



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 6:
2003 Soccer vs.
1997 Basketball**

2003 Soccer

Head Coach: Leslie Benintend

Final Record: 16-4-2

Centennial Conference Champions



After winning the Centennial Conference regular-season title, but missing out on the CC championship and the NCAA Tournament in 2002 for the first time in three years, the Muhlenberg women's soccer team was ready to get the title back in 2003.

The Mules' championship mission hit a roadblock when they lost their CC opener, 2-1, at McDaniel on Sept. 20. The loss served as motivation for the rest of the season.

Muhlenberg followed the loss to McDaniel by reeling off a 13-game unbeaten streak that included wins in its last nine CC matches and in both games of the conference tournament. The Mules outscored their opponents 27-5 during the streak, which began with a 2-0 home win over defending league champion Johns Hopkins.

Muhlenberg received a first-round bye to the NCAA Tournament and hosted a regional. The Mules defeated Eastern Connecticut State, 3-1, before losing, 1-0, to No. 2 Scranton in a match that could have gone either way.

In the final Division III poll, Muhlenberg was ranked No. 23. The 16 wins were the second-most in team history.

The Mules were led by senior Dawn Iberer, who became the program's all-time scoring leader early in the season and at the end of the year became the first Mule to be voted to the All-CC first team four times. She and junior Rebecca Armstrong both earned first-team all-region honors.

1997 Basketball

Head Coach: Tammy Smith

Final Record: 18-8

Centennial Conference Champions



The 1997 women's basketball team provided one of the best "David vs. Goliath" stories in Muhlenberg athletic history.

In the Centennial Conference championship game, the Mules faced mighty Johns Hopkins, a team that was undefeated in CC play, ranked in the top 15 in the nation and dressed two All-Americans. The Blue Jays had beaten Muhlenberg in the 1996 title game and by 16 points in the team's regular-season meeting.

This time it was the Mules' turn. Despite falling behind by five points in overtime, Muhlenberg battled back to win its first conference championship with a 73-71 victory.

Battling back was the hallmark of the team, which was decimated by an uncanny series of injuries. The most damaging was a January car accident involving four team members that left one in critical condition. All told, only two of the 13 players dressed for every game.

The Mules' season came to an end in the first round of the NCAA Tournament with a loss to Scranton, a team that went on to make the "Final Four."

Sophomore Sarah Clarke, who hit the winning free throws with 20 seconds left in the championship game, set the school record for assists in a season and was joined by leading rebounder Elvira LaRocca and three-point sniper Amy Sandt on the All-CC team.