

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

175 ALUMNI ARENA

BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14260

(716) 645-6311 • FAX: (716) 645-6840 • WEB: WWW.BUFFALOBULLS.COM

Softball



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FINAL record – 18-21 Overall (7-13 Mid-American)

BULLS END SEASON WITH 18 WINS

The University at Buffalo softball team ended the 2003 season with an 18-21 overall record and a 7-13 mark in the Mid-American Conference following three losses to the visiting Akron Zips over the weekend in the final series of the season. Buffalo's 18 wins are the most ever in its four-year Division I history, and the Bulls finished in fifth place in the MAC's East Division and in 10th place overall in the league's standings.

The Zips took both ends of Saturday's doubleheader, winning 3-2 in game one and then shutting out the Bulls in game two, 4-0. Sophomore **Ann Magur (Endicott, NY/Union-Endicott)** led the Bulls' offense with six hits on the day, going 3-for-4 in each game. A double by junior **Marce Ross (Innisfil, Ontario/St. Peter's)** and a sacrifice fly by sophomore **Julie Hibner (Salem, OR/South Salem)** accounted for Buffalo's two runs on the afternoon. In Sunday's series and season finale, junior **Breanne Nasti (Baldwin, NY/Baldwin)** belted her first home run of the year and Ross had Buffalo's other two RBIs with a two-out single in the seventh.

BULLS EARN SPLIT WITH MAC WEST DIVISION CHAMPION WMU; HEAD COACH MARIE CURRAN GETS 50TH CAREER WIN

The Bulls used a late-inning rally to earn a split in a doubleheader played at the MAC's West Division leader Western Michigan on Tuesday. The Broncos pulled out a 1-0 win in game one, scoring the only run of the game in the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Bulls overcame a four-run deficit and came charging back with three runs in the sixth inning and four runs in the seventh inning of game two to steal a 7-4 victory. A sacrifice fly by junior **Breanne Nasti (Baldwin, NY/Baldwin)** and a two-run home run by senior **Kelly Malone (Waterford, MI/Waterford Kettering)**, her third of the season, in the sixth cut the Broncos' lead to 4-3, and the Bulls then put four runs across the plate in the seventh. Junior **Dominique Jones (Jamesville, NY/Jamesville-DeWitt)** crossed the plate on an error by WMU's shortstop to tie the game, and a bases-loaded double by Nasti put the Bulls up 7-4. The loss for the Broncos was just their sixth conference loss of the season and dropped them out of first place in the MAC's West Division for the first time in three weeks. The Broncos went on to win the MAC West Division title with two wins over the weekend.

Buffalo's win over WMU on Tuesday was head coach **Marie Curran's** 50th career victory. She has the most wins out of any coach in Buffalo softball history, surpassing Nan Harvey who compiled 38 wins from 1983 to 1985.

NAN HARVEY FIELD DEDICATED ON SATURDAY

Following game one of Saturday's doubleheader with Akron, a special dedication ceremony took place for Nan Harvey Field. Nan Harvey, UB Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator, has made a bequest to the UB Athletics Department for a minimum of \$200,000, and in recognition of her future gift, the UB Softball Stadium was officially renamed Nan Harvey Field during the ceremony in her honor. Harvey threw out the ceremonial first pitch to begin game two, which the Zips went on to win by a 4-0 score.

AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL ATHLETIC BANQUET

The Bulls' team award winners for the 2003 season were announced at UB's annual Athletic Banquet on Tuesday. Freshman **Lauren Picciano (Endicott, NY/Union-Endicott)** was named Top Newcomer, junior **Marce Ross (Innisfil, Ontario/St. Peter's)** was named Most Improved, junior **Breanne Nasti (Baldwin, NY/Baldwin)** received the Coaches' Award and sophomore **Stacey Evans (Collinsville, IL/Triad)** was named Most Valuable Player. In addition, senior **Jessica Kensy (Cheektowaga, NY/Maryvale)** received the Blue and White Club Student-Athlete Excellence in Community Service Award, and freshman **Lisa Wheat (Olympia, WA/Tumwater)** was honored with UB's Unsung Hero Award.

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. No. 25 Baylor W, 1-0
Fri., 7 vs. UC-Riverside L, 2-3
vs. Kent State W, 7-5
Sat., 8 vs. Boston College L, 0-3 (8)
vs. Loyola Marymount W, 4-3
Sun., 9 vs. Hawaii L, 0-2

at San Jose State Invitational

Thur., 13 vs. San Jose State L, 3-4 (8)
vs. San Jose State L, 1-4
Fri., 14 vs. Southern Utah L, 0-3
Sat., 15 vs. Southern Utah cancelled

Sat., 22 at Marshall* (DH) L, 2-3 (10); L, 0-6
Sun., 23 at Marshall* W, 3-0
Tue., 25 at Canisius (DH) cancelled
Thur., 27 NIAGARA (DH) W, 1-0; W, 10-2
Sun., 30 at Kent State* L, 0-2
Mon., 31 at Kent State* (DH) L, 1-13; L, 1-2

April

Wed., 2 COLGATE (DH) cancelled
Sat., 5 NORTHERN ILLINOIS* (DH) cancelled
Sun., 6 EASTERN MICHIGAN* (DH) cancelled
Tue., 8 ST. BONAVENTURE (DH) cancelled
Sat., 12 OHIO* (DH) W, 3-2; L, 0-2
Sun., 13 OHIO* W, 5-4
Wed., 16 CANISIUS (DH) W, 9-1; W, 6-4
Fri., 18 at Central Michigan* W, 2-0
Sat., 19 at Central Michigan* (DH) L, 2-5; L, 0-7
Tue., 22 at St. Bonaventure (DH) cancelled
Wed., 23 at Niagara W, 5-1
Fri., 25 MIAMI (OH)* L, 0-4
Sat., 26 MIAMI (OH)* (DH) W, 1-0; W, 3-2
Tue., 29 at Western Michigan* (DH) L, 0-1; W, 7-4

May

Sat., 3 AKRON* (DH) L, 2-3; L, 0-4
Sun., 4 AKRON* L, 3-6

Home games in **BOLD CAPS**

*Denotes Mid-American Conference games

(DH) Denotes doubleheader • All times Eastern