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Armstrong Atlantic State University

2003-2004 Athletics Year In Review

Seven Of Eight Teams Advance To NCAAs For Second Year 13 AASU Athletes Earn All-America Honors Women's Tennis Wins PBC, Finishes Third In NCAA Golf Finishes Eighth In NCAA Championships Debut Katya Eronina, Zsofi Golopencza and Thomas Whittaker Named Peach Belt Conference Players of the Year



Thomas Whittaker



Zsofi Golopencza



Katya Eronina

AASU's 2003-04 All-America Honors

Women's Division II Bulletin All-America Team Senior Tasha Washington NFCA DII All-America Team Senior Katya Eronina Senior Stacey Richardson Senior Kissy Stepanova Junior Stacey Oliver

CoSIDA Academic All-America Squad Baseball, College Division Senior Michael Pelley **PING/GCAA All-America Team** Senior Thomas Whittaker **Cleveland Golf All-America Scholar** Junior Ashley Loyd

ITA All-America Honors Women Senior Zsofi Golopencza Junior Laura Peaty Sophomore Luisa Cowper Freshman Dziyana Nazaruk Men Junior Achim Roth

2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Academics

PBC Presidential Honor Roll Honorees

Baseball

Kyle Craven Brian Dice Chad Grass Sean Hotzak Steven Kinney Brandon McKinnon Softball Michael Pelley Jonathan Troop

Basketball

Nick Bloemhof Scott Mattingly Justin Wood Sarah Brown Meghan Jones Aiste Slenyte

Ashley Loyd Amanda Kort Mandi Meador Kristina Nelson Stacy Oliver Lindsay Phillips Stacey Richardson Caroline Grage Valeria Silvestrini Kissy Stepanova

Golf

Tripp Coggins

Jonathan Cox

Chris Epperson

Tennis Jonas Askeland Peter Dedik Tim Offermann Taavo Roos Achim Roth Roger Thiele David Secker Dale White Alejandra Aguilar Manuela Emmrich Zsofi Golopencza

Kristen Kelly

Volleyball Lauren Good Cindy Haynes Gillian Johnson Traci Knuth Ashley Lavender Caitlin Smyth Shannon Tracey



AASU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2003-2004 academic year. 52% of all AASU student-athletes carried GPAs of 3.0 or better during the 2003-04 year and the overall GPA of AASU studentathletes, as a group, was 2.90.

Forty-six AASU student-athletes earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll honors and three student-athletes were named CoSIDA Academic All-District - softball players Kissy Stepanova and Stacy Oliver and baseball player Michael Pelley, who became AASU's third CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree as a first-team catcher. He joins Chris Milisits (1993) and David Harriman (2002) as AASU's only other Academic All-America honorees.

Two AASU student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages for the year - Oliver and women's tennis player Manuela Emmrich.

Pelley and Stepanova were the 2004 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 third in the 2004 Peach Belt Conference Commissioner's Cup standings, which is the conference's all-sports trophy. AASU received 59 points out of a possible 82, for a .720 percentage, ranking behind only North Florida and Kennesaw State. AASU was boosted in the standings by women's tennis capturing its 10th PBC title, a second-place finish for AASU softball and a second-place tie by the women's basketball team, as well as a third-place finish by men's golf.

200)3-2	200	4 C	om	mi	ssi	one	er's	5 C	up) F	in	al Sta	andi	ngs
	MXC	<u>WXC</u>	MSO	wso	VB	MBB	WBB	BB	SB	- MT	WT	GF	Maximum	<u>Total</u>	-
<u>School</u>	<u>(9)</u>	(11)	(7)	(7)	<u>(8)</u>	(12)	(12)	(11)	(11)	<u>(9)</u>	(11)	(8)	Possible*	Earned	<u>Rating</u>
UNF	6	11	4	6.5	8	5	10.5	11	9	9	7.5		108	87.5	.810
KSU	8	10		8		12	7	8	11		6	4	92	74	.804
AASU					6.5	8.5	10.5	1	10	5.5	11	6	82	59	.720
CSU	2	6				10	4	10	5	5.5	9.5	2	93	54	.581
GC&SU	1	7				2.5	8.5	6.5	7.5	4	9.5	5	93	51.5	.554
USCS	5	5	7	6.5	6.5	6	3	2	6	8	4		108	59	.546
CC&SU	7	9	4	2		8.5	1.5				7.5	1	77	40.5	.526
Lander		8	4	3	3.5	2.5	12	5	1.5	7			89	46.5	.522
FMU	4	4	2	4.5	2	11	6	6.5	7.5	1	2	8	116	58.5	.504
ASU		1			5	7	8.5	9	1.5	2.5	4		85	38.5	.453
USCA		3	1	1	3.5	4	5	3.5	4	2.5	4	7	108	38.5	.356
UNCP	3	2	6	4.5	1	1	1.5	3.5	3		1	3	107	29.5	.276

*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 (except golf and cross country).



AASU accumulated the most points ever in the 2003-04 United States Sports Academy/NACDA Division II Director's Cup all-sports competition. AASU sent seven of its eight intercollegiate varsity sports to NCAA Championships for the second straight year, collected 328.5 points in the standings, the third most points per sport among DII institutions.

AASU finished 34th in the aggregate standings, its best finish since 1998-99 (T22nd), but collected 41.1 points per sport, third-best behind only Director's Cup champion Grand Valley State (47.6) and Cal State Chico (44.1).

