

Bearcats Continue Tradition With Another Winning Year

The University of Cincinnati continued to build its tradition during the 2004 season, posting yet another 20-win season and once again finishing near the top of the Conference USA standings in the Bearcats' final season in the league. UC did so while also overcoming some tremendous odds set before it during the pre-season.

For the 10th consecutive year and fifth under head coach Reed Sunahara, the Bearcats won 20 matches, finishing with a 22-11 overall mark. UC finished tied for second in the C-USA race and reached the semifinals of the league tournament. Individually, Julie DuPont won her second straight C-USA Player of the Year award and was an honorable mention All-American selection.

The Bearcats were able to achieve all this while also dealing with the shocking and untimely death of assistant coach Stephanie Rosfeld prior to the start of preseason training. UC dedicated the 2004 season, yet another winning one, to Stephanie's memory.

Conference Honors

A total of three Bearcats were honored by the Conference USA coaches in the league's annual awards. For the second consecutive year, Julie DuPont was tabbed as the C-USA Player of the Year, joining just two other players as multiple recipients of the award. In addition, Rachel Torblaa (second team) and Myanna Hellsten (third team) were both recognized for their outstanding play. Torblaa was a third team choice in 2003, while Hellsten was named the league's freshman of the year.

Sunahara Becomes Winnigest Mentor

Cincinnati head coach Reed Sunahara became the program's all-time winningest coach with the Bearcats' Sept. 10 win over Washington State. Sunahara finished the year with 119 wins in his Cincinnati career, topping Mike Lingenfelter's mark. Lingenfelter recorded 101 wins in his five-year career, which covered 1986-87 and 1993-95. Sunahara, who has completed five years as the Bearcats' mentor, is 138-84 (.622) in his coaching career, with an even more impressive 119-44 (.730) mark at UC.

Another Milestone Victory

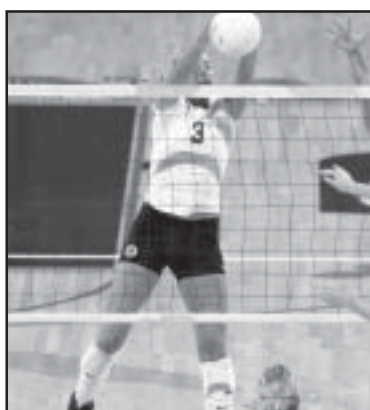
Having completed 33 years as a varsity program at UC, the Bearcat volleyball program reached the 700-win plateau in 2004. The Bearcats' milestone victory occurred in an Oct. 12 win over Morehead State. UC enters 2005 with an all-time record of 709-442-8 (.615). In the BIG EAST, only Pittsburgh has reached the 700-win plateau.

Bearcats Finish Conference USA Strong

The Bearcats wrapped up the final regular season of their 10-year association with Conference USA with a record of 116-29 for an .800 winning percentage. UC ranks second in both, trailing only Louisville. The Bearcats won 80 of their last 96 matches against C-USA opponents, with six of the 16 losses coming to Louisville, and four against USF. The marks exclude C-USA Tournament play.

Home Sweet Home

After a school-record 23 straight home wins dating back to the 2002 season, the Bearcats had their



Torblaa at the Net

While she proved to be a solid and valuable offensive player during her career, senior Rachel Torblaa made her name at the net with her strong blocking ability. Torblaa finished her career ranked second in school annals with 437 block assists after passing former teammate Bonita Wise. Torblaa also ranks in both total blocks (third-497) and blocks per game (seventh-1.26).

One Amazing Career

Julie DuPont's career will go down as one of the greatest of any player in program history. In addition to being UC's first All-American, DuPont was also a two-time Conference USA Player of the Year. Her name is scattered throughout the UC record books. DuPont is Cincinnati's "Queen of Kills" with a school record 2,137 in her career. Additionally, she is tops in school history in kills per game (4.69) and ranks in the UC annals in attempts (first), digs (second), block assists (fifth), digs per game (T-sixth), total blocks (eighth) and games played (T-ninth).

In UC's Sept. 4 win over Kent State, DuPont joined an exclusive club, becoming just the fifth player in school history with 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in her career.

DuPont's Career Statistics

Year	MP	GP	K	K/G	E	TA	Pct.	A	SA	D	BS	BA	BT
2001	31	111	359	3.23	131	968	.236	50	34	265	12	108	120
2002	32	113	581	5.14	222	1445	.248	19	20	309	13	86	99
2003	33	115	624	5.43	227	1482	.268	30	37	395	14	89	103
2004	33	117	573	4.90	223	1415	.247	23	26	381	9	81	90
Tot.	129	456	2137	4.69	803	5310	.251	122	117	1350	48	364	412

20 Wins Again

With a win over East Carolina on Nov. 6, the Bearcats locked up a 20-win season for the 10th year in a row and for the fifth time under head coach Reed Sunahara. The Bearcats have had a total of 21 seasons with at least 20 wins, but Sunahara is the only coach in program annals with more than three 20-win campaigns.

home winning streak snapped on Oct. 24 by Saint Louis. The streak, which became a record in the Sept. 7 win over Miami (Ohio), topped the previous best of 17 straight home wins, established from a Sept. 7, 1999 win over Dayton to an Oct. 18, 2000 defeat to Louisville. Since the opening of Fifth Third Arena, the Bearcats have been nothing short of dominant on their home floor. In the 16 years the building has been in existence, the Bearcats have posted a 126-52 (.708) record at home, with 25 of those losses coming in a three-year span from 1991-93. A handful of those contests have also taken place outside Fifth Third Arena at both the former Laurence Hall and more recently, at St. Ursula Academy. At the time the streak was snapped, it represented the third-longest active streak in the nation.

