2002

2001-2002 AASU Athletics Year in Review

Armstrong State University

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Verizon Academic All-District III Volleyball
Shelley Weekes (Second Team)

Daktronics All-South Region Honors
Sarah Haynes (Second Team)

Other Tournament Honors
AASU/Chatham Orthopaedics All-Tournament

Sarah Haynes
Sofie Hakansson
Erin Melius

Texas Woman’s Labor Day Classic All-Tournament
Erin Melius

Catawba adidas Invitational All-Tournament
Sarah Haynes (MVP)

Individual Leaders
Hitting Percentage
Sofie Hakansson, .294 (6th PBC)
Sarah Haynes, .279 (9th PBC)

Kills per game
Sofie Hakansson, 3.17 (7th PBC)
Sarah Haynes, 3.10 (9th PBC)

Service Aces per game
Sofie Hakansson, .64 (4th PBC, 26th NCAA DII)

Blocks per game
Sarah Haynes, 1.02 (4th PBC)

Assists per game
Erin Melius, 11.27 (3rd PBC)

Digs per game
Sofie Hakansson, 3.27 (4th PBC)

Team Statistics
Hitting Percentage
.228 (3rd PBC)

Kills per game
14.73 (3rd PBC)

Service Aces per game
2.72 (1st PBC, 22nd NCAA DII)

Blocks per game
2.31 (3rd PBC)

Assists per game
13.20 (3rd PBC)

Digs per game
16.98 (2nd PBC)

The Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball squad made its second trip to the NCAA Championships in as many seasons, advancing to the semifinals of the 2001 South Regional in Tampa, Fla., defeating USC Spartanburg in the first round but falling to the host Tampa Spartans.

Building on the momentum generated by the 2000 season, the Pirates continue to make history under head coach Alan Segal. AASU duplicated its 2000 record in 2001, going 29-10. AASU finished the regular season tied for second in the PBC, but advanced to the PBC Tournament championship match for the third straight season.

Several AASU players made their mark on the Pirate record books in 2001. Junior setter Erin Melius became the Pirates’ all-time assist leader, notching her 2,583rd career assist in the first weekend of action. Melius has 3,874 assists in three seasons with the Pirates. Junior outside hitter Sarah Haynes recorded her 1,000th career kill in the NCAA South Regional against USC Spartanburg and ranks second all-time in AASU history with 1,015 kills. Haynes will enter her senior season needing just 72 kills to become AASU’s all-time kill leader. Junior Sofie Hakansson set single-season records in 2001 in digs (428) and service aces (84).

Melius, Haynes and Hakansson all earned All-PBC and AVCA All-South Region honors in 2001, while junior Shelley Weekes was named to the Verizon Academic All-District III team. The Pirates return all 11 players from last season’s squad for 2002.
Burkhamer Named AASU Head Coach

SAVANNAH, Ga. (June 10) – Jeff Burkhamer, former associate head coach at Marshall University, has accepted the head men's basketball coaching position at Armstrong Atlantic State University, announced today by AASU Athletic Director Dr. Eddie Aenchbacher.

Burkhamer, 40, becomes the ninth head coach of AASU men's basketball since the school moved to four-year status in 1966-67 and follows the departure of John Marhefka, who left the Pirates to take the head coaching position at Slippery Rock.

A native of Williamstown, West Virginia, Burkhamer had been at Marshall University for four seasons under head coach Greg White, first as an assistant coach and then, in 2001-2002, as associate head coach. While at Marshall, Burkhamer helped the Thundering Herd to a 70-44 record in four seasons in Mid-American Conference play.

Prior to joining Marshall, Burkhamer served as the head coach at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla., leading the Saints to two Mid-Florida Conference titles. He earned National Junior College Coach of the Year honors by College Sport Magazine in 1995-96 as the Saints set a school record with a 28 wins and also won 21 straight games to begin the season, finishing the year with a 28-4 record. In four seasons, the Saints went 97-31 under coach Burkhamer.

