Pirates Send Seven Of Eight Teams To NCAAs
Nine AASU Athletes Earn All-America Honors
Women’s Basketball, Volleyball Win PBC Tournaments
Tishay Lewis, Katya Eronina and Zsofi Golopencza Earn
PBC Player of the Year Honors

Volleyball

The Armstrong Atlantic State volleyball squad captured the school’s first-ever Peach Belt Conference tournament title by knocking off top-seeded North Florida, 3-0, in the championship match and earning the Pirates' third consecutive bid to the NCAA DII Volleyball Championships.

Buoyed by the performance of their five seniors, the Pirates won 30 matches in a season for just the second time in school history and became the first AASU team other than women’s tennis to capture a Peach Belt Conference tournament title.

Three AASU players wrapped up their four-year careers at AASU with some impressive numbers. Senior middle hitter Sarah Haynes, a three-time All-PBC and All-AVCA South Region honoree, finished her AASU career as the Pirates’ all-time leader in games played (496), kills (1,383) and blocks (420). She played in 157 straight matches as a Pirate, the 10th-best consecutive matches played streak in NCAA DII history and was both AASU’s first All-Region player and three-time All-PBC player.

Senior Erin Melius concluded her four-year career as the Pirates’ all-time assist leader (5,582) and that total ranks 18th among NCAA DII all-time assist leaders. Senior Sofie Hakansson also finished her four-year AASU career as the Pirates’ all-time leader in service aces (244) and is just the second AASU player to record over 1,000 career kills and digs (1,265 kills, 1,301 digs).

Melius, Haynes and Hakansson all earned All-PBC and AVCA All-South Region honors in 2002, while senior Shelley Weekes was named to the Verizon Academic All-District III team. Despite losing five seniors, the Pirates return seven players for 2003, including PBC Tournament MVP Alexia Piche-Hatch.

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2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

Men’s Basketball

The AASU men’s basketball team under first-year head coach Jeff Burkhamer finished fourth in the Peach Belt Conference regular season standings, going 12-7 in the league and 14-14 overall and advancing to the PBC Tournament Quarterfinals.

With a young team consisting of just two seniors and only one player (Justin Wood) who had played for AASU for more than one season, the Pirates rebounded from a rigorous opening-season schedule and a 1-7 start to win eight of their last 11 games, including knocking off two nationally-ranked teams during the year, Columbus State and Kennesaw State.

Junior Daryl Williams earned first-team All-PBC honors for the Pirates, AASU’s first First-Team honoree since Robert Campbell was the two-time PBC Player of the Year from 2000-2002, by averaging 15.7 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while shooting 50.9 percent from the field. Junior Brian Bain averaged 14.3 points per game and captured the Ashley Dearing Cup for hitting 73 percent of his foul shots during the season.

Senior Dave Pisarcik finished his two-year career with the Pirates by averaging 12.6 points per game in 2002-03 and collecting 127 free throws this season, the eighth-most in a single season for the Pirates. Senior Ian Jones also finished his two-year career for AASU, averaging 5.7 points per game in 2002-03.

The Pirates set a school record in 2002-03 by allowing just 1,741 points on the year (62.2 points per game) and also set a new school record by allowing just 40 points in a 58-40 win over UNC Pembroke on Feb. 1. AASU returns seven players from the 2002-03 squad for next season.

AASU PBC All-Conference Honors
Daryl Williams (First Team)

Ashley Dearing Cup Winner
Brian Bain

Team Statistics

Scoring Offense
62.5 ppg (11th PBC)

Scoring Defense
62.2 ppg (1st PBC, 11th NCAA)

Scoring Margin
+0.3 (8th PBC)

Field Goal %
.450 (2nd PBC)

Free Throw %
.693 (5th PBC)

FG % Defense
.422 (4th PBC)

3-Point FG %
.325 (9th PBC)

3-Point FG % Defense
.309 (2nd PBC)

Rebounding Offense
30.8 rpg (11th PBC)

Rebounding Margin
-3.0 (9th PBC)

Blocked Shots
2.64 bpg (10th PBC)

Assists
11.04 apg (11th PBC)

Steals
1.79 spg (7th PBC)

3-Point FG Made
3.96 (12th PBC)

Assist/Turnover Ratio
0.74 (11th PBC)