2003-04 USSA/NACDA Director's Cup Point Standings Points Per Sport Sponsored

School T	otal Points	Sports	PPS
GVSU	810	17	47.6
CS Chico	574	13	44.2
AASU	328.5	8	41.1
Western St.	431.75	11	39.3
KSU	430.5	11	39.2
Adams St.	444	12	37.0
Northern K	y. 472.5	13	36.3
ND State	498.5	14	35.6
ACU	438.5	13	33.7
Drury	432	13	33.2

2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Volleyball

Final PBC Standings

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PBC</u>	ALL
North Florida	14-0	31-4
USC Spartanburg	11-3	25-8
AASU	<i>11-3</i>	22-14
Augusta State	6-8	15-17
Lander	5-9	14-18
USC Aiken	5-9	13-21
Francis Marion	4-10	11-24
UNC Pembroke	0-14	6-30

PBC Championships (Aiken, S.C.) No. 3 AASU def. No. 6 USCA (30-19, 30-23, 26-30, 30-26) No. 3 AASU def. No. 2 USCS 3-1 (30-20, 30-20, 25-30, 31-29) No. 1 UNF def. No. 3 AASU 3-0 (30-12, 30-17, 30-21)

South Regional (Miami Shores, Fla.) No. 4 FSC def. No. 5 AASU 3-1 (31-33, 30-25, 30-16, 30-26)

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Traci Knuth Darcey Krug Candice Modlinski

All-PBC Tournament Honors Shannon Tracey

PBC Player of the Week Darcey Krug (Sept. 16, 2003) Christina Flores (Nov. 11, 2003)

AVCA South Region Honors Darcey Krug (Honorable Mention) Candice Modlinski (Honorable Mention)

AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year

Traci Knuth **Other Tournament Honors** <u>2003 Nebraska-Omaha Classic</u> Darcey Krug With a team consisting of no seniors, five juniors, two sophomores and seven freshman, the Pirates overcame a 1-5 start to finish with a 22-14 record and earn the program's fourth straight NCAA Championships appearance.

AASU finished tied for second in the Peach Belt Conference regular season standings, but knocked off USC Spartanburg in the PBC Tournament semifinals to not only reach the PBC Tournament final for the fifth straight year, but also wrap up an NCAA at-large berth. AASU has now made the NCAA Tournament each year since 2000, the third longest current streak among Pirate sports.

A big part of the Pirates' success in 2003 was the play of middle hitter and AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year Traci Knuth. Knuth hit .253 with 304 kills and 127 blocks, becoming the first freshman since Lindsay Ehlers in 1999 to earn All-PBC honors and becoming AASU's first-ever AVCA Region Freshman of the Year.

Juniors Candice Modlinski and Darcey Krug also turned in outstanding seasons, earning All-PBC and honorable mention AVCA All-Region honors as they, along with Knuth, helped the Pirates lead the league in blocks (2.96/gm) and rank 14th in NCAA DII. Modlinski led the team in hitting for the third straight year with a .264 percentage and also led the PBC in blocks with 1.26/gm, while Krug ranked second in the league in blocks (1.16/gm).

Freshman Christina Flores also had an oustanding debut season, leading the Pirates in digs and earning PBC Player of the Week honors on Nov. 11.

AASU will return eight players for the 2004 season, including all three All-PBC honorees, and over the summer the team will take a two-week jaunt to China to play against club teams that will help prepare the Pirates for the upcoming campaign.

Freshman Traci Knuth (below, middle) was the AVCA South Region Freshman of the Year in 2003. Junior Candice Modlinski (below, left) led the Peach Belt Conference in blocks per game and earned All-PBC and honorable mention AVCA All-South Region honors. Junior Darcey Krug (below, right) also earned All-PBC honors, honrable mention AVCA All-South Region honors and was the PBC's Player of the Week for Sept. 16, 2003.



Individual Leaders

<u>Hitting Percentage</u> Candice Modlinski, .264 (7th PBC) Traci Knuth, .253 (11th PBC)

<u>Kills per game</u> Candice Modlinski, 2.79 (14th PBC)

<u>Service Aces per game</u> Candice Modlinski, 0.45 (6th PBC)

Blocks per game Candice Modlinski, 1.26 (1st PBC) Darcey Krug, 1.16 (3rd PBC) Traci Knuth, 1.05 (5th PBC)

<u>Assists per game</u> Kelly Asbury, 9.55 (3rd PBC) Shannon Tracey, 9.50 (4th PBC)

Digs per game Christina Flores, 3.10 (11th PBC)

Team Statistics

Hitting Percentage .193 (4th PBC)

Kills per game 13.72 (3rd PBC)

Service Aces per game 1.77 (6th PBC)

Blocks per game 2.96 (1st PBC, 14th NCAA)

Assists per game 12.73 (3rd PBC)

Digs per game 16.64 (4th PBC)

2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Men's Basketball

Final PBC Standings NORTH DIVISION

<u>School</u>	<u>PBC</u>	<u>All</u>
Francis Marion	15-1	27-4
Augusta State	9-7	11-17
USC Spartanburg	7-9	14-14
USC Aiken	4-12	11-18
Lander	3-13	7-21
UNC Pembroke	2-14	3-25

SOUTH DIVISION

<u>School</u>	<u>PBC</u>	<u>All</u>
Kennesaw State	16-0	35-4
Columbus State	12-4	22-9
AASU	10-6	21-10
Clayton State	10-6	22-8
North Florida	5-11	13-15
GC&SU	3-13	7-22

PBC Championships (Augusta, Ga) AASU def. Lander 74-69 AASU def. #5 FMU 72-69 CSU def. AASU 89-49

South Atl. Regional (Kennesaw, Ga.) #5 FMU def. AASU 86-84

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors Brian Bain (First Team)

AASU PBC All-Tournament Daryl Williams

PBC Player of the Week Brian Bain (Nov. 24, 2003) Daryl Williams (Dec. 8, 2003)

Ashley Dearing Cup Winner Jason Sanders

Other Tournament Honors 2003 R.L. Vaughan Invitational Daryl Williams (MVP) Brian Bain

Individual Leaders

Scoring Brian Bain, 17.2 (4th PBC) Field Goal Percentage Tim Black, .524 (11th PBC) Assists Jason Sanders, 3.50 (9th PBC) Brian Bain, 3.48 (10th PBC) Free Throw Percentage Brian Bain, .706 (15th PBC) Steals Jason Sanders, 1.37 (t13th PBC) Blocked Shots Bryan Taylor, 0.97 (9th PBC)

Justin Wood (top left) played in 113 games in his AASU career, fourth-best as a Pirate. Brian Bain (above) earned first-team All-PBC honors, while Daryl Williams (above right) earned All-PBC Tournament honors.

