

....any good trainer will tell you...

NEVER
let a
HUSKY
off leash...
...even if it's
highly trained.

Danielle Lawrie
2009 NCAA® Women's
College World Series®
All Tournament Team Selection
Most Outstanding Player



2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series

When May 28th, 2009 rolled around in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, there were eight teams - Missouri, Florida, Michigan, Washington, Alabama, Arizona, Arizona State and Georgia - ready to lay it all on the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium Field for only one spot as National Champions.

"We are looking forward to a great week," noted Alabama Head Coach Pat Murphy about the popularity the NCAA Women's College World Series has been attracting over the years. "I think five or six years ago, if you would have said 'Alabama, Michigan matchup,' everyone would have said 'all right, it is going to be a great football game,' and now we're at a point where it is going to be a great softball game. It's a credit to Hutch (Michigan Head Coach Carol Hutchins) and her team, and my team of course, too."

First up in game one of the WCWS saw all the dogs getting down as the Washington Huskies plucked a 3-1 win over a tough Georgia Bulldog team. The hit of the game came in the fourth when Washington took the donuts off the scoreboard first, putting up two. Lauren Greer drew a walk and was followed by Freshman Nikki Williams who pumped a bomb over the center field fence for two. The freshman had gone eighty-one bats without a home run and her timing couldn't have been more perfect.

"The first at bat she jammed me so I came up at the next at bat with a new approach," said Williams after the game. "I scooted off the plate a little bit, had the timing slap and got my hands through." When asked about hitting her first home run since February 27th, the college rookie gave this perfect response: "Any hit is great and a home run is even better."

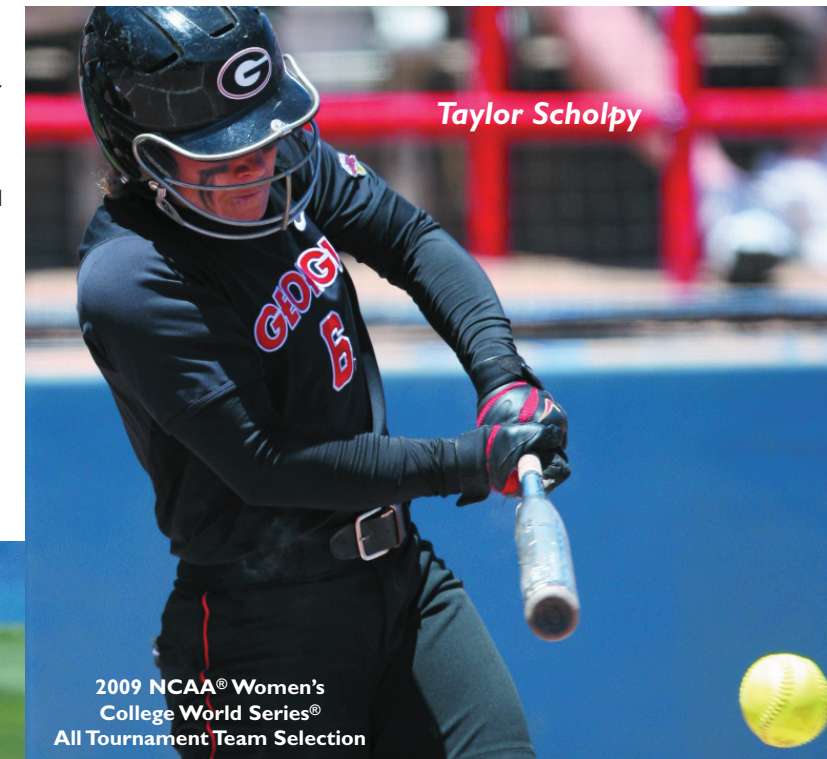
In the top of the fifth Kristin Schnake doubled for Georgia and was immediately followed by Taylor Scholpy who also doubled off of USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, Washington pitcher Danielle Lawrie. Schnake would score the only run of the game for the Bulldogs on Scholpy's double. In the seventh Washington added another run when Kimi Pohlman ripped a double to score Bailey Stenson who had singled to bring the final tally to 3-1.

Husky hurler Danielle Lawrie struck out five with two walks and six hits for a complete game. Bulldog pitcher Christie Hamilton posted two strikeouts, four walks and allowed three runs.

"It is the most important thing coming out of the gate," noted Husky Head Coach Heather Tarr regarding winning the first game. "Georgia has seen us twice and you just don't know what you are going to get from them. It was just great to have a clutch hit by Niki Williams and get out of there winning the game."

"Obviously we're disappointed that we didn't come out with a win," said Georgia Head Coach Lu-Harris Champer after the game. "I felt that it was a well-fought game. I felt we had opportunities. We just didn't take advantage of them."

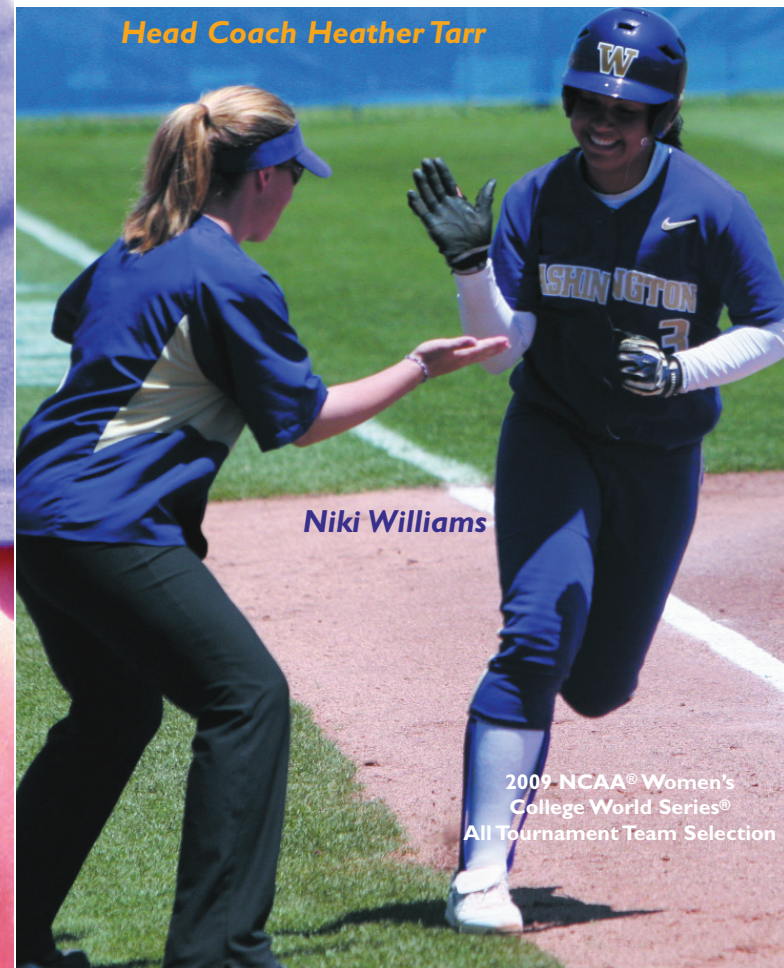
"I would say that no matter what the score is we don't really pay attention to that," added outfielder Taylor Scholpy after the game when she remarked on moving ahead whether the team's score is



Taylor Scholpy

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Head Coach Heather Tarr



Niki Williams

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up or down. "We're just a scrap team with a lot of heart and no matter what the score is you just fight to put up runs if we're up or down. It's the same mindset as before, just keep fighting, battling one pitch at a time. Just never giving up hope. We fight to the end, no matter what the score is."

