2010-11 Review

The grinch may have stolen Christmas, but the Muhlenberg men’s basketball team would not let him steal its season.

After winning five of their first six games, the Mules fell into a five-game losing streak that spanned winter break.

But before the grinch could get ahold of all the joy in Memorial Hall, a team of experienced leaders and talented rookies was able to turn things around, winning seven of the next nine games to climb into a tie for second in the Centennial Conference.

However, a late four-game losing streak hurt the Mules, who finished 13-12 and one game shy of the postseason.

Muhlenberg started the season strong by beating rival Moravian and capturing the Scotty Wood Tournament with wins over Rosemont and Gallaudet. Junior Spencer Liddic offered a taste of things to come by earning tournament MVP honors after totaling 53 points and 20 rebounds in the two games.

The Mules lost their CC opener to Gettysburg before posting back-to-back wins over King’s and Swarthmore.

Muhlenberg dropped its next five games, but righted the ship with consecutive wins over McDaniel and Johns Hopkins just in time to welcome No. 19 Franklin & Marshall to Memorial Hall.

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The Mules lost their next two games, including a one-point heartbreaker at Ursinus when Tozer, with time running down, leaned into his defender to try to draw a foul and shot from the corner. The ball went in, but Tozer had stepped over the three-point line.

Muhlenberg recovered with a 22-point win over Washington and victories over Haverford, Johns Hopkins and Swarthmore to move into a tie for second place in the CC before dropping four in a row, including a one-point overtime loss to Dickinson.

With their postseason hopes needing a win and some help on Senior Day, the Mules charged out of the gate against Ursinus.

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With three seniors starting for the first time — David Gwyn, Steve Cavanaugh and Kevin O’Hara — the Mules led 20-6 less than nine minutes in and never looked back as they dominated the Bears, 82-53. The senior trio combined for 17 points and six assists in the victory.

While they took care of the win, the help never came and the Mules missed the playoffs for the first time in three seasons.
Liddic, who led the conference and ranked in the top 35 in the country in both scoring and rebounding, broke a 40-year school record by scoring 509 points on the season. He became just the third Mule men’s player to be named a first-team Academic All-American and was named to the all-region and All-CC first teams.

A pair of freshmen, Curry and Kevin Hargrove, had impressive debuts for the Mules. Curry averaged 12.7 points per game to lead all CC rookies, while Hargrove set a CC freshman record with 70 blocks. That also broke the school single-season blocks record, and his 10 blocks against DeSales was a Mule single-game mark.

Tozer averaged 7.4 points, dished out 63 assists and knocked down 36 three-pointers during his final campaign.

Junior Justin Greenstone (40 assists) and sophomore Matt O’Hara (71 assists) helped facilitate the offense, while sophomore Rob Berish and freshmen James Albano, Timmy Harwood and Brandon Bovino showed strong promise for the future.