

2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	SBC			ALL		
	W-L	PCT	STREAK	W-L	PCT	STREAK
LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
SOUTH ALABAMA	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
FIU	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
TROY	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
WESTERN KENTUCKY	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
NORTH TEXAS	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
ULM	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	0-0	.000	-	0-0	.000	-

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE PICKED TO TOP SUN BELT ONCE AGAIN

NEW ORLEANS - Four-time defending Sun Belt Conference champion Louisiana-Lafayette was picked to win another league title, receiving eight first-place votes by the league's nine head coaches, as announced by the conference office on Monday.

Headlining the 2012 Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Team are ULL's Christi Orgeron, selected as the Preseason Player of the Year, and South Alabama's Hannah Campbell, who was selected as the Preseason Pitcher of the Year.

The Cajuns received 80 total points with eight of the nine first place votes. South Alabama narrowly edged Florida Atlantic for the second spot with the Jaguars receiving 64 points to the Owls' 62. FIU came in fourth with 49 points, followed by Troy and Western Kentucky tied for fifth place with 40 points each. WKU also received one first place vote. Rounding out the poll was North Texas (29), Louisiana-Monroe (26) and Middle Tennessee (15).

ULL enters the season having won 10 of the past 11 Sun Belt Conference regular season and tournament championships, including the past four. The Cajuns posted their seventh 50-plus victory season in 2011 under co-head coaches Stefni and Michael Lotief. Last season, Louisiana-Lafayette made its 13th straight NCAA Regionals appearance since 1999 and the 21st in the last 22 years. The Cajuns rank ninth in total NCAA appearances with 21, 10th with 50 NCAA Tournament victories and 11th for consecutive NCAA Regional appearances.

Orgeron, a utility player from New Orleans, was recognized as a USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top 10 Finalist last year and is on the 2012 USA Softball Top 50 Watch List. As a junior, Orgeron was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player after leading ULL to its tenth Sun Belt Conference regular season championship and 11th conference tournament title. She finished the year batting .414 with 23 home runs and a Sun Belt Conference and ULL single-season record of 101 RBI - a mark that led the nation in 2011 and ranks third all-time in the NCAA record books. Orgeron is one of only four players in NCAA Division I to surpass 100 RBI in a season. Orgeron also led the SBC in slugging percentage (.886), and recorded the second most hits (87) and total bases (186) in Ragin' Cajuns single season history. She ranked third in the NCAA in home runs per game (0.37) and second in total home runs, second in runs per game (1.21), fifth in slugging percentage (.886), and 21st in doubles per game (0.32). She was named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA First Team All-Region, was All-American Third Team, and helped team USA to a gold medal in the Pan-American Games in October 2011.

Campbell earned 2011 Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year honors for her work in the circle last season. Campbell finished the year with a 2.51 ERA and a 19-7 record while leading the league in saves with four - a mark that ranks third in the SBC single season record books and is the fifth highest total in a career. She was named to the NFCA All-Region team and

to the All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team. She was fourth in shutouts (5) and wins (19) and eighth in strikeouts per game (5.16).

Joining Orgeron on the Preseason All-Conference team are teammates Nerissa Myers and Katie Smith to give the Cajuns the most on the team. Myers led the nation in runs per game (1.24) last season and reached base in 58 of 62 games in 2011. Her 77 runs scored tied a ULL and SBC single-season record and she broke the SBC Tournament record for most runs scored in a tournament with seven. Smith has started in 176-of-178 games in her career. The swift moving outfielder batted .352 and was second on the squad swiping 20 bags in 22 attempts last season. Smith has a career .369 batting average and is fourth all-time in school history with 68 stolen bases.

South Alabama and Troy each put two players on the Preseason All-SBC team. USA's Brittany Fowler joined Campbell as the other Jag on the team, and Nikki Hollett and Hayden Gann represented the Trojans.

Fowler is a two-time all-conference player who ended 2011 batting .340 and led the team in hits (53), RBI (52), sac flies (5), triples (3) and slugging percentage (.571).

Gann earned Second Team All-Sun Belt honors a season ago after starting all 59 games for the Trojans in 2011, while hitting .318 with seven home runs and 31 RBI. Senior slugger Hollett earned NFCA All-Region honors, and her 20 home runs placed her seventh in the nation and helped her post a .795 slugging percentage, the 19th best mark in the country. She also batted a team-high .354 and started every game for the Trojans.

FIU's Ashley McClain was also named to the 2012 USA Softball Top 50 Watch List. The dual threat at pitcher and in the outfield started all 58 games for the Panthers and notched an FIU single season record with a .409 batting average in 2011. She received her second consecutive NFCA All-South Region First Team honors and was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference First Team for the second straight season.

Also earning spots on the Preseason All-SBC team are Florida Atlantic's Taylor Fawbush, Western Kentucky's Karavin Dew and North Texas' Lisa Johnson.

Fawbush was one of FAU's two primary pitchers during 2011 and was one of the toughest batters in the nation to strike out, going down on strikes just seven times in 103 at-bats.

Dew was a First Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection in 2011 and appeared in 45 games, starting in 44 of them. She led the Lady Toppers with a .341 batting average while adding five doubles, five triples, three home runs, and 19 RBI. Dew's five triples tied WKU's single-season record and led the Sun Belt.

Johnson has started all but 11 games in her career and holds the Mean Green single-season walks record (29) and the career walk record (68) and is fifth on the career home run list (23). Johnson is listed in the top 10 at North Texas in runs, hits, RBI, doubles and total bases.

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Christi Orgeron • Louisiana-Lafayette

Christi Orgeron, a utility player from New Orleans, was recognized as a USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top 10 Finalist last year and is on the 2012 USA Softball Top 50 Watch List. As a junior, Orgeron was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player after leading ULL to its tenth Sun Belt Conference regular

season championship and 11th conference tournament title. She finished the year batting .414 with 23 home runs and a Sun Belt Conference and ULL single-season record of 101 RBI - a mark that led the nation in 2011 and ranks third all-time in the NCAA record books. Orgeron is one of only four players to surpass 100 RBI in a season. Orgeron also led the SBC in slugging percentage (.886), and recorded the second most hits (87) and total bases (186) in Ragin' Cajuns single season history. She ranked third in the NCAA in home runs per game (0.37) and second in total home runs, second in runs per game (1.21), fifth in slugging percentage (.886), and 21st in doubles per game (0.32). She was named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA First Team All-Region, was All-American Third Team, and helped team USA to a gold medal in the Pan-American Games in October 2011.

PRESEASON PITCHER OF THE YEAR



Hannah Campbell • South Alabama

Hannah Campbell earned 2011 Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year honors for her work in the circle last season. Campbell finished the year with a 2.51 ERA and a 19-7 record while leading the league in saves with four - a mark that ranks third in the SBC single season record books and is the fifth highest total in a career. She was named to the NFCA All-Region team

and to the All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team. The Satsuma, Ala., native was also fourth in shutouts (5) and wins (19) and eighth in strikeouts per game (5.16).

2012 PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE TEAM

Taylor Fawbush (Florida Atlantic, Junior, P)
 Hannah Campbell (South Alabama, Sophomore, P)
 Karavin Dew (Western Kentucky, Junior, C)
 Hayden Gann (Troy, Senior, 1B)
 Lisa Johnson (North Texas, Senior, 2B)
 Nerissa Myers (Louisiana-Lafayette, Junior, SS)
 Nikki Hollett (Troy, Senior, 3B)
 Ashley McClain (FIU, Senior, OF)
 Katie Smith (Louisiana-Lafayette, Senior, OF)
 Brittany Fowler (South Alabama, Junior, OF)
 Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette, Senior, U)

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette, Senior, Utility)

PRESEASON PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Hannah Campbell (South Alabama, Sophomore, Pitcher)

2012 PRESEASON SUN BELT COACHES POLL

Voted on by the league's head coaches • (First place votes in parenthesis)

1. Louisiana-Lafayette - 80 (8)
2. South Alabama - 64
3. Florida Atlantic - 62
4. FIU - 49
5. Troy - 40
6. WKU - 40 (1)
7. North Texas - 29
8. Louisiana-Monroe - 26
9. Middle Tennessee - 15



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

NEWS & NOTES

USA TODAY/NFCA DIVISION I TOP 25 POLL - PRESEASON

Rank	Team	Record	Totals	Last Poll
1	Arizona State (30)	60-6	750	
2	Florida	56-13	690	
3	Alabama	53-11	675	
4	California	45-16	651	
5	Oklahoma	43-19	603	
6	Missouri	53-13	594	
7	Baylor	47-15	567	
8	Arizona	43-18	515	
9	Stanford	42-17	467	
10	Georgia	51-14	455	
11	Oklahoma State	42-20	444	
12	Washington	37-16	402	
13	Kentucky	40-16	360	
14	Tennessee	49-12	348	
15	Michigan	53-6	324	
16	Oregon	42-16	390	
17	Texas A&M	44-15	297	
18	Texas	46-10	278	
19	UCLA	36-19	247	
20	Houston	44-18	185	
21	Nebraska	41-14	173	
22	LSU	40-18	119	
23	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	51-11	95	
24	Tulsa	46-15	45	
25	Louisville	38-20	32	

Others Receiving Votes: DePaul 23, Syracuse 18, Georgia Tech 17, Notre Dame 12, Fresno State 10, East Carolina 8, Hawai'i 7, Hofstra 7, San Diego State 6, North Carolina 5, Texas Tech 5, Florida State 2, Massachusetts 2, BYU 1, Fordham 1, New Mexico State 1.