Game two saw the Missouri Tigers, led by Head Coach Ehren Earleywine making their way to the WCWS for the fourth time in program history and the first time in fifteen years squaring off against power house and National Defending Champions, the Arizona State Sun Devils. The Sun Devils scored fast and furiously in the first two innings for a score of 6-0 at the end of two. Missouri would score one run in the third, sixth and seventh, but would fall short for a 7-3 loss.

Tiger Chelsea Thomas handled the loss for Mizzou and was relieved by Stacy Delaney who struck out two Sun Devil hitters in four innings, throwing nine strikes in her first thirteen pitches. The ASU's winning pitcher Hillary Bach pitched a complete game with two strikes and one walk.

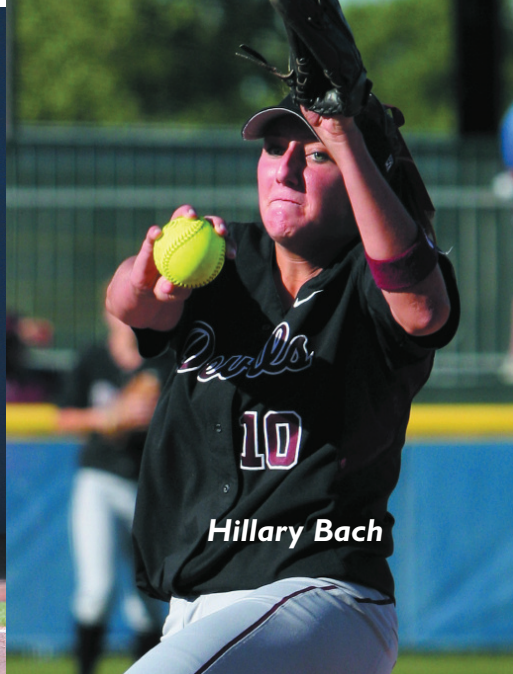
"The sixth inning really killed us," remarked Mizzou Head Coach Earleywine. "You get small windows of opportunity against good teams like that and you have to seize them. We didn't seize them."

Jessica Mapes paced the Sun Devils in the game, hitting 4 for 5



Krista Donnenwirth

Rhea Taylor



Hillary Bach



Francesca Enea

and scoring two. In the first inning the ASU offense got down to business quickly with Mapes and Kaitlin Cochran both going for singles and Kaylyn Castillo walking to load the bases for Krista Donnenwirth, Talor Haro and Katelyn Boyd who grouped up to hit in three runs. Three more runs in the second came across the dish at the bats of Donnenwirth, Halo and Katelyn Boyd in the second.

Mizzou hit the board in the third when Rhea Taylor doubled, scoring Marla Schweisberger who reached on a single. In the fourth, ASU answered that Tiger offense with another run as Halo's hit was mishandled in the outfield allowing Michelle Nulliner to score for the seventh run. The Tigers also scored in the sixth when Micaela Minner drove in Taylor on a fielder's choice and then Schweisberger launched a solo bomb in the seventh, but the team would fall short and move to the losers' bracket.

In game three's Michigan-Alabama match up, the Wolverines left no doubt about it as they left the Crimson Tide "out" over the field at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. The 6-1 loss that left the SEC offensive powerhouse stunned was their worst in WCWS play for the program to that date.

"Congratulations to Michigan," said Head Coach Murphy after the game. "They played great, but I certainly didn't see that coming. It came as a complete surprise to me. I was really disappointed. It's just one of those things that happens. It just unfortunately happened here."

The Wolverine offense brought the hammer for Alabama's Kelsi Dunne and her defense early in the game, with a bases loaded situation in the second that saw the first run for Michigan score on a walk to Teddi Ewing. Ewing had patiently worked the count and fouled off four balls to earn the RBI walk. In the third a solo blast from Amanda Chidester made it 2-0 and in a repeat performance, Ewing punched out an RBI single in the fourth to give Michigan three runs.

The sixth inning turned out to be the longest for Alabama, as Michigan batted around the order and racked up three runs. Three runs on four singles and an Alabama error in the sixth saw the Wolverines tucking the win in their pocket. Alabama was able to avoid a shut out in the seventh, when Whitney Larsen ripped a double to bring home Ashley Holcombe.

Stephanie Kirkpatrick and Ewing went 2-3 and 3-3 respectively, with Ewing packing two RBI. Nikki Nemitz owned the Tide from the circle, throwing five strikeouts, issuing two walks and an earned run. Dunne shouldered the loss for Alabama with four strikeouts and six walks. The game marked Dunne's first earned run allowed since May 16th and Kirkpatrick's single was the first hit she allowed in 13.1 innings.

"I told the kids sometimes the hardest game is the first game," remarked Coach Hutch after the game. "I am very impressed with, more than any other aspect of our game, our composure as a group. We have been playing at a very high level all season and we have had a very tough schedule. I think our kids believe they are just as deserving to be here as Alabama or Florida or anybody else. They have a lot of confidence in themselves and they have been doing this all year. We have been playing this kind of competition all year."



Brittany Rogers

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series® All Tournament Team Selection



Teddy Ewing



Lauren Greer

ence. Our team is just thrilled to have the chance to go out there and compete and play some softball."

In game four Head Coach Tim Walton's Florida Gators took the field with the eight time National Champion Arizona Wildcats. The Gators took the bite out of the Wildcats - who were making a second highest in the record book twenty-first program appearance in the Series - with a three - zip blanking.

Florida pitcher Stacey Nelson threw a complete two hit game, allowing hits to the first two Arizona batters and then shutting the 'Cat offense down. Homeruns were the weapon of choice for the Gator offense, with Francesca Enea swatting her 18th of the year - setting a new single season record for the program - to plate two in the first inning and Megan Bush cranked out her fifteenth long ball in the second for a 3-0 score.

son record for the program - to plate two in the first inning and Megan Bush cranked out her fifteenth long ball in the second for a 3-0 score.

"Obviously, when you can beat Arizona at the College World Series you are doing something right," Coach Tim Walton said after the game. "I have a lot of respect for what coach (Mike) Candrea has built there and without mentoring me personally he has done a great job of showing me the way to build a program. (Sarah) Akamine came in and did a phenomenal job pitching, keeping us in check. I give her a lot of credit and I thought their defense really kept the game tight, too. I am proud of being here, proud of these guys up here on stage and I am proud of the other 17 players as well."

Arizona's Lindsey Sisk was tagged with the loss, pitching the first and was lifted after Bush's home run for Sarah Akamine. Akamine threw a three-hit shutout, with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Game five pitted Washington and Arizona State and Danielle Lawrie and Hillary Bach each gave pitcher's clinic performances. In the end, Lawrie held it just that much tighter in the game than Bach, allowing the Huskies to remain in the winners' bracket with a 1-0 final score in eight innings.

