2009

2008-2009 AASU Athletics Year in Review

Armstrong State University

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2008 PBC Volleyball Player of the Year
Rindy Vidovich

Armstrong Atlantic State University
2008-2009 Athletics
Year In Review

Men’s Tennis Successfully Defends Its NCAA National Championship
Women’s Tennis Wins Fifth NCAA National Championship
Volleyball Advances to NCAA DII Elite Eight
Five Teams Advance To NCAA Championships
11 Student-Athletes Earn All-America Honors

CoSIDA All-America Honors
Women’s Soccer
Junior Kristin Burton (First Team)
Softball
Senior Jessica Strong (Third Team)

AVCA All-America Honors
Sophomore Hannah Segehart (Honorable Mention)

ITA All-America Honors
Women
Sophomore Sona Novakova (Singles, Doubles)
Junior Martina Beckmann (Doubles)
Junior Gabriella Kovacs (Singles, Doubles)
Sophomore Alida Muller-Wehlau (Singles, Doubles)

Daktronics/CoSIDA Baseball All-American
Senior Cody Walden (Third Team)

ITA All-America Honors
Men
Freshman Eudaldo Bonet (Singles)
Senior Paul Bishop (Doubles)
Sophomore Mikk Irdoja (Doubles)

Daktronics/CoSIDA Soccer All-American
Junior Kristin Burton (Third Team)
Academics

PBC Presidential Honor Roll Honorées

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Commissioner’s Cup

AASU finished second for the fourth straight year in the 2008-09 Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup standings, which is the conference’s all-sports trophy. AASU received 62.5 points out of a possible 85, for a .735 percentage. AASU was boosted in the standings by Peach Belt titles in volleyball and women’s tennis, as well as a second-place finish for men’s tennis. GCSU won the cup, while Columbus State finished third and Francis Marion finished fourth.

2008-2009 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 (except golf and cross country).
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (May 16) - In a titanic championship match lasting exactly five hours, the No. 1-ranked and defending DII national champion Armstrong Atlantic State men’s tennis team erased a 2-1 deficit in doubles to win, 5-4, over No. 2-ranked Barry and capture its second consecutive NCAA Division II Men’s Tennis Championship on Saturday in Altamonte Springs.

The match came down to No. 5 singles, where AASU (30-1) sophomore Rafael Array and Barry’s Roman Werschel played a three-set match to determine the match. Array won the first set, 6-4, but Werschel rallied to win the second set, 7-5, and set up one set for the title. Array broke Werschel’s serve at 5-3, winning the pivotal point at 15-40 and giving the Pirates their second NCAA Division II Men’s Tennis title. Barry finishes runner-up for the fourth time in school history and ends its season at 27-3.

It was the first time since 2003 and the eighth time overall that the NCAA DII Men’s Tennis championship has been decided by a 5-4 score. The Pirates are the first back-to-back champions since West Florida in 2004-05.

Barry started off well, taking a 2-1 lead after doubles. The Pirates got on the board first with an 8-3 win at No. 3 doubles by Eudaldo Bonet and Akos Tokor, over Jakub Fefjar and Sergio Velez. Barry picked up a late break at No. 1 doubles and the duo of Emmanuel Fraitzl and Max Wimmen edged Paul Bishop and Mikk Irdjoja, 8-6. At the pivotal No. 2 doubles match, Rafael Array and Tim Johannsen found themselves down, 6-3, but battled back to take a 7-6 lead, only to watch the team of Alex Svigjel and Andrew Sharnov come away with a 9-7 victory.

In singles, every match but the final one ended in straight sets, setting up the drama. No. 26-ranked Mikk Irdjoja gave the Pirates a singles point with a 6-2, 6-1 win over No. 46-ranked Andrew Sharnov at No. 3 singles. Max Wimmen knocked off 50th-ranked Paul Fitzgerald, 6-2, 6-3, at No. 4 singles, handing Fitzgerald his first dual match singles loss of the season.

Tim Johannsen defeated Jakub Fefjar, 6-4, 6-0, at No. 6 singles to even the match up at 3-3. Barry was one point away from the title after No. 18-ranked Emmanuel Fraitzl defeated No. 20-ranked Paul Bishop, 6-3, 6-4, at No. 2 singles, but No. 2-ranked Eudaldo Bonet won a pivotal first-set tiebreak and went on to a 7-6, 6-0, win over No. 5 Ales Svigjel at No. 1 singles to make it 4-4.

In the regular season, the two teams met with AASU also winning that time out, 5-4, giving the Sanlando Park crowd an indication of how this year’s championship match might shake out.

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. (May 16) - At the 2008 NCAA Division II Sports Festival in Houston, the Armstrong Atlantic State women’s tennis team won the national title over Lynn. That morning, both Alida Muller-Wehlau and Gabriella Kovacs had match point, with Muller-Wehlau scoring the deciding point in the 5-2 win.

This year, it was Kovacs’ turn.

The junior from Szazhalombatta, Hungary, closed out a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Jessica Yanoff at No. 4 singles to clinch the No. 3-ranked Lady Pirates’ fifth NCAA Division II Women’s Tennis National Championship, 5-2 again, over No. 2-ranked Lynn (28-1) on Saturday afternoon at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

The Pirates (28-1) entered singles play needing just three wins, but Lynn won the first set in four of the six singles matches.

AASU picked up points at No. 1 singles when top-ranked Sona Novakova defeated No. 11-ranked Katerina Jiskrova, 6-3, 6-3, and No. 16-ranked Alida Muller-Wehlau knocked off No. 15-ranked Magdalena Ekt, 6-4, 6-0.

