



Top Women's Team in Muhlenberg History

**Contest 9:
1990 Softball vs.
2001 Volleyball**

1990 Softball
Head Coach: Brian Bodine
Final Record: 25-8
MAC South Champions



After becoming the first Muhlenberg team to reach the NCAA Division III Championships in 1989, softball became the first team to make the national tournament in back-to-back years in 1990.

The Mules earned a No. 5 national ranking and the top seed for the Central Regional, which was held at Allegheny for the second straight year. Just like in 1989, Muhlenberg went 2-2 at the regional, falling twice to the host school.

The Mules dropped their season-opening doubleheader with Kutztown, then went on an incredible roll that saw them win 22 of their next 23 games. A 17-game winning streak ended with a doubleheader loss to Trenton State, ranked No. 2 in Division III and the eventual national runner-up. Muhlenberg won its second consecutive MAC South crown with a 4-2 win against Franklin & Marshall, but lost to Scranton in the MAC title game.

At the regional, the Mules showed a flair for the dramatic. They scored one in the seventh and one in the eighth to beat Mt. Union, 2-1, then tied their first game against Allegheny with a run in the seventh before losing in nine innings. Three outs from elimination, Muhlenberg scored three runs in the top of the seventh for a 3-2 win against Mt. Union. But the team ran out of miracles in the rematch with Allegheny, giving up four runs in the first and losing, 4-1.

Four players – OF Chris Churetta, P Elaine Gratrix, 3B Shenon Hottenstein and SS Desiree Johansen – were first-team all-conference and all-region, while Brian Bodine was named Central Regional coach of the year.

2001 Volleyball
Head Coach: Jenny Warmack-Chipman
Final Record: 20-11
Centennial Regular-Season Co-Champions



Picked to finish sixth in the Centennial Conference pre-season poll, the 2001 Muhlenberg volleyball team confounded the experts by winning a share of the regular-season championship.

The Mules hosted the CC Tournament and advanced to the final, but came one match short of their first bid to the NCAA Tournament. They finished with a record of 20-11, reaching 20 wins for the seventh time in 11 seasons.

Muhlenberg emerged on top in a bizarre CC season that saw five teams tied for first place heading into the final night of regular-season competition.

The Mules took control of the race by winning three of four consecutive matches against teams that qualified for the 2000 playoffs. They shut out Haverford when the Fords were ranked sixth in the region and defeated Gettysburg (second in the region) for the first time ever. Muhlenberg faced Gettysburg again in the title match and won the first game, but the Bullets took the next three.

The team also won the Buttermaker Tournament for the fourth straight year and set school records for consecutive games won (20), kills per game in a season (12.32) and service aces in a season (320).

The team accomplished all it did despite having only one senior, Laura Funsten, who finished as the program's all-time leader in assists and became the first Mule setter to record 1,000 career digs. Junior hitters Meaghan Billie and Dana Ferrelli combined to give Muhlenberg two first-team All-CC selections for the first time.