The women’s soccer team finished the season with their best record, 9-8-1, since 2000 and qualified for the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) tournament for the first time since 2000 under fourth-year head coach Joe Brady. Katie Brothers ’02 (2nd year), Kiley Maguire ’04 (1st year) and Diana Robinson ’04 (1st year) all served as assistants. The 2004 season campaign started for the Cougars on the newly renovated natural grass Granger Field with a 3-1 win over Anna Maria College. Ranked among the top ten teams in New England for three consecutive weeks, the Cougars recorded some exciting wins during the year. Clark defeated competitive Western Connecticut State University, 2-1, and cross-town rival and NCAA tournament participant, Worcester State, 3-0.

The Cougars reached the NEWMAC Tournament semifinals and tied the number three seed Smith College 0-0, failing to advance after losing in penalty kicks 4-3. After a number of good chances during regulation barely missed the net for both teams, first-year forward Liz Adamcik came within inches of a game-winning goal, with a shot to the upper right corner of the net, but Smith’s goalkeeper tapped the shot away as the final horn sounded. Both teams had strong scoring opportunities in the first overtime period as first-year defender Jen Dineen had a chance for the golden goal, as the shot ricocheted off of the crossbar. The game continued into a second overtime and eventually ended with penalty kicks.

Adamcik (see related story), senior captain Jen Scavone and sophomore Amy Wilson were strong forwards for the Cougars. Scavone tallied two goals and recorded two assists including the game-winner in Clark’s 1-0 win over WPI in the NEWMAC quarterfinals. Wilson, who played in 14 games while missing the final four games due to an injury, added a goal and an assist.

Sophomore Lindsey Sylvester, juniors Jess Blatt and Lea Kixmiller, sophomore Rebecca Mayer and first-years Amanda Ramos and Sabrina Fanger anchored the midfield. Sylvester, Blatt and Kixmiller started in all 18 games. Sylvester recorded one assist, Blatt had a goal and four assists for six points and Kixmiller added three goals and three assists for nine points. Ramos, who played in all 18 games, started in 15 and scored two goals. Mayer and Fanger played in 15 games and were major contributors in their rookie seasons.

Junior goalkeeper Rebecca Dezan had an excellent year in net, compiling a 1.10 goals against average in 17 games. She recorded 112 saves and had six shutouts. Senior captain Candace Reddy, sophomore Missy Ambrose, senior Ashley Fortune, sophomore Stephanie Holmes and first-years Deena Zakim and Dineen were all major contributors to the solid defense.

“I am very pleased with the progress of the program and very proud of this year’s team,” commented Brady. “The seniors and the entire team have worked extremely hard to rebuild the women’s soccer program. The first-year players made an immediate impact and gained some valuable experience. I am very excited about the future as we return nine starters next year.”