Athletics: Volleyball

2010 Review

For the Muhlenberg volleyball team, 2010 was more than just a rebuilding season. It was a full-fledged reconstruction.

With only five returning players and four freshmen, the 2010 roster had a very new feel to it. That theme extended to the bench where head coach Alexa Keckler made her Muhlenberg debut. So before the Mules could even begin to build for the season, they had to first learn a new set of blueprints.

And after spending the opening stretch of the season adapting to those blueprints, Muhlenberg ended the year by winning four of its final six matches to lay a solid foundation for the future.

The early returns looked good as Muhlenberg beat Gordon, 3-2, in its season opener behind eight kills from sophomore Jenn Seeba and 34 assists from freshman Morgan Duggan.

But from there the Mules struggled as they shuffled their rotations and adjusted to their new coach.

After 12 straight losses, Muhlenberg picked up its second win when it beat Rutgers-Camden, 3-1, in its final match at the Spartan Invitational. Juniors Jackie Price and Davi Gordon tallied nine kills apiece, while Price added seven blocks to key the Mule victory.

Injuries and sickness limited Muhlenberg’s roster and forced players to fill in at new positions they had never experienced before.

Although wins proved hard to come by, the Mules continued to show improvement, and they finally broke through with back-to-back 3-0 wins over Montclair State and Bryn Mawr. They then added two more wins over Merchant Marine and Ursinus to close out the season.

With its solid finish, Muhlenberg ended the year with a 6-21 mark overall and a 2-8 record in conference play.

Gordon and Price led the Mules with 172 and 153 kills, respectively. Freshman Lauraine Ojo-Ohikure added 105 kills in her debut season. Price also led the team with 52 blocks, followed by Seeba with 45 denials.

Duggan dished out 509 assists and added a team-high 27 aces in her first season in a Mule uniform. Fellow freshman Erica Wenzel (208 digs) led a group of four players, including Duggan, Gordon and junior Brooke McQueen, with more than 200 digs.

Hampered by injuries for a good portion of the second half of the season, senior Caitlin Dombkowski tallied 49 kills, 32 digs and 20 blocks on the year.

After strengthening their foundation during 2010, the Mules look to continue adding on next season. And with eight players returning with plenty of valuable experience, Muhlenberg hopes to keep on building up.

Gordon ranked in the top three on the team in every major statistical category.