# Coaches



It's More than longevity that makes Dr. JoAnne Graf

one of the best softball coaches ever.

The two national championships,

33 All-Americans,

18 NCAA Tournaments,

10 ACC titles and

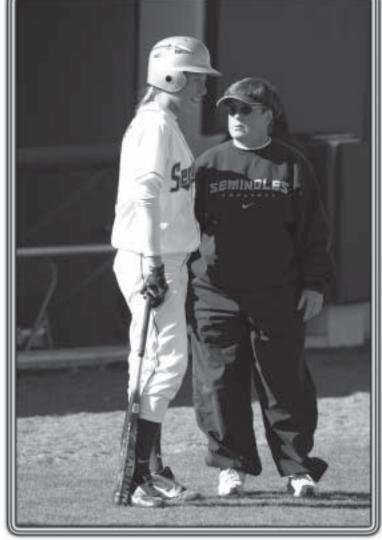
7 WCWS

speak for themselves.



Dr. JoAnne Graf





### Unparalleled

It's the best, and perhaps the only, word to describe the career of Florida State University softball coach Dr. JoAnne Graf as she enters her 28th season at Florida State.

As the 2006 season commences, the Hall of Fame coach looks to cross yet another milestone as she is eight wins away from posting her 1,100 NCAA Division I victory, making her just the second coach to reach the mark. Overall, no coach has won more collegiate softball games as her 1,311 triumphs are 142 wins ahead of the next closest coach.

Going into the 2006 campaign, her career record stands at 1311-395-6 (.767) with a 1092-342-6 (.760) ledger during fastpitch competition. In her 27 seasons, Graf's squads have averaged 48 wins a year with 15 years of 50 or more wins.

While her coaching contemporaries are inching closer in victories - there is now double the number of coaches with 1,000 wins or more compared to just two years ago — Graf joined even more elite company on April 2, 2005. That day university president Dr. T.K. Wetherell and FSU athletics director Dave Hart officially renamed the softball stadium "JoAnne Graf Field at the Seminole Softball Complex." She joins Bob Heck at Georgia State as the only two active softball coaches with fields named after them.

It was only fitting that one day later Graf crossed the 1,300-win plateau with a 5-2 triumph over Virginia Tech as the Seminoles marched to a 35-28 record and their 18th appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Only five schools - Fresno State, UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, Cal and Arizona have advanced to more regionals than FSU. 2005 was also Florida State's 26th-straight season with 30 or more wins.

One of the most prolific coaches in collegiate softball, Graf kicked down another barrier a year earlier on Feb. 11, 2004, when she recorded her 1,000th NCAA win against Mercer. At the time she was only the fourth Division I coach to ever reach that milestone and just the fifth coach at any level to record 1,000 victories.

Her accomplishment was recognized by *Sports Illustrated* as Graf appeared in the "Faces In The Crowd" section. Reaching that milestone erased any doubts that Graf is the greatest DI softball coach in the history of the game. Only two coaches with 1,000 wins in any division have a higher winning percentage than Graf and no coach has more NFCA wins (slow pitch and fast pitch combined) than Graf's 1,311.

Every year Graf seems to surpass another major milestone. From winning her first slow pitch National Championship in 1981 to becoming the all-time winningest coach in NFCA history in 2002, Graf's career has been nothing but remarkable. After setting the NFCA's all-time wins record in 2002 with 1,125 victories, Graf was inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame in the fall of 2003. On May 6, 1999 in a 2-1 victory over South Florida, Graf became the first coach in Division I softball to earn 1,000 wins, including slow and fast pitch competition, and in 2001 she picked up her 1,100 win by downing rival Florida.

### Dr. Johnne Graf

Graf, who was voted the South Region Coach of the Year in 1986, has seen 92 of her players selected to All-Region teams, including 21 players in the last six seasons. In 2001, 2002 and 2004 Graf and her entire staff were named the Southeast Coaching Staff of the Year.

