



# FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 23, 2002

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**1125!!! GRAF STANDS ALONE AS THE NATION'S WINNINGEST ALL-TIME COACH**  
Head coach JoAnne Graf tops the chart for wins after FSU downs New Mexico State 1-0.

Las Cruces, NM – When Florida State University began to play Division I softball almost 24 years ago, there were no computerized statistics, no multi-million dollar facilities and the support staff usually consisted of the head coach and an assistant coach, if you were lucky. Oh, how things have changed.

In 2002, laptop computers have replaced pencils and scorebooks, the Seminoles play in a brand-new state-of-the-art facility and support staff's can include two trainers, a sports information director, a videographer and two assistant coaches. When it comes to Florida State, one thing hasn't changed in all that time and that is head coach Dr. JoAnne Graf. With Thursday's 1-0 victory over New Mexico State in Las Cruces, she recorded win No. 1125 and now sits alone atop the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) record books for the most-ever wins by a collegiate softball coach.

"The fact that all 1,125 wins came at my alma mater and a school I really care about is what made this special for me," said Graf. "To get them all at one school is great because that is something that is rare these days. Judy Garman got some of her wins at a junior college before moving on to Cal State-Fullerton so that does make this special.

"I think a lot of my success is directly attributed to the players, the assistant coaches and due to the fact that we've been able to be competitive by getting the funding we needed from our administration. A lot of people share in this record."

Win No. 1,125 wasn't easy. The Seminoles (12-5) battled the host New Mexico State Aggies (8-17) to a 0-0 tie for six innings before senior Kimmy Carter's ground out scored the game-winner. The run that would eventually secure Graf's 1,125<sup>th</sup> win started innocently enough as Brandi Stuart drew a walk on a 3-2 pitch. After Elisa Velasco put down a perfect sacrifice bunt moving Stuart to second, the junior second baseman stole her 19<sup>th</sup> base of the year advancing to third with just one out in the inning. Carter then sent a grounder to second that allowed Stuart to come home with the eventual game-winner.

Senior Leslie Malerich (4-4) made the run stand up as she dominated New Mexico State for seven innings. The senior All-American allowed just one hit, gave up only two walks, struck out seven batters in picking up her fourth win of the season. Combined with Jessica van der Linden's perfect game earlier in the day, the two Seminole starters allowed just one hit in 14 innings of work.

"I was proud of the way the kids played today," said Graf. "I felt we had been struggling a little as a team and they put it all together today for two straight games and played a great game versus a very good New Mexico State team."

Graf's career at Florida State is unprecedented. In just over 23 seasons, she has won two slow-pitch national championships, been to five College World Series, played in 14 NCAA Regionals and coached 21 Louisville Slugger and Easton All-Americans. She has never had a losing season at FSU and has averaged more than 48 wins in every one of her 23 years. Her career winning percentage is a remarkable .770 and she isn't done yet.

Considering that Graf passed former Cal State-Fullerton coach Judi Garman in four fewer years and she was 133 wins ahead of her nearest competitor when the 2002 season began, it might be quite awhile before anyone catches her. Graf is also just three wins away from passing Garman and taking over



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second place on the NCAA's All-Time wins list for Division I coaches , which doesn't include slowpitch competition. Graf currently appears on every NCAA career wins and winning percentage list.

For complete coverage of Seminole softball and Dr. JoAnne Graf's career, please visit our official athletic website at [www.seminoles.com](http://www.seminoles.com).

--FSU Sports Information--

No. 18 Florida State Softball  
 Florida State at New Mexico State  
 Feb 23, 2002 at Las Cruces, NM (Presley Askew Comp)

Florida State 1 (12-5)

New Mexico State 0 (8-17)

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Shandra Colzie dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tatiana George ss.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Jess van der Linden cf...	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Brandi Stuart 2b.....	2	1	0	0	1	1	4	1	1
Elisa Velasco c.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0
Kimmy Carter rf.....	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Monique Marier lf.....	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bryttani Lindheim 3b.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Becky Brock 3b.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Beth Wade 1b.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	0
Julie Jordan ph.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leslie Malerich p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Totals.....	20	1	2	1	2	5	21	9	3

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
GIPSON 2b.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	3
WESCOTT rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
RHYNE lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
SPINO dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
STEPHENS c.....	3	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	1
BRIGGS 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0
NOBBE ss.....	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
LOGSDON 1b.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1
RUIZ cf.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
KNIGHT p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals.....	20	0	1	0	2	7	21	10	5

Score by Innings	R	H	E
Florida State.....	000	000	1 - 1 2 2
New Mexico State....	000	000	0 - 0 1 1

E - B Stuart 2(4); NOBBE. DP - Aggies 2. LOB - Seminoles 3; Aggies 5. HBP - van der Lind. SH - E Velasco(4); Kimmy Carter(4); RHYNE; LOGSDON 2; RUIZ. SB - B Stuart(19).

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Leslie Malerich.....	7.0	1	0	0	2	7	20	26

New Mexico State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
KNIGHT.....	7.0	2	1	1	2	5	20	25

Win - L Malerich (4-4). Loss - KNIGHT (3-13). Save - None.  
 HB - KNIGHT. PB - STEPHENS.  
 Umpires - Home:Duke Ward 1st:Jaime Arrieta 3rd:Melvin Anthony  
 Start: 4:10 pm Time: 1:43 Attendance: 124  
 Game: 2232002B