Lawrie threw three strikeouts in the game and routed ASU, whose bats had more previous success against Lawrie than any other team this season. The Sun Devils had scored twelve runs in sixteen innings off Lawrie, including a season-high seven in a 9-2 win in April. But in the end it would be recorded in the record books as Lawrie's twentieth shut out of the season and it came against one of

the most powerful offensive units in DI play. Both pitchers were just about spotless through the first innings, Lawrie allowed one hit through four and Bach two through three innings. Lawrie retired the first five batters of the game before a two-out double was hit by Katie Crabb in the second, but Lawrie dug in and retired sixteen Sun Devil batters in a row. Bach ran through the first three innings allowing two hits as both pitchers relied on their concrete defensive backing behind the circle.

The offensive hero of the game was Husky Sophomore Morgan Stuart who piled in the game-winning and only run in the bottom of the eighth, scoring Kimi Pohlman. Pohlman had ripped a one-out double for her third hit of the game to reach and a long right field fly-out off of Lawrie's bat brought her to third base and she later scored on Stuart's double.

Game six turned out to be a repeat of five - except with different teams - this time Florida and Michigan - in front of a WCWS single session record set-



Sarah Akamine



Katie Crabb

yard, sending the blast for Florida deep over the left centerfield fence in the sixth for the only run that Florida would need to win the ball game.

Florida put two runners on base in the top of the third as Kristina Hilberth got the first hit of the game, followed by Kim Waleszon who moved Hilberth into scoring position on a SAC and Tiffany DeFelice drew a two-out walk. But Michigan third baseman Maggie Viefhaus crushed the scoring opportunity, grabbing Francesca Enea's drive to end the inning.

It was the Wolverine squad's chance to bring across a run in the fourth with Bree Evens bouncing a single through the left side and Angela Findlay putting down a bunt to place runners on first and second. A SAC bunt put both of the Wolverine baserunners in scoring position, but Nelson struck out the next two batters to end the inning and the run threat. The Wolverines returned the favor as the Gators loaded the bases in the fifth, but could not plate a run. Nelson struck out nine batters and allowed one hit with no walks for Florida. Nikki Nemitz threw the loss in relief for the Wolverines going 2.2 innings, with four strike outs and two hits. Jordan Taylor struck out five in her start for Michigan with three hits in 4.1 innings.

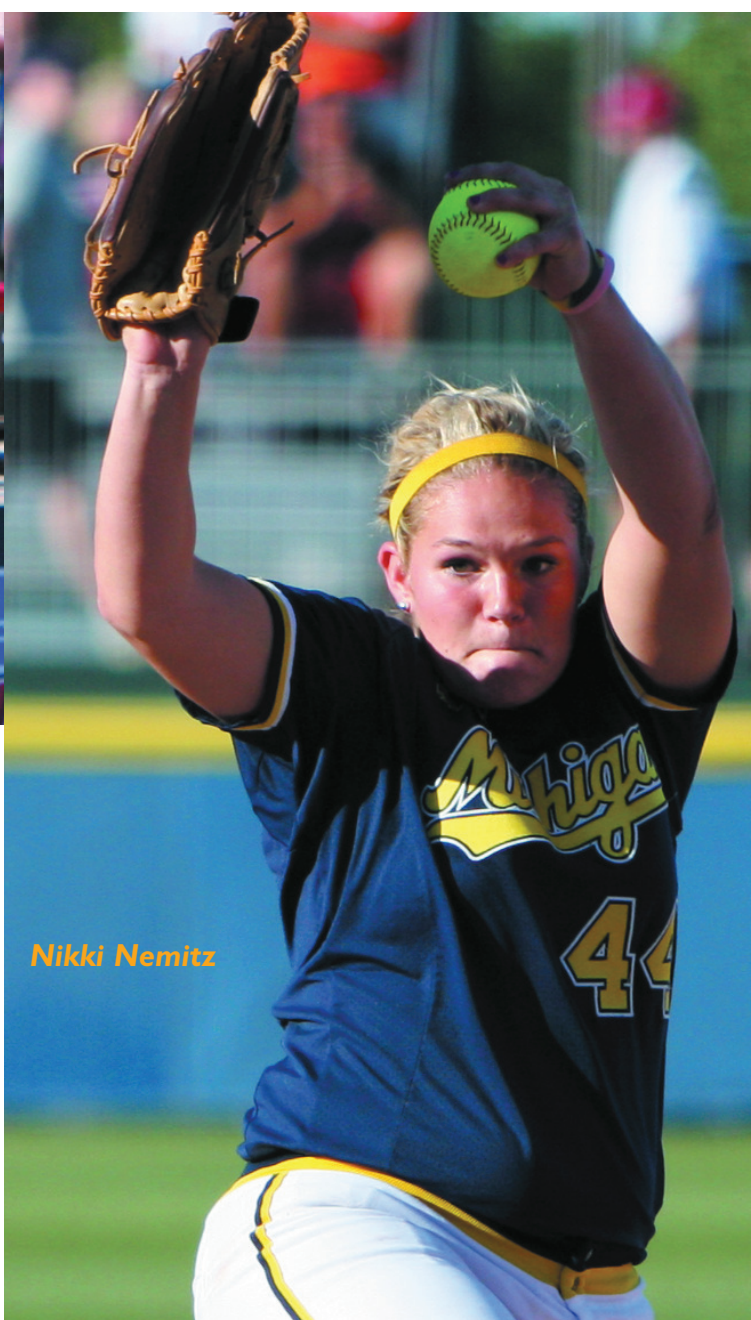
Saturday was go home day at the WCWS and the first duel of go or go home was between the Georgia Bulldogs and the Missouri Tigers - and neither dogs or cats wanted to be the first to exit.

Georgia would string together runs throughout the innings of the game to pull out the win in the end by a score of 5-2 and stay to play another game. Missouri would strike for two runs in the sixth, but would not be able to bring it all together by the end of seven.

Christie Hamilton took the win for Georgia in a complete game with four strikeouts, and Missouri's Chelsea Thomas ended her season at 16-7, paging five runs (four earned) three hits in four innings. Stacy Delaney came in as relief for three strikeouts and no hits.

"Obviously, we're disappointed. We didn't come here just to come here, we wanted to win some games and make some noise," said Missouri Head Coach Ehren Earleywine. "I'm proud of the job that they have done. No one would really expect a group of kids that weren't recruited like they weren't to be able to make it this far. We had a great season, we recorded the most wins in Missouri softball history and made it to the World Series for the first time in fifteen years. We have a lot to be proud of. We represented our state and university well. We want to do it better next time."

"I look back and I think it's been a great experience for me. It's something that I'll take away, that I wouldn't have had if I had just decided to go to school and not play," said Andee Allen of Missouri. "I'm going to miss the friendships and camaraderie. I got to do something that a lot of people don't get to do. Especially this year, getting here, it's something that not a lot of people get to do." Andee lost one of her biggest fans,



Nikki Nemitz

Dad Steve to Leukemia and complications from the condition in December 2007. The team wore his initials on their uniform in his honor, said Coach Earleywine, to remind the athletes that there are things that are more important than softball.

