It was more than a tale of two seasons for the Muhlenberg softball team in 2003. It was more like five or six seasons.

The Mules opened the season at the Rebel Spring Games in Florida, where they went 1-6. Upon their return, they were swept in three straight doubleheaders to head into Centennial Conference play with a 1-12 record and school-record 10-game losing streak.

Muhlenberg started CC play by winning eight of its first 10 games, then lost four in row to traditional championship contenders McDaniel and Ursinus, the two losses to McDaniel by a combined 29-4.

Entering the CC playoff tournament as the fourth seed and decided underdog, the Mules did much better against regular-season champion McDaniel in their second try, winning 2-0 in eight innings. They went on to win two out of three from Gettysburg, capturing their third CC championship in four years.

Muhlenberg went 2-2 in the NCAA Tournament, beating Hunter and Kings Point but losing to teams ranked seventh and 13th in Division III.

Four of the Mules’ starting position players – 1B Kelly Berg, C Kate Dischino, OF Nicole Sarno and SS Becki Toth – were named to the All-CC first team.

Muhlenberg was barely challenged in going 10-0 in the regular season – the first time any College team had an undefeated regular season since 1973. The Mules won five of the matches by a 9-0 margin, setting a school record for shutouts that would not be broken until 2004. Three other opponents went down 8-1.

Haverford (5-4) and Dickinson (6-3) were the only teams to win more than one match against Muhlenberg, but that wasn’t bad considering the Mules had lost 9-0 to both in 1985. The win against Haverford, secured with a victory at No. 3 doubles, elevated Muhlenberg to a new level of respect in the conference.

The Mules opened the playoffs against Northwest champion Scranton, a team they had beaten 9-0 to begin the season. Again Muhlenberg had little trouble, winning 8-1 to advance to the MAC title match against national power Franklin & Marshall, one of eight teams to earn a bid to the NCAA Division III Championships that year. The Diplomats spoiled the Mules’ perfect season with a 6-3 victory in a grueling 4-hour, 17-minute match.

Michele Marangi, in her first year at Muhlenberg after transferring from Mary Washington, was a combined 22-1 in the regular season and advanced to the MAC individual tournament semifinals. The doubles team of Kris Andrews (another Mary Washington transfer) and Elisa Zafrani reached the MAC final.