2006 Armstrong Atlantic State Softball Schedule/Results

Overall: 37-25 • PBC: 11-7
Home: 14-6 • Away: 5-8 • Neutral: 18-11

Date Opponent Time
Feb. 9 at North Florida L 9-2 / L 10-2
Feb. 14 at Columbus State * L 6-2 / W 7-1
Feb. 24-25 at JU/Best Western Invitational (Jacksonville)
Feb. 24 at Jacksonville W 10-6
vs. IUP-Port Wayne W 8-7
Feb. 25 vs. Southern Miss L 4-0
vs. Southern Miss W 4-2
March 1 UNC Pembroke * W 11-3 / L 6-2
March 3-5 at Eckerd College Tournament (St. Pete, Fla.)
March 3 vs. Rollins L 4-3
March 4 vs. Northwood W 7-5
vs. Lake Superior State W 9-1
vs. LeMoyne L 2-1
March 5 vs. Tampa W 2-1
vs. Queens (NY) W 8-6
March 7 North Georgia * W 3-2 / W 8-4
March 8 Tampa W 9-0 / W 6-1
March 10-12 at 2006 FMU Patriot Invitational
March 10 vs. Clarion (Pa.) W 17-0
March 11 vs. Chowan W 4-1
March 12 vs. Kutztown W 6-5
vs. Presbyterian W 4-1
vs. Wingate L 8-5
March 14 Mars Hill W 8-0 / W 1-0
March 15 Kutztown W 11-0 / L 1-0
March 17 vs. Tampa L 9-1
vs. Bryant W 5-1
vs. Hillsdale W 11-2
vs. Southern Arkansas W 9-4
March 18 vs. Delta State L 9-7
at Florida Southern L 15-7
March 22 at Lander * W 6-5 / W 13-0
March 24-25 at Rebel Spring Games (Ocoee, Fla.)
March 24 vs. So. New Hampshire W 5-4
vs. Augustaana (S.D.) L 8-0
March 25 vs. Augustaana (S.D.) / DH W 2-1 / L 3-1
March 28 at USC Aiken * W 6-5 / L 8-4
April 1 Augusta State * L 4-0 / W 11-7
April 5 SCAD W 6-3 / W 7-6
April 9 USC Upstate * L 10-6 / W 6-4
April 11 Valdosta State L 5-2 / L 5-3
April 13 at GC&SU * L 6-3 / L 6-0
April 15 Francis Marion * W 10-9 / W 4-3
April 18 at North Florida L 7-4 / L 8-4
April 21 vs. UNC Pembroke W 6-4
vs. Augusta State W 1-0
April 22 vs. GC&SU L 4-2
vs. USC Upstate W 4-2
April 23 vs. Lander L 7-3
May 11-14 NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional

Pirates Earn NCAA Berth

The Armstrong Atlantic softball squad has earned an at-large bid to the 2006 NCAA DII Softball Championships, announced late Sunday by the NCAA. It is the Pirates’ fifth NCAA bid in the eight year history of the program and the first for head coach Ted Evans.

The Pirates will be the No. 7 seed in the South Atlantic Regional, hosted by top seed and Peach Belt Conference champion Columbus State. AASU will take on No. 2 seed GC&SU in the first round of the regional, which begins on Thursday, May 11 and continues through Saturday.

So far this season, the Pirates (37-25) have set new single-season school records for home runs (50) and stolen bases (56). AASU has advanced to two South Atlantic Region finals in school history, in 2000 and 2003, and has an overall 7-8 record in NCAA Championships play. AASU also earned regional bids in 2001 and 2004.

In The Hunt

Junior first baseman Amber Hunt has picked up where she left off last season when she led the Pirates in hitting en route to an All-Conference campaign.

Hunt is hitting .354 with 13 home runs and a PBC-leading 61 RBI, a number that is also the single-season AASU record for runs driven in. Hunt surpassed Stacey Richardson’s record of 56 RBI in AASU’s doubleheader sweep of Francis Marion.

The Greensboro, Ga., native ranks among the PBC’s top 10 in eight separate offensive categories and, on April 12, became just the third player in AASU history to earn NFCA DII National Player of the Week honors when she tied a PBC record by homering in five consecutive contests, with the final home run in that streak coming in the bottom of the seventh inning, a three-run blast that gave the Pirates a 6-4 win over USC Upstate.

Pirates Break Records

Head coach Ted Evans’ squad has clubbed a PBC-leading 50 home runs, hit 98 doubles and stole 56 bases this season in just 62 games played.

In 2000, the Pirates hit 44 home runs in AASU’s PBC Championship season, but with seven homers at the 2006 PBC Tournament- four coming from Deanna Beaty, two coming from Amber Hunt and one coming from Veronica Castro- the Pirates set a new mark at 50.