ESPN.COM/USA SOFTBALL COLLEGIATE TOP 25 - PRESEASON

Rank	Team	Record	Points	2011 Final Ranking
1.	Arizona State (19)	(0-0)	497	1
2.	Alabama	(0-0)	438	3
3.	California	(0-0)	425	5
4.	Florida (1)	(0-0)	420	2
5.	Missouri	(0-0)	411	6
6.	Oklahoma	(0-0)	408	7
7.	Baylor	(0-0)	372	4
8.	Arizona	(0-0)	331	11
9.	Tennessee	(0-0)	316	16
10.	Stanford	(0-0)	314	10
11.	Oregon	(0-0)	252	14
12.	Georgia	(0-0)	239	9
13.	UCLA	(0-0)	235	20
14.	Washington	(0-0)	232	15
15.	Texas A&M	(0-0)	228	13
16.	(Tie) Michigan	(0-0)	211	17
16.	(Tie) Oklahoma State	(0-0)	211	8
18.	Kentucky	(0-0)	203	12
19.	Texas	(0-0)	195	19
20.	(Tie) LSU	(0-0)	106	22
20.	(Tie) Nebraska	(0-0)	106	21
22.	Houston	(0-0)	72	18
23.	Georgia Tech	(0-0)	62	24
24.	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	(0-0)	52	25
25.	Notre Dame	(0-0)	40	23

Others Receiving Votes: Syracuse 37, Ohio State 18, Tulsa 15, BYU 8, North Carolina 8, San Diego State 6, DePaul 6, Texas Tech 6, Auburn 3, Fresno State 3, South Florida 3, Florida State 2, Lipscomb 2, Northwestern 2, Louisville 2, Massachusetts 1, Fordham 1, UNLV 1.

ORGERON, MCCLAIN NAMED TO USA SOFTBALL TOP 50 "WATCH LIST"

Two seniors from the Sun Belt Conference were named to the "Watch List" for the 2012 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award – Louisiana-Lafayette's Christi Orgeron and FIU's Ashley McClain – the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America announced on Feb 1. Orgeron was named a Top 10 Finalist in 2011 for the award, and as a junior she was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Sun Belt Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

McClain, a dual threat at pitcher and in the outfield, received her second-consecutive NFCA All-South Region First Team honors and was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference First Team for the second-straight season.

CAJUNS NATIONALLY RANKED

On the heels of its 13th consecutive NCAA Regionals appearance, Louisiana-Lafayette enters the 2012 season nationally ranked once again. The Cajuns come in at No. 24 in the ESPN.com/USA Softball poll and at No. 23 in the USA Today/NFCA Division I Top 25 Poll, both released on Jan. 24. UL finished 2011 ranked No. 23 in the final NFCA poll and has been ranked in the final poll in 10 of the past 12 seasons.

TWO SBC COACHES RECOGNIZED FOR CAREER MILESTONES

Troy head softball coach Melanie Davis and FIU head softball coach Jake Schumann were honored in 2011 at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association's annual convention at the Easton Victory Club Luncheon.

Davis was honored by the NFCA for earning her 800th career victory which came last season in Troy's 4-2 win over Middle Tennessee on the road. Earlier in the season, Davis grabbed her 700th victory with the Trojans in a win over Florida Atlantic. Davis, who will enter her 19th season as the head coach of the Trojans in 2012, has amassed 804 career victories, with 706 of those coming at the helm of the Trojans. She was one of eight coaches from across the nation at all levels to earn their 800th career win last season.

FIU's first year head coach Jake Schumann was also honored for notching his 300th career win as then-head coach at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

SCHUMANN NAMED FIU'S HEAD COACH

After four years at the helm of the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi softball team, Jake Schumann was introduced as FIU softball's third head coach in July 2011.

During his tenure at Texas A&M-CC, Schumann amassed a record of 120-104, improving his team's win total every season, culminating with a 41-19 record and a Southland Conference Regular Season Championship in 2011. The team also advanced to the finals of the Southland Conference Tournament for the first time in school history this past season, as Schumann was named Southland Coach of the Year.

Additionally in 2011, Schumann became the Islanders' all-time leader in wins, surpassing the previous mark of 112 held by Missy Dickerson. The 41 wins marked the second-most victories in school history behind a 42-11 ledger achieved by the 2005 squad.

TROY HEAD COACH MELANIE DAVIS INDUCTED TO ASA HALL OF FAME

Troy head coach Melanie Davis was inducted into the Alabama Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame in January, the third hall of fame that Davis is a member of. Davis enters her 19th season at the helm of the Trojans with more than 800 career victories, a winning record every single season, eight 40-win seasons, multiple conference championships.

ORGERON WINS GOLD WITH TEAM USA

After earning a spot on the USA Softball National Team, Louisiana-Lafayette's Christi Orgeron helped Team USA to a Gold Medal finish at World Cup of Softball VI in Oklahoma City, marking the fifth straight World Cup title for the Americans.

In October, Orgeron and Team USA beat Canada 11-1 in four innings to win gold at the Pan American Games, giving USA its sixth straight softball gold and eighth overall. Team USA has won seven Pan American Championships (1979, 1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007) including the last six. The program has a record of 78-3 since softball debuted in the 1979 Pan American Games.



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

NEWS & NOTES

2011 NCAA LEADERS

FINAL 2011 TEAM STATS - TOP 25

BATTING AVERAGE		
9.	Louisiana-Lafayette	0.329
EARNED RUN AVERAGE		
17.	Louisiana-Lafayette	1.75
FIELDING PERCENTAGE		
18.	Louisiana-Lafayette	0.973
SCORING		
1.	Louisiana-Lafayette	7.76
20.	South Alabama	5.74
W-L PERCENTAGE		
5.	Louisiana-Lafayette	0.823
HOME RUNS PER GAME		
24.	Louisiana-Lafayette	1.11
TRIPLES PER GAME		
16.	South Alabama	0.28
STOLEN BASES PER GAME		
24.	ULM	1.69
SLUGGING PERCENTAGE		
14.	Louisiana-Lafayette	0.515
22.	South Alabama	0.482
DOUBLE PLAYS PER GAME		
17.	Troy	0.42
18.	North Texas	0.42

FINAL 2011 INDIVIDUAL STATS - TOP 25

HOME RUNS PER GAME		
3.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.37
6.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.37
12.	Nikki Hollett (Troy)	0.34
RUNS BATTED IN		
1.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	1.63
2.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	1.32
DOUBLES PER GAME		
12.	Corrie Abel (Middle Tennessee)	0.33
21.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.32
TRIPLES PER GAME		
13.	Karavin Dew (WKU)	0.11
STRIKEOUTS PER SEVEN INNINGS		
18.	Ashlyn Williams (Troy)	9.1
VICTORIES		
6.	Ashley Brignac (Louisiana-Lafayette)	32.0
SAVES		
14.	Hannah Campbell (South Alabama)	4.0
WALKS		
4.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	1.02
12.	Brianna Love (ULM)	0.85
SLUGGING PERCENTAGE		
5.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.886
6.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.879
13.	Brianna Love (ULM)	0.819
19.	Nikki Hollett (Troy)	0.795
RUNS PER GAME		
1.	Nerissa Myers (Louisiana-Lafayette)	1.24
2.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	1.21
7.	Brianna Love (ULM)	1.11
SACRIFICE HITS PER GAME		
6.	Brittney Banania (Middle Tennessee)	0.33
TOUGHEST TO STRIKE OUT		
5.	Ashley McClain (FIU)	36.2
8.	Janel Salanoa (ULM)	33.6
HOME RUNS		
2.	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	23
3.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	22
7.	Nikki Hollett (Troy)	20
25.	Brianna Love (ULM)	16
TRIPLES		
14.	Kerri Croney (Florida Atlantic)	5.0
	Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette)	5.0
	Karavin Dew (Western Kentucky)	5.0
ON BASE PERCENTAGE		
10.	Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette)	0.553
25.	Brianna Love (ULM)	0.519
SACRIFICE FLIES		
7.	Brittany Fowler (South Alabama)	5.0
18.	Kayla Burri (FIU)	4.0
	Janel Salanoa (ULM)	4.0
SHUTOUTS		
21.	Ashley Brignac (Louisiana-Lafayette)	10

