



In this her silver anniversary season, Dr. Joanne Graf, FSU softball's one and only head coach, continued to add new chapters to her brilliant career. After twenty-five years in Tallahassee, the one constant has been success. This season, Graf added another notch on her belt of successes, surpassing the 1,200 wins mark after a 2-0 victory over UCF. With five more wins, Graf will become just the second coach in NCAA Division I Softball to record 1,000 fastpitch wins. No other coach in DI softball has accomplished that feat at only one school. After leading the Seminoles to their ninth conference title, first-ever 8-0 conference record in ACC history and a Division I-best 27 game win streak in 2003, Graf was honored as the ACC's Coach of the Year for the fifth time since joining the league 1992.

After setting the NFCA's all-time wins record last season with 1,125, Graf was elected to the organization's Hall of Fame the past fall. She is coming off one of her most successful seasons at the helm of the FSU softball program as her Seminoles finished in the semi-finals of the Women's College World Series, ranked 4th in the nation and recorded an opening round upset over No. 1 UCLA. It was the sixth time that she has led the Tribe to college softball's premiere stage and every year she has her program amongst the best in the nation.

Graf has built the Florida State softball program into one of the nation's elite. She has had a winning season every year of her career, only three schools in NCAA history have gone to more World Series than Graf's Seminoles and only five universities have been able to surpass Graf's mark of 16 NCAA Regional appearances. Her Seminoles are in the top 10 for all-time NCAA Regional wins and consecutive NCAA Regional appearances. Florida State is also in the top four for consecutive trips to the Women's College World Series.

When you average 50 wins a season in 20 years of fastpitch softball as Graf has, you find your name amongst the greatest to ever coach the game, as is the case for coach Graf. She is second in the NCAA amongst active coaches for both wins and winning percentage. She is also in the top five for wins and winning percentage all-time amongst Division I coaches. In the history of NCAA softball, all divisions included, Graf is third all-time in victories and in the top 10 for all-time winning percentage. On top of all of those records, Graf has coached 20 All-Americans including her third first team All-American last season.

As dominant as Graf has been on the national stage, her success in the ACC is even more impressive. In 12 years of Atlantic Coast Conference play, Graf has guided her team to nine conference titles while no other ACC school has won more than one. Her Seminoles are the only ACC school to go to the College World Series and she has led FSU to more than five times as many NCAA Regionals as the whole conference combined (16 compared to three). Florida State has amassed 28 more ACC wins than any other conference school and since joining the ACC the Seminoles have more All-American selections than the rest of the conference combined. The Tribe's conference dominance under Graf was never illustrated more clearly as when 23 Seminoles were named to the ACC's 50th Anniversary softball team. Florida State players comprised 43% of the 53-player roster.

Every year Graf seems to surpass another major milestone. From winning her first slow pitch National Championship in 1981 to becoming the all-time winningest coach in NFCA history last year, Graf's career has been nothing but remarkable. On May 6, 1999 in a 2-1 victory over South Florida, Graf became the first coach in Division I softball to earn 1,000 wins, including slow and fast pitch competition and in 2001 she picked up her 1,100 win by downing rival Florida. Including slow pitch victories, Graf now has 1,214 wins in her career and probably most amazing of all is that every victory has come as the Seminoles head coach.

Graf has been named ACC Coach of the Year five times, including this season, after leading the Seminoles to consecutive conference titles in 1992 and 1993 and co-championship status in 1997. In 2001, the Seminoles won their fourth ACC title. In 2001 and 2002, Graf and her entire staff were named the Southeast Coaching Staff of the Year. In 1995, she was selected the ACC/Metro Conference Coach of the Year after guiding Florida State to a 9-1 league record and an automatic bid to NCAA regional play. She has led FSU to 14 seasons of 50 wins or more, including two seasons when the Seminoles recorded more than 60 victories.

Graf, who was voted the South Region Coach of the Year in 1986, has seen 71 of her players selected to All-Region teams, including nine players in the last two seasons. Her coaching has produced 16 All-Americans since 1990, including four first team selections in left fielder Danielle Cox (1999), center fielder Shama Wilson (1996), second baseman Lisa Davidson (1993) and second baseman Brandi Stuart (2002).

A 1975 graduate of Florida State, Graf returned to her alma mater after two years at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro where she earned her master's degree in physical education. Graf also worked in the athletic department at UNC-Greensboro as head coach for the university's men's and women's swim teams while also serving as assistant softball coach.

Graf, who serves as director of the FSU softball camp each summer, is a former president of the Florida Collegiate Athletic Association. She has also served as a member of the NCAA Softball Committee and chaired the NCAA Softball Advisory Committee for the South Region.

In 1992, Graf added "Dr." to her name after completing her doctorate degree in athletic administration at FSU.



2003

- § Appeared in 10 games and made three starts.
- § Has a hit, two runs and an RBI this year.
- § First appearance of her FSU career came in the season opener versus Georgia Southern.
- § Made her first career start versus Syracuse going 1 for 4.

IN THE ACC TOURNAMENT

- § Did not play during the 2003 ACC Tournament.

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

Knocked in the first RBI of her career in just her second at bat ever. The freshman was hit by a pitch against Mercer with the bases loaded driving in her sole RBI...also came around to score a run against the Bears after she was hit...first career hit came against Syracuse in her first start ever as she singled to left field...recorded a season-high seven putouts in her start versus Penn State.



H I G H S	S T A T S															
	RBI: 1	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG	BB	K	SB-SB	AFLD%	
	Runs: 1 HR: 0 Hits: 1 Streak: 1 Current: 0	2003	.077	10-3	13	2	1	0	0	0	1	.077	1	3	0-0	1.000
	Total	.077	10-3	13	2	1	0	0	0	1	.077	1	3	0-0	1.000	



SHOE FILLERS

One of the main reasons FSU is headed towards landing its 16th NCAA Regional bid is the way two key players have filled the shoes of two of Florida State's most important seniors from 2002. **Elisa Vasquez** and **Casey Hunter** have stepped in for Kimmy Carter and Leslie Malerich at two positions that were the biggest question marks coming into 2003. Hunter has just been incredible this year. While the sophomore hasn't been asked to carry as much of the load as the senior All-American she also has been everything the coaches could have asked for. **Hunter's ERA is less than half of what Malerich's was (0.62 to 1.38) and her winning percentage is over 120 percentage points higher (.844 to .724).** Hunter is only 23Ks away from Malerich's 75 game total and she has walked 50 fewer batters. Hunter is also holding hitters to a batting average 59 percentage points lower. Malerich was a warrior for FSU with over 300 innings pitched in two of her four seasons but Hunter has stepped up in a key role and that is one of the reasons FSU finished the regular season 46-9 and is on a 27 game winning streak.

A CASE CAN BE MADE

Pitcher **Casey Hunter** continues to impress in her first year as a starter for FSU. The Illinois native is getting better appearance-by-appearance. The best example of that is looking at what she did in starts versus Florida A&M, then-No. 25 Pacific and then-No. 18 UMass. **She no hit the Lady Rattlers, two-hit Pacific and then allowed just one hit versus UMass.** In those three games she struck out 34 batters including 15 against the Tigers. **Hunter reached double digit strikeouts in two of those three starts, at one point she had allowed just one run in 18 innings and for that week she allowed just three hits in more than 22 innings including three games versus Top 25 teams.** She posted a near perfect ERA of 0.62 and also held opposing batters to a rock bottom batting average of .045. She held opposing batters to just one hit in 14 opportunities with runners on base and right-handed batters batted just .043 of the Seminole hurler.

