



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 19:
2004 Basketball vs.
2000 Soccer**

**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."

**2000 Soccer
Head Coach: Leslie Benintend
Final Record: 15-4-2
Centennial Conference Champions**



The Muhlenberg women's soccer team rose to championship status step by step. In 1998, the Mules finished fourth in the Centennial Conference and won the ECAC Mid-Atlantic Tournament. In 1999, they tied for second in the CC and repeated as ECAC champs. In 2000, Muhlenberg won its first CC championship.

The Mules opened the season by playing 21st-ranked Rowan to a 1-1 tie. That draw gained the team its first national ranking (No. 17) ever, although Muhlenberg dropped out the next week after losing to Scranton.

Another tie represented a significant step for the program when the Mules played Gettysburg, a team they had never beaten, to a 1-1 draw on the road, snapping the Bullets' record 22-game CC winning streak.

Muhlenberg also scored a landmark non-conference win when it defeated No. 9 Messiah, 1-0, for the first victory against a top-10 in program history.

The Mules clinched the CC title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament with a 1-0 win at Ursinus on a windy day in the regular-season finale. Muhlenberg was awarded a home game for its first NCAA game and defeated Johnson & Wales, 2-1. In the second round, the Mules were knocked out by top-ranked New Jersey, 3-0.

Muhlenberg outscored its opponents for the year, 42-15, setting a record for fewest goals allowed that still stands. The Mules tied school records (since broken) with 15 wins and 10 shutouts.

Senior midfielder Alissa Desiderio was named CC player of the year and became the first All-American in team history. Freshman Dawn Iberer led the team with 33 points.