
The Knight Beat

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Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics

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THE KNIGHT BEAT

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Knights join NAIA rankings

Men's soccer out, in, out of Top-25; women's volleyball ranked No. 2 in Southeast Region after routing Palm Beach Atlantic

By Mike Laderman
Sports Information Director

After receiving just nine honorable mention votes to start out the season, the Nova Southeastern University men's soccer team broke into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' Top-25, moving all the way up to No. 6 in the nation with 344 votes after an amazing week of wins in mid-September.

Unfortunately, the euphoria didn't last.

Losses to the NCAA Division II No. 4 ranked University of Tampa (4-3, OT) and NCAA Division II Florida Southern (1-0) dropped the Knights to a No. 14 ranking in the NAIA. A 2-0 loss to Florida Sun Conference rival St. Thomas University followed. The 3-game slump was snapped thanks to a 2-0 win past Berry College in Birmingham, AL, yet they lost the following day, 2-1, to the NAIA's No. 4 ranked Birmingham

Southern. That pushed Nova Southeastern University out of the Top-25.

They got there, though, with some amazing play. In one week, the Knights had key wins over NCAA Division II Barry University (3-1), conference foe Flagler College (3-2, ranked No. 25 at the time in the NAIA) and Life College (1-0, ranked No. 8 in the NAIA) to improve their overall record to 5-1 and gain their spot in the top ten. "The kids are starting to believe they can play," NSU head coach Frankie Delgado said. "All of their hard work is paying off. Hopefully the entire community at NSU will recognize the players' hard work and support them."

Heading into October, the Knights were 6-5 overall, 2-1 in the Florida Sun Conference. Junior Christian Goffi led the Knights with 21 points, including 8 goals and 5 assists. Senior Cristian Cubillas was right behind him at 17 points (6 goals, 5 assists), followed by junior Cliff Cameron with 8 (3 goals, 2 assists). In goal, junior Michael Rivera had 4 shutouts while sporting a 1.36 goals against average.

Goffi was also named the Florida Sun Conference and NAIA Southeast Region Player of the Week for the week of September 1-7 thanks to 4 goals scored and 2 assists. He began that week by scoring 3 goals on 7 shots in the Knights' 4-0 win at Florida Tech. He also had an assist in what was NSU's first-ever win in 13 tries against FIT. Then, against conference rival Northwood University,



**Men's soccer
standout
Christian Goffi
was named the
FSC and NAIA
Southeast Region
Player of the
Week on
September 9**

he tallied 1 goal and 1 assist.

Charyl Morgan's volleyball squad, on the other hand, had yet to crack the nation's Top-25 heading into October--but was getting closer. That's because the Knights moved up to a No. 2 ranking in the NAIA Southeast Region, just behind No. 1 St. Thomas University.

Morgan's Knights have been on a roll, going into October by winning four in a row, five out of six, and eight out of 10. In fact, those four straight wins came in the Palm Beach Atlantic College Fall Classic against such top region teams as Clearwater Christian and Huntingdon College. Yet, even by going undefeated in the tournament, the Knights took fifth place thanks to the tournament's structure.

Due to a unique tiebreaker system which seeded NSU behind other undefeated teams St. Thomas and host Palm Beach Atlantic College due to the Knights losing one set during their match against Clearwater, NSU was left out of the championship bracket. Both St. Thomas

and Palm Beach Atlantic had gone their first three matches not losing any sets. Yet under the strange bracketing system, teams that both lost matches to Nova Southeastern University on the tournament's first day--Huntingdon and Clearwater Christian--played in the semifinals, with Clearwater Christian advancing to the tournament finals to play eventual winner St. Thomas. Thus, Clearwater--with two tournament losses--finished in second place. Host Palm Beach Atlantic--with one loss--was third, while Huntingdon--a team with two losses (including the one to NSU) took fourth place. NSU, however, went home

undefeated in the tournament with a fifth place finish.

NSU's play was solid, though, in the tournament, which is what the region raters must have seen in putting the Knights at No. 2. So good, in fact, that three members of the so-called fifth place team were named to the All-Tournament Team, including seniors Michelle Mertens and Heather Jay, and junior Michelle Trantham.

