

March 2008

Spring Tournament Wrap-Up

Greensboro Spartan Classic (February 15th-17th) Greensboro, North Carolina

The Vikings started the season strong as they finished first in the UNC-Greensboro Spartan Classic. CSU opened up by run-ruling James Madison 8-0. Pitcher Amanda Macenko allowed 1 hit in the 5 innings. In game two, CSU pulled off a win against Niagara after rallying 2-1 in the sixth inning from a 1-0 deficit. Pitcher Kala Allred earned her first win in her CSU debut as Macenko recorded the save. In game three CSU beat UMBC 1-0. Macenko struck-out a season high 12 and allowed just three hits. In the fifth inning, Whitney Willard drove home Jessica Burt for the only run of the game. In the final contest of the weekend for Vikings, CSU routed Central Michigan, 5-1 and improved its record to 4-0. Whitney Willard had three hits and catcher Haley Keller had her first home run of the season.

“This was a good weekend for us, but we’re not looking at it like we are 4-0. We are looking at what we learned in the four games and how that will make us a better team. Our ultimate goal is to win games at the end of the season, not the beginning,” said Head Coach Angie Nicholson.

Eastern Kentucky Invitational (March 1st-3rd) Richmond, Kentucky

The leadoff duo Christa Coppus and Whitney Willard combined for six hits and seven RBIs as CSU improved to 5-0 routing Appalachian State 12-2. The Vikings jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second inning on RBI singles from Danielle Young and Willard and a two-run single from Coppus. In the bottom of the inning, Macenko gave up a two run home run but after that she only gave up four hits in six innings and improved her record to 4-0. Haley Keller had her second home run of the year. Freshman pitcher Brittany Bate relieved Macenko to make her first appearance as a Viking and pitched a scoreless seventh inning.

Rain and wet grounds plagued the tournament, forcing a change to a single round robin format. The following day did not prove to be a good one for the Vikings as they dropped two games of the doubleheader falling 8-3 to Dayton and 6-4 to Eastern Kentucky. The Vikings avoided being run-ruled by Dayton with a homerun hit by Danielle Young. In the sixth they added two on a two-run single by Amy Powell. Against Eastern Kentucky in the second game of the day, Christa Coppus hit her tenth home run of her career for two RBI. But in the bottom of the fifth, the Colonials took the lead as they scored on a wild pitch and a ground ball to short. The

Vikings finished the tournament 1-2 in third place and moved to 5-2 on the year.

Rebel Spring Games (March 12th-15th) Orlando, Florida

Unfortunately for the CSU softball team, Mother Nature had another plan as they were scheduled to fly to Orlando, Florida during the worst blizzard of the winter. Their flight for Saturday, March 8th was cancelled and the team was unable to fly out until Monday, forcing the team to cancel the first four games of the Rebel Spring Games. The team spent some quality time together stranded in the dorms in Cleveland for the first three days of spring break.

The Vikings dropped their first two games in Orlando, falling to Yale 2-1 and IPFW 7-5 in ten innings.



The 2008 Vikings in
Orlando, Florida

Spring Tournaments (continued from page 1)

Against Yale, Cleveland was held to four hits. In the second game, the Vikings missed scoring opportunities, leaving 11 on base. Cleveland State broke open with a 2-0 lead in the third inning, when Jessica Burt tripled, scoring Whitney Willard and Christa Coppus. IPFW tied it up in the fifth, scoring two runs. The two teams each exchanged the lead in the eighth and ninth innings, but IPFW pulled away with two runs in the tenth.

On Day Three, the Vikings split games coming back to beat Yale 1-0 and dropping one to Penn, 7-1. Cleveland State scored the game's only run in the bottom of the first, when Whitney Willard scored on a sacrifice by Lia Gordon. Brittany Bate earned her first collegiate victory in her first start, pitching six innings and giving up four hits. CSU avoided a shutout against Penn in the sixth inning, when Jessica Burt scored on a sacrifice by Christina Stoffer. Burt tripled earlier in the inning and went 2-3 in the game.