"Making it here, unseeded, beating UCLA in the three-game (Super Regional) series..." noted Mizzou teammate Miceala Minner after the game about her memories of the season. "The trip here was just amazing. Everyone here and how we've been treated. This has been one of my lifelong dreams. I'm not just a little kid watching on TV and wishing I could be there. I was actually here."

"We didn't get here by accident. We played some tough teams and we were really confident in ourselves," added Marla Schweisberger. "We wanted to go out and play like we have been in the stretch and in the post-season. We felt like we could hang with these teams. It just didn't work out and maybe we can build on it for next year."

The Bulldogs plated one in the first and in the fourth, added some more with a two run blast from Kristyn Sandberg who brought along baserunner Brianna Hesson. The final two Georgia runs came in the fifth when Lisaira Daniels and Taylor Scholpy were brought around by Kristen Schnake's double. Missouri's offense came all in the sixth as Kathryn Poet and Miceala Minner both rallied for singles and scored on a single



Megan Bush

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series® All Tournament Team Selection



Marla Schweisberger

Kristin Schnake



Kristyn Sandberg

from Schweisberger. Game eight was another go home game and Alabama delivered a whopping 14-0 shut-out ticket to Tempe to the Arizona Wildcats.

"I guess that I could use the same opening statement as Thursday night and that is I didn't expect that," Alabama Head Coach Patrick Murphy said. "And when I mentioned football the other night I didn't think it was going to come through either. Congratulations to Arizona.

Mike (Candrea) is a class guy and I can remember in the year 2000 I had an Arizona TV station interview me and I said that I want to be like Mike. And it wasn't Michael Jordan, it was Mike Candrea. He has been a good person every year and the king of the sport, as far as I am concerned. I know they are probably hurting but I really feel good for my team and the way they bounced back was incredible."

"We sat down as a team (after Thursday's loss) and we talked and none of us are ready to go home," Charlotte Morgan said. "Sometimes your back is against the wall and our motto was we haven't started throwing our punches yet. So we were coming out and we wanted to start fighting back. I think that we set the tone for the first inning and we believed that we could do it. And that is our thing, to have fun and don't press and don't overdo it."

The Tide was "in" for the second inning, as the team scored eight runs on eight hits - adding to the two they scored in the first - to give the Tide more runs than any other team in a single game in WCWS history. They would go on to add more runs in both the third and fifth innings.

Morgan paced the Tide in the circle with five shut-out innings, five hits, three strikeouts and one walk. Sarah Akamine shouldered the



Charlotte Morgan

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series® All Tournament Team Selection

loss for Arizona, giving up six runs on seven hits in three-and-two-thirds innings with four strikeouts. Jennifer Martinez gave up four runs on three hits. Lindsey Sisk threw 1.1 innings of relief, for four runs and six hits. The Wildcats came to Oklahoma City leading the nation in batting average, along with leading in scoring (499 runs, 7.92 runs per game), home runs per game (2.13), and total home runs (134). The HRPg and HR marks are NCAA records.

"It's tough when you give up that many to fight back," concluded Arizona Head Coach Mike Candrea. "I am proud of this team - they were playing the game until the last out. To me, that's what athletics is all about. Anytime you put on the uniform, you are going to have the highs and lows that come with it. I've been on both sides of it. You feel bad, but, truthfully, it's not life threatening. I told the kids, 'What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.' I think sometimes we make this game almost as if it is life threatening. Especially when you get here, everyone wants to play well. The sport has grown so much, it's tremendous that we have the coverage that we do. But sometimes, it



K'Lee Arredondo
Jenae Leles



Roya St. Clair

Head Coach Carol Hutchins

can be difficult on young people to deal with situations like this. I don't think anyone feels any worse than this group of athletes right now."

In game nine of the WCWS, Michigan made their way home via some - actually - four WCWS record setting Georgia Bulldog powered home runs, at a final score of 7-5. Two bombs came off the bat of Taylor Schlopy, Schlopy's of the three run variety - one from Brianna Hesson and the other was a first time round tripper for Freshman Ashley

Pauly. With the blast, Pauly became the thirteenth different Bulldog to hit a home run this season and sets a new school record.

Christie Hamilton pitched in relief of Sarah McCloud and recorded the win for Georgia. She threw the final six innings, allowed two runs, seven hits and struck out three. Nikki Nemitz took the loss for Michigan, allowing five runs on six hits in two innings. Jordan Taylor entered in the third, struck out five and gave up two home runs.

Wolverine Roya St. Clair went three for four - a triple short of the cycle in the game. St. Clair's blast came in the



Alisa Goler

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series® All Tournament Team Selection

first inning of the game for two and Maggie Viehhaus scored on Nemitz's SAC. In the fifth, Michigan attempted a rally as Bree Evans reached and then scored on Angela Findlay's liner double to left center, St. Clair then looped a hit up the middle for an RBI single. The Wolverines however, would not be able to plate additional runs and would end their run for the 2009 season.

"We got behind ... it's hard to beat a team when you're down," Michigan Head Coach Carol Hutchins said after the game. "Then we got right back up. We had a lot of well-hit balls that didn't find their way, and it's a different game if they do. But I thought that our kids battled back and that is all you can ask for. Unless you win the last game you can never feel so good about it. We have a lot to reflect on, a lot to build on and I'm really proud of our group this year. I thought they were one of the best softball teams I've ever had."

Game ten would determine the final four as the Alabama Crimson Tide faced the defending National Champions, Arizona State University and it would begin a string of three games filled with drama. In this one the Tide stayed alive and sent A State packing with a 6-2 victory that hedged on a pinch hit granny.

"It is not often that you beat Mike Candrea and Clint Myers on the same day, and that could be the best day in the history of our program, especially since our backs were against the wall," said Head Coach Pat Murphy. "It is do or die and to eliminate Arizona and Arizona State on the same day is one hell of an accomplishment. Credit goes to the team."

Kelsi Dunne of Alabama and Hillary Bach of ASU dueled it out from the pitcher's circle until the top of the fourth, when Katie Crabb sent a two run long ball over the fence. It would be the only offense from the ASU batters who are renown for their power from the plate.

The Tide loaded the bases in the bottom of the inning and Head Coach Murphy gave freshman Jazlyn Lunceford the nod to go to the plate for the team on two outs.

