



Coaches





Dr. JoAnne Graf



Head Coach
 29th Season
 Florida State, 1975
 1355-425-6 (career)
 1136-372-6 (fastpitch)



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 29th season as the Seminoles' dug-out boss.

With each passing year, the winningest coach in softball history keeps pushing her record farther and farther up the charts. Following the program's 25th 40 win season in 2006, Graf's 1,355 total wins are 149 ahead of the next closest coach. An 8-1 victory over Jacksonville on February 22, 2006, made her only the second coach in NCAA history to record 1,100 NCAA fastpitch wins.

While she probably won't admit it, the 2006 season may have been one of Graf's best coaching jobs in her 28 years at Florida State. With one of her youngest pitching staffs ever and a mixture of veterans, newcomers and role players thrust into the starting line-up, Graf got the Seminoles to gel at the right time and guided the team to the NCAA Tournament Super Regional where it was two wins away from the program's eighth Women's College World Series.

Last year the Seminoles rebounded for one of the best offensive seasons in school history, surpassing many of the numbers put up by the 2002 and 2004 World Series teams. FSU registered nine victories over ranked opponents – including a pair against No. 8 Georgia in the NCAA Tournament – and ended the year ranked in the Top 25 of both polls for the school's ninth end-of-the-year ranking in the last 12 seasons.

Proof of last year's success also came in the form of individual awards as Veronica Wootson was named an NFCA/Louisville Slugger First-Team All-American. Wootson joined Natasha Jacob on the Easton-Bell Sports All-America team and Jacob grabbed the program's first CoSIDA/ESPN *The Magazine* First-Team Academic All-America awards. Wootson, Jacob and Yuruby Alicart were First-Team NFCA All-Southeast Region selections and the trio was joined by LaShaun Davis on the All-ACC squad.

At the start of the 2007 season, her career record stands at 1,355-425-6 (.760) with an 1,136-372-6 (.753) ledger during fastpitch competition. In her 28 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 are now double the number of coaches with 1,000 wins or more compared to just three 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 their 18th appearance in the NCAA Tournament.



Dr. JoAnne Graf



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 three 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 1,355.

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 short of 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.

Graf, who was voted the South Region Coach of the Year in 1986, has seen 95 of her players selected to All-Region teams, including 24 players in the last seven 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 softball programs of all time and Graf's Seminoles are among the best. All-time Women's College World Series appearances? Sixth all-time at seven after the most recent trip in 2004. Consecutive WCWS? Sixth with the four-straight from 1990-93. How about all-time NCAA Tournament wins? The three wins last season brought FSU's total up to 44, ranking them ninth. FSU's 19 NCAA Tournament appearances trails only Fresno State (25), UCLA (23), California and Cal State Fullerton (22) and Arizona (20). In addition, Graf is also one of just three coaches to lead a team to the WCWS in three straight decades.

Graf's 1,136 wins ranks fourth all-time in NCAA history behind Fresno State (1,227), Arizona (1,222) and UCLA (1,126). However, the Seminoles' win total is in 23 years, compared to 25 for the other three schools, making FSU the all-time leader at 49.39 wins per year. If you factor in FSU's last 25 years, the Seminoles would be No. 1 at 1,238 victories.

On top of all of those records, Graf has coached 24 All-Americans including her seventh first team NFCA All-American in 2006 with Wootson's selection. Two-time All-American Jessica 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 under Graf, ask the other teams in the ACC. Since the league began sponsoring the sport in 1992, the Seminoles have won 10 of the 15 ACC Tournaments and 11-of-15 regular season crowns. In terms of league wins, FSU holds a 30-game lead over the next closest team, North Carolina, and the 4-3 win over NC State on April 16, 2006, made FSU the first school in the ACC to amass 100 conference victories.



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

Year	Overall Record	Conference Record	Highlight
1979	26-15 (.634)		
1980	37-10 (.787)		
1981	54-7 (.882)		AIAW National Champion
1982	56-10 (.848)		AIAW National Champion
1983	46-11 (.807)		
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*	45-18-1 (.700)	7-1 (1st)	ACC Tournament Champion
1998*	51-21 (.708)	5-3 (2nd)	NCAA Regional
1999*	40-25-1 (.614)	6-2 (T-1st)	ACC Tournament Champion
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
2006	44-30 (.595)	16-16 (5th)	NCAA Super Regional
Career	1355-425-6 (.760)	103-33 (.757)	



Dr. JoAnne Graf

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 69 All-ACC selections outdistances the next closest team, UNC, by 32. There have been 39 All-Americans from the ACC since 1992 and 22 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 successfully 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.