Tessie Salame notched a 6-1, 6-0 win over Alisa Kagukina at No. 6 singles, but the Lady Pirates were able to push the other three singles matches into third sets.

The Lady Pirates took a 2-1 lead after doubles play. No. 2-ranked Martina Beckmann and Alida Muller-Wehlau picked up an impressive 8-2 victory at No. 1 doubles over fifth-ranked Katerina Jiskrova and Eleonor Annaonozzi in a matchup of top-five ranked duos. No. 7-ranked Gabriella Kovacs and Sona Novakova followed with an 8-5 win over No. 24-ranked Magdalena Ekt and Alisson Siacci at No. 2 doubles.

No. 12-ranked Tina Ronel and Kathleen Henry fell behind at No. 3 doubles, 6-3, but battled back to force a tiebreaker. Lynn’s Jessica Yanoff and Tessie Salame picked up the win, 9-8 (7-1).

AASU now joins BYU-Hawaii (2002, 2003) as the only teams to win Division II Back-to-Back National Championships with both the men’s and the women’s teams. The Lady Pirates have also won back-to-back titles twice in school history, the first coming in 1995 and 1996. AASU evened its mark in NCAA DII National Championship contests at 5-5 — this was the Lady Pirates 10th appearance in the finals.

The win also avenged a 5-4 loss at Lynn back in March, the only loss this season for the Lady Pirates.

Rain Doesn’t Dampen Enthusiasm As Pirates Return To Savannah !

About 75 friends, family and fans of Armstrong Atlantic State tennis braved the rainy weather and welcomed home the 2009 NCAA Division II Men’s & Women’s Tennis National Champions on May 17 at Compass Pointe on AASU’s campus!

The Pirates and Lady Pirates brought the two national championship trophies to Compass Point, signed autographs and posed for pictures. WTOK-TV, WJCL-TV and WSAV-TV were on hand to cover the welcome back ceremony, as well as AASU’s own Compass Interactive TV.
Aenchbacher Announces Retirement April 1
Earns Under Armour AD of the Year Honors

Former Armstrong Atlantic State athletic director Dr. Eddie Aenchbacher was named an Under Armour AD of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of America, announced on June 16. The winners were recognized during the 44th Annual NACDA Convention at the James J. Corbett Luncheon on Saturday, June 20 at the World Center Marriott Resort in Orlando, Florida.

There are four geographic regions: northeast, southeast, central, and west while the membership is separated into seven categories: Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A); Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA); Division I (formerly Division I-AA); Division II; Division III; NAIA; and Junior/Community Colleges, along with one International winner. One winner was selected in each of the seven categories, for a total of 29 honorees - Aenchbacher was the Division II Southeast Region honoree.

“I’m quite humbled to be recognized by NACDA as one of the Under Armour ADs of the Year,” Aenchbacher said. “To be honored by your peers is perhaps the most special, and most gratifying, achievement you can have in any profession. But this honor could not have been achieved without a tremendous amount of support by the administration, coaches and staff at Armstrong Atlantic State University. This award is as much theirs, as it is mine.”

In the time covered by the award, Aenchbacher oversaw a Pirate program that captured two NCAA Division II National Championships in men’s and women’s tennis; three student-athletes earned ESPN: The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-America honors and presided over a department that boasted a 2.97 cumulative GPA, with 56% of student-athletes earning a GPA over 3.00 for the semester.

On April 1, 2009, Dr. Aenchbacher retired from AASU after nearly 30 years of service to the campus as a coach, professor and administrator.

Aenchbacher served as the Armstrong Atlantic State athletic director since the spring of 1996. During that time, the Pirates have experienced four NCAA Division II National Championships, several national finalists, the implementation of women’s fastpitch softball, soccer and golf as varsity programs as well as the reinstatement of the men’s golf program. In his time as athletic director at AASU, the Pirates captured 17 Peach Belt Conference titles, made 58 NCAA Championships appearances and 101 student-athletes have earned All-America honors. The Pirates also won the Peach Belt President’s Academic Award two out of the three years it has been awarded.

“Not to sound cliché but my time at Armstrong has gone by a lot faster than I thought possible,” Aenchbacher said. “From start to finish it has been extremely fulfilling and rewarding. The people at Armstrong that I have had the privilege of working with will always be one of my strongest memories.

“As a professor, coach, and administrator my goal was always to help mold young men and women into productive and prepared citizens while reflecting the best on our institution. The athletic program’s changes and improvements over the past 15 years are a testament to the fine coaches and support staff that believed the same.”

The Armstrong Atlantic State University athletic department announced on April 8 that Andrew Carter had accepted the position of Athletic Director, succeeding departing AD Dr. Eddie Aenchbacher, who retired on April 1. Formerly the Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics at Newberry College in Newberry, S.C., Carter was selected by University President Dr. Thomas Z. Jones from an applicant pool numbering more than 170.

Carter was introduced to the AASU community at a press conference on Friday, April 10, at Noon at the AASU Sports Center. The press conference was attended by more than 250 people and was webcast live on the website for Pirate athletics, aasupirates.com.

“They really made me feel like this is the place I could see me and my family thriving,” Carter, 45, said during an interview with the Savannah Morning News after the press conference.

“Being a former college professor himself, he understands the role of Division II athletics and the term student-athlete,” AASU president Thomas Z. Jones said. “It’s student first, athlete second.”

Carter echoed the sentiment, noting that winning is important but not the only measure of success.

“We’ve got the privilege to use sport to educate young people,” Carter said. “Success is this business is an equation. It’s not any one thing. There are variables. If all we did was chase a ‘W,’ it’d be pretty shallow.”