PERFECT IN 14

Sophomore hurler **Casey Hunter** is continuing to prove that she is ready, willing and capable of being the dominant pitcher FSU is looking for to help replace all-time great Leslie Malerich. **In 14.0 innings at the Sunshine State Tournament, Hunter went 2-0, struck out 17 batters and walked just four hits while not allowing a single earned run all tournament.** She pitched two complete games and held opposing batters to an average of just .160.

HUNTING FOR THE 2ND RUN

Florida State sophomore **Casey Hunter** had one of the greatest performances by any Seminole in the ACC this season. **With a record of 5-0 her performance stands as one of the all-time bests in team history and she joins Kristy Fuentes as the only other FSU pitcher to go 5-0 during the ACC regular season.** Although Fuentes appeared in two more games than Hunter back in 1997, both have pretty comparable numbers. Hunter pitched in 28.2 innings allowing one earned run on 17 hits. She struck out 24 batters, while walking only six (4:1 K/BB ratio) en route to holding batters to a .179 batting average. Fuentes, a 3rd team All-American in 1997, pitched in 40.2 innings allowing four earned runs on 24 hits. She struck out 36 batters, while walking nine (4:1 K/BB ratio) holding batters to a .169 batting average.

IN CASEY YOU MISSED IT

When **Casey Hunter** allowed just three hits in two games at the Buzz Classic Tournament, nobody should have been the least bit surprised. **The sophomore has allowed three or less hits in 18 of her 29 starts this year.** Hunter's season has been a dream and a surprise to many outside of Tallahassee considering she made just two starts as a freshman. Although nobody expected or asked her to fill the role of FSU's all-time wins leader Leslie Malerich, she is posting better numbers than Malerich did through 55 games during her senior year. Hunter has three more wins and five fewer losses than Malerich.

DYNAMIC DUO

The tandem of **Casey Hunter** and **Jessica van der Linden** has compiled the **lowest regular season conference ERA of any pair of Seminole pitchers in Florida State history.** The pair finished the regular season with a 0.37 ERA allowing only three earned runs over 57 innings of work. They combined to strike out 63 batters, while walking only 13. They each allowed two extra base hits and held opposing conference batters to a .164 batting average. The only other duo to come close to these numbers was the 1997 pair of Kristy Fuentes and Stacy Venable. Both Fuentes and Venable went a combined 7-1 with a respectable 0.52 ERA. They held opponents to a .158 batting average in the conference. Together they accumulated 48 strikeouts and allowed 18 base-on-balls.





2003 ALL-ACC -- 2003 ALL-ACC TOURNAMENT TEAM --ACC PLAYER OF THE WEEK (4/28)
 NOMINEE FOR NFCA ALL-REGION HONORS

2003

- Leads FSU in RBIs and triples, second on the team in batting average and third in slugging percentage.
- Is on pace to break the single-season RBI record at Florida State and has already surpassed her career RBI total this season.
- Is averaging .82 RBI per game.
- Top three in seven different offensive categories and top five in 12 offensive categories.
- She is throwing out 42% of would-be base stealers and is fielding .992.
- Has gunned down 10 of 24 would be base stealers.
- Third on the team in chances and putouts.
- Has hit the first four home runs of her career this season.
- Enters the NCAA Tournament hitting and slugging more than 200 points higher than her career average FROM 2001 AND 2002.
- Has the team's second longest hitting streak this season at 12 games.
- Is leading the team in 2003 with 14 multi-RBI games.
- Is third on the team with 13 multi-hit games this year.
- Is first on the team with 10 game-winning RBIs.

IN THE 2003 ACC TOURNAMENT

- Florida State's fifth leading hitter in the ACC Tournament with a .333 batting average. Had three hits (tied for third on the team) in nine at bats (tied for second on the team).
- Tied for the team lead in RBI with five including a team-tournament high three in Florida State's tournament opening victory over Virginia.
- Hit her first career ACC Tournament home run and fourth of the season against Virginia in Florida State's 10-1 victory in its first game of the tournament. Home run with two outs scored Jessica van der Linden and Tatiana George to make the score 7-0 after two innings of play.
- One of only two Seminoles (along with Lesley Palmer) to have at least one RBI in all three games during the ACC Tournament.
- Scored what proved to be the game-winning run in the Seminoles' victory over Georgia Tech. Scored Florida State's first run of the game (put the Seminoles ahead for good) in the second inning on their way to the 5-3 victory.
- Had five putouts (on Casey Hunter strikeouts) and two assists from her catcher's position. Threw out the only runner who attempted to steal a base against her. Gunned down Heather Field of Virginia in the tournament opener for the Seminoles when she tried to steal in the third inning with the Cavaliers trailing, 7-0. Was the third out of the inning and ended any Virginia threat.

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

Drove in two runs in FSU's first game of the season versus Ga. Southern, drawing one walk and making 12 putouts from the catcher position...started as the designated player in game two against the Eagles driving in a run and walking twice...had her first multi-hit game against Auburn going 2-for-3, scoring a run and recording a base-on-ball...had a great game versus a very good Georgia team. The California native went 2 for 4 with a double, a triple and two runs scored against the 8th-ranked team in the nation. Her fourth inning triple tied the game as she came home on the play due to a UGA error. Her sixth inning double set the stage for the Tribe's two-run comeback...went 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs against MTSU...scored another run, the game-winner, and drew two walks in FSU's next game and then beat up Middle Tennessee again with a 1 for 3 day that included another double, another RBI and another run scored...finished the tournament by going 1 for 3 versus Iowa State with two more runs scored and another walk...upped her team-leading double total to nine with her two-run single against then-No. 18 Pacific...against Mercer she went 2 for 3 with three runs scored and a triple...against Syracuse, Vasquez scored a run, drew a walk and doubled her career total for stolen bases in one game with two. She also registered 11 putouts...in the Seminoles' doubleheader versus Troy State, Vasquez drove in six RBIs in the two games. For the doubleheader she went 3 for 6 with a double and two runs scored...had the best week at the plate of any Seminole hitter against the toughest competition at the KIA Classic...started with a 1 for 3 performance against Long Beach while scoring a run and throwing out a runner...had one of FSU's three hits against No. 1 Arizona...completed the week with a perfect 2 for 2 day and a walk against Louisiana-Lafayette...given a rare game off against Boston U. With the Tribe trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the 8th, she was called on to pinch hit with 2 outs and a runner on first. Vasquez launched her first career HR to win the game for FSU and keep the Tribe alive for the championship...had a huge game against the Lady Rattlers as she went 3 for 4 with three runs scored and two RBIs in FSU's 9-2 win. She also stole a base...had a huge doubleheader versus Elon. In game one, Vasquez went 1 for 3, scored a run and had an RBI. Went 3 for 4 with two doubles and two RBIs in game two. It was the first multi-double game of her career...drove in both runs in the second game of the UCF twin bill as FSU won 2-0 on her two-run triple...knocked in three more runs and also gunned down two would be base stealers in the opener versus Furman...went 3 for 4 with a run scored versus Florida A&M...had a 2 for 3 day with a run scored and drove in the game-winner in a blow out of Jacksonville...the junior knocked in three game-winning RBIs and 10 RBIs overall as she led FSU offensively to sweeps over No. 22/25 Florida and ACC rival Virginia. The catcher/designated player hit .538, slugged 1.231 and was on base 57% of the time. She knocked in 10 RBIs, scored five times, recorded a double, a triple and two home runs on top of not striking out once all week. She hit .500 with runners in scoring position, .600 with two outs, three of her 10 RBIs came with two outs and she posted four straight games with an RBI including three consecutive multi-RBI games. Also extended her season-long hitting streak to seven games...drove in her 10th game-winning RBI of the season in FSU's 6-0 season finale win over Georgia Tech.

