2013

2012-2013 AASU Athletics Year in Review

Armstrong State University

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Daktronics/CoSIDA Soccer All-American
Senior Morgan Mitchell (1st Team)
Senior Emily Cattanach (1st Team)
NSCAA Soccer All-American
Senior Morgan Mitchell (1st Team)
Senior Nadima Skeff (2nd Team)
AVCA Volleyball All-American
Senior Ashley Seal (3rd Team)
Senior Amanda Jones (Honorable Mention)
Senior Brittany Wolf (Honorable Mention)
Junior Jessica Santaniello (Honorable Mention)
Daktronics/CoSIDA Softball All-American
Senior Megan Barnwell (Honorable Mention)
ITA Tennis All-America Honors
Women
Junior Barbora Krtechova (Sgls, Dbls)
Junior Aleksandra Filipovski (Sgls, Dbls)
Sophomore Clara Perez (Sgls)
Junior Marlen Hacke (Sgls, Dbls)
Junior Olga Kalodzitsa (Sgls, Dbls)
Men
Senior Matus Mydla (Sgls)
Senior Georgi Rumenov (Sgls, Dbls)
Senior Dan Regan (Sgls, Dbls)
Sophomore Sven Lalic (Dbls)
Junior Pedro Scocuglia (Dbls)
NFCA Softball All-American
Junior Kacie Patterson (3rd Team)
NABC Basketball All-American
DII Bulletin Basketball HM All-American
Senior Aric Miller
WGCA Women’s Golf All-American
Junior Jenna Birch (First Team)
Junior Kristen Sammarco (Honorable Mention)
Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-American
Senior Kristina Pascutti (2nd Team - Soccer)
Junior Andye Dawson (3rd Team - Soccer)
Senior Emily Cattanach (2nd Team - Soccer)
Sophomore Maggie Carson (3rd Team - Soccer)
Senior Shelby Duff (2nd Team - Softball)
Junior Barbora Krtechova (3rd Team - At-Large)
Sophomore Sven Lalic (3rd Team - At-Large)
2012-13 Armstrong Athletics Year in Review

Academics

Armstrong student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2012-13 academic year. Sixty-four percent of the 148 student-athletes carried grade-point averages of 3.0 or better. A school-best 91 of Armstrong student-athletes were named to the PBC Presidential Honor Roll. Eight seniors - men's golfers Tyler Erickson and Jacob Tilton, softball player Shelby Duff, women's soccer players Morgan Mitchell, Kristina Pascutti and Brooke Lambeth, women's basketball player Brianne McFarland and baseball player Chris Base - finished their Armstrong careers by being named to the Honor Roll four times. Thirty-six student-athletes were named to the Dean’s List during the 2012-13 academic year.

Six student-athletes carried perfect 4.0 GPAs for 2012-13 – baseball player Clayton Miller, softball player Bridget Devlin, volleyball player Kelsey Piepergerdes and soccer players Maggie Carson, Candace Cosby and Kristina Pascutti.

A school-best seven student-athletes earned Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-America honors - Carson, Pascutti, Emily Cattanach and Andye Dawson in baseball, Sven Lalic in soccer, Shelby Duff in softball, Sven Lalic in men’s tennis and Barbara Kruckivka in women’s tennis.

Cattanach and Erickson were the 2013 President’s Cup winners, given by the Savannah Exchange Club to the top female and male student-athlete of the year.

2012-13 Commissioner’s Cup Final Standings

NACDA Director’s Cup

Armstrong earned its most points ever in the Learfield Sports Directors Cup, sponsored by NACDA, for a second straight year by accumulating 490.50 points to finish 19th in the nation.

The Pirates also finished third among all schools in points per sport sponsored, earning 44.59 points per sport. Schools earn points by placing in seven men’s and seven women’s sports qualifying for the NCAA Championships. The Pirates earned 100 points for women’s tennis’ national championship; 90 points for men’s tennis’ runner-up finish; 83 points for softball’s semifinalist finish; 73 points for women’s soccer’s region championship; 50 points for volleyball, 51 points for women’s golf, 25 points for baseball and 18.5 points for men’s golf.