Carter served as the Athletic Director at Newberry since 2002. In that time, he increased the visibility and success of the Newberry athletic department both on and off the competitive playing field. Newberry has won four of the past five South Atlantic Conference academic titles, while also leading 14 teams to NCAA Championships appearances after the school had collected just one in the previous 11 seasons.

He developed the “Newberry College Athletic Initiative” upon arriving at the Newberry, S.C., campus, a long-term plan to improve Newberry’s athletic program while maintaining the school’s excellent academic record. Other highlights include the beginning of an intercollegiate wrestling program that finished second in NCAA Division II in 2009; SAC Championships for football in 2006 and 2008, as well as SAC titles in women’s basketball and men’s golf.

Prior to Newberry, Carter served as the Director of Athletics at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, Mo., from 1997 through 2002. He served as the baseball coach from 1991 through 1999, leading the team to seven straight conference titles.

Carter received his bachelor’s of science degree in business administration from Missouri Baptist in 1987, then earned his MBA from Lindenwood University in 1990. He and his wife, Renae, have six children – Aaron (21), Becca (19), Beth (16), Jake (14), Rachel (13) and Micah (8).
The Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball squad ascended to new heights under first-year head coach Will Condon in 2009, becoming the first Peach Belt Conference team to advance to the DII Elite Eight.

The Pirates went 28-7, capturing Peach Belt Conference regular season and tournament titles to earn a berth in the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2004. While there, AASU fought off six match points in a first-round match against Lander, erasing a 14-9 deficit to win in five against the Bearcats. That match propelled the Pirates to a first-ever NCAA region championship, with a 3-0 win over Catawba sending AASU to Minnesota and the DII Elite Eight.

Senior Rindy Vidovich, the PBC's Player of the Year and the only senior for AASU during the 2008 season, enjoyed a fantastic year, hitting .283 with 293 kills, 202 digs and ranking among the PBC's leaders in hitting percentage, blocks and service aces. She recorded her 1,000th career kill in the NCAA Regional match against Lincoln Memorial.

Sophomore setter Hannah Segebart became AASU's first-ever AVCA All-American honoree, earning Honorable Mention honors for leading the Peach Belt and ranking seventh in NCAA Division II in assists with 11.80 per game.

Freshman outside hitter Torrie Bevolo earned AVCA All-Region honors and was the PBC Tournament MVP, while freshman libero Casey Howell also earned AVCA All-Region honors. Junior middle hitter Michele Remlinger led the PBC in hitting with a .352 percentage, ranking 22nd in NCAA Division II, while junior rightside hitter Gwen Clarke earned All-PBC Tournament honors. AASU returns 10 players from the 2008 squad for the upcoming 2009 season.

**Final PBC Standings**

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**PBC Championships (Pembroke, N.C.)**
- AASU def. USC Aiken (25-20, 25-13, 25-13)
- AASU def. FMU (25-16, 25-20, 25-18)
- NCAA Southeast Regional (Wingate, N.C.)
- AASU def. LMU (28-26, 25-18, 24-26, 24-26, 15-6)
- NCAA DII Elite Eight (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Grand Valley State def. AASU (25-19, 25-23, 25-17)

**PBC All-Conference Honors**
- Rindy Vidovich (Player of the Year)
- Hannah Segebart

**All-PBC Tournament Team**
- Torrie Bevolo (MVP)
- Gwen Clarke
- Rindy Vidovich

**AVCA All-Southeast Region Honors**
- Torrie Bevolo
- Casey Howell
- Hannah Segebart

**AVCA DII All-American Honors**
- Hannah Segebart (Honorable Mention)

**Daktronics All-Southeast Region Honors**
- Torrie Bevolo (First Team)
- Hannah Segebart (First Team)
- Rindy Vidovich (Second Team)

**AVCA DII National Player of the Week**
- Hannah Segebart (Nov, 25)

**NCAA DII All-Region Tournament Team**
- Hannah Segebart
- Rindy Vidovich

**PBC Player of the Week**
- Rindy Vidovich (Oct. 13, Nov. 10)
- Michele Remlinger (Sept. 22)

**PBC Specialist of the Week**
- Casey Howell (Oct. 13)
- Hannah Segebart (Sept. 2, Sept. 29, Oct. 20)

**Individual Leaders**

**Hitting Percentage**
- Michele Remlinger, .352 (1st PBC, 22nd NCAA DII)
- Rindy Vidovich, .283 (5th PBC)
- Gwen Clarke, .236 (11th PBC)

**Assists Per Game**
- Michele Remlinger, .257 (9th PBC)
- Rindy Vidovich, .292 (2nd PBC, 86th NCAA DII)
- Torrie Bevolo, .312 (4th PBC)
- Hannah Segebart, 1.180 (1st PBC, 7th NCAA DII)
- Kills Per Game
- Hannah Segebart, .38 (2nd PBC)
- Casey Howell, .34 (5th PBC)
- Torrie Bevolo, .33 (6th PBC)
- Rindy Vidovich, .28 (10th PBC)
- Blocks Per Game
- Rindy Vidovich, .90 (5th PBC)
- Casey Howell, 3.87 (5th PBC)
- Torrie Bevolo, 3.33 (8th PBC)
- Service Aces Per Game
- Marina Marinova, 2.52 (15th PBC)
- Winning Percentage
- .800 (24th NCAA DII)

**Team Statistics**

- Hitting Percentage .236 (1st PBC, 38th NCAA DII)
- Opponents Hitting Percentage .155 (2nd PBC)
- Assists Per Game 12.46 (1st PBC, 23rd NCAA DII)
- Kills Per Game 13.49 (1st PBC, 27th NCAA DII)
- Service Aces 1.84 (1st PBC, 51st NCAA DII)
- Blocks Per Game 1.81 (4th PBC)
- Digs Per Game 16.15 (2nd PBC, 58th NCAA DII)
- Winning Percentage .800 (24th NCAA DII)

**PBC Player of the Year**
- Rindy Vidovich (left)
- PBC Tournament MVP Torrie Bevolo (center)
- AVCA All-American Hannah Segebart (top right) and junior Gwen Clarke (above) led AASU to its first-ever NCAA Elite Eight berth in 2009.
The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s soccer team advanced to the PBC Tournament semifinals for a fourth straight season and finished head coach Eric Faulconer’s fourth campaign with an 11-6-3 overall record, while picking up several impressive results during the season.