Individual Leaders

Scoring
Daryl Williams, 15.7 (6th PBC)
Brian Bain, 14.2 (12th PBC)
Dave Pisarcik, 12.6 (16th PBC)

Rebounding
Daryl Williams, 6.6 (8th PBC)

Field Goal Percentage
Daryl Williams, .509 (14th PBC)

Free Throw Percentage
Brian Bain, .730 (10th PBC)
Dave Pisarcik, .709 (13th PBC)

Steals
Brian Bain, 1.79 (7th PBC)

Daryl Williams, 1.75 (8th PBC)
Justin Wood, 1.71 (11th PBC)

Blocked Shots
Brian Bain, 0.93 (9th PBC)

Offensive Rebounds
Daryl Williams, 2.71 (9th PBC)

Defensive Rebounds
Daryl Williams, 3.93 (10th PBC)
Dave Pisarcik, 3.57 (13th PBC)

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The Armstrong Atlantic State women’s basketball squad enjoyed a magical season in 2002-03, achieving the program’s first national ranking, first Peach Belt Conference championship, first NCAA Championships berth and shocking Columbus State as junior Tishay Lewis drilled a three-point shot with 6.3 seconds remaining to give AASU a 56-55 win in the PBC Tournament Championship game in Columbus, Ga. The “shot heard ‘round the Peach Belt” capped a dramatic season in which the Lady Pirates rewrote the record books, going 27-4 with an undefeated home season and a school-record 14-game winning streak.

Head coach Roger Hodge and the Lady Pirates rode the fantastic years of PBC Player of the Year Tishay Lewis, All-PBC guard Tasha Washington and senior Zandrique Cason to new school records in wins, league wins and home wins. The Lady Pirates tied Columbus State for a share of their first PBC title in school history and entered the PBC Tournament as the No. 1 seed. After close wins over Kennesaw State and USC Aiken, the Lady Pirates faced CSU on its home court and Lewis took over, scoring 16 points - including the game-winning shot - in earning PBC Tournament MVP honors to go along with her PBC Player of the Year trophy and lead AASU to the NCAA’s.

Lewis ranked nationally in scoring and in steals while becoming AASU’s first-ever All-America honoree in women’s basketball. Washington averaged 13.6 points per game and senior Zandrique Cason finished her stellar three-year career by becoming AASU’s fourth-leading scorer (1,212 pts) and second-leading rebounder (774), as well as finishing as the Lady Pirates’ all-time blocked shot leader with 84. AASU loses Cason and three other seniors (Shalutra and Shanetra Hodge and Anita Griffin) but returns eight players for 2003-04.
The Pirate baseball squad captured its first Peach Belt Conference title since 1993, going 20-10 in the league and 36-15 overall, sharing the crown with North Florida and advancing to its first NCAA Championships berth since 1999.

AASU won 18 of its first 19 games in 2003, with its only loss during the stretch coming to Georgia Tech, and ascended to No. 3 in the NCAA DII rankings. The Pirates would remain in the Top 10 for the rest of the season as AASU won 20 league games for the first time in school history to capture its third PBC regular season crown. The strength of the Pirates’ squad in 2003 was a pitching staff that ranked second in the country in team ERA (2.71) and boasted two All-PBC and All-Region starters in Jon Dobyns and Jeremy Olson. Dobyns was the South Atlantic Region Pitcher of the Year and AASU’s first first-team All-America pitcher since 1992, going 12-2 with a 3.07 ERA and tying the school record for wins in a season. Olson went 10-4 with a 2.96 ERA and gave AASU two 10-game winners in the same season for the first time since 1987.

Junior Stacy Bennett earned All-PBC Utility honors for hitting a team-best .339 with six home runs and 47 RBIs while playing both third base and catcher.

Three seniors also excelled for AASU in their final seasons - Olson and the Pirates’ middle infielders, shortstop Chris Boaen and second baseman Adam Brandenburg. Boaen finished his four-year career ranking in the top 10 in five offensive categories, becoming just the fourth player in AASU history to record 200+ career hits (213) and hitting .323 for his career. Brandenburg hit .310 in his two-year career and got hit by 31 pitches, one off of the all-time AASU record, as well as earning Verizon Academic All-District III honors.