H I G H S	RBI: 4 Runs: 3 HR: 1 Hits: 3 Streak: 12 Current: 12	S T A T S	YR	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG	BB	K	SB-SBA	FLD%
			2001	.254	32-25	59	5	15	2	0	0	0	8	.288	3	9	0-0
			2002	.225	62-54	151	12	34	2	1	0	15	.252	10	24	1-1	.976
			2003	.351	53-50	148	31	52	7	4	4	46	.534	12	17	7-7	.992
			TOTAL	.280	147-129	358	48	101	11	5	4	69	.374	25	50	8-8	.983



EASY-E

Junior **Elisa Vasquez** who is in the midst of her best season ever had her best week as a Seminole in four of FSU's biggest games of the season, which earned her ACC Player of the Week honors. **The junior knocked in three game-winning RBIs and 10 RBIs overall as she led FSU offensively to sweeps over No. 22/25 Florida and ACC rival Virginia. The catcher/designated player hit .538, slugged 1.231 and was on base 57% of the time.** She knocked in 10 RBIs, scored five times, recorded a double, a triple and two home runs on top of not striking out once all week. She hit .500 with runners in scoring position, .600 with two outs, three of her 10 RBIs came with two outs and she posted four straight games with an RBI including three consecutive multi-RBI games. She started things off with a huge outing against reigning NFCA and ASA Player of the Week Jenny Gladding. In the first inning with two down, Gladding and the Gators didn't want ASA National Player of the Year finalist Jessica van der Linden to beat them so they pitched her carefully and ended up walking the junior. That brought up Vasquez who made UF pay with a double plating the first run of the game and the only run FSU would need in the 5-0 win. It was déjà vu all over again in the third as the Gators issued another walk to van der Linden with the bases empty and one out in the frame. **This time Vasquez took a 3-2 Gladding offering over the fence in right for FSU's second and third runs.** In game two, Vasquez picked up right where she left off as FSU downed Florida 7-3. Vasquez singled in another RBI in the first and drove home another run in the third upping her RBI total to five against the Gators. In a key ACC showdown with Virginia, the Tribe and Cavaliers were tied 0-0 in the fourth before Vasquez's two-run triple plated the winning runs in a 5-0 shutout. **The junior wasn't done though as she followed a van der Linden walk in the sixth with her second homer of the week to right field to extend FSU to a 5-0 lead.** In the finale versus UVa, Vasquez recorded her third straight game-winning hit as she singled home FSU's second run in the first inning. The junior added another single later in the 12-1 win as she finished with her third multi-hit day of the week.

SHOE FILLERS

One of the main reasons FSU is headed towards landing its 16th NCAA Regional bid is the way two key players have filled the shoes of two of Florida State's most important seniors from 2002. **Elisa Vasquez** and **Casey Hunter** have stepped in for Kimmy Carter and Leslie Malerich at two positions that were the biggest question marks coming into 2003. With the loss of Carter, somebody had to step up and replace her RBI production especially after setting the single season record with 53 last year. Vasquez has done that. While the junior isn't in the 50's yet, she leads the team with 46 runs driven-in. The key stat though is RBIs per game. **Last year Carter drove in .72 RBIs per game. Vasquez is doing even better with .87 RBIs per contest.** At that rate she would need 7 more games to pass Carter, which probably won't happen but she has done everything the coaches could have ever asked when it comes to bringing runners home.

STEPPING UP BEHIND THE PLATE

Junior **Elisa Vasquez** has waited patiently for her opportunity to step into FSU's starting line-up as she sat behind all-region catcher Kimmy Carter and this year she is getting that chance. While Vasquez was expected to be solid defensively and help with a young pitching staff, nobody is expecting her to replace Carter's career 136 RBIs and 53 from last seasons (both are FSU records) although she is ahead of Carter's pace through 53 games. **Vasquez is leading the team this season with 46 RBIs, she is hitting .351 (118 points above her career average), she's slugging .534 and has thrown out over 42% of would be base stealers.**

PERFECT TIME FOR THE FIRST ONE

Florida State's 2-1, nine inning win over 2002 NCAA Tournament team Boston University was the type of game that can propel a team to great things. After stranding 10 runners through the first eight innings, the Seminoles came to bat in the bottom of the inning facing a 1-0 deficit. Due to international tiebreaker rules, a runner was placed at second to start the inning but a strikeout and a fielder's choice left FSU with two outs and a runner on first when **Elisa Vasquez** was called on to pinch hit. The junior, who was second on the team with 16 RBIs, was sitting out a rare game when she was called upon to keep FSU's hopes alive. **The catcher from Hesperia, CA did more than that as she launched the second pitch she saw over the fence in left field giving Florida State the 2-1 win. The home run was the first of Vasquez's career** and the second walk-off hit of her career. The other came in the bottom of the seventh versus Auburn in 2002.

WITH THE GREATEST OF E'S

Another player who stood out for FSU at the KIA Klassic was Hesperia, CA native **Elisa Vasquez**. The junior catcher was one of a few Seminoles that had a big weekend at the plate and defensively. **She led the team with a .500 batting average going 4 for 8 on top of scoring a run. She also posted a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage behind the plate and threw out her fifth would-be base stealer of the season.** The junior is leading the team with 35 RBIs in 2003 as she has already set a new personal season high in that category.

THE E-LIMINATOR

Catcher **Elisa Vasquez** is in the midst of a breakout season. The Hesperia, CA native has been red hot at the plate and is producing RBIs at a record setting pace. **In her last 21 games, she has driven in 28 of 46 RBIs and raised her batting average from .305 to .351.** She has recorded an RBI in 10 of her last 11 games and has a total of 18 in those 11 contests. For a player that has hit above .300 just once in her career entering 2003, **she has kept her average above .300 for the last 28 games and is now second on the team in average.** In her first two seasons at FSU, Vasquez was a .233 lifetime hitter with 23 RBIs, four doubles, one triple, 17 runs and a slugging percentage of .262. **This season she is hitting .351 (118 points higher), has 23 more RBIs (46), three more doubles (7), three more triples (4), has hit the first four homers of her career, 14 more runs scored (31) and is slugging 272 points higher (.534).**

EEEE-Z

As good of a night as Brandi Stuart had versus Troy State there was one category in which she didn't lead the team. Despite Stuart's two doubles, two home runs and six hits, it was junior catcher **Elisa Vasquez** and her six RBIs in the **Troy State doubleheader** that led the team. The Hesperia, CA native is having a career year as far as RBIs go with 35. **She already has established a new career high and equaled the number of RBIs she had in her freshman and sophomore seasons combined.** In the Troy State doubleheader alone, Vasquez had nearly as many RBIs as she had her entire freshman year when she knocked in eight RBIs in 59 at bats. Vasquez's penchant for RBIs this year has been critical with the loss of two of FSU's top three RBI producers from the 2002 season.



2003 BUZZ CLASSIC TOURNAMENT MVP

2003

- Started 53 of 52 games at first base in 2003.
- Currently fifth on the squad with 21 RBIs.
- One of FSU's most reliable players when it comes to moving runners as she is second on the team in sac bunts and sac flies.
- She leads Florida State defensively in chances, putouts and double plays.
- Has committed just six errors in 327 chances at first.
- Has dramatically turned her season around since the middle of February. Since that time she has raised her average 142 percentage points from .095 to .237.
- Tied for fourth on the team with 12 two-out RBIs and has seven multi-hit games.
- Also has six multi-RBI games this year.
- Named the MVP of the 2003 Buzz Classic Tournament.
- Hit her first home run in the 2003 ACC Tournament against Virginia.