The offense that was missing the day prior exploded for 33 hits and 22 runs as the Vikings defeat Wagner 9-0 in six and Rider 13-5. In the first game against Wagner, Cleveland State scored nine runs on 13 hits. Haley Keller hit a three-run homer in her first at-bat at the Rebel Games, also scoring Whitney Willard and Jessica Burt. Cleveland State kept the offensive momentum going against Rider, scoring 13 runs on 20 hits. CSU opened the game with three runs in the first inning. Willard scored off the first of Coppus' three doubles. CSU struck again in the second, scoring four runs off five hits. The Vikings pounded in three additional runs in the fourth.

"It's finally nice to see our bats come out today, we came out aggressive and swung the bats hard," head coach Angie Nicholson said. "This is the offense I know. We needed this today, to see what we are capable of the first time we really let loose and show what I see in practice every day."

The Vikings won their third and fourth straight games to complete the Rebel Games as they topped both Army and Fairleigh Dickinson with the same score, 3-1. CSU jumped out in front against Army, scoring all three of their runs in the second inning.. Army's attempt at a comeback in the fifth inning fell short. Macenko went the distance for the Vikings, giving up three hits and striking out 11. In the second game of the day, Fairleigh Dickinson scored the first run in the game in the fourth inning. Cleveland State struck back in the sixth, scoring three runs. Kala Allred got the starting nod for the second game versus Fairleigh Dickinson. The freshman pitched seven innings, giving up four hits and striking out five. Allred is now on 2-1 the season. Cleveland State finished the Rebel games 5-3.

Viking Cup

We are working hard to repeat our Viking Cup victory again this year! The Viking Cup was created by Cleveland State's SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Council) and the winning team receives \$750 for its budget. Each gallon jug of pop can tabs we fill is worth five points towards the Viking Cup! Thanks to everyone that has helped in our efforts to collect pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The pop tab collection will take place the week of April 21st - 25th. If you have tabs or milk jugs to donate please contact Head Coach Angie Nicholson at a.m.nicholson@csuohio.edu.

2008 Hall of Fame Inductee Tenille Whiteside



Whiteside with CSU
Athletic Director Lee Reed

Tenille Schoonover (formerly Whiteside) was inducted into the CSU Athletics Hall of Fame this February. Originally from Marion, Ohio, she graduated from Cleveland State in 1998 with a BA in Marketing.

Whiteside left CSU as one of the top hitters in school history, teaming with fellow Hall-of-Famer Amy Kyler in 1997 to lead the Vikings to the NCAA Championship. She currently holds the school career record for batting average (.355) while ranking second in hits (209), at-bats (589), runs scored (109), RBI (94) and doubles (36) and was third in games played (196). Whiteside led the offensive charge as CSU qualified for the NCAA Tournament in 1997, hitting .417 with 58 hits to earn Midwestern collegiate Conference Player of the Year honors. A four-year letter-winner in volleyball as well, Whiteside led the Vikings in kills in each of her final three seasons, earning second team all-league honors as both a junior and a senior. She was also a first team GTE all Academic All-District selection in softball as a senior.

Regarding the Hall of Fame, Tenille says, "The shock hasn't completely worn off yet. I am completely honored to be considered for the Hall of Fame let alone actually inducted."

Tenille currently is the office manager for Whiteside Manufacturing, and also helps her father put on the "Queen of Diamonds" event every year, a showcase of high school softball players for college recruiters. She resides in Sunbury, Ohio, with her husband Matt and three children: Mia, Liam, and Alia, who was born this October.

Get to Know....Amanda "Bear" Houchin, Junior Infielder

My Favorite...

Quote: "Dreams don't come easy, they come true"

TV Show: NIP/TUCK

Movie: 300

Actor: Adam Sandler

Restaurant: Japanese Steakhouse

Music Group: Incubus

Athlete: Dot Richardson

Sports Team: Cleveland Indians

Cartoon Character: Dori from "Finding Nemo"

In My Own Words:

I am...21 years old.

I wish...to become an FBI agent and save lives.

I have...a nephew named Ryder.

I can...type around 70 words per minute.

I will...graduate college with a degree in Criminology.

