



ARCADIA UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER - 2006

GAME NOTES: The Knights couldn't have scripted a better ending to their curtain call season as exiting members of the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. Not only did the program begin a new era under first year head coach Derrick Ayers, their undefeated regular season conference record earned the team home field advantage for playoffs as the #1 seed and eventually their fourth conference title with Saturday's thrilling 1-0 victory over #2 Alvernia College (10-5-4).

In a game that appeared to be headed into familiar territory for the Knights, overtime, senior Geoff Buckingham's heroics with only 46 seconds remaining in regulation, dashed Alvernia's hope for a sudden death period.

The game featured MVP like performances from both goaltenders that kept the game scoreless until Arcadia was awarded a throw-in in the last minute of play.

Matt Abate (SR, M, Cherokee/Marlton, NJ) stood at the right corner sideline and served a high ball into **Andrew Plunkett (JR, B, Brick Memorial/Brick, NJ)**. Plunkett's height allowed him to rise above his defender and head the pass off to **Geoff Buckingham (SR, M, Sterling/Stratford, NJ)** who was waiting just around the 18. With the Alvernia defense swarming him, Buckingham spun a chip shot on goal that bounced past Crusader keeper **Richard Kessler (SO, GK, Reading/Reading, PA)** sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Following a pile-high celebration on the field, the Knights responded defensively as Alvernia was stopped from advancing the ball into scoring position in hope for a tie in the game's final play.

It was the second time in two games where Abate and Plunkett would find themselves tied to the game-winning play. In semifinal action against #4 Wesley College on Wednesday, Abate played a high service into **Plunkett** who nailed the header down into the short corner past Wesley keeper Ed Hunt for the go-ahead goal. The score stood as the game-winner sending the Knights to the championship game with their 2-1 win.

Abate, last week's *PAC Player of the Week*, scored the other AU goal on Wednesday with a penalty kick. The senior stepped up for the shot and sailed the ball to left goalside, brushing the fingertips of Hunt and into the net giving the Knights the 1-0 lead. **Jeff Kratochwill (FR, GK, Upper Perkiomen/Pennsburg, PA)** was flawless in goal in both games, holding his opponents to just one goal in 180:00 minutes in net.

The team was selected to participate in the 2006 Division III NCAA Championship, the NCAA announced Sunday evening. The Knights received word Monday that they will face the Diplomats of Franklin & Marshall (of the Centennial Conference) on Friday, November 10 at 7:30 pm at Messiah College. Arcadia (11-3-5) received an automatic bid by winning the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference title, while Franklin & Marshall (13-3-3) received one of 17 Pool C or at-large bids

Of Note: Abate moved into a tie for the lead with career assists (28); Geoff Buckingham was awarded PAC Tournament MVP for his game winning goal in the title game; Jeff Kratochwill earned his 8th shutout of the season with Saturday's victory over Alvernia. Team – 5 game win streak

LEADING SCORERS

	Points (PAC ranking)	Points/Game	Assists (PAC Ranking)
Matt Abate	25 (4 th)	1.32	11 (1 st)
Matt Benner	23 (5 th)	1.21	7 (4 th)
Zach Askin	19 (8 th)	1.12	7 (4 th)

GOALTENDING

	GA	GAA (PAC ranking)/ Minutes	Save % (PAC ranking)	Shutouts (PAC ranking)
Jeff Kratochwill	18	0.89 (4 th) / 1830	0.833 (4 th)	8 (1 st)

KEY PLAYERS

	Points	Game Winners
Chris Brunetti	9	0
Mike Filipone	9	2
Geoff Buckingham	9	2 (Including PAC Championship game; PAC Tournament MVP)
Andrew Plunkett	14	2
Stephan Szygiel	16	2

2006 PAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK / WEEKLY HONOR ROLL

Matt Abate - POW
Chris Brunetti - POW
Zach Askin- POW
Matt Benner – Weekly Honor Roll

2006 ALL PAC PERFORMERS

First Team (4)

Zach Askin – Forward
*Matt Abate / *Matt Benner – Midfielders
Andrew Plunkett – Back

Second Team (4)

Mike Filipone – Forward
*Aaron Foss – Midfielder
Geoff Buckingham – Back
Jeff Kratochwill _ Goalkeeper

Honorable Mention (1)

Chris Brunetti

Push the Rock Sportsmanship Team (1)

Mike Filipone

* repeat selection

PENNSYLVANIA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Champions: 2006, 2004, 2002, 2001
Runner Up: 2005, 2003, 2000

NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

2001 – Sweet 16
2002 – Elite 8 *Finished 7th in nation in final Division III rankings
2004 – 2nd Round

ARCADIA UNIVERSITY QUICK FACTS

Head Coach: Derrick Ayers
Seasons at Arcadia: 1
Career Overall Record: 11-3-5
Career PAC Record: 7-0-2
2005 Overall Record: 13-4-3
2005 PAC Record: 8-1

Location: Glenside, PA
Enrollment: 3,600
Founded: 1853
President: Jerry M. Greiner
Director of Athletics: Shirley Liddle
Associate Director: Stan Exeter
Sports Info Director: Joy Zazzera
Sports Info Phone: 215-572-4048
Website: www.arcadia.edu/athletics
Head Trainer: Dene McKee

Affiliations: NCAA, Division III;
Pennsylvania Athletic
Nickname: Knights
Colors: Cardinal & Black