Think of a measuring stick for the greatest collegiate soft-ball programs of all time and Graf's Seminoles are among the best. All-time Women's College World Series appearances? Fifth all-time at seven after the most recent trip in 2004. Consecutive WCWS? Fourth with the four-straight from 1990-93. How about all-time NCAA Tournament wins? The two wins last season brought FSU's total up to 39, ranking them ninth. In addition, Graf is also one of just three coaches to lead a team to the WCWS in three straight decades.

On top of all of those records, Graf has coached 23 All-Americans including her sixth first team NFCA All-American in 2004 with Jessica van der Linden. van der Linden will go down as one of the greatest players to ever be coached by Graf and she had nothing short of a dream season in 2004 as she became the most decorated female athlete ever at Florida State. She was named the USA National Softball Player of the Year, a back-to-back NFCA All-American, a Honda Broderick Award winner for softball, and one of five nominees for an ESPY Award in the "Best Female College Athlete" category.

Want to really know just how dominant Florida State has been, ask the other teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Since the league began sponsoring the sport in 1992, the Seminoles have won 10 of the 14 ACC Tournaments and 11-of-14 regular season crowns. In terms of league wins, FSU holds a 33-game lead over the next closest team, North Carolina, and is seven league wins away from posting its 100th ACC victory.

Florida State's league dominance has carried over into the individual awards as well. Graf has earned ACC Coach of the Year honors six times, UNC's Donna Papa is the only other coach to earn more than one. The Seminoles also have twice as many ACC Player of the Year awards (6) than any other school and their 65 All-ACC selections outdistances the next closest team, Virginia, by 30. There have been 36 All-Americans from the ACC since 1992 and 21 of them have worn the Garnet & Gold. The Tribe's conference dominance under Graf was never illustrated more clearly as when 23 Seminoles were named to the ACC's 50th Anniversary softball team. Florida State players comprised 43 percent of the 53-player roster.

If there was any question that former women's athletics director Barbara Palmer made the right decision to hire Graf, it was answered during her third season. During the 1981 campaign, Florida State burst onto the softball scene by winning 54 games and bringing home the AIAW National Championship. All the Seminoles did for an encore one year later was win 56 contests and defend its national championship.

Two years later Florida State joined the NCAA ranks and it didn't take very long for Graf's squad to make its presence felt amongst the nation's elite teams. The 1986 edition secured the first of 11-straight trips to the NCAA tournament and in year four of NCAA competition, the Seminoles advanced to their first WCWS.





### Dr. JoAnne Graf's Year-By-Year Record

Year	Overall Record	Conference Record	Highlight
1979	26-15 (.634)		8 8
1980	37-10 (.787)		
1981	54-7 (.882)	AIAW Na	ational Champion
1982	56-10 (.848)		ational Champion
1983	46-11 (.807)		r
1984	41-5-2 (.875)	First	Fast Pitch Season
1985	50-12-2 (.797)		
1986	42-7 (.857)		NCAA Regional
1987	50-14 (.781)		WCWS
1988	44-14 (.759)		NCAA Regional
1989	39-14 (.736)		NCAA Regional
1990	47-16 (.750)		WCWS
1991	62-12 (.838)		WCWS
1992*	63-9 (.875)	4-2 (1st)	WCWS
1993*	52-9 (.852)	4-0 (1st)	WCWS
1994	50-19 (.724)	9-2 (1st)	NCAA Regional
1995*	58-15 (.795)	6-0 (1st)	NCAA Regional
1996*	51-21 (.708)	5-3 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
1997*	45-19-1 (.700)	7-1 (1st) ACC Tourn	ament Champion
1998*	51-21 (.708)	5-3 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
1999*	40-25-1 (.614)	6-2 (T-1st) ACC Tourn	
2000*	51-27 (.654)	6-2 (T-1st)	NCAA Regional
2001	58-12 (.829)	6-2 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
2002	55-20 (.733)	6-0 (1st)	WCWS
2003*	46-33 (.807)	8-0 (1st)	NCAA Regional
2004*	62-12 (.838)	9-1 (1st)	WCWS
2005	35-28 (.556)	11-6 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
Career	1311-395-6 (.768)	93-23 (.802)	