IN THE 2003 ACC TOURNAMENT

- Florida State's starting first baseman that led the team with 15 putouts. Charged with only one error in 17 total chances while playing all 17 innings during all three games.
- Had five putouts in all three games at first base.
- Hit her first career ACC Tournament home run (and the first of the season) in Florida State's victory over Virginia in its first game of the tournament.
- Homered to center field in the bottom of the fourth (scoring Elisa Vasquez ahead of her) to give the Seminoles a 10-0 lead in an eventual 10-1 victory. Her home run came with one out in the inning.
- Scored two runs during the ACC Tournament. One came on her home run against Virginia in Florida State's first game and her second game on Lesley Palmer's second inning home run in the championship game. Wade's run, coupled with Palmer's run, tied the game at 2-2 after two complete innings.
- Led the team with three bases on balls. Two of her three walks proved dangerous. Personally scored after a walk on Lesley Palmer's home run in the second inning of the championship game and a pinch runner (Carey Gallup) scored on her second walk of the same game in the bottom of the fourth to give the Seminoles a 4-0 advantage.

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

Recorded her first RBI of the season versus Auburn...knocked in her second RBI of the year with a sac fly in the Sunshine State Tournament finale versus Iowa State...went 2 for 3 with a run, an RBI and a walk against nationally ranked Pacific...went 1 for 1 with her first double of the season against Mercer and she also drew two walks...was second on the team in average and hits against the best competition FSU has seen all season at the KIA Klassic...one of just two Seminoles to record a hit in all three of FSU's KIA Klassic games...went 1 for 2 with a run scored in tournament opening win over Long Beach...had one of just three hits for FSU against No. 1 Arizona and Player of the Year finalist Alicia Hallowell...finished the tourney with a 1 for 2 day against No. 21 Louisiana-Lafayette...had arguably the best weekend of her career in her home state at the Buzz Classic...led the Tribe in average, hits (6), triples (1), RBIs, slugging percentage (.667), on base percentage (.538), sacrifice hits (2), putouts (32) and fielding percentage (1.000). She was also second on the team with two runs scored and eight total bases and was the only Seminole not to strike out during the entire tournament. The redshirt junior had a phenomenal weekend in every offensive setting as she hit .600 versus right-handers, .500 with runners in scoring position, .500 with two outs, .500 with runners on, .500 with the bases empty, .500 as a leadoff hitter and she successfully advanced base runners almost 63% of the time...had a huge outing in game two versus Maryland as she went 2 for 4 with a double, an RBI and a sacrifice fly. Her sac fly tied the game at 2-2 and allowed the Tribe to pull out a 3-2 win in 10 innings...registered back-to-back base knocks in FSU's crucial sweep over North Carolina. Went 1 for 2 with a walk to open the series and then recorded another hit in game two as she went 1 for 4 in the series finale...versus Furman she recorded a hit in each game including a double...against FAMU, Wade went 3 for 4 with a run scored and 4 RBIs. Most impressively, the RBIs didn't come on one big hit, she came through in the clutch on three occasions with runners on base...went 3 for 4 with two RBIs as FSU swept the Gators in Gainesville.

H I G H S	RBI: 4 Runs: 2 HR: 1 Hits: 3 Streak: 6 Current: 0	S T A T S	YR	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG	BB	K	SB-SBA	FLD%
			2001	.312	15-7	16	3	5	1	0	0	0	2	.375	3	4	0-0
			2002	.205	61-57	156	10	32	3	0	3	16	.282	15	50	0-1	.976
			2003	.237	53-52	131	10	31	4	1	1	21	.305	14	29	0-0	.982
			TOTAL	.224	129-116	303	23	68	8	1	4	39	.297	32	83	0-1	.978



WE'VE BEEN WADE-ING FOR THIS

First baseman **Beth Wade** had a career night against Florida A&M by tying her career-high with four RBIs in a game. She previously set the record due to a grand slam home run but what she did against the Lady Rattlers was more impressive. **On three separate occasions with runners in scoring position, Wade came through with a hit.** Her 3 for 4 night with the four RBIs and a run scored is just typifying how much the redshirt junior has turned around her season. The Colquitt, GA native's average bottomed out February 15 when she was hitting just .095 but that wasn't really the turning point. After starting 52 straight games dating back to 2002, Wade didn't start three of FSU's next seven games. And when she did return to the line-up it came at the KIA Klassic versus FSU's toughest competition of the year. That didn't faze Wade at all as she hit .429 and was second on the team in batting average on that trip.

WADE-ING TO EXHALE

Beth Wade put on a show for her hometown crowd in Marietta, GA as she led FSU in nine different offensive categories as she captured the 2003 Buzz Classic Most Valuable Player award. The first baseman, who was named to the Buzz Classic All-Tournament team, hit .500, had a triple and more than doubled her season total for RBIs with five in four games. She led the Tribe in average, hits (6), triples (1), RBIs, slugging percentage (.667), on base percentage (.538), sacrifice hits (2), putouts (32) and fielding percentage (1.000). She was also second on the team with two runs scored and eight total bases and was the only Seminole not to strike out during the entire tournament. The redshirt junior had a phenomenal weekend in every offensive setting as she hit .600 versus right-handers, .500 with runners in scoring position, .500 with two outs, .500 with runners on, .500 with the bases empty, .500 as a leadoff hitter and she successfully advanced base runners almost 63% of the time.

In the tournament opener versus 2002 NCAA Tournament team Princeton, Wade knocked in three of FSU's five runs with a bases loaded triple to right center that turned a 2-1 game into a 5-1 blow out. She also singled in her first at bat to go 2 for 3 in the game. She followed up the game versus the Tigers with another 2 for 3 performance against another 2002 NCAA Tournament team. In her first three at bats against Boston University, Wade had two singles and a sacrifice for FSU in a 2-1 win. She had another huge game against Middle Tennessee as the Tribe looked to win its third game in one day. In the Seminoles' final outing she went 2 for 4 with two more RBIs and two runs scored. She scored the game-winning run in the second when she led the inning off with a single and eventually came around to score her first run of the game. In her next at bat, FSU had runners on second and third with two outs. Wade came through again as she drove in her fourth and fifth RBIs of the day on a single to right. The five RBIs eclipsed the four she had amassed in the previous 28 games entering the weekend. Although she went 0 for 2 in FSU's tournament clinching win over Georgia State, Wade was a big factor in the win. Besides drawing a walk, it was her sacrifice bunt in the eighth that moved the game-winning run into scoring position and allowed the Tribe to complete a 4-0 week.

LOST & FOUND

While many Seminoles seemed to have lost their bats out at the KIA Klassic, one player found her swing. **Beth Wade** had been struggling at the plate for most of the season but out in California she really turned a corner and was one of just two players to record a hit in all three games. Wade proved it was no fluke by continuing to put up impressive numbers at the Buzz Classic in her home state of Georgia. **The redshirt junior has seen her batting average increase by 142 percentage points over the last 37 games since hitting a season-low .095. After beginning 2003 with just two hits in the first 12 games, Wade has recorded 29 hits since then.**





**FOUR TIME ALL-ACC SELECTION -- TWO TIME ACC PLAYER OF THE WEEK IN 2003
TEAM USA NATIONAL CAMP INVITEE -- USA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE**

2003

- The All-Everything senior is capping her career off by breaking every major record at FSU.
- With her 55 starts in 2003, Stuart has set the record for games played, games started and consecutive starts this season.
- Has taken over first place all-time at FSU for home runs, RBIs and walks.
- Is in the running to finish in the top three all-time for career batting average at FSU and is currently second all-time in steals.
- The only player in FSU history to be named All-ACC four years in a row.
- She is the first Seminole ever to register 30 or more steals in four consecutive seasons.
- Currently ranks seventh in the nation in steals.
- Started the season with the longest hitting streak in a decade at 14 games.
- Is first in five different offensive categories and second in six others.
- Leads FSU this year in home runs, slugging percentage, runs scored, total bases and steals.
- Has never hit lower than .339 in a season at FSU.
- Is in the top three in 13 different offensive categories.
- Third on the team with 13 two-out RBIs and second on the squad with six game winning RBIs.
- Her 11 multi-RBI games are the second most on the squad and she has 10 multi-hit games this seasons.

