
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 leap into Top-25

Nova
Southeastern
University softball
squad earns first-
ever national
ranking, jumping
to No. 19 in
NAIA preseason
poll

*By Mike Laderman
Sports Information Director*

It's taken Robyn Handler and her Nova Southeastern University women's softball team more than three years, but the wait was worth it. Handler, the fourth-year head coach of the Knights' women's softball team, learned early this month that her squad has been ranked No. 19 in the NAIA's Softball Top-25 Preseason Poll as selected by the NAIA softball Coaches Association.

"It feels awesome," said Handler, whose Knights were 11-3 at the time of the

announcement, and getting ready to head up to Orlando's Rebel Games. "I think it's nice to finally be recognized. The team has worked real hard to get to this level ever since they arrived here three years ago when we first started the program. It's been a slow progression, but each year we've met our goals and achieved them, and this year is no different. We came in shooting for a high national ranking, and we think we're capable of keeping it up and achieving that goal."

Surprisingly, it is the first time NSU has ever cracked the Top-25 in the team's existence. The Knights have had winning seasons in each of their three seasons, finishing 18-16 in 1994-95, 27-20 in 1995-96, and 33-13 last year, when they finished in third place in the NAIA Southeast Region. In fact, the most honorable mention votes they had ever received before was seven, coming at the end of last season. This current poll, though, takes more into consideration what the team did last year than what they've accomplished this year...and this year, they've accomplished a lot. NSU's only losses have come to NCAA Division II teams Barry University (2-0), University of Tampa (2-0) and Valdosta State University (5-4, 9 innings). They've also beaten NCAA II teams Lynn University (9-0, 12-3, 5-4), St. Leo College (6-2, 4-2), Barry (4-1) and Tampa (2-0).

March

1998

Nova Southeastern University Knights Department of Athletics

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Softball @BARRY TOURNEY 1	2:45p.m Baseball VS. Concordia College 2	3	7:00p.m Baseball @ University of Tampa 4	7:00p.m Baseball @ University of Tampa Softball @ REBEL GAMES 5	Softball @ REBEL GAMES 6	7:00p.m Baseball @Eckerd College Softball @ REBEL GAMES 7
1:00p.m Baseball @ Eckerd College Softball @ REBEL GAMES 8	Classes Begin 9	Baseball @ Homestead Challenge 10	Baseball @ Homestead Challenge 11	2:30p.m Tennis VS. St. Thomas University 12	2:45p.m Baseball VS. St. Thomas University7 5:30p.m Softball VS. Florida International University (DH) 13	12:00p.m Baseball VS. St. Thomas University (DH) 14
15	16	3:15P.M Baseball @ Ft. Myers 17	18	2:45p.m Baseball VS. Ramapo College 5:30p.m Softball VS. Mt. Sinario (DH) 19	2:00p.m Women's Tennis VS Columbia University 2:45p.m Baseball VS. Dominican University 20	2:00p.m Baseball @ Ft. Myers (DH) Softball @ COCOA EXPO 21
12:00p.m Baseball @ Ft. Myers 1:00p.m Softball @ University of North Florida 22	23	2:00p.m Women's Tennis VS. Palm Beach Atlantic College 2:45p.m Baseball VS. Baker University 24	2:45p.m Baseball VS. Trinity International University 5:30p.m Softball VS. St. Thomas, NY (DH) 25	5:30p.m Softball VS. Mercy College(DH) 26	4:00p.m Baseball @ Palm Beach Atlantic College 27	12:00p.m Baseball @ Palm Beach Atlantic College (DH) 1:00p.m Softball VS. Webber College (DH) 28
29	30	2:45p.m Baseball VS. Spring Arbor College 31				

Home baseball games played at NSU Baseball Complex, located just south of the Miami Dolphins' Training Complex

Home Softball games played at A.D. Griffin Sports Complex, just west of the Miami Dolphins' Complex

Tennis played at BCC Central

NSU notes, quotes and anecdotes...

*BASKETBALL

Strong finish has Knights looking to next year

The 1997-98 men's basketball campaign ended with an 89-69 loss to eventual champion Embry-Riddle University in the Florida Sun Conference Championship Tournament, yet the squad is already optimistic about next season's possibilities. That's because the team loses just one senior starter to graduation (that being Chad Bobik), while all others return. Of those, leading the way are juniors Sherard Hernandez and Robertson, both of whom were named to the FSC's All-Conference Team for the second consecutive season, and sophomore Jeff Payanis, who led the FSC in assists. Heading into the conference tourney, the Knights had finished the regular season with four consecutive wins.

*NSU SPORTSBEAT

March show features spring sports

The March episode of NSU SportsBeat, the only show of its kind for any National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school, is currently airing on four Broward County cable systems to a subscriber audience of more than 370,000 with bits on men's basketball, baseball and softball, and talks of golf and tennis. It is aired Fridays and 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.

*ATHLETICS AWARDS BANQUET

Banquet slated for April 26 at Rolling Hills

The NSU Department of Athletics Annual Awards Banquet will be held Sunday, April 26, at the Rolling Hills Hotel and Golf Resort beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets for two (2) immediate family members per athlete are available at a cost of \$15 per person. RSVP to Beverly Young in the Department of Athletics at 954-262-8266 by April 15. Teams will recognize those individual team members for their outstanding contributions by awarding Most Valuable, Captains and Most Improve plaques, as well as honoring graduating seniors. The Training Room will also honor two student-trainers, while the Sports Information Office will pass down the Golden Pencil Award.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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