The performance was the best for a Peach Belt school since 2002-03.
2012-13 Armstrong Athletics Year in Review

Armstrong Women’s Tennis Wins Record Eighth National Championship!

NCAA Women’s Tennis: No. 2 Armstrong S. No. 3 BYU Hawaii 3

SURPRISE, Ariz. (May 12) - The No. 2-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University women’s tennis team claimed its NCAA Division II-leading eighth national championship with a 5-2 win over No. 3 BYU Hawaii on Saturday afternoon at the Surprise Racquet & Tennis Club in Surprise, Ariz.

The Pirates (30-1) successfully defended their 2012 title by knocking off the Seasiders (30-2), who they also downed in last season’s match. The two DII women’s tennis powerhouses came into the championship match holding seven national titles apiece and it was the seventh time in each program’s history that the two titans had met in the National Championship match.

Armstrong took a 2-1 lead in doubles play by taking the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches. The No. 5-ranked duo of Marlen Hacke and Olga Kalodzitsa downed No. 9-ranked Marika Kobayashi and Marietta Tuionetoa, 8-3, at No. 2 doubles, while Clara Perez and Natasa Vukovic defeated Jade Griffin and Sasha Ulbrichtova, 8-5, at No. 3 doubles.

The top-ranked doubles duo of Annie Hwang and Sherry Liu claimed BYU Hawaii’s doubles point with an 8-6 win over No. 2-ranked Aleksandra Filipovski and Barbora Krtickova at No. 1 singles.

“Doubles was the same numbers as last year,” Armstrong head coach Simon Earnshaw said about the win today. “But it was not really the same because No. 2 doubles made a much better start than last year. We came out this morning and completely changed what we had done all year at No. 3 doubles - switching from playing doubles to playing to our strength in singles, and we made a great start and it was enough to get us through.”

BYU Hawaii put the pressure on in singles play by taking the first set in five of six singles matches. The Seasiders drew even in the match as No. 2-ranked Annie Hwang defeated No. 3-ranked Aleksandra Filipovski, 6-1, 6-1, at No. 1 singles. Armstrong quickly went back in front when No. 13-ranked Barbora Krtickova finished off Marika Kobayashi, 6-2, 7-6 (1), at No. 3 singles.

With every other match in the third set or beginning the third set, Natasa Vukovic brought the Pirates to within one point of victory with an 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Jade Griffin at No. 6 singles. All attention turned to court No. 4 where No. 17-ranked Marlen Hacke beat Marietta Tuionetoa, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 to clinch the victory - similar to the 2012 match where the Pirates also won at No. 4 singles to claim the title.

“Singles was completely different - last year we made an awesome start, but this year it was opposite,” Earnshaw said. “It was almost like we spotted them a set in this year’s final. The second sets and the conclusion of the match was similar to last year, except for the fact that Marlen had a large lead. Olga’s tiebreak was like Kathleen’s. We got out of some close second sets last year. It was all very important for the overall win. We really had to earn this one - BYU Hawaii played a great match and were, as usual, a worthy opponent in the final. For us to overtake them [for the overall lead in NCAA DII women’s tennis titles] it was fitting that we had to beat them.”


Fans Welcome Back National Champion Pirates!

The Pirates flew into Savannah/Hilton Head International airport from Arizona on Sunday, May 12th, and were greeted by members of the Armstrong and Savannah community, as well as the local media.

Armstrong women’s tennis set an NCAA Division II record by capturing its eighth national championship, while the men’s tennis team finished second at the DII Championships. Pirate tennis now boasts 11 national championships combined between the men’s and women’s teams, the most for any Peach Belt Conference school. Armstrong owns nearly one-third of the league’s national championships after this season’s accomplishment.
The Armstrong Atlantic State University volleyball squad captured the Peach Belt Conference’s regular season and tournament titles in 2012, while hosting its first NCAA Southeast Regional in another highly successful season for the Pirates.

