

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Softball



Date: March 3, 2003 • For release: Immediately • Contact: Heidi Roth

Current record – 3-2 Overall (0-0 Mid-American)

BULLS SHARE FIU TOURNAMENT CROWN

The University at Buffalo softball team was named Co-Champion of the Florida International Tournament over the weekend following a 2-0 win over the host Golden Panthers in the championship round on Sunday, March 2. The Bulls shared the tournament title with Tennessee, a 5-0 winner over Furman in the other semifinal game. Due to Tennessee's travel schedule, an official championship game was not played. The Lady Volunteers finished the tournament with a 4-1 record, with their only loss coming at the hands of the Bulls, 8-2, on the opening day of the tournament. The Bulls finished the invitational with a 3-2 mark to get the 2003 season off to a strong start. The 3-2 start is Buffalo's best start in its short Division I history.

BULLS BEAT TENNESSEE, FURMAN AND FIU

Buffalo began the FIU Invitational with a tough 10-2 loss to Florida A&M but rebounded for an impressive 8-2 win over Tennessee, thanks to a five-hit, six-run first inning that gave the Bulls control of the game early on. Junior **Breanne Nasti** (*Baldwin, NY/Baldwin*) went 3-for-4 with two runs scored and one RBI and senior **Jessica Kensy** (*Cheektowaga, NY/Maryvale*) drove in two runs in the game to lead the Bulls' offense. Sophomore **Stacey Evans** (*Collinsville, IL/Triad*) pitched the complete game on the mound, striking out 11 batters.

On day two of the tournament, Buffalo earned a 6-2 win over Furman, with Nasti, junior **Marce Ross** (*Innisfil, Ontario/St. Peter's*) and sophomore **Ann Magur** (*Endicott, NY/Union-Endicott*) each getting two hits and Magur driving in two runs. Evans again pitched a strong game on the mound, going the distance while striking out seven and allowing no earned runs.

The Bulls dropped a 5-1 decision to FIU in their final game on Saturday, but avenged that loss with a 2-0 win on Sunday. Buffalo broke open the tightly-contested rematch in the sixth inning, scoring two runs on three hits and one FIU error. Nasti and sophomore **Julie Hibner** (*Salem, OR/South Salem*) had RBIs in the game, and Evans was solid on the mound once again, allowing just four hits for her first shutout of the season.

EVANS GOES 3-0 ON THE MOUND

Sophomore **Stacey Evans** (*Collinsville, IL/Triad*) began the 2003 season in impressive fashion, allowing just one earned run in 21 innings of work at the FIU Invitational for a 0.33 earned run average. Evans threw three complete games and struck out 26 batters while giving up 18 hits. She took credit for all three of Buffalo's wins and earned her first shutout of the year against FIU on Sunday, 2-0.

NASTI LEADS BULLS' OFFENSE

Junior **Breanne Nasti** (*Baldwin, NY/Baldwin*) led the Bulls' offense at the Florida International Invitational, going 9-for-17 (.529) with one double, four runs batted in and four runs scored. Sophomore **Julie Hibner** (*Salem, OR/South Salem*) drove in three runs while batting 4-for-13 (.308) in four games, and junior **Allison Round** (*Markham, Ontario/Markham District*) and freshman **Lauren Picciano** (*Endicott, NY/Union-Endicott*) also had four hits apiece over the weekend.

UP NEXT

The University at Buffalo softball team will travel to Hawaii later this week to participate in the Malihini Invitational from Thursday, March 6 through Sunday, March 9. On the way back to Buffalo, the Bulls will stop in California for the San Jose State Invitational on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15.

2003 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

February

at Florida International Tournament

Fri., 28 vs. Florida A&M L, 2-10
vs. Tennessee W, 8-2

March

Sat., 1 vs. Furman W, 6-2
at Florida International L, 1-5
Sun., 2 at Florida International W, 2-0

at Malihini Invitational

Thur., 6 vs. Baylor 11:00 pm
Fri., 7 vs. UC-Riverside 4:00 pm
vs. Kent State 6:00 pm
Sat., 8 vs. Boston College 4:00 pm
vs. Loyola Marymount 10:00 pm
Sun., 9 vs. Hawaii 10:00 pm

at San Jose State Invitational

Fri., 14 vs. Southern Utah 2:00 pm
vs. San Jose State 4:00 pm
Sat., 15 vs. Southern Utah 1:00 pm
vs. San Jose State 5:00 pm

Sat., 22 at Marshall* (DH) 1:00 pm
Sun., 23 at Marshall* 1:00 pm
Tue., 25 at Canisius (DH) 3:00 pm
Thur., 27 **NIAGARA (DH)** 3:00 pm
Sat., 29 at Kent State* (DH) 1:00 pm
Sun., 30 at Kent State* 1:00 pm

April

Thur., 3 **COLGATE (DH)** 3:00 pm
Sat., 5 **NORTHERN ILLINOIS* (DH)** 1:00 pm
Sun., 6 **EASTERN MICHIGAN* (DH)** 1:00 pm
Tue., 8 **ST. BONAVENTURE (DH)** 3:00 pm
Sat., 12 **OHIO* (DH)** 1:00 pm
Sun., 13 **OHIO*** 1:00 pm
Wed., 16 **CANISIUS (DH)** 3:00 pm
Fri., 18 at Central Michigan* 3:30 pm
Sat., 19 at Central Michigan* (DH) 1:00 pm
Tue., 22 at St. Bonaventure (DH) 3:00 pm
Wed., 23 at Niagara (DH) 3:00 pm
Fri., 25 **MIAMI (OH)*** 3:00 pm
Sat., 26 **MIAMI (OH)* (DH)** 1:00 pm
Tue., 29 at Western Michigan* (DH) 3:00 pm

May

Sat., 3 **AKRON* (DH)** 1:00 pm
Sun., 4 **AKRON*** 1:00 pm
Thur., 8- at MAC Championships TBA
Sat., 10 (Firestone Stadium, Akron, OH)

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

*Denotes Mid-American Conference games
(DH) Denotes doubleheader • All times Eastern