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 'low period' by FSU standards with just one NCAA Tournament from 1997-99, the Seminoles started their current streak of seven-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 to upset top-seeded UCLA. After a 1-0 loss to eventual national champion Cal, Florida State bounced back by eliminating Nebraska 4-3. Florida State staged another dramatic comeback in the semifinals against No. 2 Arizona, tying the game 2-2 in the fifth before succumbing to the Wildcats in 11 innings.

The 2004 edition shaped up to be one of her best ever and was a testament to Graf's coaching acumen. Despite the squad's youth, Graf led the team to its highest national ranking at No. 2 and its first first-place vote. Graf's 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 NFCA All-Americans for the second-straight year and FSU 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, chaired the NCAA Softball Advisory Committee for the South Region and served on the NFCA All-American Committee. In 2006, Tallahassee Community College named her as one of its "Outstanding Women".

In 1992, she added "Dr." to her name after completing her doctorate degree in athletic administration at FSU. In addition she has lent her expertise to a pair of books, penning the chapter "Organizing and Orchestrating a Winning Program" in *The Softball Coaching Bible* as well as the chapter "Ethics" in *She Can Coach*.



Dr. JoAnne 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 back-to-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 became 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."



Coach Graf with FSU President Dr. T.K. Wetherell

Dr. JoAnne Graf By The Numbers

2:	National Championships
10:	ACC Regular Season Titles
19:	NCAA Tournament Appearances
34:	All-America Awards
44:	NCAA Tournament Victories
65:	All-ACC Selections
67:	ACC Honor Roll Awards
92:	All-Region Awards
1,355:	All-Time Victories





Dr. JoAnne Graf

NFCA Coaching Records - (By Victories)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2006) - *	28	1355	425	6	.760
2. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2006) - *	27	1206	428	3	.738
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2006) - *	27	1099	508	5	.684
4. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05-06) - *	20	1081	214	0	.835
5. Judi Garman (Cal St. Fullerton 1980-99)	24	1078	377	3	.741
6. Yvette Girouard (La.-Lafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-06) - *	26	1067	339	0	.759
7. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2006) - *	23	984	371	4	.727
8. Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2006) - *	24	975	447	3	.685
9. Sandy Fischer (Oklahoma St. 1979-2001)	23	924	290	0	.761
10. Linda Wells (Minnesota 1974-75, 77-89; Arizona St. 1990-2005)	31	914	679	1	.574

NCAA Division 1 coaching records - All-Time Winningest Coaches (By Victories)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2006) - *	27	1206	428	3	.738
2. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *	23	1136	372	6	.757
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2006) - *	27	1099	508	5	.684
4. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05-06) - *	20	1081	214	0	.835
5. Yvette Girouard (La.-Lafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-06) - *	26	1067	339	0	.759
6. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2006) - *	23	984	371	4	.727
7. Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2006) - *	24	975	447	3	.685
8. Linda Wells (Minnesota 1974-75, 77-89; Arizona St. 1990-2005)	31	914	679	1	.574
9. Judi Garman (Cal St. Fullerton 1980-1999)	20	913	374	4	.707
10. Bill Galloway (Texas A&M 1979-81; Louisiana Tech 1982-2003)	25	897	432	2	.675

NCAA Division 1 coaching records - All-Time Winningest Coaches (By Percentage)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Sue Enquist (UCLA 1989-2006)	18	887	175	1	.835
2. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05-06) - *	20	1081	214	0	.835
3. Sharron Backus (UCLA 1975-96)	22	854	173	3	.831
4. Yvette Girouard (La.-Lafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-06) - *	26	1067	339	0	.759
5. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *	23	1136	372	6	.757
6. Patty Gasso (Oklahoma 1995-2006) - *	12	584	200	2	.744
7. Gary Torgeson (Cal State Northridge 1982-94)	13	636	216	7	.744
8. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2006) - *	27	1206	428	3	.738
9. Joey Arrietta (Akron 1980-89)	10	326	115	4	.737
10. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2006) - *	23	984	371	4	.727

NCAA All-Division Coaching Records - (By Victories)

Coach, Team	Yrs	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
1. Margie Wright (Illinois St. 1980-85; Fresno St. 1986-2006) - *	27	1206	428	3	.738
2. JoAnne Graf (Florida St. 1984-2005) - *	23	1136	372	6	.757
3. Gayle Blevins (Indiana 1980-87; Iowa 1988-2006) - *	27	1099	508	5	.684
4. Mike Candrea (Arizona 1986-2003+05-06) - *	20	1081	214	0	.835
5. Yvette Girouard (La.-Lafayette 1981-2000; LSU 2001-06) - *	26	1067	339	0	.759
6. Jan Hutchinson (Bloomsburg 1978-2006) - *	28	1041	244	2	.809
7. Sandy Jerstad (Augustana [S.D.] 1977-2003)	27	1011	359	2	.738
8. Carol Hutchins (Ferris St. 1982; Michigan 1985-2006) - *	23	984	371	4	.727
9. Joyce Compton (Missouri 1983-86; South Carolina 1987-2006) - *	24	975	447	3	.685
10. Kathy Welter (OK Bapt 1980-82; TX Tech 83-85; CS Baker 86-04)	26	957	417	6	.696

