
The Knight Beat

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Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics

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THE KNIGHT BEAT

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Department of Athletics

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Let the games begin

Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics to host 17 teams, 3 Florida Sun Conference championship tournaments November 7-8

By Mike Laderman
Sports Information Director

Seventeen teams in three sports will be competing for respective Florida Sun Conference championships at Nova Southeastern University November 7-8, all vying for the rights to advance to respective NAIA Southeast Region Championship Tournaments within the next two weeks.

Four teams--including Nova Southeastern University--will compete for the men's and women's soccer titles, while nine go for the women's volleyball crown. The

hometown Knights, meanwhile, are in a solid position in each respective sport, being seeded No. 2 (behind St. Thomas University) in both men's and women's soccer. The volleyball squad, as of Friday, October 31, has the No. 3 seed, yet can still claim the No. 2 spot if Palm Beach Atlantic College defeated Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Tuesday, November 4. Details of that match were not available as the *KnightBeat* went to press.

The brackets are as follows. In women's soccer action on Friday the 7th, No. 1 seed St. Thomas University takes on No. 4 Palm Beach Atlantic College at 4 p.m., while NSU takes on No. 3 Webber College at 6 p.m. The two winners meet Saturday at 5 p.m. for the championship. The men's tournament begins Friday with No. 1 St. Thomas going up against No. 4 Webber College at 5 p.m., and NSU taking on No. 3 Flagler College at 7 p.m. in a rematch of last year's FSC title game (won by the Saints). Those winners will meet on Saturday at 7 p.m. for the FSC crown. Volleyball will be running every two hours at Broward Community College's George Mayer Gymnasium (Building 10, Central Campus) beginning at 112 a.m., with No. 8 Warner Southern College taking on

No. 9 Florida Memorial College. At 1 p.m. is No. 4 seed Palm Beach Atlantic College vs. No. 5 Flagler College; 3 p.m. No. 2 Embry-Riddle vs. No. 7 Webber College (that is, should ERAU have defeated PBAC on Tuesday); 5 p.m. No. 1 St. Thomas University vs. Warner Southern/Florida Memorial College winner; 7 p.m. No. 3 Nova Southeastern University vs. No. 6 Northwood University. However, if PBAC defeats ERAU this past Tuesday and NSU ends up being seeded No. 2, then the Knights will take on Webber College at 7 p.m., while ERAU will face Northwood University at 3 p.m. The semifinals are at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, with the championship game at 6 p.m.

It all adds up to three sport excitement at Nova Southeastern University the weekend of November 7-8, actually beginning Thursday, November 6, with that evening's Florida Sun Conference Tournament Banquet at Davie's Rolling Hills Hotel. It also means the Department of Athletics will be on full alert, so to speak, in that every office member not on the road with a team will be helping staff the events. NSU Director of Operations Patrick Feely--the tournament's director--and Sports Information Director Mike Laderman

are staffing four positions for each soccer game (tickets, official scorebook, two ballshaggers) and 11 positions for each volleyball match (tickets, two ballshaggers, two lines people, official scorer, public address announcer, scoreboard operator, computer statistician, two spotters). The challenge is much like the department faces each December in running the McKinley Financial Invitational high school soccer tournament, which has more than 30 games to staff. "But just like that event," Feely said, "we'll get through it with flying colors."

And, speaking of flying, it could be the three Knights teams that could be flying high after championship week. As mentioned above, all three teams are in a prime position to capture Florida Sun Conference titles. In fact, all three teams have been there before, having the experience it takes to capture such a championship and move on to the regionals. Charyl Morgan's volleyball squad has been to four consecutive FSC title matches, winning three of them (their last in 1995); and Frankie Delgado's and Rebecca Utter's men's and women's soccer teams, respectively, have advanced to the conference championship games each of the past two years, both winning titles in 1995.

Can this be the year that all three teams break through for conference titles again? Why not? A quick glance at volleyball shows one of the hottest teams in the southeast United States, being ranked No. 2 in the NAIA Southeast Region with a 24-9 overall record (13-3 in the FSC). Morgan's Knights finished the regular season with five consecutive wins--all past FSC rivals--and 17 wins in the final 18 matches. NSU fields three of the top hitters in the region--seniors Michelle

Mertens and Sherri Waddell, and junior Michelle Trantham-- , one of the top setters in senior Heather Jay, and one of the top defensive specialists in sophomore Katie Banks. Mertens ended the regular season with an amazing 3.937 kills per game, with an even more amazing .356 attack percentage. Waddell, last year's NAIA Southeast Region Player of the Year, averages 3.262 kills per game (for a .233 attack percentage), while Trantham averages 3.087 kills per game (.283 attack percentage). Jay, meanwhile, has been setting the hitters up consistently all season, averaging 9.738 assists per game. And defensively, Banks led the Knights with 3.216 digs per game. Waddell and senior Skye Miles also have been a blocking dynamic duo, with Waddell leading the squad with 43 block solos, 58 block assists, and Miles recording 9 block solos, 54 block assists.

On the soccer side, both teams head into their FSC tourneys as the No. 2 seed--yet women's soccer has the inside edge on advancing past the conference tournament into regionals as their conference--unlike the men's--has the top two finishers advancing to the NAIA Southeast Region Championships. Where the men are concerned, only the conference winner advances.