3-Point FG Percentage Jason Sanders, .471 (1st PBC) Justin Wood, .390 (8th PBC) Assist/TO Ratio Jason Sanders, 1.50 (9th PBC) Brian Bain, 1.11 (11th PBC) Offensive Rebounds Bryan Taylor, 2.03 (15th PBC)

Team Statistics Scoring Offense 70.0 ppg (7th PBC) Scoring Defense 66.4 ppg (5th PBC, 42nd NCAA) Scoring Margin +3.6 (5th PBC) Field Goal % .478 (1st PBC, 41st NCAA)

.692 (3rd PBC) FG % Defense .421 (4th PBC) 3-Point FG % .390 (1st PBC, 38th NCAA) 3-Point FG % Defense Turnover Margin .345 (6th PBC) Rebounding Offense 34.1 rpg (7th PBC) Rebounding Margin +1.2 (4th PBC)

Free Throw %

Blocked Shots 2.97 bpg (6th PBC) Assists 13.61 apg (8th PBC) Steals 7.23 spg (10th PBC) -0.71 (7th PBC) Assist/Turnover Ratio 0.92 (6th PBC) 3-Point FG Made 5.58 (8th PBC)

The AASU men's basketball team returned to the NCAA Championships for the third time in the Peach Belt Conference era and the fifth time overall with a 21-10 record and a fourth place showing in the PBC standings. AASU capped the season with a thrilling up set of No. 5-ranked and North Division-champion Francis Marion in the PBC Quarterfinals, but came

An experienced squad, the Pirates were led by seven seniors in

Senior Brian Bain impressed many with his athletic play, earning

The most memorable senior moment, however, came from guard

As a team, the Pirates ranked nationally in field goal percentage

two points short of repeating the upset in the NCAA Regionals just a week later. 2003-04, including guard Justin Wood, who had his best season ever by shooting 39 percent from three-point range and finishing his AASU career ranked fourth all-time in games played (113) and ninth in threepoint field goals made (88). first-team All-PBC honors and averaging 17.2 points per game, fourthbest in the Peach Belt. Senior Daryl Williams averaged 21.8 points per game in his 19 contests and came back to earn All-PBC Tournament honors late in the season to help AASU's push to the tournament. Jason Sanders, who hit a fall-away three-point shot as time expired in the PBC Quarterfinals to beat FMU, 72-69. Sanders led the PBC in three-point field goal shooting (47.1%) as well. and three-point field goal percentage and AASU returns six players for 2004-05.



2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Women's Basketball

Final PBC Standings NORTH DIVISION

School	PBC	All
Lander	14-2	24-6
Augusta State	11-5	24-8
Francis Marion	7-9	14-13
USC Aiken	6-10	14-14
USC Spartanburg	4-12	9-18
UNC Pembroke	2-14	8-20

SOUTH DIVISION

<u>School</u>	PBC	<u>All</u>
AASU	12-4	23-8
North Florida	12-4	24-6
GC&SU	11-5	28-6
Kennesaw State	10-6	19-10
Columbus State	5-11	11-17
Clayton State	2-14	10-18

PBC Championships (Augusta, Ga) AASU def. FMU 63-52 Lander def. AASU 67-64

South Atl. Regional (Raleigh, NC) AASU def. UNF 75-68 ASU def. AASU 79-74

PBC All-Conference Honors Tasha Washington (First Team) Vandy Noldon (Second Team) Kaneetha Gordon (Freshman of the Year) **PBC All-Tournament Honors**

Tasha Washington

PBC Player of the Week Tasha Washington (Dec. 8, 2003; Feb. 9, 23 & 29, 2004) NCAA South Atlantic Region

All-Tournament Team

Tasha Washington

DII Bulletin All-America Honors Tasha Washington (Fourth Team) **WBCA All-South Atlantic Region**

Tasha Washington

Daktronics All-South Atl. Region

Tasha Washington (First Team) **Tournament Honors** <u>AASU/Chatham Orthopaedics All-Classic</u> Alicia Durham Marloes Renskers <u>2003 Barry Buccaneer Holiday Classic</u> Tasha Washington (MVP) Vandy Noldon

Individual Leaders

Scoring Tasha Washington, 21.4 (1st PBC, 6th NCAA) Vandy Noldon, 12.1 (16th PBC) <u>Rebounding</u> Kaneetha Gordon, 7.6 (7th PBC) Tasha Washington, 6.3 (20th PBC) <u>Assists</u> Tasha Washington, 3.50 (9th PBC) <u>Free Throw Percentage</u> Tasha Washington, .763 (11th PBC) Alicia Durham, .713 (15th PBC)

Steals Tasha Washington, 3.53 (1st PBC, 17th NCAA) Alicia Durham, 2.50 (7th PBC) <u>3-Point FG Percentage</u> Vandy Noldon, .355 (13th PBC) <u>3-Point FG Made</u> Vandy Noldon, 1.74 (9th PBC) Tasha Washington, 1.37 (14th PBC) <u>Blocked Shots</u> Vandy Noldon, 0.74 (10th PBC) Ramona Wright, 0.58 (14th PBC) <u>Assist/TO Ratio</u> Tasha Washington, 0.71 (12th PBC)

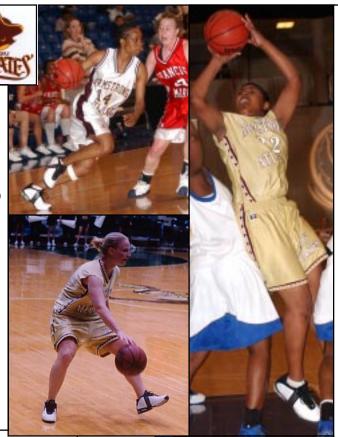
It would have been hard to top the season - individual and team - that the Lady Pirates experienced in 2002-03, but head coach Roger Hodge and the AASU women's basketball program did just that in 2003-04, winning the school's first-ever NCAA postseason game and riding the hot hand of senior guard Tasha Washington, who put in one of the best seasons ever for an AASU player.