Armstrong finished the year 33-6 overall while going 13-1 in PBC play, earning the program’s fifth PBC regular season title. The Pirates outlasted host Flagler, 3-2, in the PBC Tournament match to claim the automatic berth into the NCAAs while also claiming the program’s third PBC Tournament title. The Pirates were the top seed in the NCAA Southeast Regional for the first time and also hosted the regional in Savannah.

Senior setter Ashley Seal became the first volleyball player in Peach Belt history to claim Setter and Player of the Year honors in the same season. She also earned third-team AVCA All-America honors as the Pirates had four players earn All-America mention by the AVCA.

Senior Brittany Wolf led the Peach Belt in hitting for a second straight season, earning All-PBC, All-Southeast Region and honorable mention AVCA All-America honors, while senior Amanda Jones notched her 1,000th kill during a campaign in which she earned All-PBC, All-Southeast Region and honorable mention AVCA All-America honors. Senior Kelsey Piepergerdes wrapped up her career by earning PBC All-Academic honors.

As a team, the Pirates led the PBC in hitting percentage, assists per game, service aces per game and blocks.

The Pirates return 13 players for the 2013 season, including honorable mention AVCA All-American outside hitter Jessica Santaniello.

### PBC Regular Season

#### School | PBC | All
--- | --- | ---
Armstrong | 13-1 | 33-6
Flagler | 12-2 | 22-11
USC Aiken | 7-7 | 18-13
Augusta State | 6-8 | 19-15
Francis Marion | 6-8 | 18-12
Lander | 6-8 | 15-17
Montevallo | 6-8 | 15-17
UNC Pembroke | 0-14 | 5-26

### PBC Tournament

- Armstrong def. UNCP 3-0 (25-13, 25-20, 25-16)
- Armstrong def. Augusta St. 3-0 (25-18, 28-26, 25-14)

### NCAA Southeast Regional (Savannah)

- Tusculum def. Armstrong, 3-1 (24-26, 25-23, 29-27, 25-20)

### PBC All-Conference Honors

- Amanda Jones - Second Team
- Jessica Santaniello - First Team
- Ashley Seal - First Team, PBC Player of the Year, PBC Setter of the Year
- Brittany Wolf - First Team

### All-PBC Tournament Team

- Jessica Santaniello
- Brittany Wolf (MVP)

### AVCA All-American Honors

- Amanda Jones - Honorable Mention
- Jessica Santaniello - Honorable Mention
- Ashley Seal - Third Team
- Brittany Wolf - Honorable Mention

### AVCA All-Southeast Region Honors

- Will Condon (Coach of the Year)
- Amanda Jones
- Jessica Santaniello
- Ashley Seal
- Brittany Wolf

### DAKTRONICS All-Southeast Region Honors

- Amanda Jones - First Team
- Jessica Santaniello - First Team
- Ashley Seal - First Team, Player of the Year
- Brittany Wolf - First Team

### PBC Academic Team

- Kelsey Piepergerdes
- Ashley Seal
- Stephanie Sfara

### PBC Specialist of the Week

- Ashley Seal (Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Nov. 12)

### PBC Player of the Week

- Jessica Santaniello (Sept. 10)
- Carina Marinho (Sept. 24)

### NCAA Southeast Region All-Tournament Team

- Ashley Seal
- Brittany Wolf

### Individual Leaders

- Hitting Percentage
  - Brittany Wolf: .399 (1st PBC, 7th NCAA)
  - Amanda Jones: .297 (5th PBC)
- Ashley Seal: .288 (6th PBC)
- Kits Per Set
  - Ashley Seal, 2.90 (6th PBC)
- Ashley Seal, 2.75 (9th PBC)
- Service Aces Per Set
  - Ashley Seal, 0.67 (1st PBC, 3rd NCAA)
  - Brittany Wolf, 0.89 (2nd PBC)
- Digs Per Set
  - Abby Winsor, 3.12 (10th PBC)

### Individual Leaders

- Hitting Percentage
  - .273 (1st PBC, 6th NCAA)
- Assist Per Set
  - 12.48 (1st PBC, 33rd NCAA)
- Kills Per Set
  - 13.31 (2nd PBC, 39th NCAA)
- Service Aces Per Set
  - 1.92 (1st PBC, 31st NCAA)
- Blocks Per Set
  - 1.87 (1st PBC)
- Digs Per Set
  - 13.64 (8th PBC)
- Winning Percentage
  - 846 (16th NCAA DII)

