Drew (10-0) and were held under five goals only by Lebanon Valley (3-0).

Millersville was an established program (around since 1945) and a tough opponent for Muhlenberg in the early days. In 1962 the teams played to a 1-1 tie, and the squads exchanged 2-1 finals the next two seasons, with the 1963 result snapping the Mules' 30-game unbeaten streak. In 1965, Muhlenberg shut out Millersville, 5-0.

Muhlenberg's average of 6.88 goals per game probably will never be approached, and eight wins in a season stood as a program record until 1983, when the Mules went 10-3.

Eleven different players scored goals for Muhlenberg, led by Jean Monson with 15.