The MLB First-Year Player Draft claimed two players from the Pirates as Bennett was selected in the 12th round by the New York Mets and junior catcher Andrew Graham was taken by the Detroit Tigers in the 19th round.

### Individual Statistical Leaders

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<td>Curtis Morrison</td>
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<td>Jeremy Olson</td>
<td>2.96 (10th PBC)</td>
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<td>Jeremy Olson</td>
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### Team Statistical Rankings

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<td>On-Base Percentage</td>
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<td>ERA</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Home Runs</td>
<td>38 (5th PBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacrifice Bunts</td>
<td>66 (1st PBC)</td>
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<td>Doubles</td>
<td>106, 2.08/gm (5th PBC, 43rd NCAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Plays</td>
<td>0.82/gm (46th NCAA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winning Percentage</td>
<td>36-15, .706 (18th NCAA)</td>
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The 2003 AASU softball squad completed a memorable season, advancing to the NCAA South Atlantic Region championship game for the second time in school history and losing, 1-0, in 13 innings to eventual national championship runner-up GC&SU in the longest game ever played in the program’s six years.

Despite a disappointing PBC regular season finish of fifth, the Pirates’ strength of schedule and overall record put AASU into its third NCAA Regional in six seasons as the No. 4 seed. Riding the arm of NFCA Division II All-America Katya Eronina, the Pirates eliminated three teams, including Columbus State and host North Florida, to reach the championship game. The 41 wins by the Pirates are the second-most in school history.

Eronina compiled a historic season for the Pirates in 2003, becoming AASU’s first first-team All-America and setting new AASU and Peach Belt Conference records for strikeouts (326), ERA (0.36) and shutouts (20) while recording the third longest consecutive scoreless inning streak in NCAA DII history, not giving up a run for 65 1/3 innings pitched in March. The PBC’s Pitcher of the Year, Eronina went 26-5, also setting AASU marks for wins and innings.

Junior Stacey Richardson also enjoyed a fine second season with the Pirates, duplicating her NFCA Second-Team All-America honors by hitting .312 with 12 home runs, 35 RBI and an AASU- and PBC-record 42 walks. Eronina’s batterymate, junior Kissy Stepanova, earned All-PBC and All-Region honors by hitting .277 with seven home runs, 33 RBI and by throwing out 14 of 33 potential basestealers (42.4%) and picking off 12 more. AASU loses just one player from this season’s squad - Verizon Academic All-District III pitcher Delaney Warrian.

### Individual Statistical Leaders

- **Earned Run Average**
  - Katya Eronina, .36 (1st PBC, 1st NCAA)
  - Stacey Richardson, .123 (1st PBC)
  - Delaney Warrian, .206 (5th PBC)
  - Katya Eronina, 2 (2nd PBC)

- **Opponent’s Batting Average**
  - Katya Eronina, .266
  - Delaney Warrian, .43

- **Walks**
  - Stacey Richardson, 42
  - Abby Hodge, 33

- **Saves**
  - Katya Eronina, 2
  - Delaney Warrian, 15

- **Home Runs**
  - Stacey Richardson, 12

- **Strikeouts**
  - Katya Eronina, 326
  - Delaney Warrian, 136

- **Strikeouts/7 innings**
  - Katya Eronina, 10.56
  - Delaney Warrian, 10.26

### Team Statistical Rankings

- **Batting Average**
  - .247 (10th PBC)

- **Slugging Percentage**
  - .352 (10th PBC)

- **ERAs**
  - 0.97 (1st PBC, 4th NCAA)

- **Fielding**
  - .972 (1st PBC, 5th NCAA)

- **Home Runs**
  - 24 (7th PBC)

- **Stolen Bases**
  - 37-44 (6th PBC)

- **Winning Percentage**
  - 41-14, .759 (21st NCAA)

- **Katya Eronina (left) set new PBC records in 2003 with an 0.36 earned-run average, 20 shutouts and 326 strikeouts. Her 326 punchouts puts her on the all-time single-season DII strikeout chart and her 10.6 strikeouts per seven innings also ranks as one of the best all-time in DII.**