Washington led the Peach Belt Conference in scoring, averaging 21.3 points per game, as well as steals, with 3.53 per game. She set a school record with 106 thefts and became the first AASU player to record 100+ steals and assists in the same season. In just two seasons with AASU, she scored her 1,000th career point and became AASU's second-ever All-America honoree in women's hoops.

AASU's drive to a second straight postseason berth didn't just depend on Washington. Senior Vandy Noldon earned second-team All-PBC honors as she continued to be one of the best three-point shooters in the league, averaging 12.1 points per game. Freshman Kaneetha Gordon averaged 7.7 points and 7.6 rebounds per game to be named the PBC Freshman of the Year, only the second AASU women's basketball player to earn that honor. Gordon and Washington also helped AASU lead the Peach Belt in rebounding in 2003-04, averaging 42.8 rebounds per game.

The Lady Pirates entered the NCAA Regional as the No. 5 seed, but exacted a little revenge as they defeated No. 4 seed defending region champion North Florida, 73-68. Even though the Lady Pirates fell to eventual region champion Augusta State in the semifinals, AASU proved it had taken the next step towards national prominence.

AASU will have a tough early test in 2004-05 as they travel to Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex to take part in the Disney's DII Women's Basketball Tip-Off Classic in November.



Tasha Washington (top left) became AASU's second ever All-America, leading the PBC in scoring (21.3 ppg). Vandy Noldon (top right) earned second-team All-PBC honors, while Marloes Renskers (above) played in an AASU-record 113 games in her four years as a Lady Pirate.

Offensive Rebounds Kaneetha Gordon, 2.61 (12th PBC) Alicia Durham, 2.57 (15th PBC) Defensive Rebounds Kaneetha Gordon, 5.03 (8th PBC)

Team Statistics Scoring Offense 69.6 ppg (5th PBC) Scoring Defense 64.0 ppg (3rd PBC) Scoring Margin +5.5 (5th PBC) Field Goal % .381 (10th PBC) Free Throw % .684 (8th PBC) FG % Defense .375 (3rd PBC) 3-Point FG % .298 (10th PBC) 3-Point FG % Defense .296 (5th PBC) Rebounding Offense 42.8 rpg (1st PBC) **Rebounding Defense** 43.4 rpg (12th PBC) Rebounding Margin -0.6 (9th PBC) Blocked Shots 2.74 bpg (8th PBC) Assists 14.03 apg (6th PBC) Steals 12.61 spg (3rd PBC) Turnover Margin +2.97 (3rd PBC) Assist/TO Ratio 0.65 (10th PBC) Offensive Rebounds 15.71 (4th PBC) **Defensive Rebounds** 27.06 (2nd PBC) 3-Point FG Made 4.81 (7th PBC) Winning Percentage 23-8, .742 (39th NCAA)

2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Baseball

Final PBC Standings

<u>School</u>	<u>PBC</u>	All
North Florida	23-7	41-18
Columbus State	20-10	40-21
Augusta State	19-11	38-18
Kennesaw State	15-15	32-24
Francis Marion	13-14	29-17
GC&SU	13-14	32-22
Lander	14-16	33-23
UNC Pembroke	12-18	25-27
USC Aiken	12-18	30-26
USC Spartanburg	11-19	24-28
AASU	10-20	29-27

AASU PBC All-Conference

Michael Pelley (Catcher) **COSIDA Academic All-America** Michael Pelley (Catcher)

CoSIDA Academic All-District III Michael Pelley (Catcher)

2004 AASU President's Cup Michael Pelley

SLAM! Canadian Player of the Week Sean Hotzak (February 13, 2003) 2004 AASU Draftee

Marcus Barriger - Tampa Bay (Round 17, Pick 495)

Individual Statistical Leaders

Batting Average Brandon Nunez, .386 (6th PBC) Runs Batted In George Fletcher, 50 (7th PBC) Michael Pelley, 49 (t8th PBC) Home Runs George Fletcher, 11 (t4th PBC) Sacrifice Bunts Rob Recuenco, 16 (1st PBC, 4th NCAA) Michael Pelley, 11 (t32nd NCAA) Stolen Bases Brandon Nunez, 18 (7th PBC) Hit By Pitch Michael Pelley, 13 (t4th PBC, 86th NCAA) Appearances Zach Shelnutt, 26 (5th PBC) Innings Pitched Jon Dobyns, 94.0 (5th PBC) Marcus Barriger, 93.0 (6th PBC) Saves Zach Shelnutt, 4 (t8th PBC) Josh Tallent, 4 (t8th PBC) Opponent's BA Marcus Barriger, .228 (5th PBC) Jon Dobyns, .234 (9th PBC) Strikeouts Marcus Barringer, 77 (6th PBC) Jon Dobyns, 72 (9th PBC)

Senior Zach Shelnutt (right) finished his four-year AASU career as the Pirates' career leader in saves (17) and the Peach Belt Conference's career leader in appearances (85). George Fletcher (top) led the Pirates in home runs and RBI and hit three home runs in one game against USC Aiken on May 8, tying a school record.