Two single-season hitting records fell earlier for the Pirates this season - AASU has hit 98 doubles, four more than the previous school record of 93 set in 1999, and this year the Pirates have stolen 56 bases, seven more than last year’s school record of 49 steals.
AASU Softball Notes at 2006 NCAA Regionals

• **Head Coach Ted Evans**

Ted Evans is in his second year as head coach of Armstrong Atlantic State University. Evans came to AASU from Chattanooga State Community College in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 2005.

Evans is a California native and the son of a highly successful junior high school coach. He brings nearly nearly 30 years of teaching and coaching experience to Armstrong Atlantic State as the program’s second-ever head fastpitch softball coach. A former professional baseball player in the Cincinnati Reds organization, Evans played and coached competitive men’s fastpitch softball for 17 years. Infused with a self-proclaimed passion for softball, Evans has the reputation of a ‘teaching coach’ and has earned credit amongst his peers for his innovative hitting technique.

Evans played for 19 years in the renowned Dixie Major League in Chattanooga, where he was honored as the Chattanooga Softball Player of the Year three times. He was also the player/coach for the McKee fastpitch team for 17 years, guiding the team to 12 city championships and at one time a 101-1 overall record.

On February 27, 2006, Evans was inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame.

Evans graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor’s degree in physical education, and earned his master's of education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

In Evans’ first year at AASU, he guided the Lady Pirates to a .500 campaign with a squad that lost 12 players from the previous season. “I’m honored to be at Armstrong Atlantic,” Evans says. “I’m looking forward to continuing challenges of building a softball program that will be a consistent national power.”

• **AASU In The Regional Tournament**

This will be the Pirates’ fifth NCAA Regional appearance, dating back to AASU’s inaugural season of fastpitch softball in 1998. AASU has advanced to the regional championship game twice - losing, 8-3, to Kennesaw State in 2000, and 1-0 to GC&SU in 13 innings in 2003. Armstrong Atlantic has faced four of the eight teams in the regional field compiling a 4-1 record in regional tournament play over those teams.

AASU has faced GC&SU once previously in regional tournament play - in 2003, the Pirates were shutout by the Bobcats, 1-0, in the regional championship contest in Jacksonville, Fla.

AASU has compiled an overall 7-8 record in regional tournament play. Here’s a look at how the Pirates have done in the NCAA Regional Tournament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>L 8-3 to KSU in Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>L 4-3 to UNF in Semi-Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>L 1-0 in 13 innings to GC&amp;SU in Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>L 1-0 to Presbyterian in Semi-Finals</td>
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• **Senior Danielle Bertram**

Versatile player who has started at second base and the outfield in her two years as a Pirate. Danielle, this season has a team-leading .373 batting average and has also driven in a career-high 21 RBI. She is currently in first place in the PBC for sacrifice flies with five.

A native of Dublin, Ga., Bertram joined the Pirates from Abraham Baldwin last season and she has started 93 of the 100 games she’s played at AASU. This year, she was named the PBC Conference Player of the Week on March 28. Her 23 career stolen bases are third-most all-time AASU single-season history.

• **Senior Deanna Beaty**

Deanna has manned the starting shortstop position since joining Armstrong Atlantic State in 2005. A transfer from Chattanooga State CC, Beaty is hitting .321 this season and is second on the squad in home runs with 11. She leads the Peach Belt in sacrifice hits with 15 while also ranking among the PBC’s leaders in total bases, home runs, doubles and runs scored.

A native of Chattanooga, Deana has scored 73 runs, hit 18 home runs and driven in 66 in her two seasons as a Pirate.

• **Senior Jeana Short**

Jeana, like Deanna, has manned her spot in the infield for two seasons since joining the Pirates in 2005. The starting third baseman for AASU since coming to campus from Seminole State CC, Short is enjoying a career year for the Pirates this season, hitting .335 with six home runs and 23 RBI. The .335 average is fourth on the squad and her on-base percentage of .466 ranks tops on the squad and third in the Peach Belt. Short also ranks among the PBC’s leaders in runs scored, hits, walks and hit by pitches.

The Dewey, Okla., native hit a two-run double in bottom of 7th to beat Kutztown, 6-5, on March 11 and she collected three doubles in one game against SCAD on April 5. Her career .317 batting average in her two years at AASU is the eighth highest career average in school history.

Short has also excelled in the classroom, carrying a 3.90 GPA in pre-veterinary medicine. She was awarded with the President’s Cup this season, given to the top male and female student-athlete at AASU each year, only the third softball player ever to earn the honor.
AASU Softball Notes at 2006 NCAA Regionals

• AASU Against Region Field

This NCAA Regionals berth will be the fifth time the Pirates have made the tournament since its inaugural season of fastpitch softball in 1998.