### NCAA II South Atlantic Regional

**Longwood 1, AASU 0**

**AASU 2, Wingate 1 (10 inn.)**

**AASU 2, Columbus State 0**

**AASU, North Florida 0**

**GC&SU 1, AASU 0 (13 inn.)**

### 2002-2003 AASU Athletics Year In Review

**NFCA DII Player of the Week**

Katya Eronina (March 27, 2003)

**NFCA All-South Atlantic Region**

Katya Eronina (First Team - Pitcher)

Stacey Richardson (First Team - DP)

Kissy Stepanova (Second Team - Catcher)

**Verizon Academic All-District III**

Delaney Warrian (First Team - Pitcher)

**Final NFCA Division II Rank**

No. 16

**Stacey Richardson (right) earned the respect of opposing pitchers in 2003 after leading NCAA DII in home runs a year ago. The junior set a new AASU and Peach Belt Conference record with 42 walks and drew six intentional passes, including three in one game against Lander on April 13. Richardson has hit 28 home runs in her two seasons at AASU, second-most in school history.**

**Katya Eronina (left) set new PBC records in 2003 with an 0.36 earned-run average, 20 shutouts and 326 strikeouts. Her 326 punchouts puts her on the all-time single-season DII strikeout chart and her 10.6 strikeouts per seven innings also ranks as one of the best all-time in DII.**
The AASU men’s tennis team finished with an even .500 record in 2003, but with a brutal schedule against mostly top 20 DII opponents, the Pirates found themselves in the NCAA Championships for the ninth consecutive season and advanced to the Mid-Atlantic Region final.

The Pirates started off the season well with a 7-1 record, but then AASU dropped eight straight matches against teams ranked in the Omni Hotels/ITA Division II Top 20, including four matches against the top five teams in the nation.

After the stretch, AASU rallied to win three straight, heading into the PBC Championships, where they finished fourth. With an 11-11 record against DII competition, the Pirates entered the Mid-Atlantic Regional as the No. 5 seed and knocked off No. 16 Lees-McRae, 5-0, in the opening round of the regional before bowing out to host and No. 4-ranked North Florida, 5-0, in the region final.

Sophomores Achim Roth and Dale White again put in fine campaigns for the Pirates, compiling a 24-10 doubles record and finishing the season ranked No. 4 in the country, earning All-America honors. In the fall, the duo won the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region doubles title and advanced to the Rolex DII Championships.

### Individual Statistics

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Women’s Tennis

The AASU women’s tennis team again fashioned a top 10 performance and made its ninth straight appearance in the NCAA DII Women’s Tennis National Championship finals, capturing the Mid-Atlantic Regional with a 5-1 win over North Florida. Because of the pre-determined matchups in the Round of 16, the Pirates faced defending DII champion BYU-Hawaii in the first round of the finals and lost a tough match to the eventual national champion Seasiders, 5-2, to end the season with a 21-7 record and a No. 6 national ranking.

Again, junior Zsofi Golopencza led the way for AASU in 2003, capturing the ITA Mid-Atlantic Region singles championship in the fall and advancing to the Rolex DII National Singles title match, where she lost to Adrienn Hegedus of BYU-Hawaii. It would be the only singles match she would lose all year long as Golopencza achieved a perfect 26-0 singles record in dual match play, including a win over Hegedus in April to finish the season ranked No. 1 in NCAA DII singles. Golopencza, who was named PBC Player of the Year for the third straight time, teamed up with a new doubles partner in sophomore Laura Peaty midway through the season and also went undefeated, going 14-0 and finishing the year ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Freshman Manuela Emmrich earned ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year honors in her solid debut campaign. Emmrich went 15-9 in dual match singles play and 21-13 overall.

AASU’s seven losses in 2003 came to the top five teams in the country and the Lady Pirates return all six players from this season’s squad for 2003-04.