<sup>\*</sup> ACC Tournament Champions

### Dr. JoAnne Graf

As the school prepared to enter the ACC in 1992, a warning shot went out signifying that Tobacco Road had to go through Tallahassee in the softball neighborhood. FSU's 1990 squad was the first of four-straight to qualify for the WCWS and during the last three years of the run the Seminoles posted 177 victories, the highest three-year total in school history.

The mid-1990's saw FSU post 50, 58, 51 victories and three more regional appearances from 1994-96. After a 'slow period' by FSU standards with just one NCAA Tournament from 1997-99, the Seminoles started their current streak of six-straight national summits in 2000 and two years later were back in the WCWS.

FSU's run at the 2002 WCWS was one of the top moments in program history. The Seminoles entered the WCWS as the eighth seed and used a home run in the top of the ninth inning to upset the top-ranked and top-seeded UCLA. After a 1-0 loss to eventual national champion Cal, Florida State bounced back by eliminating Nebraska 4-3 and advancing to the semis versus No. 2 Arizona. Florida State staged another dramatic comeback tying the game 2-2 in the bottom of the fifth before succumbing to the Wildcats in 11 innings.

Her 2004 squad shaped up to be one of her best ever and is a testament to how good of a coach Graf is. That squad lost two-time All-American Brandi Stuart and opened the year with a freshman at second and right field as well as a first-time starter in center field. Despite the squad's youth, Graf led the team to its highest national ranking at No. 2 and even had her squad receive a first place vote for the first time. The 2004 team was the runner-up at the prestigious NFCA Leadoff Classic and also advanced to the semifinals of the Kia Klassic. Her Seminoles recorded 13 wins over ranked opponents and advanced to the WCWS for the seventh time in the program's history. On top of having her second national player of the year and second Honda Award winner for softball in 2004, Graf had three players named NFCA All-Americans for the second-straight year and the Tribe finished with a 62-12 mark.

A 1975 graduate of Florida State, Graf returned to her alma mater after two years at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where she earned her master's degree in physical education. Graf also worked in the athletic department at UNC-Greensboro as head coach for the men's and women's swim teams while also serving as assistant softball coach.

Graf, who serves as director of the FSU softball camp each summer, is a former president of the Florida Collegiate Athletic Association. She has also served as a member of the NCAA Softball Committee and chaired the NCAA Softball Advisory Committee for the South Region. Presently she serves on the NFCA All-American Committee.

In 1992, she added "Dr." to her name after completing her doctorate degree in athletic administration at FSU.





### Dr. Johnne Graf

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:



#### Two:Time AIAW National Champions

Before FSU made the switch to fast pitch softball, JoAnne Graf's squads dominated the slow pitch game as evidenced by backto-back national titles in 1981 and 1982. Not only did Graf's teams win national titles, but they went to the national tournament three straight seasons, won five consecutive state titles and saw five players earn All-American honors.

#### Fastpitch Win Number 1,000

Head coach Dr. JoAnne Graf's 1,000th NCAA win didn't come easy on Feb. 11, 2004. A scrappy Mercer team fought FSU all the way but a three-run sixth inning broke the game open for the Seminoles as Graf joined one of the most exclusive clubs in NCAA softball with the 5-1 win. The long-time Seminole coach picked up her 1,000th fast pitch victory becoming just the third Division 1 coach ever to win 1,000 games and only the fourth in NCAA history at any level to reach that plateau. No NCAA coach with 1,000 wins has a better winning percentage than

the FSU coach. "Florida State is my alma mater and it is a special place for me," she said moments after the victory. "It is kind of neat that this is the only place I have ever coached and all 1,000 wins came here."