The women have had their ups and downs this season, but not so much as with the injury bug. For the FSC tournament, the Knights will be without senior midfielder Stacy-Ann Brown and freshman goalkeeper Jennifer Wiggins. Wiggins had received a Grade 3 severe concussion in late October at St. Thomas University when she and STU forward Michelle Smith went for a loose ball just outside the 18-yard box. Both players met up with each

other with the ball bouncing in front of Wiggins' box. The 5-foot-4 keeper's forehead hit Smith's knee, which was in the air going after the ball. Both players then went down, with Wiggins being knocked unconscious for almost four minutes. In fact, she did not regain full consciousness until arriving with paramedics at Miami's Parkway Regional Medical Center almost 20 minutes later. Yet even with the injuries, the Knights enter as one of the favorites to capture the tournament title, going into it with a 7-9-1 overall mark, 5-2-1 in the FSC. Freshman Mandi Adams leads the Knights with 15 points (5 goals--2 being game-winning--and 5 assists), with sophomore Jennifer Jenkins right behind her with 14 points (6 goals, 2 assists). Sophomore Jessica Goody also has 12 points (4 goals, 4 assists). Adams, in fact, was named the FSC's Player of the Week for the week of October 20-26 thanks to her play in NSU's 3-1 win past Piedmont College. In that game, she led the Knights with 1 goal and 1 assist (3 points).

The men's soccer squad--seen, not seen, seen again, then not seen, seen, etc...in the weekly NAIA national rankings--closed out its regular season with an 11-7-1 overall mark, 4-1-1 in the FSC. They, too, will be going in the tournament with a key injury, that being senior midfielder Cristian Cubillas, who tore the ACL in his right knee in early October, thus ending his college career. Good news for the Knights, though, is that while Cubillas was being placed on the injured list, seniors Gus Bravo and Warren Bloise were being taken off it. Since their return, the results have been much better, what with the Knights going 4-1-1 and clinching a post-season berth. Junior Christian

Goffi leads the Knights heading into the playoffs with 32 points (13 goals, 6 assists), followed by the injured Cubillas with 17 (6 goals, 5 assists) and junior Cliff Cameron (5 goals, 3 assists, 13 points). Goffi was also honored by the FSC this past month, being named the conference's Player of the Week for the week of October 5-12.

NSU notes, quotes and anecdotes...

*CROSS COUNTRY

NSU's men's and women's cross country teams have qualified two runners each (four total) for this month's NAIA National Cross Country Championships thanks to performances in the Florida Sun Conference Championships at Webber College. The men's squad's junior Chris Hannon and sophomore Arik Chellev--both from New Port Richey, FL--and the women's senior Marne Graden and sophomore Alyson Dion all advanced to run in Parkside, WI, on November 15 in the national meet. The four were their usual selves, with Hannon taking the individual first place championship in 28 minutes, 44 seconds; Chellev was eighth at 30:26; Graden taking second amongst the ladies at 20:18; and Dion in seventh at 21:50. It will be the third consecutive appearance at the NAIA championships for Hannon and Graden, the second straight for Dion. In the overall team results, NSU (61 points) failed to repeat as men's FSC champions, falling to host Webber College (38). The women's squad--looking for its first-ever conference championship--also just missed with a second place performance (68), falling to Flagler College (24). Hannon's victory gave him the FSC's Runner of

the Year honor. He, along with Chellev, Graden and Dion, were also named to the All-Conference Team.

*NSU SPORTSBEAT

The November episode of "NSU SportsBeat," the only show of its kind for any National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school, features the volleyball, women's soccer, men's soccer and men's basketball teams. Featuring Laderman and Feely, it is aired Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays on Jones Intercable's Channel 14 at 9:30 p.m.; Fridays (7:30 p.m.) and Sundays (11 a.m.) On Comcast Cable's Channel 3; Fridays on Cable TV of Coral Springs' Channel 11 (7:30 p.m.); and Saturdays on MediaOne's Channel 19 at 3 p.m.

*BASEBALL

Head coach Sonny Hansley and the Knights are hosting a holiday baseball camp for ages 6-18 from December 29-January 3 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.). Mornings will include instruction from top area coaches, while afternoons will include position instruction and a competitive baseball game to end the day. Cost of the camp is \$150, with a 10 percent discount given to families with two or more children in the same session. For more information, contact Hansley at 262-8259.

*MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball season gets underway on the road, with contests at Florida Christian College (November 4) and at the Webber Tip-Off Tournament (November 7-8 in Babson Park, FL). NSU's home opener is Saturday, November 15, at 7:30 p.m. vs. St. Leo College.

*UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking ahead to December, Tony McAndrews' men's basketball squad faces one of its biggest tests of the season when it hosts Lynn University Monday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. Five days later--on Saturday the 6th--another big foe (Barry University) comes to town for another 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

*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
Basketball: Tony McAndrews
262-8263
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

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

November

1997

Nova Southeastern University Knights Department of Athletics

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30						3 p.m. Women's Soccer VS. University of North Florida 7 p.m. Volleyball @ Northwood University
2		3 7 p.m. Men's Basketball @ Florida Christian College	4	5	6 Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Women's Volleyball Florida Sun Conference Tournaments: HOSTED BY NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball @ Webber Tip-Off Invitational	7 Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Women's Volleyball Florida Sun Conference Tournaments: HOSTED BY NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball @ Webber Tip-Off Invitational
9		10	11	12	13	14 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. St. Leo College
16		17	18	19	20 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. Benedict College (SC)	21 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. Allen University
23		24 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. Eckerd College	25	26	27	28
						29

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

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