2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL PLAYER AND PITCHER OF THE WEEK ARCHIVE

WEEK 1 - FEB. 13

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 2 - FEB. 20

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 3 - FEB. 27

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 4 - MARCH 5

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 5 - MARCH 12

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 6 - MARCH 19

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 7 - MARCH 26

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 8 - APRIL 2

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 9 - APRIL 9

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 10 - APRIL 16

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 11 - APRIL 23

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 12 - APRIL 30

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >

WEEK 13 - MAY 7

Player of the Week >

Pitcher of the Week >



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

NEWS & NOTES

2011: A RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

Louisiana-Lafayette set new Sun Belt Conference records in 2011. The Cajuns broke their own SBC records in team batting average (.329), runs (481), and walks (295). The 2011 Cajuns also tied for sixth place in stolen bases (96) and tied third place for wins (51). The 481 runs scored is now the 10th highest total in the NCAA.

Junior Ashley Brignac moved into third place for wins in a season (32) to lead the league this year. She also had the most appearances (42) and best ERA (1.50).

Nerissa Myers tied first place for most runs scored in a season (77).

Gabriele Bridges tied first place for most walks in a season (61), moved into third place for most home runs (22) and tied second in RBI (79) in a season. Bridges also set a new NCAA record for most grand slams in a season with four on the year.

Several other SBC teams and athletes made their marks in the league's record books as well.

South Alabama tied fourth for most triples (15) in a season, leading the league in 2011. Florida Atlantic and Western Kentucky each posted 14 triples as a team to enter a seven-way tie for fifth place in the same category.

FIU's Ashley McClain tied for sixth place with her season batting average at .409.

Troy's Nikki Hollett tied fifth place for most home runs in a season (20).

Louisiana-Monroe's Brianna Love, who broke a school record for most home runs in a season (15), tied for third place in the SBC record books for runs scored in a season (61).

Florida Atlantic's Kerri Crony, Western Kentucky's Karavin Dew and ULL's Orgeron all tied second for most triples in a season with five a piece.

South Alabama's Hannah Campbell tied fourth place for most saves in a season with four.

CAJUNS BREAK SBC TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Louisiana-Lafayette broke several SBC Tournament records in 2011. As a team, the Cajuns broke the record for most runs scored in a tournament with 35. ULL also tied for most triples in a tournament with two, one of just three teams to accomplish the feat.

Nerissa Myers also broke the SBC Tournament record for most runs scored in a tournament with seven. Christi Orgeron broke the championship record for most RBI in a tournament with 13 and became one of just three players to record three home runs in a tournament.

13 CONSECUTIVE NCAA APPEARANCES

Louisiana-Lafayette advanced to their 13th consecutive, and 21st overall, NCAA Regional while capturing their 10th Sun Belt Regular Season Championship and their 11th Sun Belt Tournament Championship in 2011. ULL is 9th in total NCAA appearances with 21, 10th with 50 NCAA victories & 11th for consecutive NCAA Regional appearances.

The Sun Belt has sent a team to the NCAA Tournament every year since 2000, the year the league began sponsoring softball.

ORGERON TOP 10 FINALIST FOR USA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2011

Louisiana-Lafayette's Christi Orgeron had a stellar junior campaign in 2011. For her efforts, she was named a Top 25 and then a Top 10 Finalist for USA Softball's Player of the Year.

Orgeron etched her name into the Sun Belt record books in seven different categories, most notably breaking the league record for most RBI in a season with 101. The junior broke the record by 22 and led the nation in that category for most of the season. Orgeron also became just one of four players in the NCAA to reach 100 RBI in a season and now ranks third all time in the NCAA.

Orgeron also moved into second place for most hits in a season (87), and tied in the following categories: fifth place for season batting average (.414), second place in home runs (23), second place in triples (5). She led the league in six categories: batting average, hits, home runs, RBI, doubles, and triples (tied).

TWO CAJUNS NAMED ALL-AMERICANS

ULL's Gabriele Bridges and Christi Orgeron were named to the 2011 Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-American third team. The two power hitters paced an offense that led the nation in scoring at 7.76 runs per game and total offense at 481 runs.

BRIGNAC GRABS ACADEMIC "HEISMAN"

Ashley Brignac was named softball's Capital One Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), an honor given to the top member of the Capital One Academic All-American First Team. Brignac, a (senior academically) Kinesiology-Exercise Science major has posted a 4.00 GPA throughout her four-year academic career. Brignac registered a perfect 4.00 GPA throughout her entire high school career as well. The pitcher also had another outstanding season in the circle for the Cajuns. Brignac, a Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division I All-Region second team selection in 2011, compiled a 32-7 record with 10 shutouts and a 1.50 ERA this season.

FOUR NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Four Sun Belt Conference Softball Players were named to the Capital One Academic All-District Teams in 2011. Louisiana-Lafayette's Ashley Brignac, North Texas' Mallory Cantler, Western Kentucky's Ciara Garcia and Troy's Sarah Shields all received the academic honors.

To be eligible for the honor, a student-athlete must be a starter or an important reserve with at least a 3.30 grade point average. The honor is to recognize the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performance on the field and in the classroom

Brignac was named to the All-District VI First Team for maintaining a 4.00 GPA in kinesiology (exercise science). Cantler earned her third academic all-district award by being named to the All-District VI Second Team this season with a 3.34 GPA. Garcia, a exercise science major, was named to the All-District IV Second Team for maintaining a 3.55 GPA. Shields, a native of Schereville, Ind., has maintained a 3.51 grade-point average in human services at Troy to earn a spot on the All-District IV Third Team.

SBC LANDS NINE ON ALL-REGION TEAMS

Nine softball players represented the Sun Belt Conference on the 2011 Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division I All-Region teams.

In the Central Region, ULL's Gabriele Bridges and Christi Orgeron were named to the first team along with teammate Ashley Brignac named to the second team.

In the South Region, FIU's Ashley McClain and Louisiana-Monroe's Brianna Love were named to the first team. Representing the South's second team was Florida Atlantic's Rose Gressley, South Alabama's Hannah Campbell and Troy's Nikki Hollett and Taylor Smartt.



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

vs. NON-CONFERENCE (0-0; .000)

ACC -----	0-0
Boston College-----	0-0
Florida State-----	0-0
Georgia Tech-----	0-0
Maryland-----	0-0
North Carolina-----	0-0
Virginia Tech-----	0-0
AMERICA EAST -----	0-0
Boston-----	0-0
Hartford-----	0-0
Stony Brook-----	0-0
ATLANTIC SUN -----	0-0
Belmont-----	0-0
East Tennessee-----	0-0
Jacksonville-----	0-0
Kennesaw State-----	0-0
Lipscomb-----	0-0
Mercer-----	0-0
ATLANTIC 10 -----	0-0
Massachusetts-----	0-0
UNC-Charlotte-----	0-0
BIG EAST -----	0-0
DePaul-----	0-0
Georgetown-----	0-0
Louisville-----	0-0
Providence-----	0-0
Rutgers-----	0-0
Seton Hall-----	0-0
USF-----	0-0
Syracuse-----	0-0
Villanova-----	0-0
BIG TEN -----	0-0
Illinois-----	0-0
Indiana-----	0-0
Iowa-----	0-0
Michigan-----	0-0
Michigan State-----	0-0
Minnesota-----	0-0
Northwestern-----	0-0
Penn State-----	0-0
Purdue-----	0-0
BIG 12 -----	0-0
Baylor-----	0-0
Kansas-----	0-0
Missouri-----	0-0
Oklahoma-----	0-0
Oklahoma State-----	0-0
Texas Tech-----	0-0
BIG SOUTH -----	0-0
Winthrop-----	0-0
BIG WEST -----	0-0
Cal State Fullerton-----	0-0
COLONIAL -----	0-0
Delaware-----	0-0
Hofstra-----	0-0
Georgia State-----	0-0
CONFERENCE USA -----	0-0
UAB-----	0-0
UCF-----	0-0
Houston-----	0-0
Memphis-----	0-0
Southern Miss-----	0-0
UTEP-----	0-0
Tulsa-----	0-0