Ashley Seal (top) was the PBC’s Setter and Player of the Year in 2012, earning third-team AVCA All-American honors. Amanda Jones (above) notched her 1,000th kill while earning honorable mention AVCA All-America honors in 2012. Armstrong (top left) won the 2012 PBC Tournament in a 3-2 thriller over Flagler.
The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s soccer team continued to build into one of the most successful Division II programs in the nation in 2012, attaining a No. 1 national ranking during the regular season while capturing the Peach Belt Conference’s regular season and tournament titles, as well as the NCAA’s Southeast Region championship en route to a 19-2-2 overall record.

Head coach Eric Faulconer’s squad extended its home unbeaten streak to 40 games while also reeling off a school and Peach Belt record 19 consecutive wins during season. Armstrong’s No. 1 NSCAA ranking puts it in exclusive company with women’s tennis, men’s tennis, men’s basketball and softball as the only Armstrong sports to ever earn a No. 1 ranking in the program’s history.

Armstrong ran the table in the Peach Belt, downing Columbus State, 2-0, for the school’s third PBC Tournament title. In regional play, the Pirates knocked off North Georgia, then advanced past CSU in penalty kicks, 6-5, for the NCAA Southeast Region title.

Senior Morgan Mitchell led an outstanding group of seniors by earning consensus first-team All-America honors and PBC Player of the Year accolades while leading the PBC in goals scored with 19, third-most in NCAA Division II. Senior Emily Cattanach earned first-team All-America honors as well as Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, while senior Kristina Pascutti repeated as a Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree.

Senior Nadima Skeff earned All-America honors for the first time in her career, while senior Courtney Cawley capped an outstanding career by earning 2012 PBC Tournament MVP honors. Seniors Meghan Mayville, Brooke Lambeth, Amber Raney and Danielle Fey also concluded their careers as the winningest senior class in Armstrong soccer history. The Pirates return 14 players, including All-Region performers Andye Dawson and Morgan Luckie, for 2013.
The Armstrong men’s cross country team, in its fourth season since reinstatement of the sport in 2009-10, continued to make strides under first-year head coach Michael Sergi. The Pirates knocked off USC Beaufort, 27-28, in a dual match in October and finished 10th in the PBC Championships, with five runners setting personal bests. Carl Dominique led the Pirates at the league meet by placing 48th and for a second year in a row, Armstrong featured a pair of women on the men’s team in Caroline Windham and Arisa Spill. Scotty Lawson earned PBC All-Sportsmanship Team honors at the league meet and senior Matt Bryarly earned Presidential Honor Roll honors. Three runners return for 2013 for coach Sergi.

Team Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amercus, Ga.</td>
<td>4th of 4</td>
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<td>Macon, Ga.</td>
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<td>Augusta, Ga.</td>
<td>8th of 11</td>
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<td>Hardeeville, S.C.</td>
<td>W 27-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montevallo, Ala.</td>
<td>10th of 10</td>
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SCHOOL SCORE
1 Columbus State 30
2 Augusta State 72
3 Flagler 101
4 UNC Pembroke 110
5 Clayton State 131
6 Georgia College 165
7 Young Harris 165
8 Montevallo 195
9 Francis Marion 207
10 Armstrong 296

The highlights of the evening included the awarding of the 2012-13 Male and Female Student-Athlete of the Year by the Armstrong Athletic Department. Senior soccer player Morgan Mitchell earned the Female Student-Athlete of the Year honors, while senior basketball player Aric Miller was named the Male Student-Athlete of the Year. Both were presented their awards by University President Dr. Linda Bleicken.

Armstrong also unveiled the inaugural Dr. Donald Anderson Scholar-Athlete Awards, given to the top male and female academic student-athlete. Named for longtime Armstrong supporter and student services consultant Dr. Donald Anderson, the inaugural winners were senior men’s golfer Tyler Erickson and senior volleyball player Kelsey Piepergerdes.
The Armstrong men’s basketball squad went 15-12 overall and 11-8 in the Peach Belt Conference during the 2012-13 season, returning to the Peach Belt Championships after a two-year absence while notching significant wins during the year.

