

The Knight Beat

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The Knight Beat, February 1999

Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics

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THE KNIGHT BEAT

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February 1999

Turning 400

Entering his 12th season, head baseball coach Sonny Hansley is just 15 wins shy of a milestone mark

By the NSU Sports Information Office

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL— In 11 seasons at the helm of Nova Southeastern University's baseball program, head coach Sonny Hansley has seen his share of big victories. "We've had quite a few over the years," said Hansley, who has been working in NSU's department of athletics since 1981-82. "The funny thing is, when we first started this whole thing in 1987-88, we beat North Florida in a double-header, not even knowing who North Florida was. We had 15 players, they had 30... they came to our field, which wasn't a very good one at the time like it is now... they were just big-time. And we beat them. It was quite an accomplishment, and, at that time, we didn't even know what we had done. And, of course, other wins, like beating Florida Southern, Providence when they won the Big East championship, Creighton... and winning our conference, too, three times. We've seen some big wins here."

He has another big one coming up. Which one it will be, though, remains to be seen. That's because Hansley, who turns 52 this year, is about to turn 400 as well. Hansley begins his 12th season as head coach of the Knights this Saturday and Sunday, when he takes his squad to Florida Tech on Saturday, January 30, and Florida Southern on Sunday (both games begin at 1 p.m.). And, when he does so, he'll bring with him an 11-

year coaching record of 385-216-3...thus, being just 15 wins shy of the magical 400.

Hansley has seen it all with the Knights. Under his direction, NSU has captured three Florida Sun Conference championships—two regular-season titles (in 1993-94 and 1996-97), and one tournament title (1994-95), thus advancing to the NAIA Southeast Region Championship Tournament three times. In all his years, his squads failed to make the post-season tournament just once (that being last year, when the team finished 26-25 overall, 10-14 in the FSC). He's also had only one losing season, that being his first year when his small-in-numbers squad finished 18-32.

"Is this a sign that I'm getting old? I don't think so," Hansley added. "I don't feel old. I do as much now, if not more, than I've ever done. I still throw batting practice every day, I'm a hands-on coach, I don't just stand back and not do anything. Plus, I'm healthy. People don't think I'm as old as I am, which is kind of nice. Being around baseball all these years and being outside and being in South Florida has probably had a lot to do with that. Constantly working with the kids and staying healthy, plus working out with my son (Ken), keeps me in shape...even after all these years."

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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.

February

1999

Nova Southeastern University Knights

1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7 p.m. Women's Basketball @ Florida Memorial College	2 2:30 p.m. BB @ Barry	3	4 5 p.m. Women's Basketball @ Warner Southern 7 p.m. Men's Basketball @ Warner Southern	5 1 p.m. BB VS. Florida Southern 1 p.m. SB VS. Edward Waters 3 p.m. Men's Basketball @ Webber College 5 p.m. Women's Basketball @ Webber College
Men's Golf at Brevard Community College (Rockledge Golf Club) 7 p.m. <i>NSU SportsBeat...the Radio Edition</i> on 88.5 FM	7 Men's Golf at Brevard Community College (Rockledge Golf Club)	8 Men's Golf at Brevard Community College (Rockledge Golf Club)	9 7 p.m. Baseball VS. Barry University	10	11 7 p.m. Baseball @ Embry-Riddle University	12 12 p.m. Women's Basketball VS. Palm Beach 1 p.m. Baseball @ Embry-Riddle (DH) 1 p.m. Softball vs. St. Leo University (DH) 2 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. Palm Beach Atlantic College
7 p.m. <i>NSU SportsBeat...the Radio Edition</i> on 88.5 FM	14 5 p.m. Women's Basketball VS. Florida Memorial College 7 p.m. Men's Basketball VS. Florida Memorial College	15 3 p.m. Baseball VS. Florida Tech	16 2:45 p.m. Softball @ Barry University	17	18 2:45 p.m. Baseball @ Webber College 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball @ Embry-Riddle University	19 12 p.m. Baseball @ Webber College (DH) 1 p.m. Softball @ Lynn 3 p.m. Men's Basketball @ Flagler College
7 p.m. <i>NSU SportsBeat...the Radio Edition</i> on 88.5 FM	21	22 TBA Men's Basketball Conference Tournament/First Round Game	23 6 p.m. Softball @ Florida International University 7 p.m. Baseball VS. Trinity International University	24	25 TBA Men's Basketball Conference Tournament TBA Women's Basketball Conference Tournament 7 p.m. Baseball VS. Palm Beach Atlantic	26 TBA Men's Basketball Conference Tournament TBA Women's Basketball Conference Tournament 1 p.m. Baseball VS. Palm Beach Atlantic (DH)
7 p.m. <i>NSU SportsBeat...the Radio Edition</i> on 88.5 FM	28					

Home basketball games played at Broward Community College Central Campus (Building 10)..... Home baseball games played at NSU Baseball Complex (just south of Dolphins' Complex)..... Home softball games played at A.D. Griffin Complex (just west of Dolphins' Complex)

NSU notes, quotes and anecdotes...