* - Active Coach

All-Time NCAA Division 1 Wins-Loss Total (By School)

School	Wins	Losses	Ties	Years
1. Fresno St.	1,227	399	1	25
2. Arizona	1,222	296	0	25
3. UCLA	1,177	237	4	25
4. Florida St.	1,136	371	6	23
5. Cal St. Fullerton	1,104	471	4	25

All-Time NCAA Division 1 Average Wins (By School)

School	Wins	Years	Average
1. Florida St.	1,136	23	49.39
2. Fresno St.	1,227	25	49.08
3. Arizona	1,222	25	48.88
4. UCLA	1,177	25	47.08
5. Cal St. Fullerton	1,104	25	44.16

Louie Berndt



Associate Head Coach 9th Season Western Michigan, 1983



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 ninth 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 24 years of coaching, Berndt has been to 11 NCAA Tournaments, including eight at Florida State, and a pair of Women's College World Series. At her four different stops, she has helped coach 15 All-Americans and 29 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 six 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.

Florida State's offense enjoyed a resurgence in 2006 as the Seminoles surpassed many of the numbers put up by the 2002 and 2004 World Series teams. New single-season records were established for at-bats, doubles and home runs, while Florida State's 29 triples was the second-highest total in the

nation last year. Left fielder Natasha Jacob earned Third-Team All-America honors from Easton-Bell Sports and was joined on the All-ACC team by right fielder LaShaun Davis. Jacob ended her career ranked sixth in ACC history with 271 hits and eighth at 69 stolen bases to go along with FSU Top 10 rankings in eight offensive categories.

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 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.





Louie Berndt

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.



All-Time 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



Assistant Coach/Pitching 3rd Season South Carolina, 2003



Faced with the biggest challenge of her early coaching career, all Florida State University assistant coach Megan Matthews Buning did was mentor a pitching staff that got the Seminoles to the doorstep of the Women's College World Series. Entering her third year at FSU, Matthews Buning will be the driving force behind a staff that is more experienced and can help the Seminoles get back to Oklahoma City.

Last year's pitching staff may have been one of the youngest in the country, but through Matthews Buning's guidance it more than made up for its inexperience through hard work and dedication. Not only was sophomore Tiffany McDonald the workhorse on the staff, but she was one of the most reliable pitchers in the nation. The right-hander was second in the country for innings pitched (329.1) and appearances (57) and also ranked the top 10 in wins (30) and top 20 for strikeouts (312).

McDonald's innings total set a FSU and ACC record, while her 57 appearances were second and the 312 strikeouts is an FSU sophomore record and third on the single-season charts. Through the first two years of her career, McDonald has logged more innings and struck out more batters than any other FSU pitcher has in her first two seasons.

In addition to her national rankings, McDonald was the ACC leader in most pitching categories after barely breaking the top ten as a freshman. She was first in innings, appearances, wins, complete games (39) and games started (42), while her strikeout total was third. Rookie hurlers Melissa May and Kayla Collins also broke into the top ten for innings pitched.

During her first season with the Seminoles, Matthews Buning guided McDonald to 2005 ACC Co-Freshman of the Year honors. Her 14 wins during her inaugural campaign was one better than 2004 USA Softball Player of the Year Jessica van der Linden had 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).

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 Buning was labeled the workhorse of the Carolina pitching staff where she recorded 101 career wins and has 1,090 strikeouts to her credit. She's also rates fourth with 194 career appearances, ninth at 16 saves and 11th with 1110.1 innings pitched. 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 degree 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 Matthews, she married Shaun Buning in 2003. The couple resides in Tallahassee.





Support Staff



Chris Rettkowski
*Assistant Director
of Events Management*



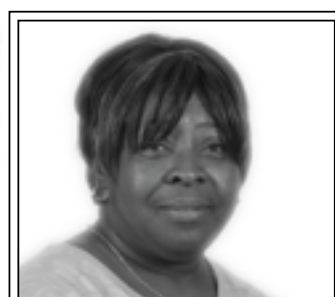
Craig Campanozzi
Videographer



Kylie Amato
Athletic Academic Support



Robin Gibson
Head Athletic Trainer



Gloria Jordan
Administrative Assistant



Dwan Riggins
Strength Coach



Brian Donaway
Head Groundskeeper



Marcia Maldonado
Equipment Manager



Shawna Norris
Manager



Brianna Temple
Student Trainer



Kyle Laventsky
Marketing Assistant