"We are very fortunate to find a new head coach with such a successful background in Jeff Burkhamer to join us at Armstrong Atlantic State University," Dr. Aenchbacher said. "His record speaks for itself at all levels of basketball - college and professional - and we're extremely excited to be able to harness his talents to lead the Pirates in 2002-2003."

Ashley Dearing Cup Winner
Mick Jordan (Also 2000-2001 winner)
Women’s Basketball

Final PBC Standings

NORTH DIVISION

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SOUTH DIVISION

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PBC All-Conference Honors
Zandrique Cason (Second Team)

PBC All-Tournament Honors
Zandrique Cason

PBC Player of the Week
Zandrique Cason (Jan. 14, 2002)

Tournament Honors
AASU/Chatham Orthopaedics All-Tournament
Shaletra Hodge

2002 AASU President’s Cup Winner
Lexie Martin

The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s basketball squad endured its third straight season below .500 in 2001-2002, but ended the season on a historic run at the Peach Belt Conference Tournament, becoming the first No. 6 seed to win two games in the league’s postseason tournament and advance to the PBC Tournament semifinals.

AASU entered the tournament as the No. 6 seed from the South Division, but knocked off the No. 2 seed from the North Division, UNC Pembroke, 82-73 and then beat the top-seeded team from the South, Kennesaw State, for the second time in a week, 62-57, to earn a berth in the semifinals.

The Lady Pirates played hard, but lost to the eventual PBC Tournament champion GC&SU Lady Bobcats, 72-64.

Junior Zandrique Cason averaged a double-double (15.4 ppg, 10.6 rpg) for the second consecutive season - only the second player in AASU history to accomplish the feat - and led the PBC in rebounding for the second straight year as well. Cason earned All-PBC and All-PBC Tournament honors, becoming the first AASU women’s basketball player to earn back-to-back All-PBC honors since Yolanda Oliver in 1992-93 and 1993-94.

Senior Lexie Martin capped a great four-year career for the Lady Pirates in 2001-2002, scoring her 1,000th point at Kennesaw State on Feb. 2 and finished her playing days at AASU as the Lady Pirates’ all-time free throw shooter and fourth all-time leading scorer with 1,119 points. Martin was also the AASU President’s Cup award winner in 2001-2002, given to the top male and female student-athlete at Armstrong Atlantic State.

Individual Leaders

Scoring
Zandrique Cason, 15.4 (7th PBC)

Rebounding
Zandrique Cason, 10.6 (1st PBC, 21st NCAA)
Shaletra Hodge, 5.7 (18th PBC)

Assists
Marloes Renskers, 3.38 (13th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage
Lexie Martin, .767 (7th PBC)

Steals
Lexie Martin, 2.19 (8th PBC)

3-Point FG Percentage
Lexie Martin, .308 (13th PBC)
Kristin Brewer, .307 (14th PBC)

Blocked Shots
Zandrique Cason, 1.07 (8th PBC)
Rachel Baker, 1.04 (10th PBC)

Assist/TO Ratio
Marloes Renskers, 1.13 (13th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds
Zandrique Cason, 3.34 (7th PBC)
Lori Green, 2.54 (12th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds
Zandrique Cason, 7.28 (1st PBC)

Team Statistics

Scoring Offense
61.9 ppg (11th PBC)

Scoring Defense
64.7 ppg (5th PBC)

Scoring Margin
-2.8 (10th PBC)

Field Goal %
.400 (9th PBC)

Free Throw %
.634 (11th PBC)

FG % Defense
.288 (10th PBC)

3-Point FG %
.288 (11th PBC)

3-Point FG % Defense
.311 (7th PBC)

Rebounding Offense
41.4 rpg (4th PBC)

Rebounding Defense
37.0 rpg (5th PBC)

Rebounding Margin
+4.4 (4th PBC, 46th NCAA)

Blocked Shots
3.07 bpg (6th PBC)

Assists
12.79 apg (12th PBC)

Steals
8.90 spg (11th PBC)

Turnover Margin
-4.17 (12th PBC)

Assist/TO Ratio
0.58 (11th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds
14.14 (8th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds
27.28 (3rd PBC)

3-Point FG Made
4.14 (8th PBC)
The Pirate baseball squad climbed as high as No. 3 in the nation in 2002 before finishing with a 34-21 record, the 23rd consecutive winning season for head coach Joe Roberts and the AASU baseball squad.