HORIZON -----	0-0
Cleveland State-----	0-0
Illinois-Chicago-----	0-0
Loyola Chicago-----	0-0
Wright State-----	0-0
MAC -----	0-0
Akron-----	0-0
Ball State-----	0-0
Bowling Green-----	0-0
Northern Illinois-----	0-0
MEAC -----	0-0
Bethune Cookman-----	0-0
Florida A&M-----	0-0
MISSOURI VALLEY -----	0-0
Creighton-----	0-0
Drake-----	0-0
Eastern Michigan-----	0-0
Evansville-----	0-0
Illinois State-----	0-0
Indiana State-----	0-0
Missouri State-----	0-0
Murray State-----	0-0
SIU-Carbondale-----	0-0
Wichita State-----	0-0
MOUNTAIN WEST -----	0-0
UNLV-----	0-0
NORTHEAST -----	0-0
Long Island-----	0-0
OHIO VALLEY -----	0-0
Austin Peay-----	0-0
Eastern Illinois-----	0-0
Eastern Kentucky-----	0-0
Jacksonville State-----	0-0
Morehead State-----	0-0
Murray State-----	0-0
Southeast Missouri State-----	0-0
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville-----	0-0
UT-Martin-----	0-0
Tennessee State-----	0-0
Tennessee Tech-----	0-0
PAC-12 -----	0-0
Arizona-----	0-0
Arizona State-----	0-0
California-----	0-0
Stanford-----	0-0
PCSC -----	0-0
Loyola Marymount-----	0-0
PATRIOT -----	0-0
Colgate-----	0-0
SEC -----	0-0
Alabama-----	0-0
Auburn-----	0-0
Florida-----	0-0
Kentucky-----	0-0
LSU-----	0-0
Ole Miss-----	0-0
Mississippi State-----	0-0
South Carolina-----	0-0
Tennessee-----	0-0
SOUTHERN -----	0-0
College of Charleston-----	0-0
UT-Chattanooga-----	0-0
Samford-----	0-0

SOUTHLAND -----	0-0
Central Arkansas-----	0-0
McNeese State-----	0-0
Nicholls State-----	0-0
Northwestern State-----	0-0
Sam Houston State-----	0-0
Southeastern Louisiana-----	0-0
Stephen F. Austin-----	0-0
Texas A&M - Corpus Christi-----	0-0
Texas State-----	0-0
THE SUMMIT -----	0-0
IUPUI-----	0-0
Southern Utah-----	0-0
SWAC -----	0-0
Alabama A&M-----	0-0
Alabama State-----	0-0
Alcorn State-----	0-0
Grambling State-----	0-0
Jackson State-----	0-0
Mississippi Valley State-----	0-0
Southern-----	0-0
WAC -----	0-0
Fresno State-----	0-0
Louisiana Tech-----	0-0
New Mexico State-----	0-0
INDEPENDENT -----	0-0
North Dakota-----	0-0
TOP 25 -----	0-0
No. 3 Alabama-----	0-0
No. 11 Oklahoma State-----	0-0
No. 20 Houston-----	0-0
No. 24 Tulsa-----	0-0
(Received Votes) North Carolina-----	0-0
(Received Votes) Louisville-----	0-0
(Received Votes) UMASS-----	0-0

Rankings based on NFCA/USA Today Poll at time the game was played.



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

FLORIDA ATLANTIC



The Florida Atlantic softball program enters its 18th year of existence looking to continue its streak of never having had a losing season. The Owls will have to overcome the loss of six everyday starters to graduation, including first-team all-conference pitcher Rose Gressley. Junior pitcher Taylor Fawbush will help lessen the impact of Gressley's absence, as is N.C. State transfer Stephanie Call. Freshmen Sam Messer and Paige Pender are also expected to see time in the circle. The FAU offense figures to be a force to be reckoned with as last season's leading hitter, first team all-sun belt 2nd baseman Heather Barnes returns as does shortstop Carly Speerin, who was second on the team with a .296 batting average. Call should also make an impact at the plate, as she broke the Stratford Brakettes long standing team record for homeruns over the summer. The Owls play an always tough nonconference schedule, including hosting Michigan, before getting into conference play. This season, FAU hosts the Sun Belt conference tournament and will be looking to win their second conference title since joining the Sun Belt in 2007.

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) OHIO STATE (1) NORTH CAROLINA	2	(4) Illinois (4) Seton Hall	21	*at FIU	4	*FIU
11	(1) FLORIDA A&M (1) BETHUNE-COOKMAN	3	(4) New Mexico State (4) UNLV	24	*SOUTH ALABAMA (DH)	5	*at FIU
12	(1) CHATTANOOGA	4	(4) Illinois	25	*SOUTH ALABAMA	9-12	(7) SUN BELT TOURNAMENT
17	(2) MICHIGAN (2) LONG ISLAND	7	*WKU (DH)	6	*at North Texas (DH)	Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game (DH) - Double Header	
18	(2) WRIGHT STATE (2) KENTUCKY	8	*WKU	7	*at North Texas	Tournament Legend	
19	(2) MARYLAND	9	(5) BOSTON COLLEGE	14	*TROY (DH)	(1) 2012 NTC Elite Invitationa Games > Boca Raton, Fla.	
24	(3) AUBURN	10	(5) BETHUNE COOKMAN	15	*TROY	(2) FAU "Kick-Off" Classic > Boca Raton, Fla.	
25	(3) FLORIDA A&M	11	(5) PROVIDENCE	21	*at Louisiana-Lafayette (DH)	(3) Hilton Suites FAU "Strike-Out" Cancer Tournament > Boca Raton, Fla.	
26	(3) TULSA (3) MICHIGAN STATE	13	(5) MINNESOTA	22	*at Louisiana-Lafayette	(4) UNLV 2012 Eller Media Stadium Classic > Las Vegas, Nev.	
		16	(5) PROVIDENCE	24	*at ULM (DH)	(5) FAU Embassy Suites Classic > Boca Raton, Fla.	
		17	(6) JACKSONVILLE	25	*at ULM	(6) Embassy Suites Parents' Weekend Tournament > Boca Raton, Fla.	
		18	(6) SYRACUSE	28	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE (DH)	(7) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.	
			(6) SYRACUSE	29	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE		
			(6) JACKSONVILLE				
			(6) TBA				

FIU



Despite returning 16 letterwinners from 2011, the FIU softball team will have a new look in 2012 as Head Coach Jake Schumann takes over the program with a brand new coaching staff. Schumann will lead a veteran Panthers squad that is just one season removed from an NCAA Tournament appearance. The Panthers will be led offensively by one of the most prolific players to come through program in senior Ashley McClain, a two-time All-South Region First Team member and 2010 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year. The Tampa, Fla. native enters the 2012 season as the FIU career leader in batting average and doubles and has several more records in her sights. McClain set a single-season record in 2011 with a .409 average and led FIU in nearly every offensive category.

In the circle, FIU will rely on senior Jenn Gniadek, who had a breakout season in 2011 with 14 wins to go with a 2.65 ERA. The Panthers also return sophomore Mariah Dawson, who notched a 2.87 ERA during her rookie season. With all-conference players Brie Rojas, Jessy Alfonso and Kayla Burri also returning, FIU will be poised to make a run at its first SBC title and a return trip to the NCAA Tournament.

