



Louie Berndt

Assistant Coach • 3rd Season • Western Michigan 1983



Louie Berndt, an FSU assistant coach in 1989, returned to Florida State in 1999 to serve as the top assistant coach for the Seminole softball program. Working in large part with the Seminole hitters, Berndt has revitalized the FSU line-up. In just two seasons, she led Florida State to a team batting average of .297 in 2001, which was the highest average for a Seminole squad in six seasons and the second highest team batting average since 1994. Under her guidance, the 2001 squad also shattered the record

for doubles in a single season set in 1999 (71) with a total of 93 during the 2001 campaign.

Berndt came to FSU after serving as the head softball coach at Marshall University for six seasons. She was brought to Marshall to help jumpstart the softball program, which was reinstated in 1993. In 1994, Berndt made her head-coaching debut and guided the Thundering Herd to a 17-21 record. In 1995, just her second season at the helm, Berndt led Marshall to its first-ever Southern Conference Tournament title and to its first NCAA Tournament. She was named the Southern Conference Coach of the Year in 1996 after the squad set numerous school records with a 39-23 record. Several of Berndt's players at Marshall received All-Conference accolades, including back-to-back freshman "Player of the Year" honors.

Berndt is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where she was a two-time All-American at second base. She led the Broncos to three NCAA Tournament bids, including two World Series berths. The team leader in hitting three straight seasons, Berndt had a career .321 batting average and .973 fielding percentage. An All-Mid American Conference and NCAA All-Region selection, Berndt was also invited to the Pan American Team tryouts and was selected to play in the Tri-Nation Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., during her senior year.

In 1985, Berndt turned her efforts to coaching as an assistant at Nicholls State. She helped lead Nicholls to a school-record 47 wins that year. In 1987, the Colonels won the Gulf Star Conference Championship. Berndt joined the FSU staff as a pitching and outfield coach for the 1989 season. She helped the Seminoles to a Top 20 ranking and a second-place finish at the Southwest Regionals. From 1989 to 1993, she helped rebuild a struggling Ohio State softball program. The Buckeyes won the Big Ten Championship in 1990 and advanced to NCAA Regionals.

Some of Berndt's responsibilities at Florida State will include recruiting, coaching the outfield and serving as the coordinator of the JoAnne Graf softball summer camps.





SOFTBALL

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

COMPTON Heather Compton

Assistant Coach • 3rd Season • UCLA 1994



Former UCLA standout Heather Compton, a pitcher with the Tampa Bay Firestix and Ohio Pride of the Women's Professional Softball League, joined the Florida State softball staff as an assistant coach in 1999. Under her guidance, the Seminoles have been reborn on the mound. The 2001 team won the NCAA ERA Title with a nation-low 0.71 team ERA. After just two seasons working with the FSU's pitchers, Compton's staff not only had the lowest team ERA since the 1993 season but their 0.71 ERA was

one full run less than the average staff ERA over the past five seasons. Opponents also hit just .156 against Florida State in 2001 and it had been eight seasons since an FSU staff had an opponent batting average as low as the one posted by the 2001 squad.

An outstanding collegiate pitcher, Compton is a 1994 graduate of UCLA where she earned a degree in political science while lettering four years for the Bruins' softball team. She led UCLA to World Series appearances in each of her four seasons and was a member of the Bruins' 1990 and 1992 national championship teams. Compton garnered first team All-American honors in 1991 and was also named to the All-College World Series team. She ranks among UCLA's career leaders in five categories, including wins (67), appearances (84), strikeouts (540), innings pitched (538.2) and ERA (0.52).

Compton also has international playing experience. She was a member of the USA National Team that earned a gold medal at the 1994 Pan American Games in Guatemala and then went on to play for league champion Poneke Kilbernic Softball Club in New Zealand from 1994 through 1996. She spent the summer of 1996 with the Brioski Junior Softball Team and posted the best record in the Italian Pro Softball League.

Compton also had tremendous success with the Ohio Pride of the WPSL. During the 2000 season, Compton compiled a 7-3 record with a 1.34 ERA. She pitched seven complete games, recorded three shutouts, pitched 68 innings and held opponents to a .150 batting average. Compton also set a WPSL record by striking out 17 batters in one game and capturing WPSL AT&T Wireless Services Pitcher of the Week honors on three occasions. She culminated her season by being named to the 2000 WPSL All-Star Team where she pitched against USA softball in Honolulu, HI.

Compton, who taught three years of social studies and special education at Righetti High School in California, also taught two physical education classes at FSU.