The Pirates narrowly missed a third straight NCAA Championships appearance, but were in contention until the end. During the year, the Pirates were 2-3-1 against nationally-ranked DII squads, including a thrilling 3-2 double overtime win at No. 18 Tampa on October 18 - just the third home loss for the former DII national champions in a span of 47 matches. AASU also shut out No. 19 Belmont Abbey, 1-0, on October 12 and played No. 6 UNC Pembroke to a scoreless tie on September 24, the first scoreless tie in program history.

AASU advanced to the PBC Semifinals after a 2-0 road win at North Georgia, but saw its season come to an end with a 1-0 loss in overtime to Columbus State - the third straight match in which the Pirates and the Cougars have battled into overtime.

Junior Kristin Burton continued to excel as she led the PBC in goals scored for a second time in her career, earning the PBC’s “Golden Ball” award. She ranked seventh in the NCAA in points and sixth in goals scored, earning Daktronics/CoSIDA All-American honors as well as ESPN: The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-American honors for a second straight year.

The 2008 season marked the final season for four inaugural Pirates who were a part of the team’s first-ever team in 2005 - Seniors Jennifer Brian, Jamie Craine, Lyndsi Stricklen and Emily Latner. Craine earned All-PBC honors for the first time in her career, while Stricklen saw her season cut short by injury just five games into the season. Brian earned ESPN: The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District III honors. Two other seniors, Brittany Carr, Amanda Reynolds, also wrapped up their Pirate careers in 2008.

The Pirates return 17 players from the 2008 team for the 2009 campaign.

**Individual Leaders**

**Points Per Game**
- Kristin Burton, 2.50 (1st PBC, 7th NCAA)
- Goals Per Game
- Kristin Burton, 1.10 (1st PBC, 6th NCAA)
- Assists
- Kristin Burton, 22 (1st PBC)
- Assists Per Game
- Brittany Carr, 0.31 (8th PBC)
- Kristin Burton, 0.30 (9th PBC)
- Shots Per Game
- Kristin Burton, 4.40 (2nd PBC)

**Goals Per Game**
- Kristin Burton, 1.10 (1st PBC)
- Assists
- Kristin Burton, 6 (8th PBC)
- Assists Per Game
- Brittany Carr, 0.31 (8th PBC)
- Kristin Burton, 0.30 (9th PBC)
- Shots Per Game
- Kristin Burton, 4.40 (2nd PBC)

**Assists Per Game**
- 38, (4th PBC)

**Points Per Game**
- 1.90, (4th PBC)

**Goals**
- 49, (3rd PBC)
- 24, (5th PBC)
- 2.45, (3rd PBC)

**Goals Allowed Per Game**
- 1.14, (48th NCAA)

**Shutouts**
- 8 (4th PBC)
The AASU men’s basketball team enjoyed one of its most successful seasons in recent history in 2008-09, advancing to its fourth NCAA Championship in the last five season while achieving the highest national ranking by a Pirate squad in the Peach Belt Conference era. AASU went 23-7 overall and 15-5 in the Peach Belt, rising as high as No. 12 in the NABC/Division II national rankings.

In March, head coach Jeff Burkhamer resigned his position at AASU to take the head coaching position at conference rival Lander. Former Newberry head coach Jeremy Luther was named as his replacement on May 5.

The Pirates used high energy defense and an up-tempo offense to lead the PBC in scoring margin, rebounding and steals that helped key their success in 2008-09. In the PBC Tournament, senior Calvin Wilson’s dunk with 3.9 seconds left led AASU to a 68-66 win over Francis Marion, leading to one of the most memorable games in league tournament history as No. 23 AASU and No. 17 USC Aiken battled for four overtimes before the host Pacers prevailed, 90-87.

Junior Dwight Tolbert paced an offense that featured four players who averaged 10 points or better on the season, earning All-PBC honors. Senior Brian Moultrie earned second-team All-PBC honors as well as setting an Alumni Arena record with 19 rebounds against West Virginia Wesleyan on Dec. 29 - which also included a PBC-record 14 offensive rebounds. Senior Calvin Wilson earned All-PBC Tournament honors and guard T.T. Hall claimed the Ashley Dearing Award in his senior season with the Pirates. Senior Parker Hayden finished his four-year career as well, earning the AASU President’s Cup and collecting PBC All-Academic Honors.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Scoring
Dwight Tolbert, 15.4 (7th PBC)  
T.T. Hall, 13.0 (15th PBC)  
Brian Moultrie, 12.4 (17th PBC)  
Calvin Wilson, 11.2 (25th PBC)

Rebounding
Brian Moultrie, 6.7 (10th PBC)  
Calvin Wilson, 6.6 (11th PBC)  
FG Percentage
Brian Moultrie, .639 (2nd PBC)  
Calvin Wilson, .486 (14th PBC)

