ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC SOCCER

2008 RECRUITING CLASS

BACK TO BACK NCAA NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS
2006, 2007
Faulconer on the 2008 Recruiting Class....

Armstrong Atlantic State University head coach Eric Faulconer has announced his recruiting class for the 2008 season. A total of seven players have signed National Letters of Intent for the 2008-2009 academic year.

This year’s class includes five players from the state of Georgia, one Floridian and one international. “Over the past year and a half we have really focused our recruiting efforts on the state of Georgia and the Atlanta area in particular. Because of our early success at the regional and national level, we are now attracting a high level of interest from instate student-athletes,” stated Faulconer.

The Lady Pirates will return ten of the eleven that started in the 2007 NCAA National Tournament, including fifty of the fifty-six goals scored last season. Sixteen of the seventeen returnees have started at some point during their career. All-American forward Kristin Burton, as well as All-Region selections Lyndsi Stricklen and Alyssa Anderson lead the group taking the field next August.

“We wanted to address our overall team speed and this class is loaded with it. I am very excited about this group and I feel all of them can compete right away for playing time. This team has the potential to be the best team we have put on the field at AASU.”
**Jessy Flores, Grayson, Georgia**  
Grayson High School/Atlanta Fire United  
5’4’’ Defender  
Intended Major: Nursing

Flores has enjoyed great success at the club and high school level in Georgia. As a starter at Grayson High School, she helped her team to a 2007 Class 5A state championship. She was member of the Atlanta Fire ‘90 Elite state cup championship team and played in the 2006 US. Southern Regionals. She led her Atlanta Fire United 90’ Gold team to the Georgia Athena “A” title in the fall of 2006.

“Jessy is a tenacious defender that brings a lot of enthusiasm with her game,” said Faulconer. “She can play anywhere in the back, as well as in the midfield. She has the mentality that we are looking for in a defender. She has good pace and possesses excellent 1v1 defensive skills.”

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**Daviana Garcia, Alpharetta, Georgia**  
Chattahoochee High School/North Atlanta Soccer Association  
5’8’’ Midfield/Forward  
Intended Major: Physical Therapy

Daviana is the starting midfielder at Chattahoochee High School and helped her NASA ‘08 Premier team win the 2007 Fall Georgia Athena “A” championship. She has also guest played with the NASA ‘08 Elite team on numerous occasions and will join the team for the 2008 Georgia State Cup. She was a member of the 2006 Georgia State ODP team and attended the US Region III ODP sub-regionals.

“Davi is the perfect blend of size and tremendous speed,” stated Faulconer. “She has the ability to get behind a backline with her pace and can be quite dangerous on the flank. She will strengthen our attack in the final third and should prove to be a difficult match-up for our opponents.”

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**Erin Holt, Marietta, Georgia**  
Walton High School/Concorde Fire Elite  
5’5’’ Forward  
Intended Major: Early Childhood Education

Erin is a starting forward at traditional state power Walton High School in Marietta, GA. She helped her Concorde Fire Elite U19 team to a second place finish in Fall 2007 in Georgia’s Athena “A”. In addition, her Concorde Fire Elite squad won their Predator group and recorded a semifinal appearance at the 2007 Disney Showcase.

“Erin possesses outstanding speed and can really stretch a defense,” said Faulconer. “She can provide quality service from the flanks and is a good finisher. I am really excited about her speed, quickness and tireless work rate. She is also willing to put backs under pressure which will be valuable when we play a three front.”

Concorde Coach Mark Thornton on Holt: "A hard working forward with a lot of pace who always knows where the goal is. She is a very determined player who will work hard to get the best out of herself and her teammates. I am confident she will have a successful college career."
**Kaleigh Jowers, Tallahassee, Florida**
Leon High School/Tallahassee United
5-1 Midfielder/Forward Intended Major: Radiology

Kaleigh is a starting midfielder and team captain at Leon High School in Tallahassee, Florida. She played her club soccer with Tallahassee United (TUFC) and ASG Florida. During her high school career she has been selected as her team’s top midfielder and best offensive player. Her Tallahassee United team was a finalist at the 2007 Orange Classic and her ASG Florida team was a finalist at the 2007 Germantown Invitational. Jowers was coached by Faulconer from 2002-2005 at TUFC.

“Like several other members of our recruiting class, Kaleigh is a fantastic athlete,” said Faulconer. “She has great speed and is very quick with her first few steps on the ball. She is also quite versatile. She can play as an outside back, outside midfielder or up top. Kaleigh is a tireless worker and can really get up and down the wide areas of the field.”

TUFC U18 coach Alex Morris on Jowers: “Kaleigh has explosive speed and is a dangerous threat on the flanks. She will increase the potency of any attack. She gives 110% effort 100% of the time.”

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**Jennifer Keehn, Columbus, Georgia**
Hardaway High School/River City Soccer Club/Columbus Redstar
5-5 Midfielder/Forward Intended Major: Nursing

Jennifer is an All-BiCity selection out of Hardaway High School in Columbus, Georgia. She helped Hardaway to a Final Four appearance in 2005. Her CFC Redstar club team won the US Club Soccer Regionals in 2004 and 2005.

“I saw Jennifer play at the University of Georgia camp last summer and she did quite well playing against the UGA players. She is a hard worker and is quite versatile,” said Faulconer.

River City Soccer Club coach Mike Carmean on Keehn: “Jen is a dedicated player who brings an uplifting atmosphere to every situation. She is focused on team unity and is willing to shoulder her responsibilities.”

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**Bjorg Magnea Olafs, Reykjavik, Iceland**
Commercial College of Iceland
5-8 Midfielder Intended Major: Science

Bjorg is a talented player who should make an immediate impact in the Pirate midfield. She has made four appearances for the Icelandic U-19 National Team. She has won several awards with her youth clubs, including club player of the year and best player.

“Bjorg has played at the highest levels of youth soccer in Iceland and has experience in the Icelandic national team program. She is technically very good and should be a valuable asset to us as a central midfielder,” stated Faulconer. “I am very excited about her addition this fall.”
Erin O’Rourke, Berkeley Lake, Georgia
Providence Christian/ Atlanta Fire United
5’9 Midfielder Intended Major: Physical Therapy

Erin possesses a good combination of size, speed and skill. Her Providence Christian High School team won the Georgia Class AA/A State Championship in 2007. She is a club teammate of AASU signee Jessy Flores with Atlanta Fire United. She led her Atlanta Fire United 90’ Gold team to the Georgia Athena "A" title in the fall of 2006.

"Erin will be a physical presence in our midfield. She can play centrally or outside and has the ability to provide excellent service. She has been a member of several successful teams and I am certain that she will be a positive addition to our program," said Faulconer.

Providence Christian Coach Jonny Williamson on O’Rourke: "Leadership, Strength, and Skill are all a part of Erin's game. She is a strong player who wins a majority of tackles in the midfield, and she is a very good crosser of the ball. She has grown into a positive leader and example to her teammates of hard work and desire to win. She is skilled at being able to beat an opponent and make the right decision with the ball."