

# SPORTS NEWS



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## Volleyball

For Immediate Release: September 22, 2003 • Contact: David Berman

### Bearcats drop two matches at Central Connecticut

Amidst tough competition at the CCSU Invitational over the weekend, Binghamton was defeated 3-0 (30-24, 30-21, 30-28) by Iona and 3-2 (30-25, 30-27, 26-30, 25-30, 16-14) by the host Blue Devils on Saturday afternoon. Against Central Connecticut, the Bearcats rallied from an 0-2 deficit to knot the match at two games apiece. BU then jumped out to a 5-1 lead in the decisive fifth game, but was unable to close the deal as the Blue Devils rallied for their 10th win in 11 matches. The Bearcats played both matches without leading hitter **Jen Smith (North Tonawanda, N.Y.)**, who injured her knee during last weekend's Binghamton Invitational.

"We are getting used to a different lineup," head coach Glenn Kiriyama said. "We put up a good effort and showed a lot of heart. Against Central, we came back strong and had a lead in the fifth game but couldn't hang on. It was a good comeback for our kids. I told them to hold their heads up because they did a good job."

### Heck comes up strong against Central Connecticut

Junior outside hitter **Michele Heck (Chicago, Ill./Resurrection)** tallied a career-high 22 kills and also produced 15 digs against Central Connecticut. Her previous career high was 21 kills, set against Canisius on Sept. 19, 2001. It was her first double-double this season and 18th of her career.

### Meffert near top of conference in assists per game

Freshman setter **Ashley Meffert (Louisville, Ky./Fern Creek)** dished out 88 assists over the weekend, and is now averaging 11.25 assists per game. She ranks second in the America East in that category. The only previous individual to average at least 11.0 assists per game for Binghamton was Sara DeClemente, who averaged 11.13 assists per game in 1999.

### Bearcats display solid defense against Blue Devils

As a team, Binghamton produced 83 digs against Central Connecticut. That figure was a season-high and the most digs in a match since the team had 87 against Maine last season. Four players had at least 12 digs in the match, led by senior defensive specialist **Shannon Kelly (Ridge, N.Y./Longwood)** and Michele Heck, who each had 15. The last time as many as four players had double-digit digs in a match was last November 16 against Stony Brook.

### Smith and Crocus are conference's leading hitters

Jen Smith and junior middle blocker **Anne Crocus (Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom)** rank first and second in the conference in attack percentage. Smith is hitting at a torrid .408 clip while Crocus sports a .356 attack percentage. In this weekend's pair of matches, Crocus tallied 31 kills while attacking at a .349 pace. Last season Crocus became the second Binghamton player to hit over .300 for a season. She entered the season as the program's all-time leader with a .264 career attack percentage.

### Columbia Classic set for next weekend

The Bearcats will hit the road once again this weekend and play three matches at the Columbia Classic. Binghamton opens competition against the host Lions at 7 p.m. Friday before facing Winthrop and Rider on Saturday. Winthrop finished 28-11 last season and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. The Eagles are 8-6 so far this season.

### 2003 Schedule/Results (4-5)

#### 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

**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 7 p.m.

27 Sat. vs. Winthrop 10 a.m.

27 Sat. vs. Rider 2 p.m.

#### OCTOBER

*Oct. 3-4: at Canisius Tournament*

3 Fri. @ Canisius 7 p.m.

4 Sat. St. Francis (Pa.) 1 p.m.

4 Sat. vs. Niagara 7 p.m.

7 Tue. \*@ UMBC 7 p.m.

**10 Fri. \*STONY BROOK 7 p.m.**

**11 Sat. \*HARTFORD 5 p.m.**

17 Fri. \*@ Northeastern 7 p.m.

18 Sat. \*@ Albany 4 p.m.

22 Wed. @ Marist 7 p.m.

24 Fri. \*@ Maine 7 p.m.

25 Sat. \*@ New Hampshire 7 p.m.

**28 Tue. \*UMBC 7 p.m.**

**31 Fri. \*ALBANY 6 p.m.**

#### NOVEMBER

**1 Sat. \*NORTHEASTERN 5 p.m.**

**7 Fri. \*NEW HAMPSHIRE 7 p.m.**

**8 Sat. \*MAINE 5 p.m.**

**11 Tue. SIENA 7 p.m.**

14 Fri. \*@ Hartford 7 p.m.

15 Sat. \*@ Stony Brook 4 p.m.

*Nov. 21-23: at America East Championship (TBA)*

\* America East Conference match

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

All games played at East Gym except on

Sept. 12, Sept. 13 and Oct. 11