

Weekly Recap

Volleyball: 16-8 (6-3)
W 3-1 vs. Saint Michael's College (NE10 Quarter)
L 3-1 @ Bentley University (NE10 Semi)

The team's strong season concluded with an NE10 Semifinal loss to Bentley University. Setter Katie Bardak, a sophomore, had 14 kills in the match. Setter Kimi Mitchell, a freshman, was the NE10 Rookie of the Year. She is the first volleyball player from the university to win the award.

Women's basketball: 4-2 (0-0)
W 79-50 @ Molloy University
L 86-68 vs. Saint Michael's College
W 78-52 @ College of Staten Island

Forward Rheyna Steinauer, a senior, leads the team in points and rebounds, averaging 19.2 points while shooting 51% and grabbing seven boards a game. Guard Jillian Martin, a graduate, leads the team in assists, averaging 5.8 a game. The team will begin their NE10 schedule against Franklin Pierce University on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Next: 12/3 vs. Franklin Pierce University, 5:30 p.m.

Men's basketball: 1-3 (0-0)
L 93-72 vs. Adelphi University
W 61-49 @ American International College

The team will play Franklin Pierce University to open NE10 conference play. Guard Justice Ellison, a graduate, leads the team in scoring with 16.8 points a game. Forward Cherif Diarra, a graduate, is averaging a team high 8.5 rebounds a game.

Next: 12/3 vs. Franklin Pierce University, 7:30 p.m.

More stories:
Women's basketball loses at buzzer

For this story, photos and sounds from the game visit thesouthernnews.org

Volleyball wins quarterfinal



Right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a senior, rises up over the net.

PHOTO | WADE BARILLARO

By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

The Owls soared to victory at Pelz Gymnasium on Nov. 18, beating Saint Michael's College 3-1, in their first playoff match since 2022.

The university executed their game plan, using pressure from the service line and disciplined defense to grab control of the match early.

"We really wanted to be able to serve them tough," Barbaro said. "Their middles are very good, so we wanted to keep them out of system and try to control it on our side, and we did that very well."

The university set the

tone early, winning the first two sets by hitting .273 and .321.

Saint Michael's responded in the third set. They capitalized on a brief dip in the Owls' rhythm to extend the match. But the response from the university was emphatic.

In the fourth set, the Owls put down 14 kills while hitting .481. It was the cleanest frame of the match and closing out the victory with complete control.

Much of that finish went through the connection between right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a senior, and setter Kimi Mitchell, a freshman, a duo that has grown in-

to the university's most reliable weapons despite being on opposite ends of their careers.

Their connection has been one of the team's strongest anchors all season, but Barbaro said the duo is so effective not just because of their chemistry but their competitiveness.

"They want the ball in the tough moments," Barbaro said. "They are ready to score; they are fearless. It is so great to watch them compete."

Mitchell won NE10 Rookie of the Year. She said playing alongside Bennett in her senior year has been one of the most rewarding parts of her first collegiate season.

"I'm so happy I get to play with Syd," Mitchell said. "She's competitive like me. She is great at her job, and I love setting her and working with her."

Bennett shares that love.

"Kimi is just like my little freshman," Bennett said. "Every day in practice, she doesn't play like an 18-year-old. She demands more of me, and I demand more of her."

That dynamic reflects the chemistry running throughout the roster this season.

"We work hard every day, and we're all great friends," Mitchell said. "We love each other while working towards the same

goal, and we get the job done together while having fun."

For the Owls, the win represented everything they hoped for this season.

And on a night where the margins were thin and the postseason intensity was high, the university delivered the kind of performance that reflects what has carried them all season: resilience and sisterhood.

"It was a great team effort," Barbaro said. "I'm really proud of this group, and it was great to see so many players step up when it mattered."

The Owls lost to Bentley University in the semi final on Nov. 21.

Sour home opener for men's basketball

Photos By William Gagné
Photographer

The men's basketball team lost to Adelphi University 93-72 on Nov. 19 in their home opener at James Moore Field House. Guard Christian McCleave, a sophomore, led the team in points with 14. Guard Malik Banks, a junior, and forward Cherif Diarra, a graduate, both had four assists. Diarra grabbed seven rebounds.



Forward Simon Percy, a junior, slams home a dunk.



Guard Malik Banks, a junior, shoots a jumper.