"It was really exciting to be in that situation," remarked an ecstatic Lunceford after the game with a grin. "I just knew that I wanted to get it done for our seniors because it means a lot to them. The whole team just wants to do it for them." The Tide added two more runs in the fifth, the final on a double steal that saw pinch runner Jessica Smith sliding under the tag at the

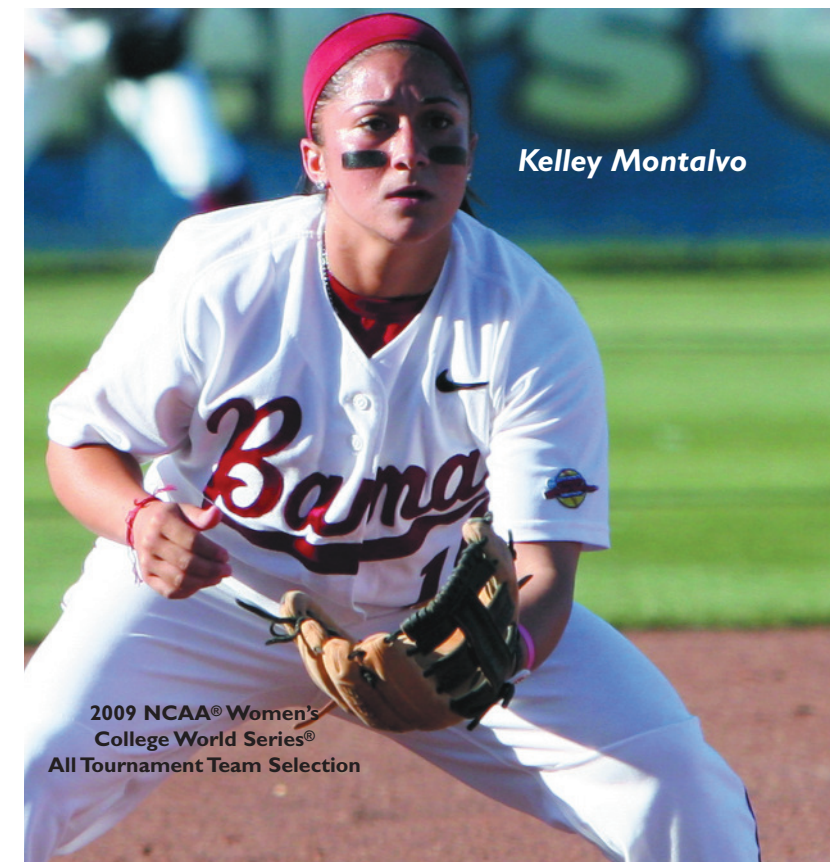


Kaitlin Cochran

plate. Dunne corralled the win with two earned runs, two walks and nine strikeouts in a complete game effort. Bach took the loss with six runs, (four earned), four walks and four strikeouts.

"I can't say enough great things about the ladies that have played," Head Coach Clint Myers said in a post game news conference. "This is our first senior class - Miss Cochran, Miss Mapes, Miss Welty and Miss Neuman. We will hate to see them go. They are a class act and great people, and they are going to make society better. When you can say things like that, it says a lot about those women."

Senior Kaitlin Cochran has been a huge key in the surge of ASU over the past four years as the program has appeared in the WCWS



Kelley Montalvo

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series® All Tournament Team Selection

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series

each of those years, winning the 2008 championship. This year she led the country in on base percentage, ranked in the top 10 in batting average, slugging percentage, home runs, home runs per game and runs brought in along with breaking every ASU offensive career and single-season record. Cochran is a four-time First-Team Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-American and four-time First-Team All-Pac-10 selection and on top of all that, she has been named to the Pac-10 All-Academic First-Team three times.

Game eleven began the semi-finals where some of the most intense ball was played in the entire WCWS. The first game pitted Georgia against undefeated Washington. The SEC dominated the semi-finals with Florida, Alabama and Georgia all looking to make the championship in an unprecedented run by the Conference.

The Bulldogs had begun to enjoy writing tickets home through losers' bracket play, and Head Coach Lu Champer-Harris's lady dogs came off the porch and hit the diamond running, forcing the if game on the Husky dog pack by a nail-biting score of 9-8. The nine inning, four hour and fifteen minute game saw both teams coming off the chain for the win and the right to play one more game in the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.

Niki Williams launched a three run bomb in the second and a grand slam in the fifth to tie the game at 8-8. Danielle Lawrie never backed down from the Georgia offense, but allowed a career high runs allowed at nine with a career high seven earned, two

walks and nine strikeouts. Her clinically flawless defense behind her allowed a season high four errors in the game. The Huskie's Morgan Stuart went 5-for-5 and tied a WCWS record and school post season record for hits in a game. The Bulldogs got busy in the bottom of the second to chip away at the Husky 3-0 lead from Williams' home run in the top of the frame. Two runs on three hits put the Georgia Bulldogs only one run behind going into the top of the fourth at a score of 3-2.

Lawrie helped her own cause in the top of the third, reaching after getting hit by a pitch, advancing to second by a wild pitch and then on to home when a blooped shot just short of the infield evaded the Georgia defense. Georgia answered again in the bottom of the third when Kristin Schnake reached on an error and scored on Alisa Goler's long ball over the leftfield fence to tie it all up at 4-4. A two run blast by Schnake and two additional runs would find the score at 8-4 in the fourth as the Bulldog offense pushed the accelerator on Lawrie in the circle.

The Huskies would nearly score in the eighth but would be gunned down at the plate from centerfield by Taylor Schlopy.

Bulldogs and Huskies are both stubborn breeds and the Huskies jumped right back into the dog fight on William's killer blast in the fifth, to bring the score to 8-8. The fangs were out and the fight would continue from the circle until the ninth. With the bases loaded, Brianna Hesson won an outstanding battle at the plate against Lawrie, drawing a walk that culminated in a very exuberant Bulldog pack as Lisaira Daniels crossed the dish for the winning run.

Lawrie took the loss for the Huskies after a hard frontal assault from the Bulldog offense while the Bulldogs managed five pitching changes and four different pitchers to win the game. Erin Arevalo kept the Huskies closely penned for Georgia and got the win, allowing no runs in four innings. The freshman had not pitched in a game since the first week in April and proved to be the Bulldog secret weapon on the win, allowing four hits and no walks.

"I thought she did an outstanding job," Head Coach Lu Champer-Harris said after the game. "The best job she's done all season and I am extremely proud of her."

Sarah McCloud pulled the start in the circle for the Bulldogs, going 1.2 innings and was replaced by Taylor Schlopy who hadn't pitched since February and can normally be found roaming the Georgia outfield. She would release the ball to Christie Hamilton, who had pitched more innings than any other hurler in the Series to date, pitched one inning before giving way to Schlopy again, who then relinquished the circle to Arevalo, who held the Huskies scoreless for the win.

More drama awaited the fans in game twelve of the Women's College World Series as SEC powerhouses Florida and Alabama slammed it out and left everything on the field in a dramatic and intense fight to the finish. A fight that ended in Gator Ali Gardner's two out walk off home run in the bottom of the seventh, advancing the Florida Gators to the WCWS finals for the first time in program history and leaving the Crimson Tide shattered and stunned on the field, the score 6-5.

"I thought it was a very entertaining game for the fans," said Tide Head Coach Pat Murphy after the game. "It was just a great day for softball. I think our team fought to the very end and that's what we asked them to do right after the loss to Michigan (Thursday) to show everyone what kind of team we have. I think they did and I thought it was just a very good game. Congratulations to Florida. They'll represent the SEC very well. The entire place here is incredible. It's the experience of a lifetime for these young ladies. We appreciate everything."

It certainly looked like it was going with The Tide as the game came down to the final inning. The Tide punched the scoreboard lights first when Jennifer Fenton scored on a hit that dropped out of the sky behind second base from the bat of Kelley Montalvo in the third. The Gators claimed the lead in the fourth when Kelsey Bruder locked and unloaded a two run home run to right center, bringing the score to 2-1.