10: ..... ACC Regular Season Titles 18: ...... NCAA Tournament Appearances 59: ..... ACC Honor Roll Awards 61: .....All-ACC Selections 1,311: ..... All-Time Victories

### Dr. JoAnne Graf

### **NFCA COACHING RECORDS**

(By Victories)
\* - Active Coach

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied Pct.
1. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *				
2. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2005) - *	26	1169	409	3
3. Judi Garman (Cal St. Fullerton 1980-99)				
4. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2005) - *	26	1160	486	5
5. Yvette Girouard (LaLafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-05) - *	25	1012	325	0
6. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05) - *				
7. Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2005) - *	23	947	417	3694
8. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2005) - *				
9. Sandy Fischer (Oklahoma St. 1979-2001)				
10. Bill Galloway (Texas A&M 1979-81; Louisiana Tech 1982-2003)				

#### **NOAA DIVISION I COACHING RECORDS**

All Time Winningest Coaches (By Victories)

\* - Active Coach

Co	ach, Team	Yrs	Won	. Lost	Tied	Pct.
1.	Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2005) - *	26	1169	409	3	740
2.	JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *	22	1092	342	6	760
3.	Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2005) - *	26	1060	486	5	685
4.	Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05) - *	19	1027	203	0	835
	Yvette Girouard (LaLafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-05) - *					
6.	Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2005) - *	23	947	417	3	694
	Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2005) - *					
	Linda Wells (Minnesota 1974-75, 77-89; Arizona St. 1990-2005)					
9.	Judi Garman (Cal St. Fullerton 1980-1999)	20	913	374	4	707
	Bill Galloway (Texas A&M 1979-81; Louisiana Tech 1982-2003)					

### **NCAA DIVISION I COACHING RECORDS**

All Time Winningest Coaches (By Percentage)

\* - Active Coach

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	. Pct.
1. Sue Enquist (UCLA 1989-2005) - *	17	837	166	1	834
2. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05) - *					
3. Sharron Backus (UCLA 1975-96)	22	854	173	3	831
4. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *					
5. Yvette Girouard (LaLafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-05) - *	25	1012	325	0	756
6. Patty Gasso (Oklahoma 1995-2005) - *					
7. Gary Torgeson (Cal State Northridge 1982-94)	13	636	216	7	744
8. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2005) - *	26	1169	409	3	740
9. Joey Arrietta (Akron 1980-89)					
10. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2005) - *					

## **NOAA AU-DIVISION COACHING RECORDS**(By Victories) \* - Active Coach

Co	ach, Team	Yrs	Won	. Lost	Tied	. Pct.
1.	Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2005) - *	26	1169	409	3	740
2.	JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *	22	1092	342	6	760
3.	Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2005) - *	26	1060	486	5	685
4.	Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05) - *	19	1027	203	0	835
5.	Yvette Girouard (LaLafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-05) - *	25	1012	325	0	757
6.	Sandy Jerstad (Augustana [S.D.] 1977-2003)	27	1011	359	2	738
7.	Jan Hutchinson (Bloomsburg 1978-2005) -*	27	1003	226	2	815
8.	Kathy Welter (OK Bapt 1980-82; TX Tech 83-85; CS Baker 86-04)	26	957	417	6	696
9.	Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2005) - *	23	947	417	3	694
10.	Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2005) - *	22	940	356	4	725

lovie Berndt

As familiar as the face is patrolling the third base coach's box for Florida State University, the one across the diamond is just as recognizable to Seminole loyalist. Now in her eighth season at Florida State, associate head coach Louie Berndt is part of one of the top, and longest running, coaching tandems in the country.

Berndt joined the Florida State staff for the second time — previously she had a one year stint in 1989 — in 1999 after six seasons as the dugout boss at Marshall University. Following the Seminoles' run to the 2004 Women's College World Series, Berndt was bestowed with the new title of associate head coach.