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) MICHIGAN STATE	2	(4) vs. California	1	*at Troy	4	*at Florida Atlantic
11	(1) LOUISVILLE (1) UMass	3	(4) at Cal State Fullerton (4) vs. Indiana	6	*ULM (DH)	5	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC
12	(1) ILLINOIS (1) UAB	4	(4) vs. Stanford (4) vs. Oregon State	7	*ULM	9-12	(7) Sun Belt Tournament
17	(2) ILLINOIS-CHICAGO (2) PROVIDENCE	9	(5) DEPAUL (5) DELAWARE	10	*LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (DH)	Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game (DH) - Double Header	
18	(2) SOUTH CAROLINA (2) VILLANOVA	10	(5) DEPAUL (5) DELAWARE	11	*LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	Tournament Legend	
19	(2) JACKSONVILLE	14	(5) DELAWARE	14	*at WKU (DH)	(1) Combat Classic > Miami, Fla.	
24	(3) vs. Tulsa	21	Jacksonville (DH)	15	*at WKU	(2) Blue & Gold Felsberg Memorial > Miami, Fla.	
25	(3) vs. Loyola Marymount	24	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC	17	*at Middle Tennessee (DH)	(3) FAU Invitational > Boca Raton, Fla.	
	(3) vs. Auburn	25	*NORTH TEXAS (DH)	18	*at Middle Tennessee	(4) Cal State Fullerton Tournament > Fullerton, Calif.	
	(3) vs. Florida A&M	31	*NORTH TEXAS	20	at Florida (DH)	(5) FIU Invitational > Miami, Fla.	
			*at Troy (DH)	21	at Florida	(6) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.	
				28	*at South Alabama (DH)		
				29	*at South Alabama		



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

The 2012 season marks the 12th season under the direction of co-head coaches Stefni and Michael Lotief, where the Cajuns have won 10 of the past 11 Sun Belt Conference regular season championships and posted 50-plus victories seven times. The Cajuns lost only one senior from the 2011 squad in Gabriele Bridges and returns virtually the same squad intact in 2012 that finished the 2011 season as the nation's top offense with a school and Sun Belt single season record 481 runs. The mark is the 10th highest single-season total in NCAA history. The Cajuns return 15 letterwinners and eight position starters from 2011, including USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Top 10 Finalist and Team USA member Christi Orgeron, who became only the fourth person in NCAA history with 100 RBI in 2011. Orgeron led the Cajuns with a .414 batting average and 23 home runs in 2011 and was selected to the 2011 USA Softball Women's National Team and helped Team USA to gold medal titles at the World Cup of Softball in Oklahoma City in July and the Pan American Games in October. She became the first ULL softball player to earn a spot on the USA National Team and third to compete with USA Softball, joining Alana Addison (2002 Elite team) and Brooke Mitchell (2004 Elite team). Nerissa Myers also returns in 2012 after leading the Cajuns and tying a ULL and Sun Belt record with 77 runs scored in a season. The speedy shortstop reached base in all but four games for the Cajuns as she posted a .498 on base percentage. Myers turned in an impressive .974 fielding percentage, committing only five errors in 194 total chances. Ashley Brignac also returns in the circle for ULL in 2012. She will be seeking the third 30-win season of her career. The 2011 Sun Belt Pitcher of the Year and Capital One Academic All-American of the Year will be joined by three other returners in Allie Chenault, Christina Hamilton and Shelbee Rodgers. Brignac enters the 2012 season just five wins shy of the Cajuns career Top 5 list in pitching victories. She needs just 142 strikeouts to move into second place all-time and would need to amass 322 to join Brooke Mitchell as the only Cajuns pitchers to reach 1,000 career strikeouts. In 2011, Louisiana-Lafayette made its 13th straight NCAA Regionals appearance since 1999 and the 21st in the last 22 years. Since 1990, ULL has missed the "Field of 64" only once (1998). The Cajuns rank ninth in total NCAA appearances with 21, 10th with 50 NCAA Tournament victories and 11th for consecutive NCAA Regional appearances.



FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) RUTGERS 1:30 PM (1) MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE 4:00 PM	2	(4) TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI 4:00 PM	4	at McNeese State 6:00 PM	5	*ULM (DH) 1:00 PM
11	(1) RUTGERS 12:30 PM (1) TULSA 3:30 PM	3	(4) KENTUCKY 1:30 PM (4) NICHOLLS STATE 4:00 PM	6	*SOUTH ALABAMA (DH) 4:00 PM *at FIU (DH) 3:00 PM	6	*ULM 12:00 PM
12	(1) TULSA 12:00 PM	4	(4) TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI 12:30 PM (4) STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 3:00 PM	7	*SOUTH ALABAMA 12:00 PM *at FIU 12:00 PM	9-12	(6) Sun Belt Tournament TBA
17	(2) UTEP 11:30 AM (2) NORTHWESTERN 2:00 PM	7	at Houston (DH) 4:00 PM	11	*at Middle Tennessee (DH) 1:00 PM *at Middle Tennessee 12:00 PM	Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game (DH) - Double Header	
18	(2) NORTH CAROLINA 1:30 PM (2) NORTHWESTERN STATE 4:00 PM	10	*NORTH TEXAS (DH) 2:00 PM	15	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC (DH) 1:00 PM	Tournament Legend	
19	(2) LOUISIANA TECH 4:30 PM	13	MCNEESE STATE 6:00 PM	22	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC 1:00 PM	(1)	26th Annual Louisiana Classics > Lafayette, La.
24	(3) vs. Mississippi State 12:00 PM (3) vs. Hofstra 2:30 PM	15	(5) vs. Arizona State 9:30 PM (5) vs. Penn State 1:00 PM (5) vs. Fresno State 5:30 PM	28	*at Western Kentucky (DH) 1 & 3 PM *at Western Kentucky 12:00 PM	(2)	8th Annual Mardi Gras Invitational > Lafayette, La.
25	(3) vs. Boston University 12:00 PM (3) vs. Michigan 5:00 PM	16	(5) vs. Iowa 1:00 PM (5) vs. Arizona 5:30 PM	29		(3)	NFCA Leadoff Classic > Clearwater, Fla.
26	(3) vs. Winthrop 9:00 AM	17	(5) vs. Georgia Tech (DH) 5:00 PM			(4)	2012 Ragin' Cajuns Invitational > Lafayette, La.
		24	*at Troy (DH) 1:00 PM			(5)	Judi Garman Classic > Fullerton, Calif.
		25	*at Troy 1:00 PM			(6)	Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.

ULM



The 2011 ULM squad was one of the highest offensive outputting squads in program history, highlighted by setting the single-season record for runs with 264. The Warhawks return three of those dominant offensive players, including Janel Salanoa who has the highest returning batting average at .321. Junior Salanoa and sophomore Miyuki Navarrete tied for third in runs with 33 each and senior Roxy Cassel was just behind with 25, the three accounting for more than a third of ULM's runs. Janel Salanoa comes back for her junior year in 2012 as the player to watch. In just her second season, Salanoa was a force at the plate with a career-best .321 batting average to rank third for the Warhawks. However, her most impressive stat was striking out just five times all season in 168 at-bats to rank eighth in the nation as toughest to strikeout. The native of San Jose, Calif., also had a program record-tying four sacrifice flies which ranked her 18th in the NCAA. Salanoa also ranked second for ULM in homeruns (7), triples (1), doubles (11), total bases (88), and slugging percentage (.524). Roxy Cassel made her way into the record books after a career-best season offensively in 2011. She brought in 44 runners which was three short of setting the single-season record, ranking third all-time. She totals 79 RBIs for her career, which vaulted her into a tie for fifth place for career RBIs. One more RBI this season will give her sole possession of fifth while needing 40 more to overtake phenom Brianna Love in fourth. Four JUCO transfers including three NJCAA All-Americans will bring a strong foundation to a ULM squad which lost 10 letterwinners from last year. The Warhawks are joined by third baseman Haley McCall and outfielder Karli Wainwright from LSU-Eunice, and pitchers Samantha Hamby of Central Alabama CC and Taylor Bailey of East Central CC. McCall and Bailey were both NJCAA First Team All-American selections and Hamby was a Second Team All-American.

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) SIU-EDWARDSVILLE 12:00 PM (1) IUPUI 4:00 PM	3	(4) at Northwestern State 11:00 AM (4) vs. Southern 4:00 PM	3	MCNEESE STATE 4:00 PM *at FIU (DH) 3:00 PM	5	*at Louisiana-Lafayette (DH) 1:00 PM
11	(1) NORTHWESTERN STATE 11:00 AM (1) SOUTHEAST MISSOURI 3:00 PM	4	(4) at Northwestern State 10:00 AM (4) vs. Southern 12:30 PM	6	*at FIU 12:00 PM at Central Arkansas 5:00 PM	6	*at Louisiana-Lafayette 12:00 PM
12	(1) GRAMBLING STATE 1:00 PM	7	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 5:00 PM	7	*at Memphis 6:00 PM	9-12	(5) Sun Belt Tournament TBA
18	(2) at Houston 1:00 PM (2) vs. McNeese State 3:00 PM	10	*at South Alabama (DH) 1:00 PM	11	*NORTH TEXAS (DH) 2:00 PM *NORTH TEXAS 1:00 PM	Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game (DH) - Double Header	
19	(2) at Houston 1:00 PM	14	*TROY (DH) 5:00 PM	12	JACKSON STATE 6:00 PM	Tournament Legend	
22	(3) at Samford 5:00 PM	15	*TROY 5:00 PM	14	*WKU (DH) 2:00 PM	(1)	ULM Mardi Gras Classic > Monroe, La.
24	(3) at Charleston 5:00 PM	20	GRAMBLING STATE 5:00 PM	21	*WKU 12:00 PM	(2)	Houston Hilton Plaza Invitational > Houston, Texas
25	(3) vs. Wagner 11:00 AM (3) vs. Lipscomb 1:00 PM	21	at Stephen F. Austin 4:00 PM	22	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC (DH) 5:00 PM	(3)	C of C Cougar Classic > Charleston, S.C.
26	(3) vs. Virginia Tech 9:00 AM	24	*at Middle Tennessee (DH) 1:00 PM	24	*FLORIDA ATLANTIC 4:00 PM	(4)	Northwestern State Tournament > Natchitoches, La.
29	at Grambling State 3:00 PM	25	*at Middle Tennessee 12:00 PM	25		(5)	Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.
		28	NICHOLLS STATE 6:00 PM				



