

SPORTS NEWS



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Volleyball

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Bearcats cap non-conference play with pair of wins

In its final tournament before beginning conference play, Binghamton (9-6) won two of three matches at the Canisius Tournament, defeating St. Francis (Pa.) and Niagara while losing to Canisius.

The Bearcats fell to Canisius 3-1 on Friday night, falling 23-30, 27-30, 30-21, 30-32. On Saturday, Binghamton defeated St. Francis 3-1 (30-19, 26-30, 30-23, 30-23) and Niagara 3-2 (30-28, 32-34, 27-30, 30-21, 15-12).

"We gave up a lot of balls and didn't play as well as we could have against St. Francis," head coach Glenn Kiriyama said. "We were able to pick it up a bit and come up with kills when we needed to, and that helped secure the win."

The match with Niagara was filled with drama from the beginning. Binghamton erased a 26-22 deficit with a five-point spurt and went on to win the final three points to win the game. After seeing late leads disappear in the second and third games, the Bearcats rallied in the fourth game with a 13-4 burst to close the game, then won the pivotal fifth game with back-to-back kills to end the match. Binghamton's 70 kills in the match were the most since the team had 75 kills against Iona on Sept. 30, 2001.

Heck posts "double-doubles" in all three matches

Junior outside hitter **Michele Heck (Chicago, Ill./Resurrection)** tallied 18 kills and 15 digs against Canisius on Friday night. It was a sign of things to come, as she also totalled 15 kills and 11 digs against St. Francis, as well as 17 kills and 12 digs against Niagara. She has now posted double-doubles in four straight matches, and has turned the trick 22 times in her career. With her play over the weekend, Heck also moved into sixth place in school history with 810 career kills, passing Michell Whang and Christine Van Schaick. She needs 33 more kills to tie Sara Eckrich for fifth place.

Crocus continues near flawless attack

Junior middle blocker **Anne Crocus (Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom)** racked up 45 kills while making just nine attack errors over the weekend, stretching her season marks to 3.60 kills per game with a .370 attack percentage. She capped the weekend with a career-high 22 kills against Niagara, making just two errors (.588 attack percentage) in the match while also recording seven block assists.

Meffert and Hoag exemplify strong freshman class

Freshman setter **Ashley Meffert (Louisville, Ky./Fern Creek)** has quickly adjusted to learning a new offense, as she leads the America East in assists with 11.45 helpers per game. She had 147 assists in the three matches at the Canisius Tournament. Meanwhile, Hoag has gotten more playing time since an injury to leading hitter Jen Smith, and has made the most of the opportunity. She averaged better than 2.00 kills per game over the weekend, and recorded her first collegiate double-double with 11 kills and 16 digs against Canisius.

Beginning of conference play on tap for this week

With five early-season tournaments behind them, the Bearcats will open conference play with a 7 p.m. match Tuesday at conference newcomer UMBC. Binghamton returns home next weekend with matches on Friday at 7 p.m. against Stony Brook and Saturday at 4 p.m. against Hartford.

2003 Schedule/Results (9-6)

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.	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	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	L	1-3
4 Sat.	St. Francis (Pa.)	W	3-1
4 Sat.	vs. Niagara	W	3-2
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