In 23 years of coaching, Berndt has been to 10 NCAA Tournaments, including seven at Florida State, and a pair of Women's College World Series. At her four different stops, she has helped coach 14 All-Americans and 26 All-Region selections.

Berndt works mainly with the Florida State hitters and outfielders and serves as the Tribe's recruiting coordinator. Since her return, the Seminole softball program has landed four NFCA All-Americans including USA Softball National Player of the Year and Honda Award winner Jessica van der Linden. Three of FSU's recruits have been named ACC Rookie of the Year in her tenure (van der Linden, Veronica Wootson and Tiffany McDonald) with van der Linden becoming the first back-to-back ACC Player of the Year.

On top of her recruiting expertise, Berndt's coaching of the FSU hitters and outfielders has paid dividends as well. In 2004, Florida State shattered the single season home run record and all five of the highest single season HR totals have all come since Berndt returned to FSU in 1999. In 2004, the squad also set new records for RBIs, runs and walks. Three of FSU's seven all-time highest batting averages have come under Berndt's guidance and the team has finished among the NCAA leaders in that category in two of the last four seasons. In 2004, FSU finished seventh in the nation in triples per game and 17th in scoring offense.

In 2005 two of the Seminoles' top three hitters were outfielders, led by First-Team All-ACC selection Natasha Jacob. The team leader in nearly every offensive category, Jacob was third in the conference in hitting (.359) and begins the 2006 campaign with a 24-game hitting streak. Jacob's counterpart in right field, junior LaShaun Davis, was third on the team in hitting and ACC Player of the Week on March 7.

Berndt came to FSU after serving as the head softball coach at Marshall 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. One year later she led Marshall to its first Southern Conference Tournament title and NCAA Tournament. She was named the Southern Conference Coach of the Year in 1996 after the squad set numerous school records with a



## lovie Berndt

39-23 record. Her career record was 143-154 in Huntington, W.Va. 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 where her squad finished fifth in 1982. During her Western Michigan career, Berndt's teams won 132 games. The team leader in hitting three straight seasons, Berndt had a career .321 batting average and .973 fielding percentage and she set the record at WMU for hits in a season.

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. A two-sport athlete at Western Michigan, having lettered three times in basketball, she was inducted into the Western Michigan Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1985, Berndt turned her efforts to coaching as an assistant at Nicholls State. She helped lead NSU 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 Regional. Then in 1990 she returned to the north as an assistant at Ohio State. During her first year the Buckeyes won their only Big Ten Championship and advanced to just their fourth NCAA Tournament.

A native of Dearborn, Mich., Berndt earned a bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies from Western Michigan in 1983. She added a bachelor's degree in education from Nicholls State in 1985.





#### Former Assistant Coaches (alphabetically)

Patti Benedict (1996)

Louie Berndt (1989; 1999-present)

Debbie Billington (1980)

Michelle Bolster (1996-1999)

Connie Clark (1990-1995)

Heather Compton (2000-2002)

Frances Cox (1981)

Winnie Dodgion (1982-1986)

Paula Dean (1979)

**Jo Evans** (1984-1985)

Eve Gaw (2003-2004)

Amy Herrington (2004)

Sherri Jennings (1988)

Kelley Kirkland (1992)

Tina Kyler (1986)

Joanna Lane (2003)

Megan Matthews Buning (2005-present)

Alicia O'Donnell (1987-1988)

Doug Palmer (1984-1985)

Carrie Partlowe (1998-1999)

Jackie Savis (1989-1991)

Chandelle Schulte (1997-1999)

Penny Siqueiros (1994-1995)

CJ Urse (1992-1993)

Megan Matthews Buning

While Megan Matthews Buning is only in her second season at Florida State, the effects of her work on the pitching staff have already been felt. This year may be an even bigger challenge for her as she works with the youngest pitching staff in the league, but also one that might have the most potential.

