2009 Season Preview

The Misericordia University women’s soccer team (NCAA qualifiers in 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006) enters the 2009 season looking to build on their first season as a member of the Freedom Conference of the Middle Atlantic States Athletics Corporation (MAC).

Last season, a switch to the more competitive Freedom Conference was accompanied by a more challenging out-of-conference schedule. After making nine trips to the conference title. “Then we can make a run at the non-conference slate. “We have real talent in this freshman group,” said Stauffer. “They’ll look to get some quality time this season and build for the future.”

The Cougars’ attack will be led by junior Kim Suchoski (2007 PAC Rookie of the Year), who should fire herself into MU’s all-time top-10 goal scorer list this year after notching 17 goals in her first two seasons. She will be joined up front by returnees Lauren Payne (4 goals in 2008), Jenica Keister (4 goals in 2008), and senior Ashley McDonnell. A host of new faces join MU this season as well, including freshmen recruits Laura Roney, Bridget Fortier, Sam Helmstetter, Nicolette Hensel, Gabrielle Diulio and Courtney Dillon. “We have real talent in this freshman group,” said Stauffer. “They’ll look to get some quality time this season and build for the future.”

With a young team featuring only one senior, the future does look bright. However, the Cougars feel they are also ready to compete for a championship right now as they seek their fifth NCAA tournament bid in eight years. Four returnees will help anchor the MU defense, including juniors Jenn Brucker, Kristen Gedon and Paige Williams. Sophomore Katie Usher also returns at the back for the Cougars.

Two experienced midfielders return in the center of the park for MU: junior Jenica Keister and senior Ashley McDonnell. Both veterans will also serve as captains in 2009. McDonnell, the Cougars’ lone fourth-year player, was voted as team MVP last season along with being selected as second-team All-Freedom Conference.

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Misericordia University belongs to NCAA, MAC, ECAC

Misericordia University belongs to the NCAA Division III, Freedom Conference/Middle Atlantic States Athletics Corporation (MAC) and the Eastern College Athletic Conference. MU is in its second full season of competition in the Freedom/MAC after 16 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. Misericordia began ECAC and NCAA competition in 1992.

The Freedom/MAC sponsors competition in 11 men’s sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, 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-atletes 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.

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, MU 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 to 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.

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MISERICORDIA University belongs to NCAA Division III, Freedom Conference/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.

Mark previously sponsored 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. Mark compiled 178 career wins at MU and was a four-time PAC Coach of the Year.

Before coming to Misericordia, Mark spent 10 years as an assistant at his alma mater.

During his playing career, he was a two-time PAC all-star and led the Cougars to three appearances in the PAC championship match, including a PAC title in 1996. He ranks among Misericordia’s all-time leaders in five categories, including career points, goals and assists and single-season points and goals.

Frank Carrozzi returns for his fourth season as an assistant at his alma mater. Kristin Fennemacher, a Lady Cougar, begins her first season as an assistant coach.

2009 ROSTER

Player  YR  Pos  HT  Hometown/High School

Tom DeWitt  JR  M  5’11”  Williamsville, NY/Williamsville East

On the Cover: Ashley McDowell

2009 SCHEDULE

Date  Opponent  Time

Sept. 1  Lebanon Valley  5:00

Sept. 4  Messiah  8:30

Sept. 5  TCNJ  3:30

Sept. 9  at Ithaca  4:00

Sept. 12  at York  4:00

Sept. 16  at Johns Hopkins  7:00

Sept. 19  Scranton  2:00

Sept. 23  MC  7:00

Sept. 26  at WOoster (OH)  11:00

Sept. 30  at Elisabethtown  7:00

Oct. 3  * at Manhattanville  4:00

Oct. 7  at Lycoming  4:00

Oct. 10  * at EDU-Flohom  1:00

Oct. 14  * Wilkes  7:00

Oct. 17  * Delaware Valley  1:00

Oct. 20  * at Eastern  3:00

Oct. 24  * DeSales  1:00

Oct. 28  at Widener  7:00

Oct. 31  * at King’s  5:00

Nov. 3-7  Freedom Conference Championships  4:00

Nov. 11  NCAA First Round  4:00

* Freedom Conference Opponent

Homecoming/Hall of Fame Weekend

* On the Cover: Ashley McDowell