
The Knight Beat

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The Knight Beat, March 1999

Nova Southeastern University Department of Athletics

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THE KNIGHT BEAT

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Knights light up Orlando

Softball team proves its power by setting team record for home runs in a season... just halfway through 1999

By the NSU Sports Information Office

If there were ever a time for the Nova Southeastern University women's softball team to put on a display of power, this past week was the week for it. The Knights didn't disappoint, hitting 12 home runs in nine games (over a span of just four playing days)—including five (in two games) over No. 9 ranked Houston Baptist University. "I knew we were a powerful team, but I didn't know we were that powerful," said fifth-year head coach Robyn Handler. "The team just came to play this week, and proved that we could play with any team in the country."

Hopefully the raters will see that. It's certain, though, that at least one rater will, that being Houston Baptist head coach Mary Ellen Hall, who is one of nine NAIA regional raters. NSU swept Houston Baptist this past week at Disney's Wide World of Sports Spring Training Games, 5-2 and 1-0, posing the question as to how NSU—which finished last year ranked No. 12—could suddenly not be ranked in the NAIA Pre-Season Top-25 Poll this year.

As far as its home run prowess, the Knights (16-3) have already connected for a team-record 16 home runs just halfway through the season. Senior Shannon Sawyer (Pembroke Pines, FL, Cooper City High) leads the squad with five, followed by senior Sherri Waddell (Cooper City, FL, St. Thomas Aquinas), sophomore Diane Ocampo (Davie, FL, St. Thomas Aquinas High) and freshmen Stephanie Gleicher (Davie, FL, Nova High) and Cheryl Bond (Pembroke Pines, FL, McArthur High), who all have two. This past week alone, Sawyer hit three blasts—including the game-winning solo shot in NSU's 1-0 win past Houston Baptist.

Speaking of Sawyer... the fourth-year starter leads all NSU batters with a .529 batting average, .863 slugging percentage, and .631 on-base percentage. But she's not stopping with that. From the pitcher's mound, Sawyer is 4-0 with a 0.00 earned run average. THAT IS NOT A MIS-PRINT. In four appearances (25.0 innings of work), Sawyer has given up just one unearned run on 13 hits. She's also struck out 13 opponents, while walking just one.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 1999</h1> <h2>Nova Southeastern University Knights Department of Athletics</h2>						
	1	2 7 p.m. Baseball VS Tampa	3 3 p.m. Baseball VS Tampa TBA Softball @ Wide World of Sports	4 7 p.m. Baseball VS Villanova TBA Softball @ Wide World of Sports	5 7 p.m. Baseball VS William Patterson TBA Softball @ Wide World of Sports	6 TBA Softball @ Wide World of Sports
7 1 p.m. Softball VS Fairmont State College @ Fort Pierce TBA Golf @ Northwood University Invitational	8 7 p.m. Baseball VS Monmouth TBA Golf @ Northwood University Invitational	9 7 p.m. Baseball VS St. Ambrose University TBA Golf @ Northwood University Invitational	10 7 p.m. Baseball VS Dominican College	11	12 5:30 p.m. Softball VS Lynn University 7 p.m. Baseball VS Concordia	13 7 p.m. Baseball VS Eckerd College TBA Golf @ Embry-Riddle Spring Classic
14 1 p.m. Baseball VS Eckerd College TBA Golf @ Embry-Riddle Spring Classic	15 TBA Golf @ Embry-Riddle Spring Classic	16 2:45 p.m. Baseball @ Lynn University	17 5:30 p.m. Softball VS West Liberty State 7 p.m. Baseball VS Indiana	18 5:30 p.m. Softball VS University of Bridgewater.	19 7 p.m. Baseball VS Florida Memorial College	20 1 p.m. Baseball VS Florida Memorial College 1 p.m. Softball VS University of Hartford
21	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. Softball VS Palm Beach Atlantic College 7 p.m. Baseball VS Trinity International University	25 5:30 p.m. Softball VS Millersville University	26 3 p.m. Baseball @ Warner Southern College	27 1 p.m. Softball VS Webber College 1 p.m. Baseball @ Warner Southern College
28 TBA Golf @ Rome-Tribune/Berry College Invitational	29 TBA Golf @ Rome-Tribune/Berry College Invitational	30 5:30 p.m. Softball VS Lyndon State University 7 p.m. Baseball VS Spring Arbor TBA Golf @ Rome-Tribune/Berry College Invitational	31 5:30 p.m. Softball VS Mercy College 7 p.m. Baseball VS Lynn University			

Home baseball games played at NSU Baseball Complex, located just south of Miami Dolphins' Training Facility..... Home Softball games played at A.D. Griffin Complex, located just west of Miami Dolphins' Training Facility

NSU notes, quotes and anecdotes...

*BASEBALL

'Hansley Watch' down to 6 in early part of March

Thanks to victories in the first few days of March against defending NCAA II champion University of Tampa (6-5) and NCAA I Villanova University (6-4), Nova Southeastern University head baseball coach Sonny Hansley is just six wins shy of his 400th. The milestone could come as early as the second week of the month, as the Knights play six games in that seven day span. NSU's upcoming schedule includes: Monday vs. Monmouth, 7 p.m.; Tuesday vs. St. Ambrose, 7 p.m.; Wednesday vs. Dominican, 7 p.m.; Friday vs. Concordia, 7 p.m.; Saturday vs. Eckerd College, 7 p.m.; and Sunday vs. Eckerd College, 1 p.m. All home games will be played at the NSU Baseball Complex, located just south of the Miami Dolphins' Training Facility. "This is just any other week," Hansley said. "We've got a lot of games that we'd like to win. It's important to do well during this stretch of games, not to get me 400 wins, but rather to get the team playing well heading into the remainder of our conference schedule."

Should the Knights (9-11) lose any games that week, then the occasion will have to wait until either Tuesday, March 26, when the Knights visit Lynn University at 2:45 p.m.; the 17th against visiting Indiana University at 7 p.m.; or during a three-game regular-season conference set against visiting Florida Memorial College on the 19th and 20th. Hansley has been at the helm of the Knights' baseball program since its inception in 1987-88, compiling a 394-218-3 record in 11 1/2 seasons. He has been with NSU's athletics department since it first began in 1982, being the director until the summer of 1995.

*BASKETBALL

Seasons end for both men's, women's squads

Two successful seasons came to an end in the Florida Sun Conference championship tournaments for both of NSU's basketball teams. Tony McAndrews' men's squad finished the year at 18-14 overall, falling in the league's quarterfinals to Webber College, 83-73. Once again, graduating seniors Sherard Hernandez (Miami, FL, North Miami Senior High) and Robert Robinson (Kingston, Jamaica, Wolmer's High) were named to the All-Conference Team, with Hernandez taking honors for his fourth consecutive season thanks to averaging 18.4 points and 7.9 rebounds a game, and Robinson honored for his third straight season with 15.2 points and 6.6 rebounds a game. As for Marilyn Rule's first-year women's team (13-7), they, too, fell to Webber College in the playoffs, 64-61. Rule, who was named the FSC's Coach of the Year, had three Knights on the All-Conference Team, including sophomore Heidi Turczynski (Naples, FL, Barron Collier High, 11.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg), and juniors Tajuna Lee (Orlando, FL, Evans High, 11.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg) and Telesicia Nash (Tampa, FL, King Senior High, 10.2 ppg, 6.1 rpg). Meghanne Hickey (Casselberry, FL, Lyman High) was also named the league's Freshman of the Year.

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