The hot start by the Pirates included taking two of three games from Division I competition at the 2002 Memorial Health Diamond Classic. AASU defeated the University of Connecticut, 9-8, in 10 innings on a solo home run by senior catcher David Harriman. The Pirates then knocked off their in-state rivals, the University of Georgia, 7-6 in 11 innings in front of the largest crowd (3,115) to ever witness a baseball game featuring an NCAA Division II squad.

Harriman put together a spectacular season for the Pirates in 2002, earning first-team ABCA DII All-America and second-team Verizon Academic All-America honors. Harriman compiled a 41-game hitting streak to begin the season, the longest single-season hitting streak in NCAA DII history.

Junior righthander Mike Roga put together a fine season as well, highlighted by a 1-0 no-hitter of Northwest Missouri State on March 5 that earned the ace Louisville Slugger National and SLAM! Sports Canadian Player of the Week honors.

Senior Kirk Nordness earned All-Conference and All-Region honors as well and finished his career with a .373 average, the fifth-best career average in AASU history.

### Individual Statistical Leaders

- **Batting Average**
  - David Harriman, .412 (3rd PBC, 61st NCAA)
  - Kirk Nordness, .374 (8th PBC)
  - Mike Roga, .355 (9th PBC)

- **Slugging Percentage**
  - David Harriman, .671 (5th PBC)
  - Kirk Nordness, .626 (9th PBC)

- **On Base Percentage**
  - David Harriman, .455 (5th PBC)
  - Kirk Nordness, .450 (7th PBC)
  - Mike Roga, .405 (10th PBC)
  - Brian Allen, .396 (12th PBC)

- **Total Bases**
  - David Harriman, 153 (4th PBC)
  - Kirk Nordness, 129 (10th PBC)

- **Wins**
  - Mike Roga, 10 (4th PBC, 22nd NCAA)
  - David Harriman, 9 (1st PBC)

- **Saves**
  - Zach Shelnut, 6 (3rd PBC, 13rd NCAA)
  - Jason Olson, 3 (8th PBC)

- **Strikeouts**
  - Mike Roga, 6 (1st PBC, 32nd NCAA)
  - David Harriman, 15.2 (34th NCAA)

- **Fielding Average**
  - David Harriman, .312 (3rd PBC, 17th NCAA)
  - Kirk Nordness, .306 (4th PBC)
  - Mike Roga, .291 (5th PBC)

- **Scoring**
  - Brian Allen, 3.35 (10th PBC)
  - Mike Roga, 3.00 (7th PBC, 63rd NCAA)

- **Opponent’s BA**
  - Mike Roga, .234 (5th PBC)

- **Home Runs**
  - David Harriman, 14 (5th PBC)

- **Toughest To Strike Out**
  - David Harriman, 15.2 (34th NCAA)

- **Stolen Bases**
  - Brian Allen, 52, 0.93 (5th PBC, 43rd NCAA)

- **Doubles**
  - Brian Allen, 56-81, 1.00 (20th PBC, 20th NCAA)

## Final PBC Standings

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<td>USC Spartanburg</td>
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<td>21-34</td>
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</table>

### AASU PBC All-Conference

- David Harriman (Catcher)
- Kirk Nordness (Outfield)
- Mike Roga (Pitcher)

### PBC Player of the Week

- Stacy Bennett (Feb. 18, 2002)
- David Harriman (March 5, 2002)

### PBC Pitcher of the Week

- Brian Allen (Feb. 18, 2002)
- Mike Roga (March 11, 2002)