The Pirates knocked off No. 20 Saint Leo, 72-60, in November and also knocked off USC Aiken, 90-87, in February in a game that featured senior Aric Miller setting a new Alumni Arena scoring record with 39 points, eclipsing the old record of 36 points, set by North Florida’s Jamaal Williams in the 1998 Peach Belt Conference Championships.

Miller put up an outstanding season for the Pirates in 2012-13, one of the best seasons in Armstrong men’s basketball history. He led the PBC in scoring, averaging 23.7 points per game, which ranked sixth in NCAA Division II. Miller notched the first triple-double in 10 years for Armstrong against Newberry on Nov. 24 and earned not only first-team All-Peach Belt Conference honors but NABC All-District III and All-American honors - the first Pirate to earn All-America honors from the NABC since 1978-79. He added honorable mention All-America honors from Daktronics/CoSIDA and DII Bulletin and also participated in the NABC DII All-Star Game at the Elite Eight.

Fellow seniors Antroine Williford and J.C. Winn also had career years in their final seasons as Pirates. Williford ranked fifth in the PBC and 34th nationally in rebounding at 8.9 boards per game while averaging 12.3 ppg. Winn shot a team-best 49 percent from the floor, averaging 9.6 points per game. Junior Darius Morales helped the Pirates lead the league in blocked shots, averaging a league-best 2.81 blocks per game, which ranked fifth in NCAA DII.

Armstrong returns eight players from its squad for the 2013-14 season.
The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s basketball squad finished the 2012-13 season with a 13-14 overall record and an 8-11 mark in the Peach Belt Conference, returning to the PBC Tournament for the first time since 2008-09.

The Pirates used a five-game win streak late in the season to earn a spot into the postseason, a run that included a 53-49 win at No. 16-ranked USC Aiken on February 23rd. Earlier in the month, the Pirates knocked off then-No. 5 USC Aiken, 69-67, in overtime at home in a contest that represented the first Top 5-ranked opponent that Armstrong women’s basketball has knocked off in program history.

Armstrong was not into the tournament until the final game of the season, a 71-69 win at Georgia College that capped the win streak and sent the Pirates to Columbus.

Junior Mauri Wells returned to the Pirates lineup after missing most of November to once again lead the Peach Belt Conference in rebounding, averaging 9.7 rebounds per game. Wells joins Zandiique Cason (2001-02) and Kaneetha Gordon (2007-08) as Pirates to lead the league in rebounding in back-to-back seasons.

Junior transfer Tori Klewicki-McNutt led the Pirates in scoring in 2012-13, averaging 11.5 points per game while knocking down two three-pointers per game, good for fifth in the league.

Senior Demisha Mills averaged 10.1 points per game, second-best on the team, in her final season with the Pirates, while senior Briana McFarland was named to the PBC’s All-Academic Team for a second-consecutive season. Seniors Karolina Rykowska (6.7 points, 4.5 rebounds per game) and Marissa Rimbert also wrapped up their Armstrong careers.

In April, head coach Matt Schmidt resigned after five years at the helm of the Pirates to accept an assistant coaching position at Duquesne University. Armstrong hired Fala Bullock, the head women’s basketball coach at Central Georgia Technical College, in June to take over the Pirate women’s basketball program.

