



Softball

MEET The Team

Compiled by Lindsey Manroel

Schedule

Exhibitions

- 01/24 Phoenix College
- 01/25 Alumni Game

Louisville Slugger Tournament Tampa, FL

- *01/31 Sam Houston St.
- *01/31 Florida Atlantic
- *02/01 Auburn
- *02/01 South Florida
- *02/02 Northwestern

Fiesta Bowl Tournament Phoenix

- *02/07 Fiesta Bowl Tournament
- *02/08 Fiesta Bowl Tournament
- *02/09 Fiesta Bowl Tournament

Pepsi Arizona Softball Classic

- 02/14 Minnesota
- 02/14 Northwestern
- 02/15 Florida International
- 02/15 Arkansas
- 02/16 Washington

Worth Wildcat Invitational

- 02/21 Drake
- 02/21 Oklahoma St.
- 02/22 Virginia
- 02/22 Western Mich.
- 02/23 New Mexico

Hillenbrand Invitational

- 02/28 Northern Iowa
- 02/28 San Diego St.
- 03/01 New Mexico St.
- 03/01 Northern Iowa
- 03/02 San Diego St.

Kia Klassic Fullerton, Calif

- *03/13 Florida St.
- *03/13 Louisiana-Lafayette
- *03/14 Long Beach St.

Exhibition

- *03/21 Canadian National

Regular season

- 03/22 Cal Fullerton (DH)
- 03/28 Oregon St.
- 03/29 Oregon
- 03/30 Oregon
- *04/04 @Washington
- *04/05 @UCLA
- *04/06 @UCLA
- 04/11 Stanford
- 04/12 California
- 04/13 California
- 04/18 Arizona St.
- 04/19 Arizona St.
- *04/23 @Arizona St.
- *04/25 @Oregon
- *04/26 @Oregon St.
- *04/27 @Oregon St.
- *05/02 @California
- *05/03 @Stanford
- *05/04 @Stanford
- 05/09 UCLA
- 05/10 Washington (DH)

*Away Game

Lineup



OF Candace Abrams, So.

A redshirt sophomore who started in right field. Abrams started 21 games last season, while accumulating a .293 batting average with two home runs.



OF Courtney Fossati, So.

Batted .342 last season, mostly in the No. 2 spot. The lefty started in 48 games and was flawless in the field.



OF Autumn Champion, Fr.

A speedy leadoff hitting freshman from Tustin, Calif. was a four-time Orange County All-District first-team member and two-time All-American.



OF Crystal Farley, So.

Started 60 games last season and batted .255 in Pac-10 play. At 5 feet 9 inches tall, Farley will provide speed to the Arizona lineup.



1B/P Wendy Allen, Jr.

A transfer from Ohio State was the 2002 Big Ten Player of the Year and a second-team All-American before coming to Arizona.



2B Lisha Ribella, Sr.

A senior known for her stellar defensive play, earning a .956 fielding percentage last season while leading UA with five double plays. Batted .224 last season.



3B Jackie Coburn, So.

Earned Women's College World Series All-Tournament Honors, following a freshman season that saw 14 home runs and 49 RBIs.



SS Lovieanne Jung, Sr.

One of two seniors to start all 67 games. Led the Wildcats in: batting average (.364), runs (64), hits (75), extra-base hits (31) and walks (44). All-Pac-10 and Pac-10 Newcomer of the Year.



P Alicia Hollowell, Fr.

The reigning 2002 Gatorade national high school softball Player of the Year and a two-time All-America honoree.



C Mackenzie Vandergeest, Jr.

She holds the UA record with 577 put-outs. Vandergeest earned All-Pac-10 honors while hitting 12 home runs and three grand slams.

Coaching Staff



Head Coach Mike Candrea

Candrea has guided Arizona to six national titles and six Pac-10 championships since 1991. In 16 seasons, Candrea has an impressive 871-172 overall record and a .835 winning percentage.



Assistant Coach Nancy Evans

Will start her second season as an assistant coach. A 1998 UA graduate with a degree in psychology, Evans took home the 1998 Honda Softball National Player of the Year Award to go along with three national championships.



Assistant Coach Larry Ray

Coached for five years for the University of Florida from 1996-2000, accumulating a 169-106 record, including two NCAA tournament berths.

Fresh faces on the mound

Exhibition games will be preseason test for freshmen

By Lindsey Manroel
STAFF WRITER

The infielders are the same. And the outfielders haven't changed.

So what's different about the UA softball team in comparison to last season's runner-up in the 2002 College World Series Championship game?

It's their experience on the mound. "Last year we were young, but not young on the mound. That's the biggest difference," UA head coach Mike Candrea said. "This team is going to have to do the little things and we're going to have to put runs on the board early on. We have to do it all."

Four freshmen will wear the Wildcat uniform for the first time.

Among the recruits are three pitchers: Alicia Hollowell from Fairfield, Calif. and Leslie Wolfe and Michelle Schultz — who will also play first and third base —



FILE PHOTO/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Junior catcher Mackenzie Vandergeest and the Arizona softball team return to Hillenbrand Stadium this season, looking to make a run at a third straight national title game appearance.

from Phoenix.

In the outfield, the Wildcats have freshman recruit Autumn Champion from Tustin, Calif.

Champion will lead off UA's offense, and carries the speed for the Wildcats.