The Misericordia University volleyball team has some unfinished business to take care of in 2009.

After narrowly missing a playoff berth a year ago, the Cougars have their sights set on the post-season in their second season as a member of the Freedom Conference.

After getting off to an 11-3 start a year ago, the Cougars dropped eight of their final 15 matches to finish 15-11 and miss the playoffs by a game.

“We had a great season last year, but we were disappointed with the way things ended,” said head coach Jen Yuhas. “We’re focused on finishing strong and getting back to the playoffs.”

To do so, the Cougars will rely on a roster that features a mix of returning players and some newcomer faces.

MU returns seven letter winners, including Meghan Hotaling, Lisa Holdsworth, Lexie Goble, Kristal Burford, Kristin Hoffman, Jesse Karger and Shannon Kane.

Karger, Hotaling and Hoffman shared the setting chores a year ago and combined for nearly eight assists per game.

“Here we are at setter,” said Yuhas. “We have three experienced players who provide us with depth and versatility.”

Hoffman was also second on the team in hitting percentage while Goble was second on the team in kills.

“Our veteran players have been great,” said Yuhas. “They work hard and set a good example for the newcomers.”

The roster includes one of the largest groups of freshmen in recent memory, including one junior and eight freshmen.

Junior Ali Connell is in her first year with the team and is joined by freshman Natalie DeWitt, Kathryn LaBrie, Carly Lewis, Callin McCallion, Alissa Richardson, Alana Rizzo, Leann Terpstra and Taylor Titus.

“We’re excited about our newcomers,” said Yuhas. “We have some talented players who will have a chance to make an immediate impact and provide us with some depth.”
MISERICORDIA BELONGS TO NCAA, MAC, ECAC

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY IN BRIEF

Misericordia University is a liberal arts based, co-educational Catholic institution serving both residential and commuting students.

Founded in 1924, Misericordia is the oldest four-year institution in Luzerne County and made the transition to University status in 2007.

Sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy, Misericordia is one of 18 Mercy institutions in the United States.

Misericordia welcomes individuals from all faiths and offers a variety of liberal arts and professional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

MU offers 30 majors in three academic colleges: Arts and Sciences; Health Sciences; and Professional Studies and Social Sciences.

The University is dedicated to the values of the Sisters of Mercy: mercy, service, justice and hospitality. These values can be found throughout the University, from programs of study to service projects.

The hallmark of MU is a dedicated faculty and a high quality core liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

In addition to their diploma, MU students can participate in the school’s Guaranteed Placement Program. The GPP is a promise that, within six months of graduation, students will have a position in the career of their choice or be enrolled in graduate school, or the University will provide a paid internship in the student’s field of study.

With a total enrollment of 2,501 students, Misericordia offers the benefits of a small university with the scope of a larger institution.

Classroom size is purposefully small to ensure personalized attention and our 12:1 student/faculty ratio allows students and faculty to truly know one another.

In addition to academic pursuits, MU students participate in a wide range of athletic, recreational, spiritual, and social and cultural activities with more than two dozen clubs organizations on campus.

MU sponsors 22 varsity sports including men’s soccer, cross country, basketball, swimming, golf, lacrosse, indoor and outdoor track & field, and 11 women’s sports: basketball, cross country, field hockey, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, outdoor track & field and volleyball.

With approximately 430 members and 150,000 student-athletes competing annually, Division III is the largest of the NCAA’s three divisions.

Division III institutions place high priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and the successful completion of all students’ academic programs.

Formed in 1938, the ECAC is the nation’s largest athletic conference with more than 300 members in Divisions I, II and III from Maine to North Carolina.

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

The athletic facilities at Misericordia University are highlighted by the Anderson Sports-Health Center and the Anderson Outdoor Athletic Complex.

Since 1993, the Anderson Center has provided a home for the Cougars’ basketball, volleyball and swim teams.

The building houses the athletic department offices, campus health center and nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy classrooms and laboratories.

The center features a six-lane swimming pool, indoor track, racquetball courts, fitness center and an aerobic/dance studio. The Anderson Sports-Health Center also attracts more than 75,000 visitors annually for recreational use.

Mangelsdorf Field at the Anderson Athletic Complex was constructed in 2002 and serves as a home for the soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and track & field programs.

The complex features a synthetic grass field and a six-lane synthetic track which allow MU’s student-athletes to remain active even when weather conditions are less than ideal.

Misericordia University’s 125-acre campus is a suburban atmosphere and is only nine miles from Wilkes-Barre and two hours from New York City and Philadelphia.

DAVE MARTIN Athletic Director

Dave Martin is in his sixth year as director of athletics at Misericordia University.

In his first five years, the Cougars won nine conference championships and earned six NCAA tournament berths.

