Top Women’s Team in Muhlenberg History

Contest 20:
1991 Softball vs. 2007 Golf

1991 Softball
Head Coach: Tom Doddy
Final Record: 26-9
Middle Atlantic Conference Champions

Coming off two 25-win seasons, and with five seniors in the starting lineup, the Mule softball team was expected to have a great year in 1991. And it did.

Ranked fifth in the Division III preseason poll, Muhlenberg set school records for wins (26) and consecutive wins (20), won its second MAC championship and earned the top seed for the Central Regional of the NCAA Championships.

The team got off to a slow start, winning just two of its first seven games. But starting with a comeback win in the second game of a doubleheader against Montclair State, the Mules were unstoppable. They reeled off 20 straight wins, setting a still-standing College record for consecutive victories in a season.

Included in the run were 10 wins against MAC Southeast opponents, clinching Muhlenberg’s fifth straight division crown and extending its division winning streak to 30.

Although the streak was ended with a doubleheader loss to top-ranked Trenton State, the Mules rebounded to capture the MAC title by defeating Franklin & Marshall and Scranton in a pair of one-run games.

For the third year in a row, Muhlenberg was sent to Ohio for the NCAAs, this time to Mt. Union. The Mules defeated the host school twice, but lost twice to Capital.

Senior Elaine Gratrix capped off her brilliant career by leading Division III in strikeouts (202 in 150 innings) and ranking second in ERA (0.65). Also earning MAC Southeast all-star honors were twin sister Karen Gratrix, Shenon Hottenstein, Kim Lapple and Karen Brown.

2007 Golf
Head Coach: Ron Rohn
Centennial Conference Champions

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; and with the win, she became the first CC player of the year in Muhlenberg women’s golf history. Snyder led the CC with an average of 81.7, breaking the previous school record by more than 12 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.