It is the start of my 25th year and yet I still feel excited, energized, and eager to see where this team will land in the history book of Moravian Women’s Basketball. The first month of practice was intense a pre-season that I ever had. This team works hard, listens, and looks to improve everyday. We have a nice mixture of youth and experience, size and speed, along with athleticism and toughness!

If you did not see the flash mob video to kick off Midnight Madness, it is a must see! And Midnight Madness started our season with a bang, as my assistant Sara Steinman, organized a great event for the entire college community. Our season is 4 games in, and while it does not look good on the win/loss column, I think by the end of the year, we will have a lot more wins than losses.

We started off the season against 4 NCAA teams from last year with a combined win/loss record of 89-27. I know these tough games early will help us once conference play starts.

I hope to see you at a game soon. And as always, thank you for your continued support on and off the court!

Coach’s Thoughts: “First month intense!”

On Friday November 4, 2011, Jessie Coughlin Milner ‘99 became the 18th women’s basketball player to be inducted into the Moravian College Athletic Hall of Fame. Jessie was a two-sport athlete while at Moravian excelling on the tennis court as well. Her 69-2 record in singles tops the all-time career list. A 1000pt scorer, Jessie ranks in the top 4 for her career in assists, 346; steals, 322; and three-point field goals, 166. The evening was made extra special when five of her former teammates were on hand to share in her special event: Jen Page ‘99, Lynn Grzywacz Webb ‘99, Leahn Agnew-Karcheski ‘99, Steph Rickards Corrigan ‘99, and Gina Sebastianelli ‘99. Coach Mary Beth Spirk introduced Jessie with an elegant speech recounting her days as a Lady Greyhound. Jessie, in her acceptance speech, thanked her teammates, coaches, and family for their unwavering support. It was a great night for Jessie to be honored for all she did while at Moravian. Welcome to the Hall of Fame, the entire Lady Greyhound family is very proud of you!!

Jessie Coughlin Milner ‘99: Hall of Fame November 4, 2011

Coach Spirk

Coach Spirk with members of the Class of ’99 including newest Hall of Famer, Jessie Coughlin Milner (3rd from left).
In May 2011 the Lady Greyhounds made their third European trip since 2005, this time tackling three countries in 10 days. The trip began in the old Eastern Bloc city of Prague. The Old City was beautiful with the Charles Bridge spanning the Vltava River and the Hradčany castle, which is the largest ancient castle in the world. Our game against the U19 Czech National Team was a tough one, with their superior size and athleticism, but it was a good test for our young team. Moving on to Vienna, Austria we found ourselves lodging right next to The Prater, an amusement park like no other, also the birthplace of the waltz. We all rode the Riesenrad, a ferris wheel built in 1897. We also toured Schönbrunn Palace, home of the Hapsburgs, and its beautiful rose garden. Our game against the Austrian team was much better as we won by 30 points. The team was very friendly and most of the players spoke English. We shared a meal of goulash with them at a local restaurant. Our final stop took us to Munich, Germany. While traveling to the Bavarian capital, we passed by the magnificent Alps. Our tour of this fine city included Schloss Nymphenburg, Marienplatz, the Glockenspiel, and dinner with entertainment at the Hofbräuhaus. Our final game in Europe against the German team was a good one as we won a close game.

I know many of you followed our blog about our daily adventures while on our trip. In case you missed it you can still check out the stories of our coaches and players by clicking on this link [http://moravianeurope.blogspot.com/]. Also to see video journals created by assistant Coach Sara Steinman go to [http://www.youtube.com] and search “Moravian College Women’s Basketball European Tour.”

‘Hounds Around Town

During the fall semester, the women’s basketball team and coaches could be found all across the Lehigh Valley participating in community events. In September they were in Easton, participating in the American Heart Association Heart Walk. Also in September the coaches took part in the Lehigh Valley Health Network Marathon for Via each running a leg in the relay. On October 15th, the first day of practice, they joined 5,000 other women in Allentown to run in the Women’s 5K Classic for breast cancer research. In early November several members of the team stopped in at William Penn Elementary school to help kick off their reading challenge. The principal challenged the students to read over 7,500 books before the end of the school year. Our players, read to the children in their classrooms and handed out a book to each student to keep. On December 14th the team will visit the pediatric cancer ward at Muhlenberg Hospital bringing a little happiness for a few hours. In January, the team will travel to Thomas Jefferson Elementary to help distribute books to the students with help from the Cops ‘n Kids program.

Alumni Game-Breast Cancer Awareness Day-Dinner at Roosevelts: Feb. 4th 2012

Attention all alumni, parents, fans, and friends of Lady Greyhound Basketball. This year our annual alumni game will once again coincide with our pink out game raising money and awareness for breast cancer. The event is now called Play4Kay, after former North Carolina State head coach Kay Yow whose brave battle with breast cancer ended in 2009 after more than twenty years. For the past two seasons, the Moravian Women’s Basketball team, with your help, has raised the most money among Division III schools. We aim to continue that streak and have set an ambitious goal of $10,000 for this year’s drive. The date of the event will be February 4th, alumni game set for 12noon and varsity game against Juniata College at 2pm. In recognition of Coach Spirk’s 25th season, we would like to honor her very first team at Moravian, the 1987-88 MAC Southeast Champions. Following the game we will be hosting a gathering for anybody who wishes to attend at Roosevelt’s 21 from 4pm-8pm. The ticket cost is $40 which will include dinner and drinks. All proceeds will benefit the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. More information will be available in the coming months. Please mark your calendar now. Email us at womensbasketball@moravian.edu if you are interested in attending.