I couldn't live without...my family.

All About Bear Houchin...

My proudest accomplishment is...

signing to play at a Division I college.

My most memorable moment as a Viking is...

beating Loyola in the 2007 Horizon League Tournament.

If I could tell my future teammates one thing, it would be...to enjoy the moments you have with each other because they won't last forever.

Before every game I...

put my eyeshadow on and listen to music really loud.

The one thing I wish I could change about myself is...

my endurance and speed.

If I am cooking dinner, we are having...Macaroni and Cheese.

My biggest superstition is...I have to wear #13 on my jersey.

My goal for the 2008 season is...

making our way to the NCAA Tournament

Three words that best describe me...

caring, outgoing, and athletic.

The people I look up to the most are...

my parents and my childhood role model.

The craziest thing I've ever done was...

I climbed an extinct volcano in Hawaii.

If I was going to be stranded on a desert island, the one thing I would bring would be...the guy from "Survivorman."

My favorite class at Cleveland State is...Sociology of Interpersonal Violence and Roots of Rock and Soul.



Player Honors

Horizon League Honors

February 19, 2008



Macenko

Amanda Macenko was named Pitcher of the Week for her performance in the season-opening Spartan Classic. She allowed just 1 unearned run in the 20 innings while going 3-0 with a save. The honor is the fifth of her career.

Whitney Willard

was named Player of the Week also for her season-opening performance. She went 5 for 10 with 3 runs scored, four RBIs and 3 stolen bases during the first

four games of the season. This the first time she has received this honor in her career.



Willard

March 18, 2008



Coppus

Christa Coppus was named Player of the Week after she helped the Vikings to a 5-3 mark at the Rebel Games in Orlando. The junior shortstop batted .400, drove in

8 runs and collected 10 hits, during the eight game stretch. The Tiffin, Ohio native highlighted the week by going 6-for-8 with six RBIs and three runs scored in the doubleheader against Wagner and Rider.

CSU Athlete of the Month

Amanda Macenko was chosen as the female student-athlete of the month for Cleveland State Athletics for her performance to in the UNC-Greensboro tournament. This is the second time during her career she has received this honor.

2008 Home Schedule

Saturday, March 29 vs. Wright State 1:00 p.m. (DH)

- Moved to Wright State due to inclement weather

Sunday, March 30 vs. Wright State 1:00 p.m.

- Moved to Wright State due to inclement weather

Tuesday, April 1 vs. Oakland 3:00 p.m. (DH)

Saturday, April 5 vs. Butler 1:00 p.m. (DH)

- Opportunity to purchase vintage CSU jerseys!

Sunday, April 6 vs. Butler 1:00 p.m.

- Opportunity to purchase vintage CSU jerseys!

Thursday, April 10 vs. Detroit 3:00 p.m. (DH)

Thursday, April 17 vs. St. Francis 3:00 p.m. (DH)

Tuesday, April 22 vs. IPFW 2:00 p.m. (DH)

Wednesday, April 23 vs. Toledo 3:00 p.m. (DH)

Wednesday, April 30 vs. Kent State 4:00 p.m. (DH)

Student Appreciation Day

- FREE Pizza Party for students before the game
- Student contest for gift certificate in between games

Saturday, May 3 vs. Valparaiso 1:00 p.m. (DH)

- Pizza Party for CSU Kids Club members
- Opportunity to purchase vintage CSU jerseys!

Sunday, May 4 vs. Valparaiso 12:00 p.m.

Senior Day

- High School Clinic Reunion
- Opportunity to purchase vintage CSU jerseys!

- Kids 12 and under: call Katie @ (216) 687-5454 to sign-up to be a bat girl / boy!
- Every weekend game, play Bingo to win CSU prizes
- Every weekday game, each CSU student or faculty / staff member receives a FREE cookie
- Every Sunday game, kids 12 & under have the opportunity to run the bases after the game

Home games are played at Viking Field on Chester Avenue. All game dates, times, and promotions subject to change. For more information, visit www.CSUVikings.com or call (216) 687-5454.



Amanda Kern



Amanda Macenko