IN THE 2003 ACC TOURNAMENT

- Two hits, two runs scored and one RBI in three games started as FSU's second baseman. Also a perfect one-for-one in stolen bases.
- Second on the team in walks with two with both coming in the ACC Tournament opening game against Virginia
- At least one hit in tow of the three games (first game vs. Virginia and against Georgia Tech) and reached base in all three games.
- Three plate appearances and three times on base with one hit and two walks in tournament opening victory against Virginia.
- Scored Florida State's first run of the tournament as part of the Seminoles' awakening for seven runs in the second inning of their first game against Virginia. Singled to lead off the second inning, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Beth Wade, stole third and scored on an error by the Virginia catcher to score what proved to be the game-winning run.
- Was one-for-two in the second inning against the Cavaliers as she led the inning off with a single (and scored and run) and ended it with a groundout after Florida State had taken a seven run lead.
- Scored her second run of the game as she came home on Beth Wade's two-run home run (after a walk) to put Florida State up 10-0.
- Singled for her only hit in Florida State's 5-3 victory over Georgia Tech. Her infield hit came in the sixth inning and she advanced as far as second base for being stranded there.
- One RBI in FSU's victory over UVa in the championship game. Her RBI came on a fielder's choice in the fourth inning and scored Natasha Jacob with FSU's fourth run of the inning. Her RBI gave the Seminoles a 7-2 lead on their way to its 10-2 championship game victory
- A defensive gem against Virginia in the championship game came on a pick-off throw at first base to catch Virginia's Heather Owings napping off first base. After Owings had reached base on a Stuart error, the crafty senior came in behind Owings, blocked first and received the throw from catcher Elisa Vasquez to tag out Owings. The play was important because Virginia already had a 2-0 lead and had their leadoff batter on in the inning with zero outs.

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

Against GSU Stuart hit .333 recording a RBI, two walks and scoring three runs. She was a perfect 4-for-4 in the stolen base department and accumulated a perfect fielding percentage four chances...led the team in runs, hits, doubles, home runs and slugging at the Seminole Classic...opened the tournament 2 for 4 with a double and an RBI versus Oregon...had another big game versus FAMU as she went 1 for 2 with two walks, a steal and a run scored...versus No. 8 Georgia, Stuart had a complete game versus FSU's first ranked foe. She went 1 for 3, hit a home run, scored a run and drew two walks...hit .455, scored three runs, hit two doubles, knocked in two RBIs, slugged .636, drew three walks and didn't strike out once at the Sunshine State Tournament...against Middle Tennessee, Stuart went 1 for 1 with two runs scored, two RBIs and a walk...had another huge game against the Lady Blue Raiders going 2 for 4 with two doubles and a run scored...versus Mercer and in the Seminole Challenge, she led FSU in runs (4), doubles (1), home runs (1), total bases (8), slugging percentage (1.000), walks (6), steals (4) and fielding percentage (1.000). She also finished second with four hits and four RBIs. Stuart posted a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in 13 opportunities and she didn't strikeout once all weekend...versus Pitt as she went 2 for 3 with two runs scored, two RBIs and a walk...in a doubleheader versus Troy State Stuart went 6 for 7 with five runs scored, two doubles, two home runs, four RBIs, 14 total bases and three steals. She slugged 2.000 and hit .857 in the twin bill. Her performance was one of the single best in a DH in FSU history...had another two RBIs in the Seminole Invitational opener before teams started to pitch around the All-American...at the Buzz Classic, she had another double, another HR and four more RBIs...started the tournament off by homering for the second year in a row versus Princeton as she went 2 for 3 with two RBIs and two runs scored...finished the tournament strong going 3 for 8 with two runs, two RBIs and a double against Middle Tennessee and Georgia State...in FSU's conference opener against Maryland, Stuart went 1 for 3 with a run scored and an RBI. The RBI knocked in the game-winning run and set the all-time RBI record at FSU. She also stole a base...went 2 for 3 with a run scored and an RBI in the opener versus Elon...in the nightcap versus UNC, she blasted a shot over the fence in left field and into the North Carolina night putting a bow on FSU's sweep...after going 0 for 3 in game one versus UCF, Stuart came up in the bottom of the ninth and her walk-off triple was the game-winning hit...in game two, she went 2 for 3 with a double...tied the all-time career home run record and became the first Seminole to ever steal 30 or more bases in a season for four straight years. Got a hit in every game and drove in two RBIs in the FAMU and first JU game...had another productive week and came up with one of the biggest hits of the year at No. 25 Florida. Hit a homer and a double for the second week in a row...after a 1 for 3 opener versus the Gators, Stuart recorded the biggest hit of the series in game two. With the game tied 3-3 and FSU desperately looking for a sweep, Stuart blasted a fourth inning lead off homer that sealed the deal. FSU went on to win 7-3...recorded a huge, two-run double in game two versus UVa...scored a run, collected two more hits and two more RBIs and also had a double in FSU's sweep over Georgia Tech.

H I G H S	RBI: 2	S T A T S	YR	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG	BB	K	SB-SBA	FLD%
	Runs: 3		2000	.339	78-78	233	39	79	6	6	2	36	.442	17	34	42-47	.952
	HR: 1		2001	.361	70-70	202	49	73	12	2	5	36	.515	28	21	30-34	.946
	Hits: 2		2002	.391	75-75	207	63	81	9	7	10	45	.647	49	35	54-58	.952
	Streak: 14		2003	.342	55-55	158	41	54	12	2	8	35	.595	39	18	36-38	.949
Current: 0	TOTAL	.359	278-278	800	192	287	39	17	25	152	.544	133	108	162-177	.950		



30-30-30-30

All-American **Brandi Stuart** has done so many amazing things in her four years at FSU and her assault on the Seminole record book has been going on all season. Now she has added another astounding accomplishment. **Stuart reached 30 swipes this year against Jacksonville making her the first Seminole in program history to steal 30 or more bases in four straight seasons.** The senior currently has 162 steals, which is the second most in school history. Second on the list is Florida State Hall of Fame member and three-time All-American Shamalene Wilson. Although Wilson and Stuart are tied for second, Wilson only surpassed 30 steals in a season twice in her four-year career (25-28-39-69). Missy Calkins is the all-time stolen base leader at FSU and she has a comfortable 30 base lead on Stuart but with 26 steals as a sophomore (44-26-54-61) even she wasn't able to match Stuart's feat.

SWEET HOME(RUN) GAINESVILLE

When **Brandi Stuart** arrived at Florida State there were a lot of things people expected of her. She was expected to be a great second baseman, to hit for average, to steal bases and to drive in some runs. The Cerritos, CA native has done all of those things and more but few probably expected her to set the career home run record at FSU but when she launched the 25th of her career, a game-winner at Florida, all that changed. **With her eight HRs this year, Stuart upped her career total to 25 and is now first place all-time on the all-time career home runs list.** Stuart captured the record, mainly due to the numbers she has posted in March. **In 2002 and 2003, Stuart has hit nine of her 15 home runs in the month of March with four of her eight HR's this season coming in March.** Last season she hit four homers in three days in March at the Buzz Classic where she went yard again this season.

