

SPORTS NEWS



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Women's Basketball

For Immediate Release: March 17, 2003 • Contact: David O'Brian

Bearcats conclude 2002-03 season

Binghamton (10-17, 6-10 AE) finished its season at the America East Tournament with a 69-58 setback to Vermont in the quarterfinal round. The Bearcats entered the tournament as the No. 7 seed while Vermont held down the No. 2 seed.

Bearcats ousted by Vermont in quarterfinal round

Seventh-seeded Binghamton nearly overcame a double-digit deficit to No. 2 seed Vermont in the closing minutes, but the Catamounts held steady for a 69-58 win in the first America East Conference quarterfinal game last Thursday in Hartford. Vermont was particularly unwavering from the free throw line, where the Catamounts converted 33-of-35 free throws - a new tournament record (94%).

"I'm very proud of the way our players responded to the adversity," BU associate head coach Rich Conover said. "They could have packed it in, down 21 points in first half, but they didn't. We talked about staying in contact for the first five minutes of the game, but we didn't do it. We built too big a hole, and Vermont is too good, especially from the line."

Sophomore center **Kristin Hibler (Hutchinson, Kan.)** led BU with 16 points, tying her career-high. Freshman forward **Rachel Laws (Wyncote, Pa./Cheltenham)** added 14 points on 7-for-11 shooting.

"We showed a lot of heart and determination throughout the game," Conover said. "Offensively we felt we could score inside, and Kristin (Hibler) had a great game today."

Townley, Blues earn all-conference accolades

Junior point guard **Kate Townley (St. Paul, Minn./Cretin Derham Hall)** and freshman guard **Jen Blues (Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley North)** have been named to the America East women's basketball all-conference teams. Townley was named to the third team for the second season in a row while Blues becomes the Bearcats' first player ever to make the America East All-Rookie team.

Townley led the conference in assists for the second season in a row, with 5.4 helpers per game. She also averaged a career-high 7.1 points per game and posted a team-high 1.8 steals per game.

"Kate's leadership was very important this season with such a young team," associate head coach Rich Conover said. "She is very valuable to our team in many ways."

Blues led the Bearcats in scoring with 11.4 points per game. She reached double figures in scoring 16 times and led the team in scoring 12 times. On Dec. 16, she became the first Binghamton player ever to be named the America East Conference Rookie of the Week.

"Jen came in here and was our go-to scoring right away," Conover said. "Even when teams were keying on her, she still came through for us."

2002-03 Schedule/Results

NOVEMBER

22 Fri.- + Eastern Kentucky L 67-75
23 Sat. + @ Morehead State L 59-65
27 Wed. **CORNELL** **W 66-48**

DECEMBER

5 Thu. **LEHIGH** **ppd.**
7 Sat. **WAGNER** **L 65-85**
9 Mon. @ Columbia L 65-75
14 Sat. @ Manhattan W 66-65
21 Sat. @ Syracuse L 51-72

JANUARY

3 Fri. @ Texas Pan Am W 61-59
5 Sun. @ Texas A&M-CC L 49-66
11 Sat. ***STONY BROOK** **W 69-50**
15 Wed. *@ Hartford W 59-54
18 Sat. ***MAINE** **L 45-64**
20 Mon. **ARMY** W 63-49
22 Wed. *@ Albany L 62-75
25 Sat. *@ New Hampshire W 67-59
29 Wed. ***NORTHEASTERN** **L 43-53**

FEBRUARY

1 Sat. *@ Vermont L 63-66
5 Wed. ***HARTFORD** **L 55-58**
8 Sat. ***BOSTON** **L 49-61**
12 Wed. ***VERMONT** **L 58-79**
16 Sun. *@ Maine (TV) L 62-66
19 Wed. ***ALBANY** **W 50-42**
22 Sat. *@ Northeastern W 80-73
25 Tue. *@ Stony Brook L 47-54

MARCH

5 Wed. *@ Boston L 53-71
8 Sat. ***NEW HAMPSHIRE** **W 80-78**
13 Thu. Vermont ~ L 58-69

+ Morehead State Tournament

* America East Conference game

~ America East Conference Tournament