### Individual Leaders

**Scoring**
- Tori Klewicki-McNutt, 11.5 (16th PBC)

**Rebounding**
- Mauri Wells, 9.7 (1st PBC)

**3-Point Field Goal Percentage**
- Tori Klewicki-McNutt, .355 (63rd NCAA)

**Assist/TO Ratio**
- Tyler Carlson, 1.4 (8th PBC)

**Blocked Shots**
- Hanna Bognar, 1.1 (7th PBC)

### Team Statistics

**Scoring Offense**
- 65.1 (8th PBC)

**Scoring Defense**
- 64.1 (8th PBC)

**Free Throw Percentage**
- .649 (14th PBC)

**FG Percentage**
- .387 (10th PBC)

**FG Percentage Defense**
- .400 (10th PBC)

**3-Point FG**
- 6.3 (3rd PBC, 52nd NCAA)

**Assists Per Game**
- 14.9 (6th PBC, 48th NCAA)

**Steals Per Game**
- 8.0 (12th PBC)

**Blocked Shots**
- 3.3 (5th PBC, 95th NCAA)

**Assist/Turnover Ratio**
- 0.9 (55th NCAA)
The Armstrong Atlantic State baseball squad had another milestone season in 2013, finishing tied for second in the Peach Belt Conference standings after a 19-10 league record and a 31-17 overall mark. The Pirates also made their second-straight appearance in the NCAA Championships, the 14th NCAA postseason appearance in the last 24 seasons for Armstrong.

The biggest milestone of the season, however, came the weekend of April 20-21st at No. 10-ranked UNC Pembroke. The Pirates won the first game of the series, 7-4, over the Braves for the 1,500th win in Armstrong baseball history dating back to 1967, the first year of four-year competition for the Pirates.

The next day, Armstrong took game one of a doubleheader with the Braves, 13-8, to make head coach Joe Roberts the NCAA-recognized all-time leader in head coaching wins among Division II coaches, passing Tommy Thomas of Valdosta State. Roberts passed Thomas’ record of 1,308 wins and finished the 2013 season with a career record of 1,322-640 at the helm of Armstrong baseball. Following the Pirates’ action in the NCAA Championships, Roberts announced his retirement after 34 seasons.

Chris Zittrouer was a two-time PBC Player of the Week honoree in a career year for the fifth-year senior, becoming just the 10th player in Armstrong history to notch 200+ hits in his career. Senior Chris Base finished his career with 257 innings pitched, seventh-most in Armstrong baseball history and was a first-team Southeast Region Gold Glove honoree. Senior outfielders Casey Maloney and Chris Fritts, infielder Richie Anderson and pitcher Ross Beach also wrapped up their careers as Pirates.

Assistant coach Calvain Culberson was named the interim coach for the 2013-14 season, taking over for coach Roberts. 14 players, including eight-game winner Ethan Bader and All-Conference catcher Clayton Miller, return for the 2014 season for the Pirates.

**Individual Leaders**

- **Sacrifice Hits**
  - Will Thomas, 17 (1st PBC, 3rd NCAA)
  - Chris Fritts, 11 (5th PBC, 49th NCAA)
  - Casey Maloney, 11 (t5th PBC, 49th NCAA)
  - Cody Sherlin, 10 (t7th PBC, 63rd NCAA)

- **Walks**
  - Casey Maloney, 30 (t10th PBC, 73rd NCAA)

- **Hit By Pitch**
  - Chris Fritts, 18 (2nd PBC, 21st NCAA)

- **Wins**
  - Ethan Bader, 8 (6th PBC, 58th NCAA)

- **Saves**
  - Chase Butler, 5 (5th PBC, 70th NCAA)
  - Caleb Woods, 4 (6th PBC, 100th NCAA)
  - Juan Vera, 3 (9th PBC)

- **Complete Games**
  - Chris Base, 3 (4th PBC)
  - Ethan Bader, 2 (8th PBC)

**Team Statistics**

- **Batting Average**
  - 309 (6th PBC, 49th NCAA)

- **Runs Scored**
  - 324 (8th PBC, 58th NCAA)

- **Runs Per Game**
  - 6.8 (46th NCAA)

- **Hits**
  - 507 (7th PBC, 56th NCAA)

- **Doubles**
  - 97 (6th PBC, 44th NCAA)

- **Doubles Per Game**
  - 2.02 (32nd NCAA)

- **Slugging Percentage**
  - .408 (9th PBC, 85th NCAA)

- **Walks**
  - 192 (6th PBC, 47th NCAA)

- **Sacrifice Hits**
  - 67 (1st PBC, 10th NCAA)

- **On-Base Percentage**
  - .395 (6th PBC, 42nd NCAA)

- **Walks Allowed Per 9 Innings**
  - 2.74 (24th NCAA)

- **Winning Percentage**
  - .646 (49th NCAA)
The Armstrong Atlantic State University softball team reached new heights in 2013, capturing a second straight Peach Belt Conference regular season title while also notching its first NCAA Southeast Region championship and a berth into the NCAA DII Softball World Series. The Pirates finished the season reaching the semifinal round of the championships, going 44-10-1 overall with a final national ranking of No. 3.