RUNNING DOWN A DREAM

Through her first three seasons, **Brandi Stuart** has already established herself as one of the all-time great offensive players to ever play at FSU. **She entered 2003 in the top five in eight career offensive categories including runs, hits, doubles, home runs, stole bases, base on balls, runs batted in and batting average** and she has already taken over first for games played, home runs, RBIs, walks and consecutive starts. Here is a look at where Stuart stands in the Seminole record books:

Games played: 286, 1st ALL-TIME

Runs: 190, 34 away from 1st all-time

Doubles: 39, 1 away from 1st all-time

Stolen bases: 161, 25 away from 1st all-time

RBIs: 151, 1st ALL-TIME

At-bats: 797, 42 away from 3rd all-time

Hits: 287, 24 away from 1st all-time

Home runs: 25, 1st ALL-TIME

Walks: 133, 1st ALL-TIME

Consecutive Starts: 278, 1st ALL-TIME

GOT THEM ALL NOW

Since **Brandi Stuart** arrived at Florida State back in 2000, she has started **278 consecutive games at second base for the Seminoles.** With her starts versus Virginia, she has now broken every record when it comes to playing games at Florida State. **Stuart is No. 1 in games played, No. 1 in starts and No. 1 in consecutive starts.** The records are a tribute to her consistent play, longevity and production.

LONG LIVE THE RBI QUEEN

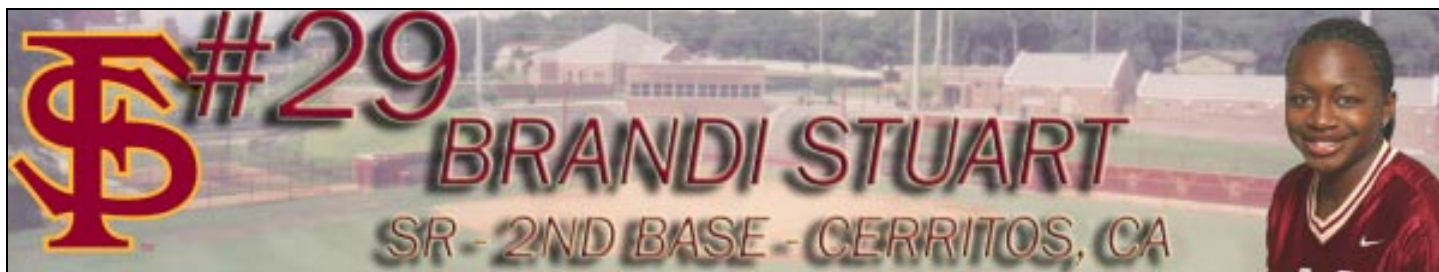
Senior **Brandi Stuart** has been climbing the all-time charts all season long. **The second baseman has already moved from fourth to second for runs scored, from fifth to second for all-time hits, from third to first in home runs and second to first in walks.** All those marks are very impressive but **with her fielder's choice RBI versus Maryland she set an even more impressive mark. Her 137th career RBI moved her into sole possession atop the all-time leaders list for RBIs at FSU.** The record was set last season by Kimmy Carter who needed 272 games to set the record. Stuart needed just 265 to break it. It was another huge accomplishment for Stuart on her way to the Florida State Hall of Fame.

YOU GOTTA GO WAY BACK

Senior All-American **Brandi Stuart** is leaving very little to chance when it comes to her legacy as the best player to ever play at Florida State. The career records are falling this season and she will likely end up holding more career marks than any player in the 25 year history of the program. She is also one of just four Seminoles to ever be named a first team NFCA All-American. She was on the 2003 watch list for ASA Collegiate Player of the Year and now she is staking another claim. **Stuart started off the 2003 season with a 14 game hitting streak, which is the longest in the last 10 years at FSU.** Four other players have posted 12-game hitting streaks since 1993. Second team All-American Serita Brooks was the latest Seminole to have a 12-game streak and before her three players did it in 1995 (Missy Calkins, Shamalene Wilson and Kristy Hull). The streak almost came to an end at nine games against Iowa State. After Tatiana George reached with a single, the door was opened for Stuart to get another crack at extending the streak. The senior was down to her last strike in her last at bat of the game before a chopper down the third base line caught the ISU defense by surprise and kept the longest FSU hitting streak in a decade alive. The streak, which may be the longest in FSU history, came to an end versus Oregon State at the 2003 NFCA Leadoff Classic.

HEY NOW, YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR

It didn't take long for 1st Team All-American **Brandi Stuart** to pick up right where she left off in 2002. The all-everything second baseman put together a stellar first week as she led FSU in runs (6), total bases (11), hits (7) and stolen bases (3) while hitting .389 and extending her 2003 hit streak to eight games. The next week, Stuart had a double and a home run, she slugged .611, drew six walks and was on base 56% of the time. **Then at the Sunshine State Tournament, she hit .455, scored three runs, had two doubles, knocked in two RBIs, slugged .636, drew three walks and didn't strikeout once.** She has already won ACC Player of the Week honors twice and has been named to the 2003 National Player of the Year watch list.



NO K's IN BRANDI

At the 2003 KIA Classic the entire Seminole softball team struggled at the plate as the team batting average barely broke the .200 mark, which wasn't all that surprising considering seven Top 10 teams and 10 Top 25 teams were at the tournament. The most surprising thing though was Brandi Stuart's four strikeouts at the tournament considering she came into the weekend with four K's all year. **The back-to-back two K games were the first in the last three years for Stuart, which covers 198 games.** It just goes to show how good of a hitter the 1st Team All-American is. **She has only struck out more than one time in a game nine times in the last three years and since her arrival at FSU, she has struck out just 109 times in 800 at bats. That comes out to just one K every 7.4 at bats.** Interestingly, of Stuart's last 23 Ks, including the 2002 Women's College World Series, six have come against Arizona.

NICE RESUME

There are many reasons to expect big things from Brandi Stuart as she gets set to begin her senior season. **No junior in Florida State history had more of a prolific season in regards to offensive numbers than Stuart did last year. She is the only player in FSU history to return after leading the team in RBIs, stolen bases, and walks. Stuart is also only the second Seminole to return after garnering 1st team All-American honors** with Lisa Davidson being the first back in 1993. She joins Tiffany Daniels as the only player to return after leading the team the previous season in batting average, runs scored, home runs, and slugging percentage. This impressive list continues as Stuart marks just the third player to return after leading the team in hits joining Susan Buttery and Shamalene Wilson back in 1992 and 1994, respectively.

LADY OF TROY

It is hard to imagine anyone having a better night than 2002 1st Team All-American **Brandi Stuart** had in Troy, AL against the Lady Trojans. The senior second baseman left jaws dropped by the time the doubleheader was over and the FSU bus pulled out of town. **In two games, Stuart went 6 for 7 with five runs scored, two doubles, two home runs, four RBIs, 14 total bases and three steals. She slugged 2.000 and hit .857 in the twin bill.** She raised her season's batting average 55 points (.364 to .419) in just those two games. When she came up for her final at bat in the second game it was hard to imagine any way she could really top what she had done the previous seven trips to the plate but her shot down the right field line and the resulting inside the park home run put a great cap on the night. We are not sure what it is about the Lady Trojans but Stuart has had quite a career versus TSU. **In the last three seasons covering eight games she has hit .583, slugged 1.083, recorded 11 RBIs, three doubles, three home runs, scored 11 times, stolen eight bases and has 26 total bases.**

STEALING THE DAY

Brandi Stuart has done some amazing things in her FSU career but the way she has started the last two seasons when it comes to steals is mind boggling. **The 2002 NFCA 1st Team All-American started the season 16 for 16 in steals last year and wasn't thrown out until February 22, 15 games into the season. This year, she went 11 for 11 through the first 12 games of the season.** The streak came to an end against Florida A&M when Stuart was caught stealing for the first time all season but with starts like that it is no wonder she is just three base swipes away from passing FSU Hall of Famer Shamalene Wilson for No. 2 on the career steals list.