The AASU baseball squad experienced a season of highs and lows, ascending to the No. 2 ranking in the *Collegiate Baseball* Division II Top 25 poll in February and finishing with a 29-27 overall record with a grueling schedule.

Playing a slate that featured 33 of 56 games against teams ranked in *Collegiate Baseball's* national rankings, the Pirates went 14-19 against those clubs but picked up wins over then-No. 3 Kennesaw State, then-No. 9 Missouri-St. Louis and then-No. 15 Florida Southern, as well as playing five games against three 2004 College World Series teams - Central Missouri State, Kutztown and Columbus State. AASU also played 16 games against teams that advanced to the NCAA Regionals.

One of those wins over a ranked team, a 3-0 shutout of then-No. 24 Southern Connecticut State, gave head coach Joe Roberts his 1,000th win, joining only two other active DII coaches at that level.

Senior team captain Michael Pelley completed an outstanding two-year career for AASU, earning All-Conference honors and becoming AASU's third CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree in school history. Pelley hit .335 with two home runs and 49 RBI and joins David Harriman (2002) as the only first-team Academic All-America honorees to ever play for the Pirates.

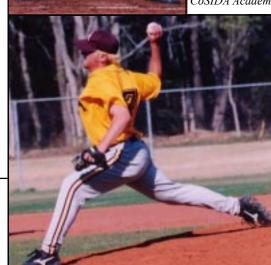
Senior George Fletcher ended his two-year career with a bang as well, clubbing four home runs in a doubleheader against USC Aiken to finish the year with the team lead in homers (11) and RBI (50). Senior Zach Shelnutt finished his four-year career at AASU as the Pirates' all-time saves leader and the Peach Belt Conference's all-time leader in appearances. Outfielders Brandon McKinnon and Brian Dice, as well as 2003 All-America hurler Jon Dobyns and designated hitter Kyle Maddux also finished out their AASU careers.

The MLB First-Year Player Draft claimed righthander Marcus Barriger as Tampa Bay made him their 17th round selection with the 495th pick overall. He is the seventh draftee for AASU in the last three years and the 23rd draftee in school history.



Senior captain Michael Pelley (above) was a first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America selection in 2004.

Team Statistical Rankings Batting Average .301 (t3rd PBC) Slugging Percentage .417 (6th PBC) **On-Base** Percentage .381 (5th PBC) ERA 3.62 (3rd PBC, 14th NCAA) Fielding .956 (6th PBC) Home Runs 37 (t6th PBC) Sacrifice Bunts 62 (1st PBC) Stolen Bases 80-103 (3rd PBC, 69th NCAA) **Doubles** 91 (8th PBC)



2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Softball

Final PBC Standings

SCHOOL	<u>PBC</u>	ALL
Kennesaw State	17-3	64-6
AASU	16-4	42-9
North Florida	14-6	46-13
Francis Marion	12-8	37-17
GC&SU	12-8	33-18
USC Spartanburg	11-9	38-16
Columbus State	10-10	32-17
USC Aiken	8-12	31-29
UNC Pembroke	4-16	17-30
Augusta State	3-17	15-37
Lander	3-17	30-31

PBC Championships (Spartanburg, SC)

AASU 10, Columbus State 0 AASU 2, USC Spartanburg 1 AASU 8, Francis Marion 0 Kennesaw State 4, AASU 1 Kennesaw State 3, AASU 2 (11 inn.)

NCAA II South Atlantic Regional

AASU 2, North Florida 1 Kennesaw State 2, AASU 1 (9 inn.) Presbyterian 1, AASU 0

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Katya Eronina (Pitcher of the Year) Stacey Richardson (Designated Player) Kissy Stepanova (Catcher) Valeria Silvestrini (At-Large) Stacy Oliver (At-Large)

PBC Pitcher of the Week

Katva Eronina (March 16, March 22, March 29, & April 12, 2004)

All-PBC Tournament Team

Katya Eronina Kissy Stepanova Chelce Culberson

All-South Atl. Region Tmt Team

in 2004.

Hits

Katva Eronina Stacey Richardson Valeria Silvestrini

NFCA DII All-American

Katya Eronina (First Team - Pitcher) Stacey Richardson (Second Team - DP) Kissy Stepanova (Second Team - Catcher) Stacy Oliver (Third Team - At-Large)

NFCA DII Player of the Week

Katya Eronina (April 14, 2004)

NFCA All-South Atlantic Region

Katya Eronina (First Team - Pitcher) Stacey Richardson (First Team - DP) Kissy Stepanova (First Team - Catcher) Stacy Oliver (First Team - Second Base) Valeria Silvestrini (Second Team - Outfield) Amanda Kort (Second Team - First Base)

CoSIDA Academic All-District III

Kissy Stepanova (First Team - Catcher) Stacy Oliver (Second Team - Infielder)

2004 AASU President's Cup Kissy Stepanova Final NFCA Division II Rank

No. 11

The 2004 AASU softball squad finished another outstanding season with a 42-9 record and a No. 11 ranking in the final NFCA Division II Top 25 poll. The Lady Pirates made their fourth NCAA Championships appearance in seven seasons and featured four NFCA All-America honorees, tying for the most in the nation.

Senior pitcher Katya Eronina picked up where she left off in 2003, winning her first 31 games of the season to stretch her consecutive win streak to 34, the third-best streak in NCAA Division II history. The PBC Pitcher of the Year for the second straight year, Eronina also earned NFCA First-Team All-America honors for the second year as she compiled a 32-3 record with an 0.38 ERA. She broke her own school and PBC record with 341 strikeouts and hurled her first career perfect game, an 8-0 win over FMU in the PBC Championships.

Earning All-America honors for the third year in a row, senior Stacey Richardson hit .377 with 11 home runs and 45 RBI, again leading the Pirates offensively. The Dalton, Ga., product finished her AASU career as the second-leading home run hitter in school history.