### ABCA South Atlantic All–Region

- David Harriman (First Team - Catcher)
- Kirk Nordness (First Team - Outfield)
- Mike Roga (First Team - Pitcher)

### ABCA DII All–America

- David Harriman (First Team - Catcher)
- Kirk Nordness (First Team - Outfield)
- Mike Roga (First Team - Pitcher)

### Akadema Small College All–America

- David Harriman (First Team - Catcher)

### 2002 AASU President’s Cup Winner

- Matt Easterwood

### SLAM! Canadian Player of the Week

- David Harriman (February 8, 2002)
- Mike Roga (March 11, 2002)

### Louisville Slugger National POTW

- Mike Roga (March 11, 2002)

### 2002 AASU Draftees/FA Signees

- Mike Roga (Round 12 - Toronto Blue Jays)
- Kirk Nordness (Round 12 - Oakland A’s)
- David Harriman (Round 17 - Oakland A’s)
- Brian Allen (Free Agent - Tampa Devil Rays)

### 2002 AASU Athletics Year In Review
The 2002 AASU softball squad compiled a 40-7 record and returned to the NCAA Championships for the second time in the program’s brief five-year history, advancing to the 2002 South Atlantic Regional semifinals.

Led by two-time NFCA Division II All-America pitcher Annie Sells and NFCA DII All-America left fielder Stacey Richardson, the Pirates began the year 17-1 and ascended to No. 2 in the nation. AASU finished second in the Peach Belt Conference and was runner-up in the 2002 Peach Belt Conference Tournament, winning two games on the final day to reach the championship game.

Sells put together a fantastic season to close out her stellar four-year career at AASU. Twice she earned NFCA Division II Player of the Week honors in 2002 and was named the PBC Player of the Year for the second time in her career. The Chattanooga, Tenn., native finished her career holding 12 PBC pitching records and ranks all-time in NCAA DII history in home runs, strikeouts per seven innings, shutouts and wins.

Richardson led a trio of transfers from the University of Georgia who infused instant offense into the Pirate attack. The sophomore set school records in home runs (16) – leading the nation – and RBI (56) in 2002 and, along with shortstop Lindsay Phillips and All-PBC Tournament catcher Diana Corwin, helped the Pirates finish the year ranked No. 16 in the nation.

### Individual Statistical Leaders

#### Batting Average
- Annie Sells, .418 (3rd PBC, 45th NCAA)
- Stacey Richardson, .394 (6th PBC)

#### Slugging Percentage
- Stacey Richardson, .864 (2nd PBC, 5th NCAA)
- Annie Sells, .788 (3rd PBC, 11th NCAA)

#### On-Base Percentage
- Stacey Richardson, .460 (t6th PBC)

#### Home Runs
- Stacey Richardson, 0.34/gm (1st PBC, 1st NCAA)
- Annie Sells, 0.28/gm (2nd PBC, 5th NCAA)

#### Doubles
- Annie Sells, 0.32/gm (5th PBC, 30th NCAA)

#### Runs Batted In
- Stacey Richardson, 1.19/gm (2nd PBC, 9th NCAA)
- Annie Sells, 0.98/gm (5th PBC, 30th NCAA)

#### Team Statistical Rankings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<td>Batting Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slugging Percentage</td>
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<td>ERA</td>
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<td>Fielding</td>
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<td>Scoring</td>
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<td>Home Runs</td>
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<td>Stolen Bases</td>
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<td>0.87 sb/gm (5th PBC)</td>
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<td>1.38 dbl/gm (7th PBC)</td>
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<td>Winning Percentage</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>851 (1st NCAA)</td>
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### Annie Sells’ PBC Records

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### Annie Sells’ NCAA Division II Rank

No. 16
The AASU men’s tennis team finished just one game over .500 at 13-12, but won several huge matches late in the season to keep alive their streak of consecutive NCAA Championships appearance, earning their eighth straight berth into the postseason.