NSU's lone blemish during the last few weeks of September was a devastating loss to visiting St. Thomas. In it, the

Knights held two huge leads only to fall victim to comebacks, losing the match 15-13, 16-14, 15-12. Twice, the Knights were just a few points away from capturing respective sets. In fact, in the opening two sets, the Knights dominated--at least, in the beginning. Yet NSU couldn't hold on to its 12-3 Game 1 lead, and couldn't put the finishing touches on Game 2's 13-6 lead. St. Thomas rallied both times for the wins, and then held off NSU in the third for the victory.

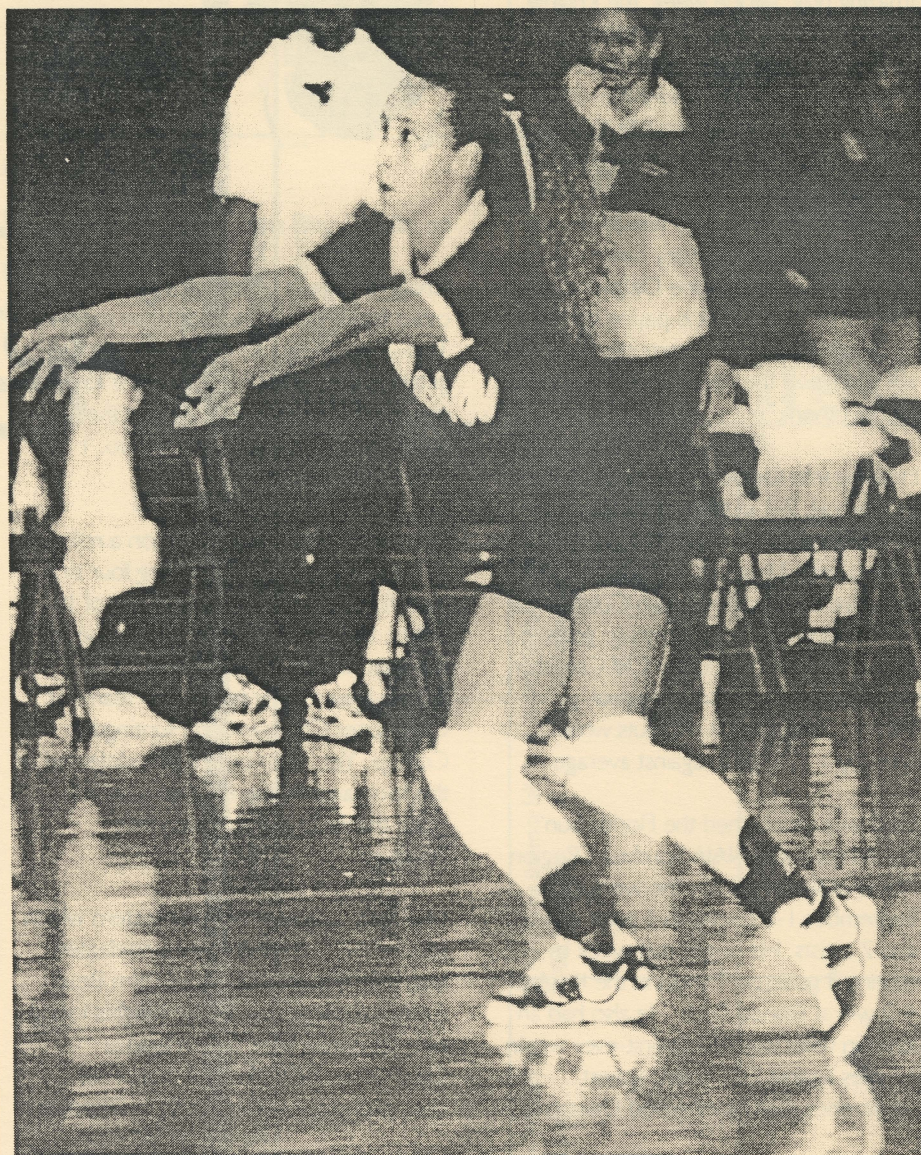
What's helped lead them, though, to a No. 2 ranking in the Southeast United States? Wins like the one that came against host Palm Beach Atlantic College on September 23. In it, the Knights--at the time ranked No. 4 in the region--put a pounding on the Sailfish--ranked No. 1 in the region--in a regular season match that took just 58 minutes, 15-8, 15-3, 15-8.