Senior Kissy Stepanova and junior Stacy Oliver each earned All-America honors as well. Stepanova limited opposing basestealers to just seven steals in 19 attempts while she committed just one error in 438 chances. Oliver hit a career-high .386 and set a new PBC record with 26 sacrifice hits.

Five other seniors - shortstop Lindsay Phillips, third baseman Jenny Alfirov and outfielders Jocelyn Lavender, Carrie Thompson and Valeria Silvestrini - also wrapped up their AASU careers. Silvestrini, who led AASU with a .410 average and earned All-PBC and All-Region honors, will return next year as head coach Marty McDaniel's graduate assistant.



2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Men's Tennis

Final PBC Standings

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PBC</u>	<u>ALL</u>
North Florida	8-0	26-3
USC Spartanburg	7-1	20-5
Lander	6-2	13-7
AASU	4-4	15-11
Columbus State	4-4	13-8
GC&SU	3-5	15-8
Augusta State	2-6	13-12
USC Aiken	2-6	13-9
Francis Marion	0-8	11-12

PBC Championships (Spartanburg) AASU def. Columbus State 5-2 North Florida def. AASU 5-3 AASU def. Lander 5-3

NCAA II Mid-Atlantic Regional Columbus State def. AASU 5-3

AASU All-PBC Honors

Achim Roth (Singles) **PBC Player of the Week** Achim Roth (February 24)

Dale White (March 23)

ITA All-America Honors Achim Roth (Singles)

ITA Mid-Atlantic Senior of the Year Achim Roth

ITA Mid-Atlantic Player to Watch Dale White

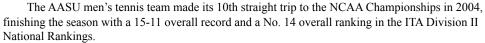
Final ITA DII National Rank No. 14

Individual Statistics

									100	
Singles							2	-		
Player	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Dual	PBC	Fall	Overall
Achim Roth #19	12-10						12-10	5-2	4-4	16-14
Peter Dedik #37	1-0	14-7					15-7	5-3		15-7
Roger Thiele		1-2	6-10				7-12	3-3	9-2	16-14
Dale White			7-2	13-3			20-5	6-2	6-2	26-7
Jonas Askeland				3-2	10-6	1-1	14-9	5-2	4-4	18-13
David Secker				3-1	2-4	7-4	12-9	3-4	5-3	17-12
Tim Offermann				0-1	1-0	1-1	2-2	0-1	3-1	5-3
Taavo Roos						8-3	8-3	4-0	8-2	16-5
Totals	13-10	15-9	13-12	19-7	13-10	17-9	90-57	31-17	39-18	129-75
Doubles								Roge	or Thiol	e (top left)
				Б 1	DDC	F 11	D		89 care	
Player	#1	#2	#3	Dual	-	Fall	Record			-
Roth/White #12	15-9			15-9	4-3	8-2	23-9		hes in h	
Dedik/Offermann		9-7		9-7	0-2		9-7	year	s at AA	SU. Dale
Secker/Thiele			7-5	7-5	0-2	0-3	7-8	Whit	e (top r	ight) was
Roth/Offermann	0-1			0-1			0-1	nam	ed the I	TA South
White/Thiele	1-0			1-0	1-0		1-0		ntic Reg	
Thiele/Offermann		1-2		1-2	1-2	2-1	3-3		-	
Dedik/Secker		4-1	1-2	5-3	4-2		5-3		er to We	
Secker/White		1-0		1-0			1-0	2004	^I , while	Achim
Askeland/Roos			1-1	1-1	0-1	4-4	5-5	Roth	(right)	earned
Roos/Offermann			1-2	1-2	1-1		1-2		All-Ame	
Roos/Thiele		0-1	2-0	2-1			2-1		ors in si	
Askeland/Secker			1-1	1-1			1-1			0
Dedik/Thiele			0-1	0-1			0-1	-	hing the	-
Offermann/Secker			1-0	1-0			1-0	rank	ed No.	19 in the
Totals	16-10	15-11	14-12	45-33	11-13	14-10	60-42	natic	on in sin	ngles.







The Pirates played yet another tough schedule as they played 21 matches out of 26 against nationally-ranked schools, including their last 19 straight against ranked teams.

AASU entered the Peach Belt Conference championships as the No. 5 seed, but knocked off No. 18-ranked Columbus State, 5-2, then defeated No. 7-ranked Lander, 5-3, to capture third place in the 2004 PBC Tournament. It was AASU's second-ever win against the Bearcats and propelled the Pirates into the NCAA Regionals.

Achim Roth, who graduated in the spring from AASU, earned All-PBC and ITA All-America singles honors for the Pirates in his final year. Roth, who will finish his collegiate career as a graduate student next season at the University of Tulsa, was also named the ITA South Atlantic Reigon Senior of the Year and finished the season ranked No. 19 in singles.

Junior Dale White, who teamed with Roth to make up the No. 12-ranked doubles team in the nation, finished the year with a team-best 26-7 singles record and was named the ITA South region Player to Watch. Newcomer Peter Dedik, who fashioned a 14-7 singles record at No. 2 singles, finished the year ranked No. 37 in the nation.

Senior Roger Thiele also finished his AASU career in 2004. The Dormagen, Germany, native won 89 career matches in four seasons and was a four-time PBC Presidential Honor Roll honoree.

