**Schedule**

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

**Louisville Slugger Tournament**
- Tampa, FL
- 03/01 San Houston St.
- 03/02 Florida Atlantic
- 03/01 Auburn
- 03/01 South Florida
- 03/02 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
- 02/14 Washington

**Worth Wildcat Invitational**
- 02/14 Drake
- 02/21 Oklahoma St.
- 02/22 Virginia
- 02/22 Western Mich.
- 02/23 New Mexico

**Hillenbrand Invitational**
- 02/28 Northern Iowa
- 03/01 New Mexico State
- 03/01 Northern Iowa
- 03/02 San Diego State

**Kia Classic Fullerton, Calif.**
- 03/13 Florida St.
- 03/13 Louisiana-Lafayette
- 03/14 Long Beach St.

**Exhibition**
- 03/23 Canadian National

**Regular season**
- 03/22 Cal Fullerton (DH)
- 03/22 Oregon St.
- 03/29 Oregon
- 03/30 Oregon
- 03/04 @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 @Oklahoma St.
- 05/02 @California
- 05/03 @Stanford
- 05/07 @Stanford
- 05/09 UCLA
- 05/10 Washington (DH)

*Away Game

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**Lineup**

- **OF Candace Abrams, Sr.**
  A senior known for her defensive play, earning a .956 fielding percentage last season while leading UA with five double plays. Batted .224 last season.

- **OF Courtney Fossani, Sr.**
  Battled 342 last season, mostly in the No. 2 spot. The lefty started in 48 games and was flawless in the field.

- **OF Autumn Champion, Jr.**
  A speedy leadoff hitting freshman from Tusain, Calif. was a four-time Orange County All-District first-team member and two-time All-American.

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

- **OF 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.

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**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 571-172 record and a .871 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**
Coach for five years for the University of Hawaii from 1996-2001, accumulating a 169-103 record, including two NCAA tournament berths.

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**The Team**

**Lineup**

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**Exhibition games will be preseason test for freshmen**

By Lindsey Manroel

The infielders are the same. And the outfields 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 —

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 .255 with two home runs and three grand slams.

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**Fresh faces on the mound**

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.

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

See SOFTBALL/19