Assists
Gabriel Robinson, 4.73 (1st PBC, 48th NCAA)  
Steals
T.T. Hall, 1.83 (3rd PBC)  
Calvin Wilson, 1.63 (5th PBC)

3-Point FG Made
6.87 (4th PBC)

Blocked Shots
4.43 (1st PBC, 22nd NCAA)  
Win-Lost Percentage
.767 (2nd PBC, 28th NCAA)
Women’s Basketball

Final PBC Standings

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<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<th>All</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Ga. Southwestern</td>
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PBC Championships (Aiken, S.C.)
Lander def. AASU, 83-63

PBC All-Conference Honors
Lacey Willis (First Team)

PBC Player of the Week
Lacey Willis (Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, March 2)

PBC All-Academic Team
Portia Jones

Daktronics All-Southeast Region
Lacey Willis (Second Team)

Individual Leaders

Scoring
Lacey Willis, 17.0 (3rd PBC, 61st NCAA)
Dartayvia Thomas, 10.0 (28th PBC)

Rebounding
Lacey Willis, 8.3 (6th PBC)
Kelly Versluis, 6.4 (18th PBC)

Field Goal Percentage
Lacey Willis, .527 (5th PBC, 39th NCAA)

Assists
Ashley Duhart, 3.00 (11th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage
Dartayvia Thomas, .825 (1st PBC, 75th NCAA)

Assist/TO Ratio
Ashley Duhart, 0.78 (11th PBC)

3-Point FG Percentage
Lindsey Holmes, .347 (9th PBC, 90th NCAA)

3-Point FG Made
Lindsey Holmes, 2.18 (4th PBC, 85th NCAA)
Portia Jones, 1.39 (15th PBC)

Blocked Shots
Kelly Versluis, 2.11 (3rd PBC, 28th NCAA)

Defensive Rebounds
Dartayvia Thomas, 3.50 (4th PBC)
Lacey Willis, 2.89 (12th PBC)

Minutes Played
Ashley Duhart, 33.11 (2nd PBC)
Dartayvia Thomas, 32.86 (3rd PBC)
Lacey Willis, 31.11 (5th PBC)

PBC Championships (Aiken, S.C.)
Lander def. AASU, 83-63

PBC All-Conference Honors
Lacey Willis (First Team)

PBC Player of the Week
Lacey Willis (Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, March 2)

PBC All-Academic Team
Portia Jones

Daktronics All-Southeast Region
Lacey Willis (Second Team)

Head coach Matt Schmidt’s first year at the helm of the Armstrong Atlantic State women’s basketball team was a successful one, as the Pirates tied for third in the Peach Belt Conference regular season standings, going 17-11 overall and 12-8 in the league. Schmidt and the Pirates also kept a streak alive of knocking off at least one nationally-ranked opponent each season, stretching that streak to nine years with two wins over Top 10-ranked foes.

AASU hosted No. 7-ranked USC Aiken on December 6 and picked off the Lady Pacers, winning 63-55, extending a streak of at least one nationally-ranked opponent beaten in each season since 2000-01. The Lady Pirates didn’t stop there, however, picking up perhaps their best road win in the PBC era with a 92-91 overtime win at No. 7 Francis Marion on February 25.

Senior Lacey Willis capped off a stellar AASU career with an outstanding season, earning PBC Player of the Week honors four times, while also earning All-PBC honors and Daktronics All-Southeast Region accolades, despite playing most of the season with a broken right (shooting) hand. She became the 10th player in AASU history to record 1,000 career points and finished her career ranked among the top 10 in games played, points, rebounds, field goals made and free throws made.

Senior Kelly Versluis set a single-season record for blocked shots with 59, ranking third in the PBC and 28th in NCAA DII. Senior Lindsey Holmes finished her career with 159 three-pointers, third-most all-time, while senior Ashley Duhart finished her career with 210 assists, eighth all-time.

Another high point for the Lady Pirates was free throw shooting, as not only did junior Dartayvia Thomas set a single-season AASU record in that category (82.5 percent), but the Lady Pirates as a team hit 72.9 percent, setting a team single-season record and ranking second in the PBC.

Senior Lacey Willis (above left) was a four-time PBC Player of the Week in her final season as a Lady Pirate. Senior Lindsey Holmes (above middle) ranked among the PBC’s leaders in three-point shooting and hit 159 threes in her career, third-best at AASU. Junior Dartayvia Thomas (above right) set a single-season AASU record for free throw percentage, hitting 94-of-114 free throws (82.5 percent) while senior Kelly Versluis (bottom right) set a single-season AASU record with 59 blocked shots.

Team Statistics

Scoring Offense
63.3 (11th PBC)

Scoring Defense
64.9 (4th PBC)

Scoring Margin
-1.6 (8th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage
.729 (2nd PBC, 70th NCAA)

FG Percentage
.549 (2nd PBC, 6th NCAA)

FG Percentage Defense
.398 (5th PBC)

3-Point FG
6.04 (4th PBC)

3-Point FG Made
314 (5th PBC)

3-Point FG Percentage
.292 (4th PBC, 49th NCAA)
The Armstrong Atlantic State baseball squad notched its 30th straight winning season by going 38-18 overall, placing fourth in the PBC with a 15-12 mark and finishing the season ranked No. 25 in the final Collegiate Baseball NCAA Division II Coaches’ Poll.

Again playing one of the toughest schedules in the nation, the Pirates started off the season by hosting defending DII national champion Mount Olive. AASU struggled early, taking a 6-8 mark into the 2009 Savannah Invitational, but there the Pirates began a streak of 18 straight wins, playing its way back into postseason contention. AASU finished the regular season winning 11 of its last 12 games - including a rare triple shutout in a three-game series sweep of Columbus State on April 18 and 19 - but a tough 12-11 loss to North Georgia in the first round of the PBC Tournament brought the Pirates’ season to an end.

