Picked sixth in the Centennial Conference preseason poll after going 11-14 the previous year, the 2006 basketball team put together the best season in program history. The Mules won the CC championship for the first time since 1998, advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament and finished the year ranked 20th in Division III.

With a record of 26-3, the team not only broke the team and Conference records for wins in a season, but it also came within one of the College record for wins by any team. The 13-game improvement tied for the third-best in Division III history.

But it wasn’t just that they won, it was how they won. All year long, Muhlenberg was at its best with the game on the line. The Mules were 14-1 in games decided by fewer than 10 points, winning their last five by a total of 18 points.

Two years after leading all of college women’s basketball in scoring, Muhlenberg rebuilt itself around defense and rebounding, ranking among the Division III leaders in scoring defense, field-goal percentage defense and rebound margin.

After finishing in first place with a 16-2 record, the Mules defeated McDaniel and Johns Hopkins in two close games to win the CC championship and wrap up a perfect (15-0) home season. They knocked off Wesleyan in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before losing to Mary Washington, the last undefeated team in Division III.

Senior point guard Kristen Piscadlo, who rewrote the school record book for assists, and junior center Meghan Courtney earned first-team All-CC and all-region honors.

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.”