

SPORTS NEWS



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Volleyball

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Bearcats win two of first three conference matches

In the first week of conference play, Binghamton fell to America East newcomer UMBC 3-2, while defeating Stony Brook 3-1 and Hartford 3-0.

On Tuesday evening, the Bearcats traveled to Baltimore, Md. and took a 2-1 lead over the host Retrievers. However, Binghamton could not close out the match despite a 26-20 lead in the fourth game, and UMBC came back to win 30-26, 28-30, 28-30, 32-30, 15-13. The Retrievers join America East after running up a 40-4 record in the Northeast Conference over the past five years.

"It was a close match that could have gone either way," head coach Glenn Kiriya said. "We played hard throughout the match but made some errors late in the fourth game and let them back into the match. For a period of time we just weren't able to convert our attacks."

On Friday evening at East Gymnasium, Binghamton dispersed a 15-year hex with a 34-32, 30-25, 22-30, 30-21 win over Stony Brook. It was the squad's first win over the Seawolves since 1988, a span of 14 matches. At West Gymnasium on Saturday, the Bearcats blanked Hartford 30-26, 30-17, 30-16.

"We are happy to have done well this weekend," Kiriya said. "The win over Stony Brook was a sweet win because of the two five-game matches we lost to them last year. With tough matches coming up this weekend, it was big to get two conference wins."

Heck quickly moving up among career leaders

Junior outside hitter **Michele Heck (Chicago, Ill./Resurrection)** had double-doubles of kills and digs in all three matches during the week, stretching her string to seven straight matches and giving her 25 career double-doubles. She tallied career-highs of 24 kills and five service aces against UMBC, while also adding 14 digs. For the week, Heck averaged 4.00 kills and 3.00 digs per game. Her weekly total of 48 kills gives her 858 for her career, ranking fifth on the school's all-time list. She needs 31 more kills to tie Leigh Houghton (1995-98) for fourth place.

Crocus plays "crazy eights"

Junior middle blocker **Anne Crocus (Bethlehem, Pa./Freedom)**, who ranked eighth in the nation in blocks last season, had eight blocks in all three matches during the week. She boosted her season mark to 1.33 blocks per game, which leads the America East. Crocus had 17 kills against Stony Brook and 15 against Hartford and is now averaging 3.55 kills per game with a .364 attack percentage.

Meffert puts up a lot of assists in short period of time

Freshman setter **Ashley Meffert (Louisville, Ky./Fern Creek)** tallied 42 assists against Hartford. It was the most assists in a three-game match for Binghamton since Sara DeClemente dished out 43 against Canisius on Oct. 19, 2001.

Tough road matches upcoming this week

The Bearcats will hit the road for its only two matches this week. Binghamton will take on Northeastern on Friday night at 7 p.m. and then face Albany on Saturday at 4 p.m.

2003 Schedule/Results (11-7)

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 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