Alabama pounded out four runs in the fifth on two outs. Speedster Brittany Rogers singled and stole second, scoring when Lauren Parker

smacked a long single to center. Montalvo followed and singled to score Parker and Charlotte Morgan drew a walk, Cassandra Reilly-Boccia was then hit by a pitch for a bases loaded situation. Ashley Holcombe bashed a double to left to score two and the heat was on Florida.

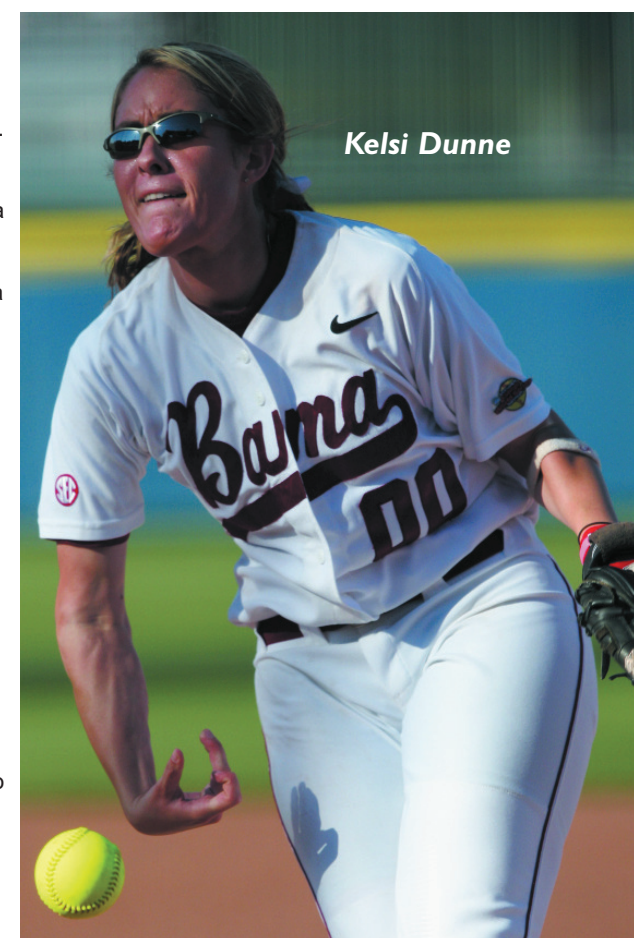
Aja Paculba drew a walk in the bottom of the seventh, Francesca Enea singled and Megan Bush walked to load the bases for Ali Gardner's monster bomb to win the game and advance to the finals of the Women's College World Series for the first time in program history.

"I have been coaching softball now for 11 years and in my 11 years I have never seen a team with so much determination and fight," said an elated Florida Head Coach Walton. "No matter if we are getting outplayed, out-hit, out-scored, it doesn't matter. We always know we are going to have a good chance with our nine hitters. We hit one through nine and (have) two that come off the bench to help and five more ready. I've never seen a team in any sport that has more determination, more class or plays the game the right way than the group of kids I get to coach. I want to take my hat off to Alabama. They are obviously a great team. To be able to get that many runs off Stacey Nelson is a feat in itself and we give them credit. We are going to miss (Alabama's) Kelley Montalvo and Brittany Rogers, two of the best players in the country at their positions. They are class-act kids and I really enjoy watching them play. I hate it when they get on base so much against us, but they are great players. Overall I am very proud of my team. I think they (the Florida Seniors on the team) are very special. We have some great kids in the mix. Their maturity and how well they handle the adverse situations as college students. Danyell (Hines), Ali (Gardner) and the other four just gutted it out. Kim Waleszonia and Stacey Nelson developed right in front of me. Brooke Johnson has done a great job; Kristina Hilberth is one of the best catchers in the country and one of the best catchers to wear the Gator uniform. These seniors mean a lot to me. They understand the meaning of being a true student-athlete. I think it was the best softball game I've ever been a part of."

"I've been working to try to get out of my own head all week. I've felt like I have never had to work harder to get a base hit," remarked Ali Gardner after the game. "Kelsi Dunne did a great job of mixing the ball up; she always does a great job. This team always wants it so bad. One out, two outs, down by seven down by fifteen, we are going to find a way. We just want this so bad. I'm so glad that after a whole year of them picking me up that I could finally pick my team up."

Game thirteen was the last of the semi-finals and Washington stormed through the Bulldogs for a 9-3 win to put them in the championship game against Florida. It was the first time in the program's history to play in the championship round of the Women's College World Series.

All of Georgia's offense came in the third with a Lisaira Daniels triple, a single from Alisa Goler, a double from Megan Wiggins and Brianna Hesson's double for three runs.



Kelsi Dunne



Christie Hamilton



Ashley Charters

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Ali Gardner



Gator Head Coach Tim Walton

2009 NCAA® Women's College World Series

Washington started the game in the first inning as Danielle Lawrie blasted a major grand slam bomb to score four. Morgan Stuart joined the hit parade with a blast of her own and Niki Williams' bat remained hot as burning coals with her tenth RBI of WCWS play - which also set a new record for the Series for RBI.

Lawrie remained spectacular in the circle. After the third inning scoring from Georgia, she retired thirteen of the next fifteen Bulldogs - nine by strikeout. The twelve strikeout game set a Washington record at 500 strikeouts in a season and fourth overall in Pac-10 history. Game was up at the plate too, as Ashley Charters, Kimi Pohlman and Jenn Salling combined for 1-12, Charters 3-4 with two home runs, and an RBI and triple, Salling 3-4 with a run, a double and two RBI and Pohlman with one hit and one run scored.

Erin Arevalo shouldered the loss for Georgia. Christie Hamilton worked 4.1 innings with four runs on six hits and six strikeouts.

"Georgia is a great team and they are definitely one of the best offensive teams that I have faced," said Lawrie. "They can hit great pitching. Two weeks ago pretty much is today. When we were at UMass they did the same thing. They crushed me that first game. I had one bad inning tonight where they got some runs on the board and I just checked in. It's a mental switch that's going to be turned on the rest of the week."

"Obviously we don't take the easy road anywhere we go," remarked Head Coach Heather Tarr after the game. "We did an awesome job coming back after a tough emotional loss today. It speaks volumes of what our team is about from the seniors on down to the freshmen. I'm just proud to be associated with all of these awesome young people."