Aptitude in small ball was one of the major reasons for the Pirates’ success in 2009 - AASU set an NCAA DII record for sacrifice hits during the season, collecting 101 sacrifices and shattering the old DII record of 78, set by Bryant and GCSU. The Pirates also led the PBC in earned run average and in fielding percentage. Individually, senior Juan Dorado smashed the single-season record of 38, breaking the old record of 23 (Dennis Nesbit, Indianapolis).

Senior lefthander Cody Walden led the PBC in wins (11) and was named the Southeast Region Pitcher of the Year by Daktronics and CoSIDA, also earning All-American honors. Senior Kenny Cail earned All-PBC honors in his final year as a Pirate, also ranking among the top 10 in his career in doubles, hits and games played. Senior Jeff Chase finished his career with 192 strikeouts, sixth all-time in AASU history.

Junior outfielder Alex Wyche flirted with .400 most of the year, finishing the season with a .398 average and earning All-PBC and All-Southeast Region honors. Junior Thomas Gray also earned All-PBC and All-Region honors after going 8-4 with a 2.80 ERA, while junior closer Ryan Smith ranked fourth in the PBC in ERA (2.70) while also leading the Pirates in saves with 9.

Senior Juan Dorado (top) set an NCAA Division II record with 38 sacrifice hits in 2009, smashing the old DII record of 78, set by Bryant and GCSU. The Pirates also led the PBC in earned run average and in fielding percentage. Individually, senior Juan Dorado smashed the single-season record of 38, breaking the old record of 23 (Dennis Nesbit, Indianapolis).
Softball

The Armstrong Atlantic State softball squad finished third in the Peach Belt Conference standings for 2009, fashioning a 27-23 overall record and an 11-7 record in the league. AASU narrowly missed an NCAA Regionals berth, remaining regionally ranked all the way until the final week of the season.

The Pirates picked up some key wins during the year, including a 4-2 win over No. 19 Wingate on senior Stephanie Mattes’ walk-off two-run home run - her only home run of her Pirate career - on March 4. AASU also got the first no-hitter from a Pirate pitcher since 2003 when freshman Ashley Bain blanked PBC foe Lander, 11-0, in five innings on Feb. 25. The Pirates also picked up a road doubleheader sweep of Francis Marion on April 7, winning 4-2 and 6-3.

The 2009 season also saw the finish of senior Ashley Bain’s outstanding career as a Pirate. Honored on Senior Day with a spot on the outfield Wall of Honor, Bain hit .305 with 11 home runs and 28 RBI as a senior and leaves AASU as the all-time leader in at-bats, as well as ranking among the top 10 in runs scored, total bases, hits, home runs, doubles, RBIs, walks, slugging percentage and batting average. On Feb. 20, she became the first AASU player to hit three home runs in a game, blasting a trio against Eckerd.

Senior Jessica Strong also wrapped up her AASU career, earning All-PBC and All-PBC Tournament honors, as well as CoSIDA Academic All-America honors - a first for an AASU softball player - and earning the AASU President’s Cup award. Senior Sam Floyd finished her career with a second straight All-PBC honor, while Mattes provided the Senior Day drama with a walk-off game-winning single in the bottom of the seventh to knock off Albany State on April 11.

Freshman Ashley Bain earned All-PBC honors after an outstanding debut in the circle, going 10-8 with a 2.63 ERA. Junior Nicole Huddleston rebounded from her injury-plagued sophomore season to earn All-PBC and NFCA All-Region honors.

## Team Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Leaders</th>
<th>Batting Average</th>
<th>.278 (5th PBC)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sam Floyd, .385 (4th PBC)</td>
<td>.278 (5th PBC)</td>
<td>.278 (5th PBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Strong, .375 (6th PBC)</td>
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<td>.278 (5th PBC)</td>
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<td>Slugging Percentage</td>
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<td>.429 (2nd PBC, 75th NCAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Huddleston, .623 (4th PBC)</td>
<td>.429 (2nd PBC, 75th NCAA)</td>
<td>.429 (2nd PBC, 75th NCAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Bain, .618 (5th PBC)</td>
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<td>.429 (2nd PBC, 75th NCAA)</td>
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<td>On-Base Percentage</td>
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<td>Nicole Huddleston, .458 (2nd PBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Strong, .441 (5th PBC)</td>
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<td>Sam Floyd, .427 (8th PBC)</td>
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<td>Jessica Strong, 36 (7th PBC)</td>
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<td>Nicole Huddleston, 35 (8th PBC)</td>
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<td>Doubles</td>
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<td>Walks</td>
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<td>Nicole Huddleston, 27 (3rd PBC, 58th NCAA)</td>
<td>39 (2nd PBC, 44th NCAA)</td>
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</table>

## Individual Leaders

- **Batting Average**:
  - Sam Floyd, .385 (4th PBC)
  - Jessica Strong, .375 (6th PBC)
  - Nicole Huddleston, .623 (4th PBC)
  - Ashley Bain, .618 (5th PBC)

- **Slugging Percentage**:
  - Nicole Huddleston, .623 (4th PBC)
  - Ashley Bain, .618 (5th PBC)

- **On-Base Percentage**:
  - Nicole Huddleston, .458 (2nd PBC)
  - Jessica Strong, .441 (5th PBC)

- **Runs Scored**: 248 (2nd PBC, 70th NCAA)

- **Runs Batted In**:
  - Jessica Strong, 36 (7th PBC)
  - Nicole Huddleston, 35 (8th PBC)