The Pirates entered the Peach Belt Conference championships needing two wins to qualify for postseason and knocked off No. 18-ranked USC Spartanburg, 5-1, and No. 12-ranked Francis Marion, 5-4, to finish third at the conference tournament and earn a berth in the Mid-Atlantic regional. There, AASU knocked off No. 15-ranked Anderson College, 5-1, but lost to Lander, 5-1.

A duo of freshmen standouts helped the Pirates in their late-season charge to the postseason. Dale White and Achim Roth teamed up to go 13-6 at No. 1 doubles for AASU in the spring and earned ITA All-America honors, AASU’s first All-America doubles team since Stefan Wirtz and Christian Witt in 1999. White also excelled at No. 2 singles for the Pirates, compiling a 24-12 record and earning ITA South Region Rookie of the Year and PBC Freshman of the Year honors.

Roger Thiele completed his second season at AASU by earning a No. 21 ranking in singles and the team finished the year ranked No. 11 in the final Omni Hotels/ITA Division II national rankings.
## Individual Statistics

### Singles

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The Armstrong Atlantic State men’s golf team enjoyed a successful second season in 2001-2002, since returning to varsity play, including earning the school’s first NCAA DII Championships berth and sending an individual, freshman Nick Cowper, to the NCAA DII National Championships.

Head coach Michael Butler’s squad opened the fall season with several strong showings, including capturing the first tournament title - the Flagler College Invitational in November. In the spring, the Pirates continued to improve and peaked at the end, tying for second in the Peach Belt Conference Championships and finishing fourth at the NCAA DII Southeast Regional.

Again, the Pirates had a golfer at the top of the standings at the conference championship as David Roger finished in a three-way tie for the title, but lost medalist honors in a playoff.

The top individual performance for the Pirates would come two weeks later, however, at the North Shore Country Club in Sneads Ferry, N.C. Freshman Nick Cowper opened regional play by firing a course record 63, nine-under-par, and would lead wire-to-wire and capture the NCAA Southeast Region title with a 12-under-par 204 score, two strokes ahead of USC Aiken’s Lee Harper. The title insured Cowper an individual berth in the NCAA DII Championships, becoming only the second AASU golfer to qualify individually for the national championships - Tom Carlyle turned the trick in 1975. Cowper endured an up-and-down four rounds at Howey-in-the-Hills, just outside of Orlando, carding a 72-83-72-81=310 (+26) and tying for 52nd individually.

Another freshman, Ashley Loyd, put together a solid debut campaign for the Pirates, leading the team in stroke average (75.19) as the Pirates were honored by Golfstat as having the top freshman class in NCAA Division II. The team also finished the season ranked No. 11 by the Golf Coaches’ Association of America’s Top 25 coaches’ poll.
2001–2002 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Academics

AASU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2000-2001 academic year. 48% of all AASU student-athletes carried GPAs of 3.0 or better and the overall GPA of AASU student-athletes, as a group, was 2.84. 45 AASU student-athletes earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll honors and four student-athletes were named Verizon Academic All-District - volleyball player Shelley Weekes, baseball players David Harriman and Matt Easterwood and softball player Breon Michel. Harriman, became just the second AASU student-athlete to earn Academic All-America honors, being named to the second team.

Easterwood and women’s basketball standout Lexie Martin were the 2002 President’s Cup winners, given by the Savannah Exchange Club to the top male and female student-athlete of the year.

Commissioner’s Cup

AASU finished fourth in the 2002 Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup standings, which is the conference’s all-sports trophy. AASU received 52.5 points out of a possible 82, for a .640 percentage, ranking behind only North Florida, Kennesaw State and Clayton State. AASU was boosted in the standings by the women’s tennis team’s ninth Peach Belt Conference title and outright second-place finish by the Pirate softball squad and second-place ties by the men’s golf and volleyball teams.

2001–2002 Commissioner’s Cup Final Standings

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*Numbers in parentheses indicate maximum number of points that can be awarded for each sport. Ratings are determined by taking the maximum number of points available to each school, depending on how many sports each has, and dividing by the number of points won, based on conference finish through the regular season.