All 986 in attendance in Johnston Hall on Saturday February 27th witnessed the excitement and joy on the faces of the players and coaches as the Lady Greyhounds defeated long time rival University of Scranton 66-49 to capture their first ever Landmark Championship and their 8th NCAA bid. It was a long journey, a journey that began March 7, 2009. Along the way the players lifted hundreds of pounds of weights, ran miles and miles to get in shape, shot thousands of jump shots, and endured hours and hours of practice and in the end were rewarded by celebrating a championship on their home court. The Lady Greyhounds completed their Landmark season undefeated, 16-0, a first for any Landmark team. The season sweep of Scranton was just one of the many highlights during the 2009-10 season. A season in which we won 20 straight games, saw three players eclipse the 1000 pt plateau, beat Juniata in Huntingdon for the first time in 4 years, and ranked in the top ten in the country for the first time since 1992.

The championship game was typical of most games this season where we had a balanced scoring attack, played great defense, (holding them to 34% shooting), made more foul shots than our opponent, and one atypical thing, outrebounded Scranton by 4. Leading the way were four seniors, Aly Bisci, Kirsty Stearns, and Kate Harrison with 12 points and Jess Foran with 10. Kate and Kirsty also grabbed 8 rebounds a piece and Aly had 7.

As Coach Spirk cut down the last piece of the net and raised it triumphantly over her head and the strains of Queen’s “We are the Champions” could be heard in the background, all of the struggles, sorrows, and sacrifices of the season melted away: The Lady Greyhounds were champions and all was right with the world.
When the calendar turns each year to February, the players and fans of Moravian Women’s basketball know what is on the horizon. February means Pink Zone and our cancer awareness game. This season our team was motivated to continue to make a difference since the death of Amy Heffner’s mother, Patti. Leading up to our game on February 13th, specially designed blue and pink t-shirts, pink ribbon t-shirts, and pink rally towels were sold to raise money. In addition, seniors Alyson Steltz and Aly Bisci, partnered with Catasauqua and Parkland High Schools (two schools in which Patti worked) and organized a penny war in which the winning homeroom would receive doughnuts and coffee. The students of both schools were very generous contributing nearly $1200 to our cause. Inspired by the penny wars at the high school, Aly Bisci had the idea of a penny war at Moravian where the “winner” would get a pink whipped cream pie in the face at halftime of the men’s game. As luck would have it head coach Mary Beth Spirk (pictured above, left), and assistant coach Amy Endler were 2 of the “winners” along with softball coach John Byrne. During the game raffles were sold for prizes and stylists from the She Salon did face painting and makeovers.

We would like to thank the following for donating the prizes for the raffles: Aardvark Sports, Carl’s Corner, Pott’s Hot Dogs, Moravian College bookstore, Moravian baseball coach Paul Engelhardt, and Starter’s Riverport. Overall it was a great event and in the process we raised over $6100.00 for the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund capturing first place among all Division III schools! At the women’s final four in San Antonio, former player and assistant coach, Cathy Huegler, accepted our award in our absence, at the Shoot Around with Beth and Debbie Show (photo above right)*. In eight years, the women’s basketball team has raised over $25,000 for breast cancer research, this speaks volumes about the generosity of the entire Moravian community and the dedication to this cause by the women’s basketball team. Please join us in February 2011 as we continue to be a part of this worthy cause.

**Check out the podcast from San Antonio announcing Moravian as the top fund raiser in Div III through this link: [http://www.wbca.org/](http://www.wbca.org/)

Coach’s Thoughts: “I wish this season never ended.”

I wish this season never ended. Over a month has passed since it did end and I still want to go to practice and coach a game with this year’s team. The 14 players and assistant coaches were/are terrific. Yes, we won a championship and made the NCAA’s, and yes we won 25 games, but more than that we laughed and cried together, and came together to form a special bond.

I am grateful for the seniors, Aly, Kirsty, Alyson, Kate, Jess and Amanda. They matured as players and people over the course of 4 years. We will miss them on and off the court. Their legacy is stamped in Moravian Women’s Basketball history. Thank you and good luck. I look forward to watching them grow even more in the future. And thank you to their parents as well. I will miss their support from the sidelines.

While I am sad to have the year end and see this group of seniors move on in their lives, I look forward to the future. We have a strong recruiting class for next year and a great group of returning players. I am confident we will continue the Lady Greyhound winning tradition.