- **Doubles**: Nicole Huddleston, 15 (t1st PBC, 65th NCAA)

- **Home Runs**: Ashley Bain, 11 (4th PBC, 73rd NCAA)

- **Walks**: Nicole Huddleston, 27 (3rd PBC, 58th NCAA)

## Team Statistics

- **Batting Average**:
  - .278 (5th PBC)

- **Slugging Percentage**: .429 (2nd PBC, 75th NCAA)

- **On Base Percentage**: .589 (2nd PBC)

- **Runs Scored**: 248 (2nd PBC, 70th NCAA)

- **Runs Batted In**: 352 (8th PBC)

- **Hits**: 352 (8th PBC)

- **Walks**: 142 (2nd PBC)

- **Sacrifice Flies**: 14 (1st PBC)

- **Stolen Bases**: 58 (3rd PBC, 65th NCAA)
Men’s Tennis

The Armstrong Atlantic State men’s tennis team successfully defended its NCAA Division II men’s tennis national championship by knocking off Barry, 5-4, in Altamonte Springs. A nip-and-tuck match came down to the final singles match where sophomore Rafael Array defeated Roman Werschel, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, at No. 5 singles to clinch the title.

The road to the national title was not easy as the Pirates suffered an early-season loss to PBC rival GSU and also endured some close matches, including a 5-4 win in the regular season over Barry. An impressive showing at the Blue-Gray Small College Classic, where the Pirates defeated No. 1 (NAIA) Auburn-Montgomery, 5-2, to capture the Classic title, showed that AASU had another impressive post-season run in the offering. AASU breezed through the PBC Championships, capturing its fifth straight league tournament title, and blanked conference foes Lander and USC Aiken in the NCAA Southeast Regional to earn a berth in the Round of 16.

After a first-round win over Queens (N.Y.), the Pirates faced No. 3 Lynn and collected a 5-2 victory over the Knights. AASU then beat No. 6 Hawaii Pacific, 5-1, in the semifinals to set up the showdown with Barry in the finals - a repeat of the 2008 final in Houston.

Experience followed Bonet in the singles lineup with senior Paul Bishop, the team’s captain who added ITA All-America honors in singles and doubles in his final year as a Pirate. The sophomore doubles duo of Rafael Array and Tim Johannsen earned All-PBC doubles honors for a second straight year while newcomer Mikk Irdoja joined the team in January and earned ITA All-America honors in doubles, teaming with Bishop to finish the season ranked No. 5 in the nation. Junior Paul Fitzgerald won 22 straight singles matches in the spring, finishing the year ranked 50th and giving the Pirates four nationally-ranked singles players in the final rankings.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Final PBC Standings</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
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Individual Statistics

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2008-2009 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Women’s Tennis

The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s tennis team notched its fifth NCAA DII National Championship in 2009, knocking off Lynn University, 5-2, in the championship match. The title is AASU’s third in the last five seasons, but all odds were not on the Lady Pirates repeating after a tough in-season loss to the same Lynn squad.

Ranked No. 1 in the nation, the Lady Pirates traveled to Boca Raton to face the Knights on March 24 and jumped out to a 4-0 lead, sweeping the doubles matches and getting an early point from Sona Novakova at No. 1 singles. Lynn rallied, however, to win the remaining five singles matches, knocking off the Lady Pirates, 5-4.

In Altamonte Springs, Fla., Lynn and AASU remained on a collision course to meet in the finals for a second straight season. The Lady Pirates raced past St. Edward’s (Texas), California (Pa.) and Valdosta State, while Lynn knocked off perennial contender BYU-Hawaii to set up the rematch in the final.

Just like in March, AASU led after doubles, winning two of three matches. But Lynn took the first set in four of the six singles matches. With three singles matches still on the court in the third set and AASU leading, 4-2, Gabriella Kovacs finished off Jessica Yanoff, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, to clinch the DII National Championship.

A team with no seniors got contributions from up and down the lineup all season long. Novakova debuted on the scene with an undefeated spring season in singles, earning a No. 1 ranking, ITA DII Rookie of the Year honors as well as PBC Player and Freshman of the Year honors.

Sophomore Alida Muller-Wehlau teamed with junior Martina Beckmann to become the No. 1-ranked doubles duo, earning ITA All-America honors. Kovacs also earned All-America honors in both singles and doubles, while newcomers Tina Ronel and Kathleen Henry teamed to earn a No. 13 national ranking in doubles, with Ronel finishing the year ranked No. 46 in singles.

Simon Earnshaw earned PBC Coach of the Year honors, while assistant coach David Secker earned ITA National Assistant Coach of the Year honors for his work with both squads.

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### Individual Statistics

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Martina Beckmann and Alida Muller-Wehlau (top) finished the 2009 season as the top-ranked doubles duo in the nation, while freshman Sona Novakova (middle) went undefeated in singles, earned a No. 1 national ranking and captured the ITA DII Singles title in the fall. Gabriella Kovacs notched match point for the Pirates in the 2009 NCAA DII National Championship-winning 5-2 victory over Lynn.
**Men’s Golf**

The Armstrong Atlantic State men’s golf team advanced to the NCAA Southeast Regional for a sixth consecutive season in 2009. Head coach Michael Butler’s squad competed in several Division I tournaments, enjoyed a fine showing at its own AASU Pirate Invitational and saw the close of perhaps the finest men’s golf career in Pirate history with the graduation of Chris Wolfe.