2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Women's Tennis

Final PBC Standings

-		
SCHOOL	<u>PBC</u>	<u>ALL</u>
AASU	10-0	28-1
Columbus State	8-2	17-5
GC&SU	8-2	18-7
Clayton State	7-3	11-7
North Florida	7-3	15-9
Kennesaw State	5-5	9-9
Augusta State	3-7	15-10
USC Aiken	3-7	12-11
USC Spartanburg	3-7	9-10
Francis Marion	1-9	7-13
UNC Pembroke	0-10	14-14

PBC Championships (Spartanburg)

AASU def. Augusta State 5-0 AASU def. North Florida 5-0 AASU def. Columbus State 5-0

NCAA II Mid-Atlantic Regional

AASU def. Augusta State 5-0 AASU def. Columbus State 5-0

NCAA II National Championships

AASU def. Rollins 5-0 AASU def. Ferris State 5-0 BYU-Hawaii def. AASU 5-0

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles, Player of the Year) Luisa Cowper (Singles & Doubles) Dziyana Nazaruk (Doubles, Freshman of the Year) Laura Peaty (Doubles)

PBC Plaver of the Week

Zsofi Golopencza (Feb. 24, Mar. 10, Mar. 23 & Apr. 6, 2004)

ITA Region & National Senior of the Year Zsofi Golopencza

Laura Peaty (Doubles) Luisa Cowper (Singles & Doubles) Dziyana Nazaruk (Doubles)

Luisa Cowper

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles) Caroline Grage (Doubles) Manuela Emmrich (Doubles)

ITA Region & National Coach of the Year Final ITA DII Ranking No. 2 Simon Earnshaw

Individual Statistics										
Player	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Dual	PBC	Fall	Overall
Zsofi Golopencza #1	20-0						20-0	8-0	15-1	35-1
Luisa Cowper #9	2-0	17-1					19-1	8-0		19-1
Dziyana Nazaruk		4-0	1-0	12-1			17-1	10-0	6-5	23-6
Caroline Grage #40	1-0	1-0	13-5	1-0	1-0		17-5	10-0	7-4	25-9
Manuela Emmrich			2-0	7-1	14-1		23-2	9-0	6-4	28-6
Laura Peaty				1-1	4-0	11-0	16-1	3-0	7-4	24-3
Kristen Kelly				1-0	3-0	8-1	12-1	8-0	2-6	14-7
Alejandra Aguilar			1-0		1-0	4-1	6-1	3-1	5-3	11-4
Totals	23-0	21-1	18-5	22-3	23-1	23-2	130-12	59-1	48-27	178-39
Doubles								Zsof	ìa Golo	pencza
Player	#1	#2	#3	Dual	PBC	Fall	Record	(righ	nt) is the	e first
Golopencza/Peaty #2	18-1	4-0		22-1	5-0	5-1	27-2	four	time P	BC Player
Cowper/Nazaruk #8	9-1	10-2	2-0	21-3	9-1		21-3	of th	e Year i	in league
Emmrich/Grage		11-2	13-2	24-4	9-0	12-3	36-7	-		ardless of
Cowper/Kelly			5-0	5-0			5-0		. 0	nished her
Golopencza/Kelly			6-0	6-0	5-0		6-0			er with an
Aguilar/Kelly			1-0	1-0	1-0	2-1	3-1		tanding	
Aguilar/Nazaruk						5-2	5-2		0	les record
Peaty/Nazaruk						1-2	1-2		0	
Totals	27-2	25-4	27-2	79-8	29-1	25-9	104-17	in jo	ur seas	ons.

The AASU women's tennis team returned its elite status in 2004, fashioning a school-record 28 wins and advancing to the NCAA DII Women's Tennis semifinals while capturing its 10th Peach Belt Conference championship and PBC Tournament title.

The only blemish in the Lady Pirates' record, a loss to eventual national champion BYU-Hawaii in the semifinals, did not damper an otherwise outstanding season that saw four players earn ITA All-America honors, led by senior Zsofia Golopencza, who wrapped up perhaps the finest women's tennis career ever at the Division II level.

Golopencza dropped just one singles match all year - in the ITA Division I Indoor Championships in November - as she went 35-1 in singles and 33-2 in doubles. She was named the PBC's Player of the Year for the fourth straight year, the only student-athlete in league history to earn that honor four years in a row, regardless of sport. She captured the ITA "Super Bowl" of Small College Tennis in the fall, was named the ITA National Senior of the Year and finished the season ranked No. 1 in singles and No. 2 in doubles while winning 287 overall matches as a Lady Pirate, a record that may never be equalled.

The success of the Lady Pirates in 2004 came from outstanding depth in the lineup after Golopencza, Sophomore Luisa Cowper was named the ITA National "Player To Watch" after finishing 19-1 in singles and 26-3 in doubles in her first year on the court at AASU, also earning ITA All-America honors in both singles and doubles. Freshman Dzivana Nazaruk went 23-6 in singles and was named the PBC Freshman of the Year, as well as the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year, en route to ITA All-America doubles honors. Sophomores Caroline Grage and Manuela Emmrich teamed to capture the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region doubles title in the fall, while junior Laura Peaty went 24-3 in singles and earned ITA All-America honors in doubles with Golopencza.

Golopencza and four-year senior Alejandra Aguilar - who won 175 matches in her career as well - are the only two players the Lady Pirates lose from the 2004 squad. As a final tribute, Golopencza was named to the 2004 American Express Collegiate All-Star team that will travel to China in June 13-21 to represent the U.S. in exhibition matches against the Chinese.