The Pirates blitzed through the Peach Belt Conference with an 18-4 mark, clinching the title with a doubleheader sweep of runner-up Georgia College on the final day of the regular season. Armstrong then hosted the NCAA Southeast Regional for a second-straight year, emerging from the loser’s bracket to beat Columbus State twice to advance to the Super Regional. Hosting Anderson (SC), the Pirates knocked off the Trojans twice to earn their first World Series berth.

Again finding themselves in the loser’s bracket, the Pirates won twice in Salem, Va., eliminating defending national champion Valdosta State and Humboldt State before falling to eventual national champions Central Oklahoma in the semifinals.

A stellar senior class led the Pirates in 2013, led by two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American and NCAA Championships All-Tournament selection Shelby Duff, as well as all-time Armstrong wins leader Megan Barnwell. Ashley Schrab, Celia Blome, Britanny Cooley and Bethany Wilke also finished their careers.

Armstrong returns eight players for the 2014 season, including NFCA All-American third baseman Kacie Patterson and PBC Player of the Year shortstop Alexis Mercer.
2012-2013 Armstrong Athletics Year In Review

Men’s Tennis

The Armstrong Atlantic State University men’s tennis team fell achingly short in its bid for back-to-back NCAA Division II National Championships, completing a 27-2 season and earning a national runner-up finish at the 2013 NCAA DII Tennis Championships in Arizona.

The Pirates streaked through the Peach Belt Conference en route to the program’s ninth regular season title as well as an ninth-straight PBC Tournament title in April with a 5-1 win over Columbus State in Florence, S.C.

Armstrong knocked off Limestone and Georgia College in the NCAA South Regional, then headed to the NCAA DII Tennis Championships in Surprise, Ariz., in May as the defending national champions. After blanking New York Tech and Midwestern State to reach the semifinals, the Pirates outlasted No. 3-ranked West Florida, 5-2, in the semifis to match up with top-ranked Barry - the only team to beat the Pirates during the regular season - in the championship.

Despite dropping all three doubles matches to the Bucs in the championship match, the Pirates rallied to win four singles matches and even things up at 4-4 before Barry prevailed in the final match on the court for the 5-4 victory.

Three seniors - Matus Mydla, Dan Regan and Georgi Rumenov - wrapped up an incredibly successful run as Mydla became the fourth different Armstrong men’s tennis player to earn a No. 1 national singles ranking in the last four years. Rumenov earned PBC Player of the Year honors as well as ITA National Senior of the Year honors while finishing the year ranked No. 2 in singles and doubles, while Regan capped a career senior season with All-America honors in singles and doubles. Rumenov and Regan also captured the ITA “Super Bowl” doubles title in the Fall, advancing to the ITA National Indoor Championships.

Sophomore Sven Lalic earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, becoming the first Armstrong men’s tennis player to earn an Academic All-America accolade from CoSIDA.

Armstrong returns three players for the 2013-14 season.
The Armstrong Atlantic State women's tennis team notched its NCAA-record eighth Division II National Championship in 2013, successfully defending its title while also claiming its 19th Peach Belt Conference title and 10th-straight PBC Tournament title.

The Pirates rebounded from a mid-season loss at Barry to blitz through the Peach Belt slate with an unbeaten 13-0 record, then did not drop a point in the PBC Tournament and NCAA Regional to advance to the DII Tennis Championship in Arizona.