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

MIDDLE TENNESSEE



Middle Tennessee softball coach Sue Nevar returns for her fifth season as head of the Blue Raider program. Nevar and her staff have once again put together a challenging slate in 2012 as the Blue Raiders will open the season with four-consecutive road weekend tournaments, highlighted by a trip to Knoxville, Tenn., for the Tennessee Classic March 2-4. In all, the squad will play eight opponents who advanced to the 2011 NCAA Tournament. The Blue Raiders will benefit from the return of several key position starters led by senior first baseman Kaycee Popham. The Silver Creek, Ga., native finished second on the team last season with 27 RBIs while tying for the team lead with five homeruns. Fellow senior Natalie Ysais returns for her third season behind home plate. In 46 games a year ago, she ranked second on the squad in both on-base percentage (.385) and walks (17). Meanwhile junior outfielder Nina Davenport will look to spark the team from the lead-off position. The Chattanooga, Tenn., product hit .289 last year and led the team with 28 runs scored while finishing second with 10 stolen bases. Senior Caty Jutson and sophomore Jordyn Fisher-back will guide the team in the circle. The duo accounted for 12 of the team's wins a season ago. Middle Tennessee will welcome six newcomers to the program in 2012 who will battle for several available starting positions.

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		
17	(1) vs. Kansas (1) vs. Stony Brook	9:00 AM 3:00 PM	2 (3) vs. Louisville 3 (3) vs. Boston University	12:30 PM 10:00 AM	1 *at South Alabama 5 SAMFORD (DH)	12:00 PM 4:00 PM	3 AUSTIN PEAY (DH) 5 * WKU (DH)	4 PM 1 PM
18	(1) vs. TBA (1) at Charlotte	TBA 11:00 AM	(3) vs. Dutch National Team (Exh.) 4 (3) vs. Murray State	6:00 PM 10:15 AM	10 MURRAY STATE (DH) 11 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (DH)	2:00 PM 3:00 PM	5-12 (5) Sun Belt Tournament	TBA
19	(1) vs. TBA	TBA	(3) at Tennessee (4) vs. Drake	5:30 PM 2:30 PM	14 * LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (DH) 15 * LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Home games in BOLD CAPS (DH) - Double Header	*Sun Belt Conference Game
24	(2) at College of Charleston (2) vs. TBA	3:00 PM 7:00 PM	(4) vs. Eastern Michigan 11 (4) vs. Alabama State	4:45 PM 11:00 AM	17 * FIU (DH) 18 * FIU	1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Tournament Legend	
25	(2) vs. Wagner (2) vs. Lipscomb	3:00 PM 5:00 PM	(4) vs. Lipscomb 14 EASTERN ILLINOIS (DH)	3:30 PM 1:00 PM	21 *at Troy (DH) 22 *at Troy	1:00 PM 1:00 PM	(1) Charlotte Classic > Charlotte, N.C. (2) C of C Cougar Classic > Charleston, S.C.	
26	(2) vs. Virginia Tech	11:00 AM	17 *at North Texas (DH) 18 *at North Texas	2:00 PM 12:00 PM	24 *at WKU 25 UT MARTIN	5:00 PM 4:00 PM	(3) Tennessee Classic > Knoxville, Tenn. (4) Lady Bison Classic > Nashville, Tenn.	
			21 EVANSVILLE (DH) 24 * ULM (DH) 25 * ULM 27 JACKSONVILLE STATE (DH) 31 *at South Alabama (DH)	1 PM 1 PM 12 PM 2 PM 1 PM	28 *at Florida Atlantic (DH) 29 *at Florida Atlantic	5:00 PM 11:00 AM	(5) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.	

NORTH TEXAS



The 2012 Mean Green team will feature a young but experienced squad. Eleven of the 18 players on the roster are freshmen or sophomores, but they are surrounded by a core of strong and versatile upperclassmen. Of the 13 returning letterwinners, five field players recorded at least 30 starts each in 2011. Senior Lisa Johnson will anchor the infield, while classmate Megan Rupp will man the outfield. Johnson has started all but 11 games in her career, and Rupp has missed just seven games. Johnson and Caitlin Grimes hit a combined 14 of the team's 39 home runs in 2011. Johnson is fifth on the career home run list with 23. Rupp and sophomore Brooke Foster stole 15 of the team's 40 stolen bases last year. Rupp is second on the career stolen bases list, while Foster's 10 thefts last year put her fifth on the single-season record column. Head coach T.J. Hubbard returns for his fifth season. He picked up his 100th career win in 2011, becoming the first softball coach at North Texas to accomplish that feat and finished the season with an overall win-loss record of 104-111 after four years as head coach. In 2011, North Texas set a school record for home wins with 17 and won the Courtyard Classic at Lovelace Stadium. The Mean Green also defeated three nationally-ranked teams (Baylor, Missouri and Louisiana-Lafayette) at home. Since the Mean Green started playing at Lovelace Stadium in 2007, North Texas has posted a 67-57 record at home. However, for the first time in school history, the Mean Green did not make the conference tournament in 2011. North Texas struggled on the road and finished the season with only three road wins and two victories at a neutral site. Sophomores Ashley Kirk and Brooke Foster return after strong freshman campaigns. Kirk set the single-season strikeout record and moved into the top five for career strikeouts after just one season and also picked up a Sun Belt Player of the Week honor. Foster came in and secured the third-base starting position as a freshman. She hit over .300 for most of the season and finished fifth on the team with a .276 average and led the team with three triples and 10 stolen bases. She hit .322 during Sun Belt play and went on to earn second-team all-conference honors. She became only the third North Texas softball player to earn all-conference honors as a freshman. Kirk is one of four pitchers on the 2012 team. Junior Brittany Simmons returns after a solid sophomore campaign, sophomore Lauren Poole had a successful fall season, and freshman Madison Thompson will look to contribute right away.

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		
10	(1) vs. Oklahoma State (1) at Houston	11:00 AM 3:00 PM	2 (4) vs. Loyola-Chicago (4) at Tulsa	10:30 AM 3:00 PM	1 * WKU 6 * FLORIDA ATLANTIC (DH)	12:00 PM 4:00 PM	2 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 5 NORTHWESTERN STATE (DH)	4:00 PM 1:00 PM
11	(1) vs. Sam Houston State (1) vs. Texas A & M-Corpus Christi	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	3 (4) vs. Austin Peay (4) vs. TBA	10:30 AM TBA	7 * FLORIDA ATLANTIC 11 TEXAS STATE (DH)	12:00 PM 3:00 PM	9-12 (5) Sun Belt Tournament	TBA
12	(1) at Houston	11:00 AM	4 (4) vs. TBA	TBA	14 *at ULM (DH) 15 *at ULM	2:00 PM 1:00 PM	Home games in BOLD CAPS (DH) - Double Header	*Sun Belt Conference Game
17	(2) NORTHERN ILLINOIS (2) MISSOURI STATE	3:00 PM 5:30 PM	10 at Louisiana-Lafayette (DH) 11 at Louisiana-Lafayette	2:00 PM 12:00 PM	18 at Oklahoma 21 * SOUTH ALABAMA (DH)	6:00 PM 2:00 PM	Tournament Legend	
18	(2) WICHITA STATE (2) CREIGHTON	12:30 PM 3:00 PM	14 at Baylor 17 * MIDDLE TENNESSEE (DH)	6:00 PM 2:00 PM	22 * SOUTH ALABAMA 28 *at Troy (DH)	12:00 PM 1:00 PM	(1) Houston Tournament > Houston, Texas (2) Fairfield Inn & Suites Classic > Denton, Texas	
24	(3) vs. Texas State (3) vs. Texas Tech	1:30 PM 4:00 PM	18 * MIDDLE TENNESSEE 21 at Hartford	12:00 PM 2:30 PM	29 *at Troy	12:00 PM	(3) Texas Shootout > Waco, Texas (4) Tulsa Tournament > Tulsa, Okla.	
25	(3) vs. Stephen F. Austin State (3) at Baylor	1:30 PM 5:30 PM	22 at South Florida 24 *at FIU (DH)	7:00 PM 4:00 PM			(5) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.	
26	(3) vs. TBA	TBA	25 *at FIU	12:00 PM				
29	OKLAHOMA	6:00 PM	31 * WKU (DH)	2:00 PM				