Final Omni Hotels/ITA DII National Ranking

Zsofi Golopencza (No. 1 Singles, No. 1 Doubles)
Manuela Emmrich (No. 8 Singles)
Laura Peaty (No. 1 Doubles)

Final Omni Hotels/ITA DII Regional Rank

Zsofi Golopencza (No. 1 Singles, No. 1 Doubles)
Manuela Emmrich (No. 8 Singles)
Laura Peaty (No. 1 Doubles)

Final PBC Standings

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NCAA II Mid-Atlantic Regional

No. 2 AASU def. No. 7 Columbus State 5-0
AASU def. No. 3 North Florida 5-1

NCAA II National Championships
No. 1 BYU Hawaii def. AASU 5-2

Final PBC All-Conference Honors

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles, Player of the Year)
Manuela Emmrich (Singles)
Laura Peaty (Doubles)

PBC Player of the Week

Zsofi Golopencza (April 15, 2003)

PBC Tournament Co-MVP

Zsofi Golopencza

ITA Mid-Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year

Manuela Emmrich

ITA DII Mid-Atlantic Region Singles Champion
Zsofi Golopencza

ITA/NCAA Division II All-America Honors

Zsofi Golopencza (Singles & Doubles)
Laura Peaty (Doubles)

Final Omni Hotels/ITA DII National Ranking

No. 6

Individual Statistics

Singles

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<th>#4</th>
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<th>Fall</th>
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The Armstrong Atlantic State men’s golf team continued to make strides in just its third year of competition since reinstating the program in 2000-01, advancing to its second straight NCAA Regionals appearance and sending sophomore Nick Cowper to the NCAA Championships for the second straight year.

Head coach Michael Butler’s squad opened the fall season with a disappointing 11th-place finish at the CSU Invitational, but after that, the Pirates reeled off eight straight tournaments in which they finished fourth or better, including capturing their second team title in the past two years at the 2003 Southeastern Collegiate in Valdosta, Ga.

The Pirates ascended to the Top 10 in the Golfstat DII statistical rankings as well as the Golfstat DII statistical rankings, earning the Pirates an NCAA regionals appearance. AASU finished third at the Southeast Regional in Greensboro, Ga., but fell achingly shy of an at-large berth in the National Championships by just one spot.

Sophomore Nick Cowper, who finished fourth in the NCAA Regional, did advance to the NCAA Championships for the second straight year, and the Kennesaw, Ga., native played very well, shooting an even-par 288 and finishing tied for seventh. Cowper’s performance and season-long stroke average (73.69) earned the Harrison HS grad All-Southeast Region and second-team All-America honors in 2003. Cowper will turn pro this year and not return to AASU in 2003-04.
## Academics

AASU student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom in the 2002-2003 academic year. 46% of all AASU student-athletes carried GPAs of 3.0 or better during the 2002-03 year and the overall GPA of AASU student-athletes, as a group, was 2.87.

Forty AASU student-athletes earned PBC Presidential Honor Roll honors and three student-athletes were named Verizon Academic All-District - volleyball player Shelley Weekes for the second year in a row, baseball player Adam Brandenburg and softball player Delaney Warrian.

Weekes and men’s basketball player Ian Jones both carried perfect 4.0 GPAs during the year and 21 student-athletes made the Dean’s List in 2002-03.

Brandenburg and Weekes were the 2003 President’s Cup winners, given by the Savannah Exchange Club to the top male and female student-athlete of the year.

### PBC Presidential Honor Roll Honorees

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### Commissioner’s Cup

AASU finished third in the 2003 Peach Belt Conference Commissioner’s Cup standings, which is the conference’s all-sports trophy. AASU received 63.5 points out of a possible 82, for a .774 percentage, ranking behind only North Florida and Kennesaw State. AASU was boosted in the standings by the women’s basketball team’s first-ever Peach Belt Conference title and the baseball squad’s first PBC crown since 1993. Volleyball and women’s tennis chipped in second-place finishes as well.

### NACDA Director’s Cup

AASU accumulated the most points ever in the 2002-03 NACDA Division II Director’s Cup all-sports competition. AASU sent seven of its eight intercollegiate varsity sports to NCAA Championships this season, collected 297 points in the standings, the third most points per sport among DII institutions.

AASU finished 42nd in the aggregate standings, its best finish since 1998-99 (T22nd), but collected 37.1 points per sport, third-best behind only Grand Valley State University (Mich.), which collected 42 points per 19 sports, and BYU-Hawaii, which collected 39.8 points per eight sports.

### 2002-03 Commissioner’s Cup Final Standings

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*Numbers in parentheses indicate maximum number of points that can be awarded for each sport. Ratings are determined by taking the maximum number of points available to each school, depending on how many sports each has, and dividing by the number of points won, based on conference finish through the regular season.