Heading in as the No. 2-ranked team, Armstrong had to get past No. 1 Barry in the quarterfinals - doing so with a 5-3 victory over the Bucs - then No. 4 Hawai‘i Pacific in the semifinals to match up with No. 3 BYU-Hawai‘i. The two rivals went into the championship match each having won seven DII titles previously, so it was only fitting that the Pirates would knock off the Seasiders to claim their record eighth crown, doing so with a 5-2 victory in a rematch of the 2012 Championship match. Armstrong has now won five of the last six NCAA DII women’s tennis titles.

Juniors Aleksandra Filipovski and Barbora Krtickova excelled at the top of the doubles lineup for the Pirates for a second consecutive season, earning the ITA “Super Bowl” doubles championship in the Fall and advancing to the ITA National Indoor Championships. The duo earned ITA All-America honors in both singles and doubles during the season. Krtickova also earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, becoming just the second Armstrong women’s tennis player to earn Academic All-America honors from the organization.

Sophomore Clara Perez enjoyed a breakout season in which she ascended to the top of the Pirates’ singles lineup, going unbeaten in the spring and finishing with a No. 8 singles ranking for her first ITA All-America honors.

Juniors Marlen Hacke and Olga Kalodzitsa continued to play outstanding doubles, earning ITA All-America honors for a second consecutive season.

Senior Jessica Gardefjord wrapped up her Armstrong career by going unbeaten in singles play in the spring and finishing as a member of three NCAA National Championship squads. Armstrong returns five players for the 2013-14 season.
The Armstrong Atlantic State University men’s golf team advanced to the NCAA Championships for a 12th-straight season while succeeding both on the course and in the classroom in another outstanding campaign.

The Pirates finished third at the Peach Belt Conference Championships in April, the third Top 3 finish in the last four seasons for Armstrong at the PBC Championships. Armstrong then advanced to the NCAA South/Southeast Super Regional in Howey-In-The-Hills, Fla., and finished 14th among the 20 teams in the competition. Armstrong senior Tyler Erickson was the Pirates’ top finisher at the NCAA Regionals, finishing tied for 43rd.

Erickson capped his four-year career by earning the Armstrong President’s Cup, Armstrong Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors as well as GCAA All-America scholar honors. Fellow senior Jacob Tilton earned PBC All-Tournament honors by finishing tied for fifth in Callaway Gardens while senior Jared Wagenaar joined Erickson and Tilton in earning PBC All-Academic Team honors in 2012-13.

Junior Shad Tuten made an immediate impact in his first season with the Pirates, winning his first tournament - the Kiawah Island Invitational - in September while adding the SSU Fall Invitational title to his resume. Tuten earned first-team All-PBC honors while leading the Pirates with a 74.00 stroke average.

Junior Gus Wagenaer captured the GC Bobcat Invitational in the spring while junior Cory Griffin finished third at the PBC Championships, earning All-Tournament honors.

Armstrong returns seven golfers for 2013-14.
The Armstrong Atlantic State University women’s golf team broke new ground in 2012-13, earning the first NCAA Championships team berth in the program’s history while also sporting the first first-team All-American and first Top 10 finisher at the NCAA National Championships.

The Pirates exhibited a strong regular season, finishing no worse than fifth in nine of their 10 regular season tournaments. Armstrong captured the Armstrong Pirate Women’s Invitational in February, winning its own annual tournament for the first time. The Pirates then finished runner-up at the PBC Championships in April.

The strong regular season was rewarded in May as the Pirates earned an at-large berth into the NCAA South Regional in Lakeland, Fla. The Pirates finished sixth out of the stacked regional that has produced the NCAA national champion in each year that the championship has been played.

Junior Jenna Birch enjoyed a standout season, carding a team-best 74.24 stroke average en route to PBC Co-Player of the Year honors, as well as first-team WGCA All-American honors, becoming the first first-team All-American in school history.

Junior Kristen Sammarco followed in the footsteps of Birch by qualifying individually out of the South Regional for the NCAA Championships, birdieing the second playoff hole to earn the spot. In Daytona Beach, Sammarco played well, finishing tied for ninth with a three-over-par 291 score to earn honorable mention All-America honors with her Top 10 finish.

Junior Kiley Mettler earned All-Conference honors as well for the Pirates, who will return all five players from the postseason lineup for the 2013-14 season.