

# HITTING, PITCHING, DEFENSE AND BASERUNNING COME TOGETHER FOR THE LADY SHARKS AS THEY CLAIM THE 2010 TITLE

Courtesy of Miami Dade College

**T**he dream that started last September became a dream come true when the Miami Dade College softball team defeated Wallace State CC 7-0 to claim the 2010 National Junior College Athletic Association championship title.

A season full of broken records left in their tracks, the Lady Sharks rampaged through the NJCAA finale, winning all five games and outscoring opponents by a combined score of 46-11. The win vs. Wallace was a school record 51 wins for the program, against a lowest ever six losses, and was also the 203rd win for head coach Carlos Caro in just five seasons as coach.



The Sharks chomped through the field with wins over Western Nebraska (7-0), Blinn College (5-3), Chipola College (16-7), and Yavapai College (11-1) before meeting the Lions of Wallace State, who would have to defeat the Miami Dade squad twice in the double elimination tournament. But, it wasn't just offensive numbers that carried the squad to the national title, as their pitching, running and fielding statistics were also evident of the well rounded game that the Sharks brought with them on the long journey from Miami to St. George.

Consider the following statistics that the Sharks compiled en route to the title:

Sixty-eight hits, an average of 13.6 hits per game; forty-six runs scored, an average of 9.2 per game; twenty-three hits in one game vs. Chipola College, where they hit for a

.511 average as a team; eleven homeruns, average of 2.2 per game.

MDC pitchers recorded forty-one strikeouts (8.2 avg), allowed only twenty-one hits (4.1 per game) allowed only





thirteen walks and eleven runs (2.2 per game). MDC stole thirteen bases in fourteen attempts. MDC had only three errors in 105 fielding attempts, a .972 fielding percentage, but only one error to a position player, the other two errors were committed by the pitcher.



MDC Pitcher, Erika Bennett, was honored as the Tournament MVP, as she won four games in the tournament, striking out thirty-two in twenty-six innings pitched, and recording a 0.54 earned run average. She allowed a total of ten hits and eight walks in the four games she appeared in. Bennett ended the season with a 26-2 record, the best record in the history of MDC softball, and was 47-8 in her outstanding two-year career. The native of Sierra Vista, Arizona has signed a Letter of Intent to attend Marshall University. "This is something that we have wanted since we began practice last September." Bennett said. "We have focused on winning the national championship and we were just fortunate enough to have everyone contribute and our dream came true."



The 2010 national title is the first ever for Miami Dade College in fast-pitch softball. However, the world's largest college (170,000 enrollment) has recorded thirty-three total NJCAA titles, including thirteen in women's sports, led by women's volleyball with eight national titles.

"Our players believed in themselves that this could be accomplished," Coach Caro said. "I have always told them that it doesn't matter what I believe, it doesn't matter what their family believes, it only matters that they believed in themselves to get the goal that they set for themselves in September."



2010 NJCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOFTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:  
 Infield: Katie Campbell, Seminole State CC; Leah Kelley, Chattanooga State CC; Jessica Graves, Wallace State CC; Simone Suetsugu, Miami Dade College; Danielle Muniz, Yavapai College; Outfield: Summer Wilkerson, Wallace State CC; Veronika Fukunishi, Miami Dade College; Vanessa House, Yavapai College;

Battery: Kelsey Dennis, Wallace State CC; Vivian Morimoto, Miami Dade College; Cyd Allen, Salt Lake CC; Erika Bennett, Miami Dade College; Utility/DP: Geovanny Nunez, Miami Dade College; KAREN L. SYKES OUTSTANDING COACH OF THE 2010 NJCAA TOURNAMENT: Carlos Caro, Miami Dade College; MOST VALUABLE PLAYER OF THE 2010 NJCAA TOURNAMENT: Erika Bennett, Pitcher, Miami Dade College (4-0, 0.54 ERA, 32 K in 26.0 IP, 1-hit ShO in title game vs. Wallace State CC) .