DuPont Ends Year Streaking

Julie DuPont put an exclamation point on her career by recording at least 10 kills in each of her last 42 matches. At the end of the 2004 season, DuPont's streak ranked as the sixth-longest active streak in the country, trailing Stacey Gordon (Ohio State-110), Ogonna Nnamani (Stanford-65), Leah Ratzlaff (Creighton-51), Tera Lobdell (Northern Illinois-46) and Erin Heffner (Alabama-44).





Senior Dominance

UC's senior class of Julie DuPont, Leslie Newell and Rachel Torblaa found great success in league play during their careers, as they finished with a collective 61-9 record against Conference USA schools in regular season play. Since Newell was a fifth-year senior, the mark dates back to the 2000 season, Newell's freshman year.

The foursome also was a part of four NCAA Tournament qualifiers and two C-USA Championship teams.

Offensive Outbreak

On three occasions in 2004, the Bearcats showed true offensive balance by placing all five of their primary hitters in double figure kills. Against Western Kentucky (Oct. 5), Southern Miss (Oct. 29) and Tulane (Oct. 30), the quintet of Julie DuPont, Myanna Hellsten, Leslie Newell, Maria Pongonis and Rachel Torblaa all registered at least 10 kills. In the three matches, UC averaged 17.42 kills per game and hit .276, while setter Noel Olson averaged 14.83 assists per game.

The Best of the Best

Bearcat greats Julie DuPont and Laura Lauder were each named to Conference USA's All-Decade Team, announced by the league office in conjunction with its 10th anniversary. DuPont and Lauder were among 10 C-USA standouts honored on a team that was voted on by the conference's current head coaches.

Defensively Sound

While she struggled at times offensively during the 2004 season, Maria Pongonis proved to be one of the Bearcats' most valuable defensive players. Twice, Pongonis established a new career-best in digs, with the newest mark of 18 coming on Oct. 24 against Saint Louis. Pongonis ranked third on the team in digs per game (2.67) and reached double figures 15 times. She also had 10 double-doubles and has 21 for her career. Offensively, Pongonis set a career-best in kills on Sept.

10 when she burned Washington State for 23. Her 2.90 kills per game average ranked second on the team.

Torblaa Hits 1,000

Rachel Torblaa reached a milestone in the next-to-last match of her collegiate career, when she collected her 1,000th career kill on Nov. 26 vs. Ohio. With the kill, Torblaa became just the 10th player in program history to reach the plateau. She finished with 1,018 kills to her credit.

Olson in Charge

After starting the season in a two-setter alignment, Noel Olson stepped to the forefront as the team's primary setter. Four times during the year, Olson registered new career-highs in assists, including a best of 66 against Southern Miss on Oct. 29. She also dished out 50-plus assists in just three games in UC's win over DePaul on Oct. 2 and again in an Oct. 9 triumph over USF. Olson finished the year ranked third in Conference USA averaging 12.35 assists per game and had 50-plus assists in seven of 12 C-USA matches.

Remembering A Friend



The start to the 2004 season was undoubtedly one of the toughest ever for the Bearcats as the team coped with the unexpected passing of beloved assistant coach and former player Stephanie Rosfeld just prior to the beginning of preseason training.

The Bearcats dedicated the 2004 season to Stephanie's memory and honored her playing number of 10 as the whole team wore the number on their uniforms. The uniforms also bore the initials "SAR."

Following the season, senior Rachel Torblaa was honored as the first recipient of the Stephanie Rosfeld Memorial Award, honoring excellence on the court and off.



2004 Individual Honors



Natalie Dossman

- Team Co-Best Defensive Player



Julie DuPont

- AVCA All-America honorable mention
- C-USA Player of the Year
- CoSIDA Academic All-America first team
- All-C-USA first team
- AVCA All-Region
- C-USA Player of the Week (9/7)
- C-USA All-Tournament Team
- MVP Bearcat Invitational
- Helen Norman Smith Award
- Team MVP
- Team tri-captain



Myanna Hellsten

- All-C-USA third team
- Bearcat Invitational, InnTowner Invitational All-Tournament Teams
- C-USA Player of the Week (11/1)
- Team Co-Best Defensive Player



Leslie Newell

- Team tri-captain



Noel Olson

- Team Most Improved Player



Rachel Torblaa

- All-C-USA second team
- Bearcat Invitational, LMU Invitational All-Tournament Teams
- Team tri-captain
- Stephanie Rosfeld Memorial Award

Sister, Sister

Senior Leslie Newell had a unique opportunity during her final season as a collegiate player, as the Bearcats played contests against both of her younger sisters. UC defeated IUPUI with youngest sister Carol, a freshman, on Sept. 28 before topping Conference USA rival Charlotte and sibling Lisa, a junior, on Nov. 5. Leslie bettered sister Lisa in all four of the sisters' head-to-head match-ups. UC won each of the last three regular season match-ups between the schools, and a C-USA Tournament quarterfinal match-up in 2002.