Thank you to all for your continued support on and off the court. It is my pleasure to be associated with Moravian and their women’s basketball program. Have a safe and relaxing summer, and see you soon.

Coach Spirk
1000 point scorer’s: Jess, Kate, & Kirsty

For the Lady Greyhound basketball team, eight days in January 2010, were historic days indeed. For the first time in school history three players from the same graduating class scored their 1000th point. Between Friday January 22nd to Saturday January 30th, Kate Harrison, Kirsty Stearns, and Jess Foran all became members of the 1000 point club. Kate achieved the milestone on Friday January 22nd in our game against Goucher College by hitting a foul shot with 2 minutes remaining in the first half. The very next night against Catholic University, Kirsty reached her goal, also while at the foul line with 13 minutes remaining in the game. One week later, it was Jess’s turn as we took on USMMA. With 7:37 remaining in the first half, Jess hit a layup while being fouled to put her over the top.

This trio certainly left their mark on the Lady Greyhound record book. Kate Harrison finished 14th on the career scoring list with 1,134 pts, 15th in rebounds with 513, and 6th in assists with 281. Kirsty Stearns landed at 15th on the scoring list with 1,114 pts, 8th in rebounds with 651, and 2nd in career FT% at 83.4%. Jess Foran sits at 17th on the scoring list with 1,098 pts and first in career FT% at 86.7%. Congratulations on such great careers, you will be missed!

Take a Kid to the Game Day

This year’s addition of Take a Kid to a Game day was held on Saturday January 30th as we took on USMMA. More than 60 kids of all ages were on hand for a special day which included senior Jess Foran reaching the 1000pt milestone. There were contests at half-time and a dance party with our national champion mascot Amos the Greyhound. As they entered the gym, all children were presented a goody bag, and after the game they got autographs of the Landmark Champion Lady Greyhounds. Also Brownie Troop 6105 from Lower Milford Elementary were on hand to sell Girl Scout Cookies. Overall it was a great day which ended with a 82-61 victory over the Mariners. It is always nice to have the kids come to our game and we look forward to it each year.
2010 Women’s Basketball Schedule

Nov 15  Muhlenberg College  A  6:00pm
Nov 17  Alvernia University  A  7:00pm
Nov 19  Delaware Valley @ Gwynedd Mercy Tournament  6:00pm
Nov 20  Gwynedd-Mercy Tournament  A  12pm/2pm
Nov 23  DeSales University  H  6:00pm
Dec 1  Neumann University  H  7:00pm
Dec 4  University of Scranton  H  2:00pm
Dec 7  Elizabethtown College  A  7:00pm
Dec 11  Albright College  A  2:00pm
Jan 2  Kings College Starter’s Tournament  H  3:00pm
Jan 3  Starter’s Tournament  H  1pm /3pm
Jan 8  USMMA  H  2:00pm
Jan 9  Drew University  H  2:00pm
Jan 14  Susquehanna University  H  5:30pm
Jan 15  Juniata College (Alumni Game)  H  2:00pm
Jan 18  TCNJ  H  7:00pm
Jan 21  Goucher College  A  5:30pm
Jan 22  Catholic University  A  2:00pm
Jan 28  Drew University  A  5:30pm
Jan 29  USMMA  A  2:00pm
Feb 4  Catholic University  H  5:30pm
Feb 5  Goucher College (Pink Zone)  H  2:00pm
Feb 11  Juniata College  A  5:30pm
Feb 12  Susquehanna University  A  2:00pm
Feb 19  University of Scranton  A  2:00pm
Feb 23  Landmark Semi-Finals  TBA  TBA
Feb 26  Landmark Finals  TBA  TBA

Winter in Washington!

The severe winter weather played havoc on our schedule in February which forced us to have a rare mid-week trip to Goucher and Catholic. With our free time we spent the early afternoon touring the Capitol thanks to our US Representative Charles Dent. Below are a few pictures of our day.

Lady Greyhound connection at the Final Four in San Antonio: Mary Beth Spirk with her current and former assistant coaches: Cathy Huegler ’99, Amy Endler ’93, Melissa Newhard Torba ’94, Kathy Shaffer, and Sara Steinman.

Assistant coach Sara Steinman meets ESPN analyst and former Purdue coach Carolyn Peck.

Taking the time for a photo prior to the 4Kay Run in San Antonio: Mary Beth Spirk, Cathy Huegler ’99, Phillip Johnson and Amy Endler ’93.

Final Four Photos