BY GEORGE SHE GOT IT

Sophomore **Tatiana George** had a spectacular week for Florida State as the Seminoles downed UCF and Furman. **The shortstop led FSU in seven offensive categories and was second in three others. George hit .538, scored four runs, had five RBIs, a double, a triple, slugged .769, stole a base and posted an on base percentage of .571.** After opening the week 2 for 6 with a walk in a sweep over UCF, George exploded on the road at Furman. In the first game versus the Lady Paladins, George went 2 for 3 with a run scored and an RBI. She also had a sac bunt that advanced the eventual game-winning run. **Followed up that performance with a 3 for 4 day in game two that included a double, a triple, three runs scored and four RBIs.** Sacrificed home the game winning run on a suicide squeeze bunt for her first RBI of the game. Then came up with the bases loaded and cleared the sacks in one swing with a triple that scored three runs. **The sophomore has now knocked in half of her 16 RBIs this season in the last nine days.**

TATER-TAT

Shortstop **Tatiana George** is one of the true feel-good stories for FSU in 2003. The Fontana, CA native was thrust into the role of starting shortstop for a top 20 team as a freshman in 2002. While she had a solid season she struggled like any rookie would at times. Just as she was starting to roll offensively, she was injured on a cleats-up slide into second. She also had her problems with a difficult FSU infield and ended the year with a .893 fielding percentage. Things have really changed in 2003. **In 49 less at bats, she is hitting 55 percentage points higher than her freshman year (.242 to .297), has already equaled her triples and homeruns from last season, has six more RBIs (20 to 26), is slugging 63 points higher (.329 to .392), has nine more walks, 21 fewer strikeouts and is fielding 48 points better also (.893 to .941).** Her improvement was punctuated by her first ever ACC Player of the Week award after the Georgia Tech series. **The shortstop came into the season finale with two home runs in 352 career at bats but she equaled that number in just four at bats versus the Jackets.** The sophomore led the Seminoles sweep of the defending ACC Champion, as FSU became the first Atlantic Coast Conference school to ever go 8-0. George led FSU in runs scored (3), home runs (2), RBIs (3), slugging percentage (2.000), walks (2) and on base percentage (.667).

GOT IT AT THE GUN!!!!

Shortstop **Tatiana George** thought she had a chance of picking up her first-ever ACC Player of the Week honor after an amazing week against UCF and Furman (see note above). Although things didn't work out for the shortstop, good things did come to those who were patient. Against the Jackets, the sophomore led the Seminoles sweep, as FSU became the first Atlantic Coast Conference school to ever go 8-0. **George led FSU in runs scored (3), home runs (2), RBIs (3), slugging percentage (2.000), walks (2) and on base percentage (.667).** **The shortstop came into Sunday's season finale with two home runs in 352 career at bats but she equaled that number in just four at bats versus the Yellow Jackets.** Her huge doubleheader netted her the much coveted ACC POW honors and just in the nick of time as it was the last award of the 2003 season. Her first homer in game one came in the fifth inning with FSU hanging on to a 2-0 lead. The shortstop lined a 3-1 pitch over the wall in right field. She then scored a run in the seventh as FSU cruised to a 4-0 win. In game two, FSU was clinging to a 1-0 lead on reigning ACC Rookie of the Year Jessica Sallinger. After fouling a liner off down the left field line, the sophomore went to right field again as she lofted a two-run shot over the wall to bring home Florida State's second and third runs en route to a 6-0 win and sweep of the Jackets.





TWICE IS NICE

Jessica van der Linden continues to dominate for Florida State and that was the case again in a four-game sweep through North Carolina including two wins over ACC rival UNC that resulted in her selection as the ACC's Player of the Week. **The All-America candidate went 2-0 in the circle with a 0.00 ERA, as she didn't allow a single run in either outing. In 14 innings, she struck out 25 batters and issued just two walks. She didn't allow an extra base hit and held opposing batters to a .128 average.** In a key conference game versus the Heels, the junior had a perfect game going into the seventh inning and allowed just one hit. She also struck out double digit batters in both games and at that point had fanned 10 or more batters in five straight games and in eight of her last nine starts. **At the plate, van der Linden had the game-winning RBI in three of FSU's four wins and had five RBIs in the four wins. She hit .417, scored two runs, hit her ninth double of the year, slugged .500, had an on base percentage of .429 and put up a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in the circle and in center field.** After scoring a run and knocking in a run in FSU's game one win over Elon, the junior had a monster game two. Not only did she strike out 12 and not allow a run, she went 3 for 4 at the plate with two RBIs, a run scored and a double. Her first inning RBI single plated the game-winning run. Van der Linden had the only RBI in FSU's 1-0 win over UNC in Chapel Hill versus Tar Heel ace Crystal Cox as she went 1 for 2 in the game. In a scoreless game, van der Linden's sacrifice fly put FSU up in a game they went on to win 1-0. She pitched an absolute gem in game two of FSU's sweep. The Cerritos, CA native didn't allow a hit or a walk through 6.1 innings against a Carolina team that hadn't been shutout since March 8 before the twin bill against FSU. She also plated her third straight game-winning RBI on a bases loaded walk in the third inning.

STRIKE FORCE

On top of all the amazing things Jessica van der Linden is doing this year one of the most uncharacteristic stats has been her unbelievable penchant for striking out batters as of late. In her first seven starts she was 3-3 with 51 strikeouts and 15 walks. As soon as the calendar changed to March, the junior completely turned things around inside the circle. **Since then she has gone 15-1, posted an ERA of 0.69, held opposing batters to a .136 average and struck out 188 batters while issuing just 31 walks.** Over that span she is averaging almost 10 Ks per appearance and has a strikeout to walk ratio of almost 6 to 1. **Van der Linden has fanned double digit batters in 12 of her last 17 starts. She also established a new personal season high for strikeouts in 10 less appearances and now has 239 on the year.** She also had six straight shutouts and 47 consecutive scoreless innings in the run. One of the hi-lites of the streak was her performance at the Buzz Classic where she pitched 17 innings and struck out 30 batters including a career-high 18 versus 2002 NCAA Tournament team Boston University. She has now won 12 straight decisions with her last loss coming to No. 1 Arizona.

BIG WEEK FOR JESS

Junior Jessica van der Linden continued to steamroll towards All-America honors. Versus Maryland and FAMU, **she led the squad in hits, doubles, runs scored and total bases. She was also second on the team with two RBIs, a .636 slugging percentage and a .462 on base percentage.** She also recorded three doubles in the three games. **On the mound, she posted a 0.57 ERA, struck out 19 batters in 12.1 innings while allowing just one earned run as FSU swept its ACC-opening series with the Terps.** She started the week with a huge game in FSU's conference opener with the Terps. Her first single put the Tribe up 1-0 as she came through with runners on second and third. She later knocked in FSU's fourth run with her first double of the weekend. She started game two inside the circle and pitched an 11 strike out gem as she gave up just one earned run in 9.1 innings pitched. She also played a key role at the plate. With Florida State trailing 2-0 in the bottom of the fifth, it was van der Linden's double to lead off the inning that sparked a two run rally to tie the game that FSU eventually won in 10 innings. She fueled another Tribe comeback in FSU's final game of the week. After falling behind early to Florida A&M, van der Linden started FSU's comeback when she followed the Tribe's lead-off single with her eighth double of the season. She came in and picked up her first save of the year as she struck out eight Lady Rattler batters in just three innings of work.

ALL-AMERICAN NO. 21?

