

# SPORTS NEWS



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## Volleyball

For Immediate Release: September 29, 2003 • Contact: David Berman

### Bearcats capture Columbia Classic

Binghamton (7-5) won its first tournament since the 2000 Division II ECAC Championship and dropped just two games en route to winning the 9th Annual Volleyball Classic, hosted by Columbia University at Levien Gymnasium. The Bearcats defeated the host Lions 3-1 (26-30, 30-22, 30-26, 30-25) on Friday night and then picked up a pair of wins on Saturday, defeating Winthrop 3-1 (30-27, 23-30, 30-21, 32-30) and Rider 3-0 (30-15, 30-21, 30-14).

Binghamton came out strong against Columbia in its first match and never let up throughout the weekend, averaging fewer than six hitting errors per game in the three matches. The Bearcats also knocked off a Winthrop team that last year won 28 matches and advanced to the NCAA Tournament before falling to North Carolina.

"We played well this weekend," head coach Glenn Kiriya said. "We got better each match. Our middles did a good job hitting and getting their hands on a lot of balls with blocks. Our blocking and hitting at the net is what made us do so well."

The Bearcats hit .268 as a team in the three matches and tallied 28.0 team blocks. BU had 14.0 total blocks against Winthrop, the most since another 14.0-block output against Albany last October 8.

This weekend was the second time BU has played in a tournament hosted by the Lions. In 2000, the Bearcats played in the Columbia/LIU Tournament and split four matches.

### Crocus leads three players on all-tournament team

Junior middle blocker **Anne Crocus (Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom)** earned MVP honors at the Columbia Classic and teammates **Michele Heck (Chicago, Ill./Resurrection)** and **Ashley Meffert (Louisville, Ky./Fern Creek)** were also named to the all-tournament team. Crocus started off the tournament with a career-high 21 kills against Columbia, then added 29 more kills and 16 blocks in the final two matches. She also improved her season attack percentage to .363.

"Anne was dominant at the net on Saturday," Kiriya said. "No one really had an answer for her."

Heck had 14 kills against Columbia and also recorded her 19th career double-double with 16 kills and 12 digs against Winthrop. She ranks second on the team with 3.05 kills per game. With 131 kills this season, Heck has moved into eighth place among the school's career leaders. She needs 18 more kills to catch Michell Whang (1996-97) for seventh place.

Meffert, who has quickly become one of the top setters in the America East conference, dished out 134 assists in the tournament and pushed her season average to 11.49 helpers per game, a figure that will likely top the conference in the coming week's statistics.

### Upcoming: One last tournament before AE play

In their final tournament of the season prior to beginning conference play, the Bearcats will travel to Buffalo, N.Y. for three matches at the Canisius Tournament on Friday and Saturday. In addition to the host Golden Griffins, Binghamton will take on St. Francis (Pa.) and Niagara. BU was defeated in four games by Canisius earlier this season at the Binghamton Invitational.

### 2003 Schedule/Results (7-5)

#### 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 7 p.m.

*Sept. 12-13: BINGHAMTON INVITATIONAL*

12 Fri. QUINNIPIAC W 3-0

13 Sat. YOUNGSTOWNSTATE 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 1-3

*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 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