As far as how the Knights are faring against the rest of the conference, the answer is good. Jay is second in the FSC with 9.71 assists per game; senior Sherri Waddell is fifth with .691 blocks per game, fifth with 3.30 kills per game and seventh with 3.51 digs per game; sophomore Katie Banks is second with .674 service aces a game; Mertens is second with 3.65 kills per game and fourth with a .330 hitting percentage; and Trantham is sixth with a .296 hitting percentage.

NSU notes, quotes and anecdotes

*WOMEN'S SOCCER

Defender Jessica Goody was named the Florida Sun Conference and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Southeast Region Player of the week, it was announced September 29. A sophomore from Cooper City, FL (Cooper City High), Goody earned the honors thanks to her performance the previous week against Florida Sun Conference rival Palm Beach Atlantic



Sophomore Katie Banks prepares for a St. Thomas University attack

College. In that game, she came off the bench to score two goals and assist on another in the Knights' 4-1 come-from-behind win. Her first goal tied the game at 1-1 in the first half; her assist was on the game-winner midway through the second half. She then capped the game's scoring with just two minutes remaining in the contest to ice it for NSU. At that time she led the Knights (2-5-1) with 10 points (3 goals, 4 assists)--4 points ahead of sophomore Jennifer Jenkins...Freshman goalkeeper Jennifer Wiggins made her first collegiate start against Palm Beach Atlantic and earned the win. She had missed the Knights' first six games with a fractured left pinky. Against the Sailfish she faced 5 shots on goal and recorded 2 saves...The Knights took out their frustrations of a 1-0 loss to Webber by routing FSC rival Flagler College 4-0 the following day. Goody scored a goal and assisted on two others, while Olivia Bernal, Aimee Fernandez and Gina Alexandrou tallied the other goals.

*CROSS COUNTRY

The men's and women's cross country teams missed late September's meet at Stetson when their van blew out a tire...Junior Chris Hannon took 11th place at the University of North Florida Invitational, crossing the finish line in 28 minutes, 03 seconds...Hannon also finished in 8th place overall at the University of Central Florida Cross Country Collegiate Invitational, finishing in 27:55. His performance helped the Knights' men's squad to a seventh place overall finish with 176 points--just one point behind sixth place Webber College. Sophomore Randy Lowenthal finished 32nd overall at 30:09, while sophomore Arik Chellew was 33rd at 30:20. Junior Jared Tacher also crossed the line at 31:50, while Mark Cudia came in at 35:19. On the women's side, senior Marne Graden was 49th overall at 22:12 to lead the Knights. Sophomore Alyson Dion came in at 24:52...Of NSU's seven men's runners, three (Hannon, Mark Cudia, Arik Chellew) are from New Port Richey, FL.

*MEN'S GOLF

Senior Eric Buck shot a 75 to lead the men's golf team to a 10th place finish at the North Shore/Pfeiffer Intercollegiate Golf Tournament on September 27 at the North Shore Country Club in Sneeds Ferry, NC. Only one round was played as heavy rain and wind canceled second round action. NSU, as a team, finished at 332, just two points behind Florida Sun Conference rival Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and 30 shots behind team champion USC-Aiken (302). Other Knights' scores included junior Jason Garbutt (81), sophomore Mark Aldridge (87) and freshman Marcus Gallo (89). Senior Marc Grace rounded out the Knights with a 94.

*NSU SPORTSBEAT

The Department of Athletics' monthly 30-minute cable television program, NSU SportsBeat, features the youth of this year's women's soccer team, and talks about what life is like on the road for NSU's teams that travel. Hosts Mike Laderman and Patrick Feely anchor the program, which is aired on four cable systems throughout Broward County, including Jones Intercable (Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 9:30 p.m., Channel 14), Comcast Cable (Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Channel 3), MediaOne (Saturdays at 3 p.m., Channel 19) and Cable TV of Coral Springs (Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Channel 11). Athletes appearing this month include: men's soccer's Cristian Cubillas, Michael Rivera, Lenny Eterno and Gus Bravo; women's soccer's Jennifer Wiggins, Heather Rogers, Aimee Fernandez, Krista Harness, Olivia Bernal, Melissa Simmons, Cindy Ojeda and Marissa Abbott; and volleyball's Sherri Waddell, Skye Miles and Heather Jay. Respective team coaches Frankie Delgado, Rebecca Utter and Charyl Morgan also make appearances.

*UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking ahead to November, Tony McAndrews' men's basketball squad

opens its season November 4 at Florida Christian College, then competes in the Webber College Tip-Off Tournament November 7-8. NSU's home opener is Saturday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. against St. Leo College at the BCC George Mayer Gym...Nova Southeastern University hosts the Florida Sun Conference's men's soccer, women's soccer and volleyball tournaments on November 7-8.

*NSU STAFF QUICK FACTS

Names and numbers to remember from the Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics...All calls are area code (954)...

Director of Athletics: Corey Johnson
262-8250

Assistant to the Director: Beverly Welker
262-8252

Sports Information Director: Mike Laderman
262-8261

Business Manager: Rafi Wynn
262-8270

Operations Coordinator: Patrick Feely
262-8267

Trainer: Theresa Belesky
262-8256

Academic Coordinator: Gale Lang
262-8268

Baseball: Sonny Hansley
262-8259

Softball: Robyn Handler
262-8258

Golf: Dustin Phillips
262-8268

Cross Country: Alan Platt
262-8129

Cross Country: Stacie Matschner
262-8250

Men's Soccer: Frankie Delgado
262-8255

Women's Soccer: Rebecca Utter
262-8257

Women's Tennis: Tom Burke
262-8266

Volleyball: Charyl Morgan
262-8264

October

1997

Nova Southeastern University Knights
Department of Athletics

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
			7 p.m. WS VS. Lynn University 7 p.m. VB VS. Northwood University	1	2 4 p.m. MS @ Auburn-Montgomery 7 p.m. WS VS. Flagler College 7 p.m. VB @ Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University TBA CC @ TBA	3 12 p.m. VB @ Flagler College 2 p.m. MS @ University of Mobile	4	
MG @ Lynn University Fall Golf Tournament	5 MG @ Lynn University Fall Golf Tournament	6 MG @ Lynn University Fall Golf Tournament	7 5 p.m. WS VS. Webber College 7 p.m. MS VS. Palm Beach Atlantic College	8	7 p.m. VB @ LaGrange College Tournament	9 VB @ LaGrange College Tournament	10 VB @ LaGrange College Tournament TBA CC @ University of Florida 5 p.m. WS VS. Eckerd College	11
12	13	14 4 p.m. WS @ Palm Beach Atlantic College 7 p.m. MS VS. St. Thomas University 7 p.m. VB @ St. Thomas University	15 MG @ Webber College	16 MG @ Webber College 5 p.m. CC @ University of South Florida 7 p.m. MS VS. Dominican University 7 p.m. VB VS. Webber College	17 MG @ Webber College 12 p.m. VB VS. Warner Southern College 1 p.m. WS @ Brewton-Parker Tournament 5 p.m. VB VS. Florida Memorial College	18		
MG @ Webber College 1 p.m. WS @ Brewton-Parker Tournament	19	20 7 p.m. VB VS. Palm Beach Atlantic College	21 4 p.m. WS @ St. Thomas University	22	23 MG @ St. Thomas Invitational	24 MG @ St. Thomas Invitational 4 p.m. MS @ Webber College	25	
MG @ St. Thomas Invitational 5 p.m. MS @ Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	26	27 6 p.m. VB @ Miami-Dade Community College (exhibition) 7 p.m. WS VS. Broward Community College (exhibition)	28 4:30 p.m. MS @ Palm Beach Atlantic College	29 7 p.m. VB VS. Miami-Dade Community College (exhibition)	30 7 p.m. MS @ Rollins College 7 p.m. VB VS. Trinity International	31 NOVEMBER 1 3 p.m. WS VS. University of North Florida 7 p.m. VB @ Northwood University		

Home soccer matches are played at the NSU Soccer Complex, located just south of the Miami Dolphins' Training Facility

Home volleyball matches are played at Broward Community College's George Mayer Gymnasium (Bldg. 10)