ITA Region & National "Player to Watch"

Zsofi Golopencza ITA/NCAA Division II All-America Honors Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles) ITA Region Rookie of the Year

ITA National DII and "Super Bowl" Singles Champion

Dziyana Nazaruk **PBC Tournament MVP**



2003-2004 AASU Athletics Year In Review Golf

PBC Championship

	-
SCHOOL	SCORE
Francis Marion	900 (+36)
USC Aiken	906 (+42)
AASU	908 (+44)
GC&SU	920 (+56)
Kennesaw State	922 (+58)
UNC Pembroke	931 (+67)
Columbus State	934 (+70)
Clayton State	961 (+97)

NCAA II Southeast Regional

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
USC Aiken	578 (-2)
Kennesaw State	586 (+10)
AASU	590 (+14)
Columbus State	601 (+25)
GC&SU	601 (+25)
Carson-Newman	602 (+26)
Presbyterian	609 (+33)
Francis Marion	612 (+36)

NCAA National Championships

SCHOOL	<u>SCORE</u>
USC Aiken	1191 (+39)
Cal State Chico	1200 (+48)
Barry	1201 (+49)
CSU Stanislaus	1210 (+58)
Barton	1214 (+62)
West Florida	1216 (+64)
Northeastern St.	1219 (+67)
AASU	1225 (+73)
Western Wash.	1228 (+76)
GC&SU	1229 (+77)

AASU All-PBC Honors

Thomas Whittaker (Player of the Year)

PBC Coach of the Year

Michael Butler

AASU All-PBC Tournament Chris Epperson (Medalist)

PING/GCAA DII All-America

Thomas Whittaker (First Team) Chris Epperson (Honorable Mention)

GCAA All-America Scholar Ashley Loyd

Individual Titles

Thomas Whittaker, Amoco Ultimate (73-72-70=215, -1, Mar. 22-23, 2004) Chris Epperson, PBC Championships (72-70-71=213, -3, Apr. 19-20, 2004)

Team Titles

North Shore/Pfieffer Coll. (Oct. 20-21) AASU/Southbridge Inv. (Feb. 23-24) GEICO Direct Invitational (Mar. 13-14) Amoco Ultimate (Mar. 22-23) GC&SU Bobcat Invitational (Mar. 29-30)

Final GCAA DII National Rank No. 8 The Armstrong Atlantic State men's golf team had a breakout season in 2003-04, fashioning five tournament titles and earning the program's first berth into the NCAA Division II National Championships, giving the Pirates some momentum as they head into 2004-05, when they will host the nation's best DII golfers at the Westin Savannah Harbor Resort and Spa at the 2005 NCAA Championships.

Head coach Michael Butler's squad captured their third tournament title in October with a onestroke win at the North Shore/Pfeiffer Intercollegiate, then in the spring, AASU reeled off four straight wins, starting with the AASU/Southbridge Pirate Invitational and carrying on through two primarily-Division I fields at the GEICO Direct Invitational and the Amoco Oil/Young Intercollegiate. A dominating 12-stroke win at the Bobcat Invitational capped off the spring run that resulted in a regionals berth and a No. 2 ranking in the nation in Golfstat's DII head-to-head standings.

That head-to-head ranking would be key as AASU used it to snare an at-large berth to the NCAA Championships after a third-place finish at the Southeast Regional. In Deland, Fla., the Pirates finished eighth in the 18-team championship field in its first experience at that level.

Senior Thomas Whittaker saved his best season for last as the four-year senior led the PBC in stroke average (73.42) and earned first-team Ping/GCAA DII All-America honors, as well as being named the PBC Player of the Year. Junior Chris Epperson captured the PBC Championship individual title and earned honorable mention All-America honors with a 74.45 stroke average. Head coach Michael Butler was named the PBC's Coach of the Year for the first time as well.

AASU's other fourth-year senior, Andrew Suggs, made the most of his opportunity to play at the end of the season and finished tied for 27th at the NCAA Championships.



Senior Chris Epperson (far *left) captured the PBC* Championship by seven strokes, firing a three-underpar 213 total and earning honorable mention All-America honors. Senior Thomas Whittaker (left) was named the PBC Player of the Year and a first-team All-America, compiling a league-best 73.42 stroke average and capturing the individual title at the Amoco Ultimate-Young Oil *Intercollegiate by eight strokes* with a one-under-par 215 total.

Individual Statistics

Golfer	Rounds	Strokes	Stk. Avg.	Best Finish
Thomas Whittake	er 31	2276	73.42	1st Amoco Ultimate
Chris Epperson	33	2457	74.45	1st Peach Belt Championships
Jonathan Cox	27	2042	75.63	T2nd Presbyterian & AASU/Southbridge
Jason Fober	11	835	75.91	T7th Rollins College Intercollegiate
Trey Kent	22	1673	76.05	T6th AASU/Southbridge Invitational
Ashley Loyd	30	2285	76.17	T6th AASU/Southbridge & Bobcat Inv.
Andrew Suggs	18	1381	76.72	T2nd North Shore/Pfeiffer Intercollegiate
Tripp Coggins	4	312	78.00	T14th AASU/Southbridge Invitational
Matt Morris	5	396	79.20	T41st AASU/Southbridge Invitational
TEAM	33	9790	296.67	1st - Five Times

Team Results

Sept. 29-30 AFLAC/Cougar Invitational Oct. 6-7 Oct. 20-21 Presbyterian Intercollegiate North Shore/Pfieffer Intercoll. Noc. 3-4 Feb. 23-24 Rollins College Intercollegiate AASU/Southbridge Invitational March 13-14 **GEICO** Direct Invitational March 22-23 Amoco Ultimate-Young Oil Int. March 29-30 GC&SU Bobcat Invitational April 5-6 Southeastern Collegiate April 19-20 Peach Belt Conference Champ. May 3-5 NCAA DII Southeast Regional May 12-15 NCAA DII National Champ.

2nd of 14 Teams 10th of 21 Teams 1st of 20 Teams 4th of 15 Teams 1st of 12 Teams 1st of 18 Teams 1st of 14 Teams 1st of 15 Teams 4th of 18 Teams 3rd of 8 Teams 8th of 18 Teams 301-301-306=908 (+56) 301-296=597 (+21) 279-295=574 (-2) 304-295-277=876 (+12) 283-289=572 (-4) 300-307-295=902 (+38) 306-303-289=898 (+34) 294-277-284=855 (+15) 301-290-294=885 (+21) 307-303-298=908 (+44) 295-295=590 (+14) 304-306-302-313=1225 (+73)