



## Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 17:  
1990 Softball vs.  
2001 Soccer**

**1990 Softball**  
**Head Coach: Brian Bodine**  
**Final Record: 25-8**  
**MAC South Champions**



After becoming the first Muhlenberg team to reach the NCAA Division III Championships in 1989, softball became the first team to make the national tournament in back-to-back years in 1990.

The Mules earned a No. 5 national ranking and the top seed for the Central Regional, which was held at Allegheny for the second straight year. Just like in 1989, Muhlenberg went 2-2 at the regional, falling twice to the host school.

The Mules dropped their season-opening doubleheader with Kutztown, then went on an incredible roll that saw them win 22 of their next 23 games. A 17-game winning streak ended with a doubleheader loss to Trenton State, ranked No. 2 in Division III and the eventual national runner-up. Muhlenberg won its second consecutive MAC South crown with a 4-2 win against Franklin & Marshall, but lost to Scranton in the MAC title game.

At the regional, the Mules showed a flair for the dramatic. They scored one in the seventh and one in the eighth to beat Mt. Union, 2-1, then tied their first game against Allegheny with a run in the seventh before losing in nine innings. Three outs from elimination, Muhlenberg scored three runs in the top of the seventh for a 3-2 win against Mt. Union. But the team ran out of miracles in the rematch with Allegheny, giving up four runs in the first and losing, 4-1.

Four players – OF Chris Churetta, P Elaine Gratrix, 3B Shenon Hottenstein and SS Desiree Johansen – were first-team all-conference and all-region, while Brian Bodine was named Central Regional coach of the year.

**2001 Soccer**  
**Head Coach: Leslie Benintend**  
**Final Record: 19-3**  
**Centennial Conference Champions**



Al Davis coined the phrase “Just win, Baby,” and for almost two months that’s all the 2001 women’s soccer team did.

After starting the season 2-2, with losses to national powers Trinity (Texas) and Scranton, the Mules ran off 17 straight wins — a streak that ran from September 8 to November 3 and took them to the third round of the NCAA Tournament.

The 17-game winning streak is tied for the second-longest in a season in Muhlenberg athletic history. The 19 overall wins tie the most for a Mule soccer team — men or women.

The Mules outscored their opponents 45-8 during the streak. Three of the goals allowed came in a dramatic 4-3 win against Gettysburg. Muhlenberg trailed 3-1 at the half, but scored twice in the second half and once in the second overtime to defeat the Bullets for the first time ever. The Mules also posted a 1-0 win against Johns Hopkins, avenging their lone Centennial Conference loss in 2000 and snapping the Blue Jays’ 16-game unbeaten streak.

After going a perfect 10-0 in the CC, Muhlenberg knocked off Franklin & Marshall and Johns Hopkins again in the CC Tournament to win its second straight title. Selected to host an NCAA regional, the Mules toppled Elizabethtown before falling to undefeated, unscored-upon defending national champion New Jersey.

Muhlenberg was ranked 18th in the final Division III poll, and sophomore forward Dawn Iberer ranked second-team All-America status. Freshman forward Rebecca Armstrong earned first-team all-region honors.