*VOLLEYBALL

Morgan resigns as NSU volleyball coach for new business ventures

Charyl Morgan, a South Florida volleyball product that was living her career dream by coaching college ball in her own backyard, resigned as head coach of the Nova Southeastern University women's volleyball team, effective next week (January 26). She is leaving in order to head to Kentucky, where she and her husband of 14 years, David, will be embarking on new business ventures with friends. "This was a decision that certainly wasn't easy on us both, but it's something that we've talked about doing for some time," Morgan said. "I'm going to miss it down here, both the area and the school. But, at the same time, I'm looking forward to what the future holds in store for us in Kentucky."

Morgan leaves behind a squad that is expected to contend for the Florida Sun Conference championship next year. Although they finished just one game over .500 (16-15) and failed to qualify for the NAIA Southeast Region Championship Tournament for the first time since 1992, the Knights return all but one (graduating senior Michelle Trantham/Homestead, FL, South Dade High) from this year's roster. That includes Second Team All-Conference players Beth Chorzelewski (Deerfield Beach, FL, Cardinal Gibbons High), Ro LaHara (Jensen Beach, FL, Martin County High), Robin Snapp (Melbourne, FL, Eau Gallie High) and Camille Walker (Boca Raton, FL, Spanish River High), all of whom will be seniors next season. "The future looks good for the NSU volleyball program," Morgan said. "Whoever comes in will be stepping into a good situation, what with a team of veterans coming back. I know they'll do good next season if they play the way they're capable of playing."

In her first season at Nova Southeastern University, Morgan took the Knights to a 27-11 record, going all the way to the 1997-98 region championship match, where they fell just two points shy of advancing to the NAIA National Championship Tournament. Before arriving at NSU, Morgan held two head coaching positions: the first with Hillsborough Community College, where she took her team to a 15-14 overall record in 1990; and the second with NCAA Division I program University of Southwestern Louisiana. There, she turned around a young program by finishing 9-21 in 1994 and 18-18 in 1995. Morgan also assisted at Pasco Hernando Community College in 1992-93, and for the United States Volleyball Association (Clearwater, FL) in 1992. A former Miami-Dade Community College standout, Morgan was named to the MDCC Hall of Fame in 1980, and also helped the University of Texas at Arlington capture two conference championships and finish fourth nationally in 1981.

Nova Southeastern University's Department of Athletics is currently accepting applications for the position of head volleyball coach. The position will remain open until filled. Interested applicants should call NSU at (954) 262-8250.

*BASKETBALL

Men's, women's teams hope to host respective conference events

As the men's and women's basketball seasons begin winding down during the early-to-mid part of February, both Knights' squads are looking ahead at possibly hosting respective Florida Sun Conference championship tournaments. Marilyn Rule's women's team, in first place at the beginning of the month with a 4-1 league record, have the best shot at hosting the FSC's Final Four, as—should they keep winning—they would be the top seed. Close-by to the Knights in the standings is Flagler College, which could also end up hosting the FSC Tourney should both NSU and Flagler finish with the same league record (the Saints would hold the tiebreaker edge). As for Tony McAndrews' men's basketball team, they are currently in a dogfight for second place with three other teams. Yet the good news for the Knights is that, should they remain a top-four Florida Sun Conference team, then would host a first-round playoff game on Tuesday, January 23, against a lower-seeded opponent. The winner of that game would then advance to the men's Final Four, which is hosted by the highest remaining seed following Tuesday's games. Both the women's and men's Final Fours will be played Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27.

*NSU SPORTSBEAT...THE RADIO EDITION

Show to follow basketball teams through playoff run, feature spring sports

"*NSU SportsBeat...The Radio Edition*" will keep NSU fans up-to-date with the Knights' progress ever Sunday at 7 p.m. (*NSU After Dark Radio*... 88.5 FM) with weekly scores, highlights and previews. The show, featuring sports information director Mike Laderman and assistant athletic director Patrick Feely, will also highlight NSU's spring sports (baseball, softball, men's golf) throughout the month.