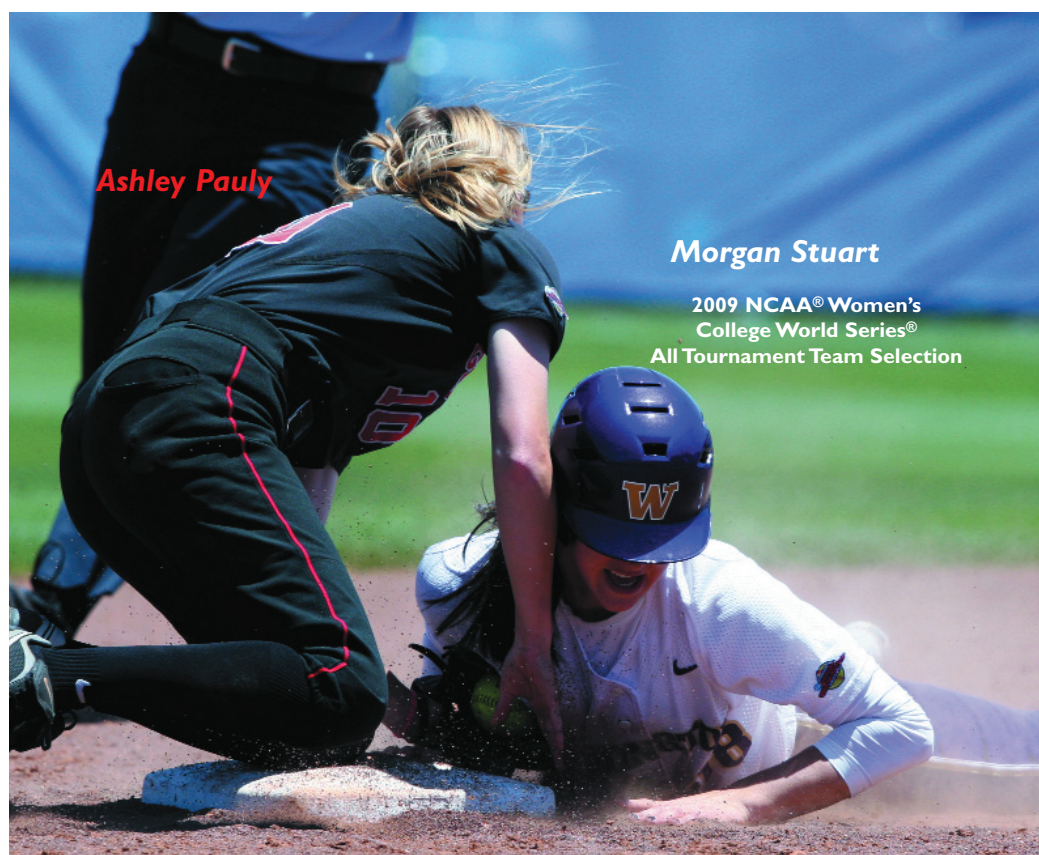
"I'm very proud of how we fought this season," noted Georgia Head Coach Lu Harris-Champer. "I feel extremely blessed to be around this team on a daily basis, and like I said before I'm just very proud of an outstanding season. I think the team played without distractions. They enjoyed the moment, they lived the moment, they lived the dream, as we said a lot this week. Again, just enjoying the moment, and that's what makes it so fun."

"This team worked so hard and we have such a good connection," said Georgia pitcher Christie Hamilton, who wore the Bulldog uniform for the last time in the game. "This was the most fun team we've ever played with. We've been together and fought. It's really hard to leave. Everybody roots for everybody, not just for themselves. This is a great team."

And so the table was set for the final best of three championship between the Washington Huskies and the Florida Gators.

Game one of the the championship left a nation of Gator fans with their jaws dropping as Washington's offense and defense stormed past the number one team in the nation by a score of 8-0.

Danielle Lawrie duct taped the Gator's jaws and nailed down her second two-hit shutout of the Gators this season. Of the Gators four losses this year, two of them came courtesy of Danielle Lawrie, who threw for twelve strikeouts to the offensive giants of the long ball. The Husky offense also took a ride around the park and scored the most runs off of Florida in two years of any team they played, tagging Florida's Stacey Nelson for a season high six runs - four of



Ashley Pauly

Morgan Stuart

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which were earned. Nelson took the loss for the Gators with five innings pitched, five strikeouts and six runs on five hits. Stephanie Brombacher pitched the final two innings allowing two hits and two runs.

The diamond dogs of offense chased one another around the bases with Ashley Charters going 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBI which included a two-run bomb in the sixth inning. The three hits give her 95 on the season to break Angie Marzetta's single-season record set in 1993, which was the first year of the Husky program. Morgan Stuart was 1-for-3 with a two-run double which set a World Series record four doubles in the Series, along with ten hits in the series, which led all players to that point. Charters rings in at nine hits and Kimi Pohlman eight as the team led the World Series in average.

It would be a 6,899 mile round trip for Washington by the time the NCAA Tournament concluded, but the miles and the three weeks away from home would be no inconvenience to Head Coach Heather Tarr's team. After all, anyone who knows about dogs will tell you that Huskies are, in dog speak, "travelers." When they bring home a National Championship after a long mush, well, that's just icing on the cake.

In the second game of the championship, the Gators jumped out early and got on the board with two in the first inning of the game. Aja Paculba jacked a wicked triple to centerfield and scored on a passed ball on the next hit. Gator Kristina Hilberth reached via error and was hit around to second by Francesca Enea, who ended up on first with a single and an immediate and perfect double steal showed that Florida didn't have to rely on the long ball for runs. Kelsey Bruder drew a walk to load the bases and Megan Bush placed a perfect SAC to score Hilberth. Though off with a spark, Florida would not score again.

Washington would even the score in the bottom of the inning. Ashley Charters and Kimi Pohlman each singled. Lawrie brought Charters home on a single. Pohlman would later cross the dish on a wild pitch, bringing the score to 2-2.

In the third, Washington scored the one run that made all the difference to bring the game to its final score of 3-2 on a mishandled infield squibbler off the bat of Morgan Stuart, scoring Pohlman. The bases were loaded with Pohlman who reached on an error, and Jenn Salling and Lawrie who both reached on singles.

The Gators mounted rallies in the fourth and the fifth with runners in scoring position and Francesca Enea put everyone's hearts in their throats with her line drive double in the seventh that looked like it might have enough to get over, but Lawrie retired the last two Gator hitters with strikeouts for the championship.

Gator Stacey Nelson struck out five, allowed one walk and six hits in 6.0 innings, ending her career as a Florida Gator. Nelson leaves the college game with 136 wins which is sixth in NCAA record books, second in Southeastern Conference history and first at Florida. The 1,116 career strikeouts in her career set her as fourth in the SEC record books and first at Florida. Lawrie earned the win and struck out eight, allowing seven hits and one earned run.