During her first season with the Seminoles, Matthews Buning guided rookie Tiffany McDonald to ACC Co-Freshman of the Year honors. McDonald's 14 wins during her inaugural campaign is one better than 2004 USA Softball Player of the Year Jessica van der Linden during her rookie season. In addition, senior Casey Hunter was named Second-Team All-ACC.

Florida State's hurlers stacked up against the best in the ACC, leading the conference in strikeouts per game (7.98) and few home runs allowed (12), while rating second in total strikeouts (493) and complete games (43). Hunter and McDonald ranked in the ACC's top 10 in nearly every pitching category and had the highest strikeout total of any pitching duo in the league.

In addition to her duties with the pitchers, Matthew Buning also serves as a recruiting aide to Hall of Fame coach Dr. JoAnne Graf and participates in the program's summer camps.

Matthews Buning comes to Florida State after an impressive SEC career as a pitcher for the University of South Carolina. She holds the school records for strikeouts, complete games, innings pitched, and she is one win shy of the all-time win record. The USC graduate was named a third-team All-American in 1999 and is a two-time All-SEC selection.

As a player, Matthews was labeled the workhorse of the Carolina pitching staff where she recorded 101 career wins and is 11th on the NCAA all-time strikeout list with 1,090 to her credit. She's also rates fourth with 194 career appearances, eighth at 16 saves, 10th with 1110.1 innings pitched and 19th at 1,090 strikeouts. During her stellar freshman campaign in 1999, she led the nation in saves after totaling nine. In addition she is in the SEC all-time top 10 in appearances (1st), innings (2nd), strikeouts (2nd) and saves (2nd), while also rating in victories (3rd — 101), shutouts (4th — 32), complete games (6th — 99) and ERA (9th — 1.29).

A three-time All-Southeast Region team member, she was honored as the SEC Player of the Week seven times, a USC record. In 2002, Matthews Buning was selected as the USC Female Student Athlete of the Year after leading her school to the SEC Softball Tournament Championship where she was named MVP.

On top of her playing experience at USC, Matthews Buning spent 2004 as a professional softball player for the New England Riptides. She honed her coaching skills as a head coach of an 18-and-under traveling fast pitch team in 2003 and as a private pitching instructor in Asheville, North Carolina.





In April 2004, she took part in the Olympic Test event for the British National Team as a guest player and was the winning pitcher for the Gold Medal Game in Athens, Greece. In 2002, she was a silver medalist at the Puerto Rican Olympic Festival and also served as a guest pitcher for the British National Team at the Canada Cup in Vancouver.

A former All-American standout at Riverside High School in Greer, S.C., Matthews Buning was named the Gatorade Southern Region Player of the Year in 1998 and was also a three-time 3A State Player of the Year (1996-98). Furthermore, she was a conference player of the year three times, all-state four years and all-conference five times while leading her team to the 3A State Championship three years (1995-1997). For her outstanding career, Riverside High School retired her jersey in 2002.

A four-year member of the SEC Honor Roll, Matthews received her bachelor of science in exercise physiology with a concentration in motor development and a cognate in athletic training in 2003. Currently she is pursuing her master's degree in sports psychology.

The former Megan Elizabeth Matthews, she married Mr. Shaun Buning Sept. 27, 2003. The couple resides in Tallahassee.

## SUPPORT STAFF



**Lynn Bourdon**Assistant Director of Events Management



Craig Campano33i Videographer



**Jason Fountain** Athletic Academic Support



**Robin Gibson** Head Athletic Trainer



**Gloria Jordan** Administrative Assistant



**Dwan Riggins** Strength Coach



**Tatiana George** Manager



**Marcia Maldonado** Equipment Manager



**Shawna Norris** Manager



**Clayton Noa** Student Trainer



**Andrea Wardell** Marketing Assistant