The Pirates will face no strangers in the Regionals as they have faced four of the eight teams in regular season play this year. AASU split a PBC series with Columbus on February 14, losing 6-2 and winning 7-1. The Pirates lead the series this season over USC Upstate, 2-1, as they split a double header winning 6-3 and losing 10-6 on April 19 and defeated the Spartans 7-3 in the PBC tournament. GC&SU have swept the Pirates this season, 6-3 and 6-0 on April 13 and 4-2 in the PBC tournament. Wingate University handed Armstrong a 8-5 loss on March 12 at the Patriot Invitational.

Two new opponents this season for AASU will be the Bears of Lenoir-Rhyne and the Eagles of Carson-Newman. The Pirates have never faced Carson-Newman in regular or post season play and have posted an undefeated 6-0 record against Lenoir-Rhyne. AASU handed the Bears a 2-0 loss in the 2002 NCAA Regionals.

Junior Amber Hunt has competed well against the region field with a .458 batting average, 11 RBI, four HR and a .519 on base percentage. Hunt has also scored five runs and been walked three times while recording a .958 slugging percentage.

• Pirates Get Honors

Two Armstrong Atlantic players have earned PBC All-Conference honors. Senior Danielle Bertram who hit .337 with 21 RBI and 16 stolen bases. Bertram also led the Peach Belt with five sacrifice flies. Junior first baseman Amber Hunt also earned All-Conference honors with a .354 batting avg. and a .667 slugging percentage. Hunt leads the PBC with 61 RBI and is in second place for homers with 13.

Senior Deanna Beaty and Junior Amber Hunt earned a spot on the All-PBC Tournament Team. Beaty hit .400 with four homeruns and eight RBI during the PBC Championships in Aiken, S.C. One of Beaty’s homeruns came against Augusta State in the top of the fifth to beat the Jaguars 1-0, on the first day. At the PBC Championships Hunt had a slugging percentage of .750 with four RBI, two homeruns and a .375 batting average.

• Fabulous Freshmen

Freshmen Ashley Bain, Rachel Koening-Eng and Courtney Tucker have been a big part of the Pirates’ success this season, each contributing to AASU’s turnaround from last season.

Bain has opened eyes around the league with her clutch hitting this season as the Cleveland, Tenn., native is hitting .344 with six home runs and 37 RBI, second-best on the team. Bain has played solid defense in left field, recording nine assists with only one error in 59 chances and she has drawn 25 walks while striking out only 18 times.

Koening-Eng has started the most games for the Pirates in the circle, making 23 starts, and compiling a 12-8 record while hitting .314 with four home runs and 18 RBI. Tucker has been an unexpected surprise as the 17-year old has gone 9-5 with a team-best 3.36 ERA in 106.1 innings pitched.

• Record in Columbus

Armstrong Atlantic heads to Columbus, Ga. for the second time this season and just the sixth time since its inaugural season in 1998. The Pirates split with the Cougars on February 14, winning 7-1 and losing 6-2.

In the eight seasons of fastpitch softball, the Pirates have notched a 6-4 record playing in the city of Columbus, Ga. All the while Armstrong Atlantic has composed a record of 13-9 against Columbus State University. This regional tournament will be the first time the Pirates have gone to Columbus, Ga., to face someone other than Columbus State as they open tournament play against Georgia College & State University on Thursday, May 11, at 1:30 p.m.

• AASU’s Projected Starting Lineup

Projected starting lineup for the Pirates during the 2006 Peach Belt Conference Championships

1. RF Danielle Bertram
   (Sr., 5-2, R/R, Dublin, Ga.)
   .373, 0 HR, 21 RBI, 16-19 SB
2. SS Deanna Beaty
   (Sr., 5-7, R/R, Chattanooga, Tenn.)
   .321, 11 HR, 36 RBI, 13 2B, 15 sacrifice hits (leads PBC)
3. 1B Amber Hunt
   (Jr., 5-8, R/R, Greensboro, Ga.)
   .354, 13 HR, 31 RBI, 16 2B, NFCA DII Player of the Week
4. 3B Jeana Short
   (Sr., 5-10, R/R, Dewey, Okla.)
   .335, 6 HR, 23 RBI, .466 on-base percentage
5. LF Ashley Bain
   (Fr., 5-6, R/R, Cleveland, Tenn.)
   .344, 6 HR, 37 RBI, 14 2B
6. 2B Jessica Miranda
   (Jr., 5-3, R/R, Downey, Calif.)
   .268, 3 HR, 23 RBI, 44 walks (leads PBC)
7. CF/P Rachel Koening-Eng
   (Fr., 5-3, R/R, Shohomish, Wash.)
   .314, 4 HR, 18 RBI
8. DP Veronica Castro
   (Jr., 6-1, R/R, Manteca, Calif.)
   .287, 6 HR, 29 RBI
9. C Colleen Markyna
   (5-6, Jr., R/R, Coastal Georgia CC)
   .320, 0 HR, 18 RBI /
   C Angela Long
   (5-1, Jr., R/R, Bartlesville, Okla.)
   .221, 0 HR, 5 RBI