"First of all I want to congratulate Washington on winning their first national championship," said Gator Head Coach Tim Walton. "They were outstanding and had a great team, great coaches and were well prepared. I also want to congratulate the other six teams that got here. They all had great seasons and only one champion can be crowned. I am very proud to represent the University of Florida. I thank the University of Oklahoma and the (Oklahoma City) All Sports Association for the job they did in making this event fun for all the student-athletes and for the fans. I also just want to say what a great team



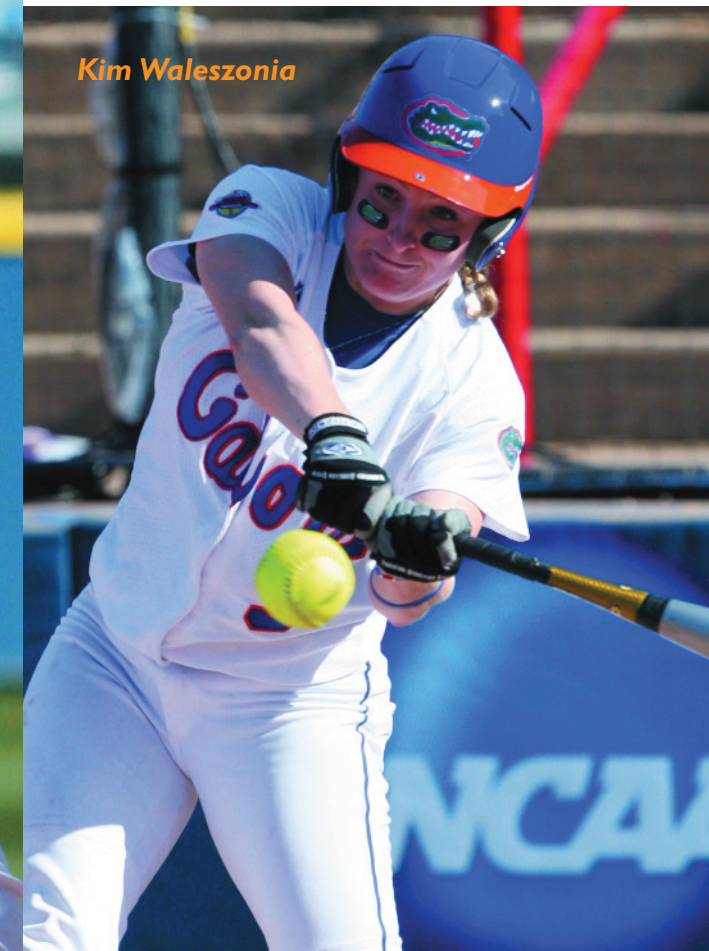
Aja Paculba

Megan Bush



Stacey Nelson

2009 NCAA® Women's
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Kim Waleszonia



that I have. This will go down as one of the best teams in the sport of softball, without winning the championship of course. But this is a great team and to win 132 games (with only) 10 defeats in two seasons, it's tremendous. One of the best two-

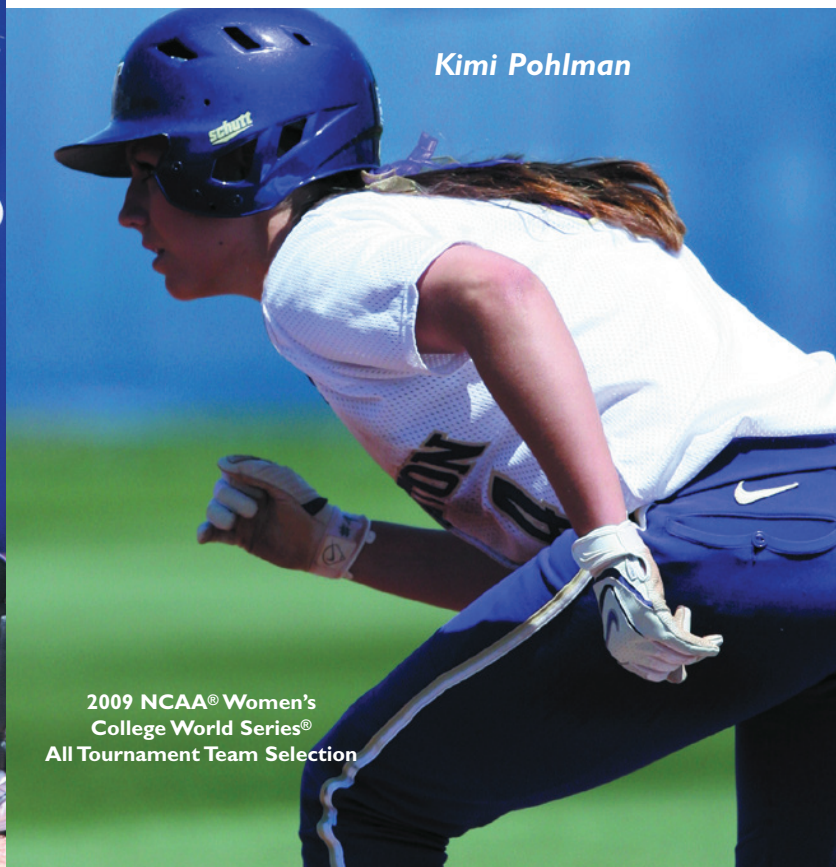
year spans you will ever see. Obviously, number 42 (Stacey Nelson) won't be back for us next year. We will feel that because not only is she a great pitcher but she is also one of the most outstanding people you will ever meet. I already told her this but there will not be the number 42 worn in the sport of softball as long as I'm the coach there. She just meant that much to our program and we would have not been here in the last two years without this young lady. We had a sit-down meeting and I will take responsibility for the attitude today and will take responsibility for the one yesterday. Whether it be a lackadaisical attitude, or if it was the fact that we were overconfident from the night before or still on an emotional high, because it is hard to come down from those heroics. I am very proud of them and I can go home tonight and feel very good about the way that we played softball today. We gave it everything that we had and nobody gave up until the very last out and I am very proud of that."

"I am so proud to be a part of what this program is about and has been about for as long as it has been in existence since 1993," said Head Coach Heather Tarr of the 2009 National Champion Washington Huskies. "When I started playing in 1994 it was our dream to win a

Assistant Coach Lance Glascoe, Danielle Lawrie and Alicia Blake



Kimi Pohlman



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national championship. It was my junior year - we lost it and we lost in the championship and I know exactly how that feels. The people who have played in this program, who have played for national championships, we all understand what this feeling is like. We knocked on the door. I knew when we recruited Danielle's (Lawrie) class that we were going to have the potential to do this, and for that to become a reality and to do it the right way, I can't even put it into words. We have an amazing group of young women who went through the toughest row anyone had to hoe to get here and ultimately I think that's what caused this to happen. We don't really want to have to go that row again but the last inning of the UMass game (in regional play) was what got us through this. I can't say enough about Danielle and her ability to carry a team on her back, literally, from September until now. Ashley Charters and the whole senior class is just phenomenal. We are so proud to be representatives of the Pac-10 Conference because one through eight of us is a battle every weekend and everyone makes everyone else better. We had some challenges with Stanford earlier and we came back

and beat them when we needed to beat them. We had tough challenges with UCLA. They no-hit us and we came back and found a way to beat them. Those challenges help you for this type of play and thank goodness we play in the Pac-10."

"At the end I faced one of their toughest hitters (Francesca Enea) and she hit a good pitch," said Lawrie, summing up the final inning of the championship game. "It wasn't one that was left over the plate. I think she was scraping to do whatever she needed to do to get her team back on the board. She hit a good pitch and I thought for a second it might have been out, but once it hit the fence and they had the runner on second I was just thinking no, no, no. We have worked too hard for this to happen right now. I like to keep it interesting, but no it wasn't going to happen."

And it didn't.

Congratulations to the Washington Huskies Softball Club, Head Coach Heather Tarr and her coaching staff and everyone involved with the team for not just a spectacularly incredible athletic win, but on winning with grit, grind, grace and class.