The senior from Warner Robins, Ga., became AASU’s first three-time All-American in 2008-09, earning GCAA honorable mention All-American honors as well as All-PBC honors for a fourth time in his career. Wolfe fashioned a 72.75 stroke average in 2008-09, collecting seven top 10 finishes and four top 5 finishes, finishing outside the top 20 only once in 11 tournaments. In his four-year career, Wolfe collected a 73.05 stroke average in 113 rounds of golf for the Pirates.

As a team, the Pirates finished third at the AASU Pirate Invitational, its season-best performance, while also performing well at the majority-Division I Mizuno Savannah Invitational (Georgia Southern), the Grub Mart Intercollegiate (Jacksonville State) and the CSU Spring Kickoff (Charleston Southern).

AASU traveled to Muscle Shoals, Ala., for the NCAA Southeast Regional. A change in the NCAA’s region format pitted the Pirates and nine other schools from the SAC and Conference Carolinas against 10 schools from the Sunshine State Conference and the Gulf South Conference, competing for five spots. Despite the 19th place finish, the Pirates gained valuable experience, especially for the four underclassmen in the lineup.

Other individual bright spots in 2008-09 included the play of true freshman Matt Motes, who compiled the second-best stroke average on the team at 75.83, as well as the improved play of sophomore Parker Gordon, who shaved a stroke off his freshman average, finishing at 75.89 for 2008-09.

### Individual Statistics

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### Team Results

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### PBC All-Conference Honors

Chris Wolfe

### GCAA All-Southeast Region

Chris Wolfe

### GCAA All-American

Chris Wolfe (Honorable Mention)
The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s golf team continues to show steady improvement after its fourth season of competition. The Lady Pirates as a team recorded its lowest stroke average since the program began varsity competition in 2005-06, and with no seniors on the squad, have a solid core in place as AASU chases the inaugural Peach Belt Conference women’s golf championship in 2009-10.

AASU took part in nine tournaments in 2008-09 and collected a 338.47 stroke average, more than 11 strokes better than its stroke average in 2007-08. A third-place finish at the West Georgia Invitational and a fourth-place finish at the Dana Rader Intercollegiate highlighted the best finishes of the season. The year started off well with a fifth-place finish at the Pfeiffer Lady Falcon Invitational as the Lady Pirates carded a 325, tying the program record for the lowest single-round score.

Freshman Victoria Bennett led the Lady Pirates individually with an 84.29 stroke average, collecting two top 10 finishes with a sixth-place finish at the Dana Rader Intercollegiate and a seventh-place finish at the West Georgia Invitational. Sophomore Sarah Johns, the NJCAA Region XVII Player of the Year at Young Harris College, joined the Lady Pirates and finished the season with an 84.73 stroke average and a 10th-place finish at the Lady Falcon Invitational, as well as three other top 20 finishes during the year.

Sophomore Carrie George shaved nearly a stroke off of her freshman stroke average, finishing the 2008-09 season with an 86.27 average and also finishing tied for 10th at the Lady Falcon Invitational. Sophomore Kristen Jelinek experienced similar success, improving a stroke to finish her second season as a Pirate with an 86.53 average.

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Individual Top 10 Finishes
Victoria Bennett (6th Dana Rader Intercollegiate; 17th West Georgia Invitational)
Sarah Johns (10th Lady Falcon Invitational)
Carrie George (11th Lady Falcon Invitational)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

3rd, West Georgia Invitational
4th, Dana Rader Intercollegiate
t5th, Pfeiffer Lady Falcon Invitational

TEAM RESULTS

9/15-16 Pfeiffer Lady Falcon Invitational New London, N.C. T5th of 12 325 (+37)
9/29-30 CSU Women’s Fall Invitational Charleston, S.C. 8th of 11 678 (+110)
10/6-7 LRC/Myrtle Beach Intercollegiate Little River, S.C. 8th of 15 684 (+108)
10/27-28 Flagler College Slam St. Augustine, Fla. T14th of 20 677 (+101)
2/7-8 Kiawah Island Intercollegiate Kiawah Island, S.C. 14th of 17 674 (+98)
2/16-17 Newberry College Invitational Hilton Head Isl., S.C. 7th of 15 694 (+118)
3/2-3 SCAD Spring Invitational Savannah, Ga. 7th of 14 684 (+116)
3/9-10 Dana Rader Intercollegiate Savannah, Ga. 4th of 8 678 (+102)
3/23-24 West Georgia Invitational Carrolton, Ga. 3rd of 4 660 (+92)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Women’s Golf
2008-2009 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Individual Top 10 Finishes
Victoria Bennett (6th Dana Rader Intercollegiate; 17th West Georgia Invitational)
Sarah Johns (10th Lady Falcon Invitational)
Carrie George (11th Lady Falcon Invitational)

Women’s Golf
2008-2009 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Team Top 5 Finishes
3rd, West Georgia Invitational
4th, Dana Rader Intercollegiate
t5th, Pfeiffer Lady Falcon Invitational

Individual Top 10 Finishes
Victoria Bennett (6th Dana Rader Intercollegiate; 17th West Georgia Invitational)
Sarah Johns (10th Lady Falcon Invitational)
Carrie George (11th Lady Falcon Invitational)

Team Top 5 Finishes
3rd, West Georgia Invitational
4th, Dana Rader Intercollegiate
t5th, Pfeiffer Lady Falcon Invitational

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2/16-17 Newberry College Invitational Hilton Head Isl., S.C. 7th of 15 694 (+118)
3/2-3 SCAD Spring Invitational Savannah, Ga. 7th of 14 684 (+116)
3/9-10 Dana Rader Intercollegiate Savannah, Ga. 4th of 8 678 (+102)
3/23-24 West Georgia Invitational Carrolton, Ga. 3rd of 4 660 (+92)