

SPORTS NEWS



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Volleyball

For Immediate Release: November 10, 2003 • Contact: David Berman

Bearcats split final two home conference matches

Binghamton lost a five-game heartbreaker to New Hampshire on Friday evening before rebounding to sweep Maine on Saturday evening. The Bearcats fell behind New Hampshire 2-1 before knotting the match at 2-2 by winning the fourth game on their sixth game point. However, the Wildcats took an early lead and held on in the fifth game, taking the match 30-27, 26-30, 30-24, 31-33, 15-12. One night later, Binghamton served up eight aces and tallied 15.0 total blocks in a 30-21, 30-26, 30-26 win over Maine.

"We hit okay overall [against New Hampshire], but if we had hit a little better the outcome might have been different," head coach Glenn Kiriya said. "New Hampshire did a good job against our middles. The key to the match [against Maine] was our blocking. That made the difference and was a big reason we were able to win so quickly."

Weekend split dashes conference tournament hopes

After losing to New Hampshire on Friday evening, the Bearcats were pushed to the brink of elimination from being one of the four teams to qualify for the America East Championship later this month. Binghamton was three games behind Stony Brook with three matches remaining for each team. However, while the Bearcats were sweeping Maine on Saturday, the Seawolves edged out a 3-2 win at Northeastern to clinch the final spot. The two teams will meet next weekend in the final regular season match for both teams. Last month the Bearcats topped the Seawolves 3-1 for their first win over Stony Brook since 1988.

Rookie-of-week Meffert shows off offensive skills

Freshman setter **Ashley Meffert (Louisville, Ky./Fern Creek)** was named the America East Rookie of the Week for the second time this season. She ranks among the best setters in the conference with 11.20 assists per game and has also shown strong blocking and serving skills as well. Against New Hampshire, Meffert recorded six kills and six blocks to go along with 53 assists and 13 digs. Against Maine, she dished out 36 assists while serving up four aces. Meffert ranks third on the team in aces (0.32/gm.) and is fourth in digs (2.17/gm.) and blocks (0.48/gm.). Her 1,142 assists this season already rank as the fifth highest season total ever at Binghamton, and with three matches remaining she could move up as high as second on that list.

Heck approaching rare feat at Binghamton

Junior outside hitter **Michele Heck (Chicago, Ill./Resurrection)** stands just 11 kills shy of becoming the fourth player at Binghamton to produce 1,000 career kills. Heck led the team in kills in her freshman and sophomore seasons and ranks second behind classmate **Anne Crocus (Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom)** this season. She has surpassed 20 kills in a match four times this season, including a career-high output of 26 kills against Northeastern on Nov. 1. Her current career total of 989 kills ranks fourth in school history. Donna Lund (1990-93) ranks third with 1,005 kills.

Bearcats set to play final three matches

Binghamton will finish out the home portion of its schedule on Tuesday at 7 p.m. with a match against non-conference opponent Siena. The Bearcats swept a match from Siena earlier this season at the Syracuse Big Orange Classic and are 8-4 all-time against the Saints. Over the weekend, Binghamton will conclude its second America East campaign with road matches at Hartford and Stony Brook. The Bearcats defeated each of those teams at home earlier this season.

2003 Schedule/Results (15-13, 5-7 AE)

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5-6: at Syracuse Big Orange Tournament

5 Fri.	vs. Colgate	W	3-0
6 Sat.	@ Syracuse	L	1-3
6 Sat.	vs. Siena	W	3-0
9 Tue.	@ Colgate	W	3-0

Sept. 12-13: BINGHAMTON INVITATIONAL

12 Fri.	QUINNIPIAC	W	3-0
13 Sat.	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	L	1-3
13 Sat.	CANISIUS	L	1-3

Sept. 20: at CCSU Invitational

20 Sat.	vs. Iona	L	0-3
20 Sat.	@ Central Connecticut	L	2-3

Sept. 26-27: at Columbia Classic

26 Fri.	@ Columbia	W	3-1
27 Sat.	vs. Winthrop	W	3-1
27 Sat.	vs. Rider	W	3-0

OCTOBER

Oct. 3-4: at Canisius Tournament

3 Fri.	@ Canisius	L	1-3
4 Sat.	St. Francis (Pa.)	W	3-1
4 Sat.	vs. Niagara	W	3-2
7 Tue.	*@ UMBC	L	2-3
10 Fri.	*STONY BROOK	W	3-1
11 Sat.	*HARTFORD	W	3-0
17 Fri.	*@ Northeastern	L	0-3
18 Sat.	*@ Albany	L	0-3
22 Wed.	@ Marist	W	3-1
24 Fri.	*@ Maine	W	3-1
25 Sat.	*@ New Hampshire	L	0-3
28 Tue.	*UMBC	W	3-0
31 Fri.	*ALBANY	L	1-3

NOVEMBER

1 Sat.	*NORTHEASTERN	L	2-3
7 Fri.	*NEW HAMPSHIRE	L	2-3
8 Sat.	*MAINE	W	3-0
11 Tue.	SIENA	7 p.m.	
14 Fri.	*@ Hartford	7 p.m.	
15 Sat.	*@ Stony Brook	4 p.m.	

* America East Conference match

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

All games played at East Gym except on

Sept. 12, Sept. 13 and Oct. 11