In addition, he guided the Cougars through the transition from the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference to the Freedom Conference and Middle Atlantic States Athletics Corporation (MAC). He has also overseen the addition of men’s tennis and women’s golf as varsity sports at MU.

Martin previously spent 14 seasons as head men’s basketball coach at Misericordia and served as associate athletic director and coordinator of athletic recruiting.

He led the Cougars to 11 Pennsylvania Athletic Conference playoff berths and two PAC Finals appearances.

Martin compiled 178 career wins at MU and was a four-time (1998-2001) Coach of the Year.

A graduate of Wilkes University, Martin earned a master’s degree in education from Misericordia.

JEN YUHAS Head Coach

Jennifer (Jones) Yuhas is in her fourth season as head women’s volleyball coach at Misericordia.

The 2008 team finished 15-11 and barely missed a playoff berth in its first season in the Freedom Conference.

A graduate of Misericordia, Yuhas was a four-year starter for the Cougars and served two seasons as team captain.

She spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Misericordia and helped the Cougars to a Pennsylvania Athletic Conference playoffs in 2005.

The team MVP as a senior, she ranked among MU’s top-10 in games played, assists, aces and digs.

She’ll be assisted by Mary Beth Stellar, a four-year letter-winner at Misericordia from 2004-2007.

Stellar was the Coach’s Award recipient as a senior and ended her career ranked in Misericordia’s top-10 in aces, aces/game, kills and digs.

2009 SCHEDULE

Date Opponent Time
Sept. 1 Arcadia................................. 7:00
Sept. 4 Wilkes (at King's) ....................... 4:00
Sept. 4 at King's .................. ............................ 4:00
Sept. 5 Marywood (at King’s)........... 7:00
Sept. 5 Mt. St. Mary (at King’s)............. 7:00
Sept. 7 Immortalite (at Bryn Mawr)....... 7:00
Sept. 12 Bryn Mawr .................. ............................ 7:00
Sept. 15 Cedar Crest .................. ............................ 7:00
Sept. 16 * Manhattanville ................. 7:00
Oct. 12 * Lebanon Valley ........... ............................ 7:00
Oct. 19 * Lebanon Valley ........... ............................ 6:00
Oct. 19 * TBA (at Lebanon Valley) ......... 7:00
Oct. 22 * at FDU-Florham ................. 7:00
Oct. 26 * at Lycoming ................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 26 Penn (at Lycoming) ..... ............................ 7:00
Oct. 30 * at DeSales...................... ............................ 7:00
Oct. 6 King’s .................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 14 * at Eastern ................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 17 Keystone .................. ............................ 1:00
Oct. 20 * Delaware Valley ........... ............................ 7:00
Oct. 22 Moravian .................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 24 Cedar Crest .................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 24 Arcadia (at Cedar Crest) .......... 2:00
Oct. 26 Lycoming .................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 28 * at Wilkes ................. ............................ 7:00
Oct. 31 at Mt. St. Mary .................. ............................ 1:00
Nov. 4:7 Freedom Conference Championships ........ 7:00
Nov. 12 NCAA First Round ................. ............................ 7:00

* Freedom Conference opponent

On the Cover: Jesse Karger

2009 ROSTER

Player Yr Pos Ht Hometown/High School
Krystal Burford SO H 5’9” Conklin, NY/Susquehanna Valley
Alli Connell JR OH 5’8” Fort Forty, PA/Wyoming Valley West
Natalie DeWitt FR S 5’5” Lewes, DE/Cape Henlopen
Alexandra Gibble JR MH 5’11” Bradford, PA/Bradford
Kristin Hoffman SO S 5’7” Douglassville, PA/Daniel Boone
Lia Holdsworth SR H 5’8” Columbus, PA/Columbia
Meghan Holting SO S 5’5” Monroe, PA/Towanda
Shannon Kane JR LH 5’7” Springfield, PA/Springfield
Jesse Karger SR S/L 5’4” Kane, PA/Kane
Kathryn Lalrite FR H 5’10” Campyon, NH/Plymouth Reg
Carly Lewis FR OH 5’9” Shenandoah, PA/Shenandoah Valley
Calin McCullion FR OH 5’6” Nesquehoning, PA/Marion Catholic
Alissa Richardson FR L 5’0” Great Bend, PA/Blue Ridge
Alana Rizzo FR OH 5’3” Nuremberg, PA/Hazleton
Leann Terpstra FR MH 5’3” Susquehanna, PA/Susquehanna Valley
Taylor Title FR OH 5’6” Weatherly, PA/Weatherly

Jen Yuhas, Head Coach Jennifer (Jones) Yuhas is in her fourth season as head women’s volleyball coach at Misericordia.

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