2012 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

AROUND THE LEAGUE

SOUTH ALABAMA

South Alabama head coach Becky Clark enters her sixth season at the helm on the Jaguar softball program. The Jaguars will return eight starting fielders and two pitchers from last season's squad who posted a program-high 37-17 overall record, and finished third in the SBC with a school-best 14-10 mark in league play. Key returners include second team all-conference honorees Brittany Fowler, Haley Hopkins and Haley Richards. Last year's Sun Belt Conference freshman of the year Hannah Campbell will also return as the Jags' ace in 2012 after recording a team-high 19-7 record in the circle and posting an ERA of 2.51 in 2011. USA will open the season with eight newcomers including highly decorated freshmen Farish Beard, who finished her high school career with an ERA of .78, and Blair Johnson, who was named the 2011 5A player and pitcher of the year in the state of Alabama. As a team, the Jags finished the 2011 season second in the league in pitching, hitting and fielding. The Jaguars also recorded a program-high 15-game win streak from Feb. 20- March 13. The Jaguars' spring season is highlighted by 21 games at Jaguar field, teams from 13 different conferences and nine opponents who qualified for the NCAA tournament last season. South Alabama will open the 2012 season as the hosts of the Mardi Gras Invitational Feb. 9-12. The tournament field includes: Alabama, Mississippi State, Memphis, Lipscomb and Jacksonville State.



FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
9	(1) MISSISSIPPI STATE 6:00 PM	2	(4) vs. Ball State 10:00 AM	1	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE 12:00 PM	5	*TROY 1:00 PM
10	(1) MEMPHIS 5:30 PM		(4) vs. Lipscomb 12:15 AM	3	NICHOLLS STATE 5:00 PM	9-12	(5) Sun Belt Tournament TBA
11	(1) ALABAMA 5:30 PM	3	(4) vs. Illinois State 10:00 AM	6	*at Louisiana-Lafayette (DH) 4:00 PM		
12	(1) LIPSCOMB 12:15 PM		(4) vs. Purdue 12:15 AM	7	*at Louisiana-Lafayette 12:00 PM		Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game
	(1) MEMPHIS 4:15 PM	4	(4) vs. Georgetown 1:30 PM	12	at Florida State 5:00 PM		(DH) - Double Header
17	(2) vs. Southeastern Louisiana 1:00 PM	7	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA 6:00 PM	14	at Southern Mississippi 2:00 PM		Tournament Legend
18	(2) vs. SIU-Carbondale 12:30 PM	10	*ULM (DH) 1:00 PM	17	at Southeastern Louisiana 6:00 PM		(1) Mardi Gras Invitational > Mobile, Ala.
	(2) at Jacksonville State 3:00 PM	11	*ULM 12:00 PM	21	*at North Texas (DH) 2:00 PM		(2) Jacksonville State Tournament > Jacksonville, Ala.
19	(2) vs. SIU-Carbondale 10:00 AM	14	at UAB 4:00 PM	22	*at North Texas 2:00 PM		(3) LSU Tournament > Baton Rouge, La.
21	at Nicholls State 3:00 PM	15	at Samford 4:00 PM	25	MERCER (DH) 1:00 PM		(4) Citrus Classic > Orlando, Fla.
25	(3) vs. Alcorn State 10:00 AM	17	*at WKU (DH) 1:00 PM	28	*FIU (DH) 1:00 PM		(5) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla..
	(3) at LSU 12:30 PM	18	*at WKU 12:00 PM	29	*FIU 12:00 PM		
26	(3) vs. McNeese State 10:00 AM	21	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI 6:00 PM				
	(3) at LSU 3:00 PM	22	TULSA 6:00 PM				
		24	*at Florida Atlantic (DH) 6:00 PM				
		25	*at Florida Atlantic 1:00 PM				
		28	*at Troy 5:00 PM				
		31	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE (DH) 1:00 PM				

TROY

Although the Trojans welcome 11 newcomers to campus this season, Troy still has an experienced team entering the 2012 season. The Trojans return eight of their nine position starters from a year ago, but have some holes to fill in the circle. All three pitchers from last season's squad have left, including All-Sun Belt performer Ashlyn Williams who leaves Troy holding nearly every pitching record in the book. Melanie Davis, the only head coach in the 19 years of the Troy softball program, will rely heavily on some young arms to compliment an experienced lineup and defense. The Trojans had five players that started all 59 games last season, and all five are back for Troy as they look to improve on a 32-27 record from a season ago. Among those is NFCA All-Region performer Nikki Hollett who posted 20 home runs a season ago, the second most ever by a Trojan and the third most in the Sun Belt last season. Returning with Hollett are fellow seniors Hayden Gann, Sarah Harris, Michelle Hewett and Sarah Shields. Troy returns its top seven batting averages from a season ago including Hollett, Hewett and Gann who all hit over .300.



FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) vs. Jackson State 12:30 PM	2	(4) vs. Belmont 10:00 AM	1	*FIU 1:00 PM	5	*at South Alabama (DH) 1:00 PM
	(1) vs. Kansas 3:00 PM		(4) at Mississippi 4:45 PM	3	at UAB 4:00 PM	9-12	(6) Sun Belt Tournament TBA
11	(1) vs. Nicholls State 3:00 PM	3	(4) vs. Tennessee-Chattanooga 10:00 AM	6	*at WKU (DH) 5:00 PM		
	(1) vs. Northern Illinois 5:30 PM		(4) vs. TBA TBA	7	*at WKU 1:00 PM		Home games in BOLD CAPS *Sun Belt Conference Game
12	(1) vs. Akron 10:00 AM	4	(4) vs. TBA TBA	10	KENNESAW STATE (DH) 3:00 PM		(DH) - Double Header
17	(2) MISSOURI 7:00 PM	9	(5) at LSU 7:30 PM	14	*at Florida Atlantic (DH) 5:00 PM		Tournament Legend
18	(2) BALL STATE 4:00 PM	10	(5) vs. Mississippi Valley State 11:00 AM	15	*at Florida Atlantic 11:00 AM		(1) Southeastern Louisiana Lion Classic > Hammond, La.
	(2) EASTERN KENTUCKY 6:30 PM		(5) at LSU 1:30 PM	18	FLORIDA STATE 4:00 PM		(2) Quality Inn Classic > Troy, Ala.
19	(2) EAST TENNESSEE STATE 2:00 PM	11	(5) vs. Mississippi Valley State 11:00 AM	21	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE (DH) 1:00 PM		(3) Frost Classic Inspired by Memorial > Chattanooga, Tenn.
	(2) BALL STATE 4:30 PM	14	*at ULM (DH) 5:00 PM	22	*MIDDLE TENNESSEE 1:00 PM		(4) Red and Blue Classic > Oxford, Miss.
22	at Florida A&M (DH) 3:00 PM	15	*at ULM 5:00 PM	25	at Alabama 6:00 PM		(5) Purple and Gold Challenge > Baton Rouge, La.
24	(3) vs. Ball State 11:00 AM	21	AUBURN 6:00 PM	28	*NORTH TEXAS (DH) 1:00 PM		(6) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.
	(3) vs. East Tennessee State 1:15 PM	24	*LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (DH) 1:00 PM	29	*NORTH TEXAS 1:00 PM		
25	(3) vs. Cleveland State 1:15 PM	25	*LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE 1:00 PM				
	(3) vs. Tennessee Tech 3:30 PM	28	*SOUTH ALABAMA 5:00 PM				
26	(3) vs. Purdue 11:00 AM	31	*FIU (DH) 1:00 PM				

AROUND THE LEAGUE

WESTERN KENTUCKY

The Lady Toppers look to build on a 30-29 season in 2011, one that saw WKU reach the Sun Belt Conference Tournament for the tenth time in program history. WKU returns it's top six hitters from a year ago, including First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference selection Karavin Dew. Dew led the Lady Toppers with a .341 batting average. In conference play, Dew hit .367 with a .683 slugging percentage. WKU also looks to get big seasons from sophomores Kelsie Mattox and Amanda Thomas. Mattox was a Sun Belt Player of the Week last season. She led WKU in doubles, walks, RBI, on-base percentage, and slugging percentage and was tied for the team-lead in home runs with eight. Thomas also hit eight home runs for the Lady Toppers in 2011 and was a Sun Belt All-Tournament Team selection. She hit .417 in the tournament with seven RBI.



FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY	
10	(1) vs. Cleveland State 9:00 AM	2	(4) vs. Jacksonville State 11:00 AM	31	*at North Texas (DH) 2:00 PM	3	EVANSVILLE 5:00 PM
11	(1) vs. Winthrop 9:00 AM		(4) vs. Georgia State 4:00 PM	1	*at North Texas 12:00 PM	5	*at Middle Tennessee (DH) 1:00 PM
	(1) at South Carolina 11:30 AM	3	(4) vs. Kennesaw State 12:00 PM	6	* TROY (DH) 5:00 PM	9-12	(6) Sun Belt Tournament TBA
12	(1) vs. Tennessee State 9:00 AM	4	(4) at Georgia Tech 12:00 PM	7	* TROY 1:00 PM		
17	(2) vs. North Dakota 10:00 AM	4	(4) vs. Tennessee-Martin 9:00 AM	11	at Belmont 5:00 PM		Home games in BOLD CAPS (DH) - Double Header
	(2) vs. Southern Utah 12:00 PM	7	*at Florida Atlantic (DH) 5:00 PM	14	* FIU (DH) 1:00 PM		
18	(2) vs. UAB 3:00 PM	8	*at Florida Atlantic 5:00 PM	15	* FIU 12:00 PM		
	(2) at Arizona 5:00 PM	9	(5) vs. Providence 8:00 AM	21	*at ULM (DH) 2:00 PM		Tournament Legend
19	(2) vs. UAB 10:00 AM	9	(5) vs. Minnesota 10:00 AM	22	*at ULM 12:00 PM		(1) Palmetto Classic > Columbia, S.C.
24	(3) MURRAY STATE 3:00 PM	10	(5) vs. Bethune-Cookman 8:00 AM	24	* MIDDLE TENNESSEE 5:00 PM		(2) Hillenbrand Invitational > Tucson, Ariz.
25	(3) MOREHEAD STATE 3:00 PM		(5) vs. Boston College 10:00 AM	25	LIPSCOMB (DH) 5:00 PM		(3) Hilltopper Spring Classic > Bowling Green, Ky.
	(3) BOWLING GREEN 5:00 PM	13	TENNESSEE TECH 5:00 PM	28	* LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE (DH) 1:00 PM		(4) 2012 Buzz Classic > Woodstock, Ga.
26	(3) INDIANA STATE 3:00 PM	14	LOUISVILLE 4:00 PM	29	* LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE 12:00 PM		(5) Florida Atlantic Embassy Suites Tournament > Boca Raton, Fla.
		17	* SOUTH ALABAMA (DH) 1:00 PM				(6) Sun Belt Conference Championship > Boca Raton, Fla.
		18	* SOUTH ALABAMA 12:00 PM				
		21	KENTUCKY 7:00 PM				
		22	at Eastern Kentucky 3:00 PM				
		27	at Samford (DH) 5:00 PM				

2011 SUN BELT CONFERENCE SOFTBALL RECAP

2011 SUN BELT CONFERENCE ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Katy Neal, South Alabama
 Nikki Hollett, Troy
 Amanda Thomas, Western Kentucky
 Brianna Love, Louisiana-Monroe
 Kayla Burri, FIU
 Heather Bearnes, Florida Atlantic
 Rose Gressley, Florida Atlantic
 Gabriele Bridges, Louisiana-Lafayette
 Ashley Brignac, Louisiana-Lafayette
MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER:
 Christi Orgeron, Louisiana-Lafayette

2011 FIRST TEAM ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE

Ashley Brignac (Louisiana-Lafayette, Junior, Pitcher)
 Rose Gressley (Florida Atlantic, Senior, Pitcher)
 Karavin Dew (Western Kentucky, Sophomore, Catcher)
 Gabriele Bridges (Louisiana-Lafayette, Senior, First Base)
 Heather Barnes (Florida Atlantic, Junior, Second Base)
 Kayla Burri (FIU, Sophomore, Shortstop)
 Jessy Alfonso (FIU, Sophomore, Third Base)
 Ashley McClain (FIU, Junior, Outfield)
 Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette, Junior, Outfield)
 Brianna Love (Louisiana-Monroe, Senior, Outfield)
 Corrie Abel (Middle Tennessee, Senior, Designated Player)

2011 SECOND TEAM ALL-SUN BELT CONFERENCE

Hannah Campbell (South Alabama, Freshman, Pitcher)
 Ashlyn Williams (Troy, Senior, Pitcher)
 Sarah Draheim (Louisiana-Lafayette, Sophomore, Catcher)
 Mallory Cantler (North Texas, Senior, First Base)
 Haley Richards (South Alabama, Freshman, Second Base)
 Nerissa Myers (Louisiana-Lafayette, Sophomore, Shortstop)
 Brooke Foster (North Texas, Freshman, Third Base)
 Jessica Olguin (Louisiana-Monroe, Senior, Outfield)
 Brittany Fowler (South Alabama, Sophomore, Outfield)
 Haley Hopkins (South Alabama, Junior, Outfield)
 Hayden Gann (Troy, Junior, Designated Player)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Christi Orgeron (Louisiana-Lafayette, Junior, Outfield)
PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Ashley Brignac (Louisiana-Lafayette, Junior, Pitcher)
FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Hannah Campbell (South Alabama, Freshman, Pitcher)
COACH OF THE YEAR: Becky Clark, South Alabama

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE WINS 11TH SUN BELT SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

LAFAYETTE, La. – No. 1 seed Louisiana-Lafayette revenged a three-game series sweep earlier in the season to shut out No. 2 seed Florida Atlantic 8-0 in five innings to win the 2011 Sun Belt Conference Softball Championship at Lamson Park on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Saturday.

The Cajuns (49-9) earned their 11th Sun Belt Conference Championship in the 12-year history of Sun Belt softball. ULL has won the title every year in which they were deemed the No. 1 seed in the tournament. The third straight crowd of more than one thousand pushed the overall tournament attendance over 10,000 for the first time in the 12-year history of the Sun Belt Conference Softball Championship.

The league's Player of the Year Christi Orgeron was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player after breaking a three-year-old SBC Tournament record for most RBI in a tournament when she homered to left field in the bottom of the second to score three. The top 10 finalist for USA Softball's Player of the Year added to her RBI total with a two-run bomb over the center field wall to give her 13 for the tournament.

Orgeron extended her league-leading RBI count to 97, which also leads the nation. The junior from New Orleans also moved into the top five all-time on the NCAA's single-season RBI charts. Her two home runs moved her ahead of fellow Cajun Gabriele Bridges, who tied for the national lead, with 23 on the year. Orgeron also tied a SBC Tournament record for most home runs in a tournament with three, one of only three players to accomplish that feat.

Joining Orgeron on the all-tournament team were teammates Bridges and Ashley Brignac. Bridges made NCAA history against South Alabama on Friday, setting the NCAA's new single-season grand slam record when she blasted her fourth of the season. The Cajuns' lone senior tallied one of ULL's eight runs in the championship game after she was walked.

Bridges and Orgeron have now combined for 45 home runs, the most by any duo in the country. The duo has also combined for an astronomical 173 RBI.

Brignac (30-5) moved into fifth place in the Sun Belt record books by recording her 30th win of the season when she shut down FAU's offense. The junior went the distance in the circle, only allowing two hits and walking two while striking out five batters in the shut out. Brignac threw her third seventh career no-hitter on Friday to eliminate South Alabama 10-0 in five innings. The no-hitter by Brignac (29-5) was her second in six-days as she shut down La.-Monroe last Saturday.

Also leading the Cajuns on offense was Nerissa Myers, who scored off Orgeron's first homer, registered her seventh run of the tournament, also breaking a SBC Tournament record for most runs scored in a tournament.

The Cajuns got on the board first by taking advantage of an Owl throwing error to put up one in the first. In the top of the second, Draheim hit a grounder that rolled through Carly Speerin's legs at shortstop, allowing Bridges to score. Myers tallied an RBI-single, following by Orgeron slamming her first homer of the game to round in three and move the Cajuns ahead 5-0.

Florida Atlantic (34-25) pulled Rose Gressley (20-13) after the second inning in favor of Taylor Fawbush. Orgeron struck again in the fourth with a two-run bomb over the center field wall to give her 97 RBI on the year. The Cajuns added their final run in the fifth inning when Paige Cormier hit a solo homer, her fifth of the season.

The Owls couldn't get their offense going, only getting two hits in 17 at-bats.

Gressley recorded the loss for the Owls, allowing four hits and five runs, one unearned in two innings of work.