Seminole junior Jessica van der Linden is well on her way to becoming FSU's 21st NFCA All-American. She is currently **hitting .423 and slugging .557. She has scored 40 runs, hit 12 doubles, four triples and has 35 RBIs. She has drawn 44 walks compared to just 14 strikeouts. Her on base percentage is .552 and van der Linden is a perfect 9 for 9 on steal attempts. In 54 chances in center field and inside the circle she has made just one error. She also has four game-winning RBIs this season.** What she is doing in clutch situations is awesome as well. She is hitting .424 with runners on base, .448 with runners in scoring position, .565 with a runner on third and less than two outs and .442 with two outs in an inning. She has 13 two out RBIs this year and she is advancing runners successfully 66% of the time. **Compared to the numbers Brandi Stuart put up through 55 games in her 1st Team All-American season last year, van der Linden is hitting 18 percentage points higher, has one less hit, five more doubles, the three fewer RBIs, almost twice as many walks, 10 fewer strike outs and an on base percentage almost 55 percentage points higher.**

Inside the circle she has been dominant despite playing every inning of every game this season when she isn't pitching. **Jessica is currently 18-4 with a 1.08 ERA. She has 17 complete games and eight shutouts.** She has thrown four one-hitters and a no hitter in 25 starts and 169 innings pitched. **Jessica has allowed just 26 earned runs and has struck out 239 batters while issuing just 46 walks, which is a strikeout to walk ratio of 5 to 1.** She has struck out double digit batters in 12 of her last 17 starts and recently went 47 innings without allowing a run. She broke her personal high for Ks in a season and **is now just 27 Ks away from equalling her career total in just one season.**



DYNAMIC DUO

The tandem of **Casey Hunter** and **Jessica van der Linden** has compiled the lowest regular season conference ERA of any pair of Seminole pitchers in Florida State history. The pair finished the regular season with a **0.37 ERA** allowing only **three earned runs over 57 innings of work**. They combined to strike out 63 batters, while walking only 13. They each allowed two extra base hits and held opposing conference batters to a .164 batting average. The only other duo to come close to these numbers was the 1997 pair of Kristy Fuentes and Stacy Venable. Both Fuentes and Venable went a combined 7-1 with a respectable 0.52 ERA. They held opponents to a .158 batting average in the conference. Together they accumulated 48 strikeouts and allowed 18 base-on-balls.

THE BIG 4-0

Junior **Jessica van der Linden** has done some absolutely amazing things this season. On top of having the lowest ERA and highest batting average of anyone in the nation, she is leading the team in eight offensive categories. Against No. 25 Florida and Virginia she continued to dominate. **She hit .750 and slugged 1.125. She scored seven runs, had a double, a triple and five RBIs.** She walked six times and didn't strikeout once. She also posted an on base percentage of .857. She also went 2-0 in the circle as she won her 10th straight start. She registered 11 more strikeouts also. Overall she has upped her average to .439 has 12 doubles, four triples and 33 RBIs. She is also slugging .583 with an on base percentage of .571. She's also 9 for 9 on steals. She leads FSU in average, runs scored, doubles, hits, triples, walks, sac flies and on base percentage. She is hitting .440 with runners on base, .467 with runners in scoring position, .447 with two outs and she has 11 two-out RBIs.

Inside the circle she is 18-4 with an ERA of 1.08. She has eight shutouts, 239 Ks and just 46 walks. Her strikeout to walk ratio is 5 to 1 and opposing hitters have just a .155 batting average against her. Besides all of those impressive feats, what she continues to do when it comes to doubles is probably the most amazing accomplishment. **With her double against Virginia, she became the first player in FSU history to record 40 doubles in her career and she is still a junior.** Last year she became the first player to hit 10 or more doubles in back-to-back seasons at FSU and she is now the first Seminole to ever do that three times in her career. She has doubled 14 times each of her first two seasons and **with her 12 doubles in 2003, she has taken over sole possession of first place as the all-time leader at FSU.**

THIS IS HER YEAR

Junior **Jessica van der Linden** has had a standout career at FSU already and that is evidenced by her ACC Rookie of the Year selection in 2001 and her inclusion as one of the 50 best softball players in conference history but 2003 may be her best season yet. The pitcher and outfielder has been just dominant all season. **The California native is hitting .423 on the season while slugging .557 and she is getting on base 55% of the time. She leads No. 10 FSU in average, doubles, hits, triples, walks, sac flies, on base percentage and has the lowest strikeout ratio on the team.** She has been recognized for her great year by being named one of 25 finalist for the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) 2003 National Collegiate Softball Player of the Year and she seems to be steamrolling toward All-America honors as well.

CHASING .432

Seminole junior **Jessica van der Linden is hitting .423 on the season currently and is nine percentage points behind the all-time single season batting average in FSU history**, which is .432 and was set by 1st Team All-American Danielle Cox. The Cerritos, CA native is also trying to become one of only four Seminoles ever to hit above .400 but she is going about it like no other player before her. Except for Brandi Stuart, who finished 2002 close to .400 at .391, nobody has combined power, consistency and production the way van der Linden is this season. Serita Brooks had a .401 average in 2000 but hit only 5 doubles in comparison to van der Linden's 12 this year. Cox averaged .432 in 1999 but hit less than half as many doubles as van der Linden and drove in only 14 RBIs, 21 less than van der Linden has so far this season. Cox's .493 slugging percentage was also no match for van der Linden's .557. Florida State Hall of Famer Shamalene Wilson finished the '96 season averaging .402 but hit only 5 doubles and achieved a .445 on-base percentage, paling in comparison to van der Linden's .552.

ONE OF 10

The Amateur Softball Association announced its 10 finalists for the 2003 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year award April 9th and Seminole junior Jessica van der Linden was amongst the group. The pitcher/outfielder is in the midst of one of the most amazing all-around seasons in 25 years of Florida State softball. If she were to win the award, van der Linden would be the first Seminole to garner such an honor since 1981 when Darby Cottle was named the USOC Best Amateur Softball Player in the Nation. With her 12 doubles this season she not only became the first Seminole to ever post three consecutive seasons of 10 or more doubles but she also broke the all-time school career doubles record with 40. **She currently has the second highest single season batting average ever at Florida State and could become just the fourth player in the last 20 years to hit over .400 for an entire season at FSU.** She has also been dominant in the circle. The Cerritos, CA native is 18-4 with a 1.08 ERA. She recently had a streak of 47 scoreless innings and has struck out 169 batters in her last 17 starts. She has allowed six earned runs in her last 68 innings and has won 12 straight starts. Her 239 strikeouts this season are a career best. On top of her hitting and pitching, van der Linden has committed just one error in 54 chances.



SHE'S CIRCLING THE WAGONS

Florida State's **Jessica van der Linden** has been out of this world at the plate in 2003. Her .423 batting average, .557 slugging percentage and .552 on base percentage attest to that but when it comes down to it she is a pitcher at heart. The left-handed junior is tough on herself and hasn't been happy with the way she was pitching at the start of the season but that has all changed recently. Since her 2-0 loss to Oregon State February 22, **the Cerritos, CA native shaved more than a half of a run off her ERA versus Winthrop, Troy State and Pittsburgh as it dropped from a season high 2.07 to 1.53. In those three starts, van der Linden went 3-0 with three complete games, a no-hitter, 34 strikeouts and just one earned run.** She set and broke her season-high for strikeouts in two of those games (11 versus Troy State and 13 versus Winthrop) and three of her four double digit strikeout games came in those outings.

In her outing against Winthrop at the 2003 Seminole Invitational, van der Linden not only struck out a season-high 13 batters but she threw the fifth no-hitter of her career. She came just one walk away from a perfect game and ended up facing the minimum amount of batters when freshman catcher BillieAnne Gay threw out her 11th would be base stealer in 20 attempts.

SHE'S WHAT'S NEXT

In a dominating weekend that saw FSU go 4-0 and outscore its opponents 26-6 at the Sunshine State Tournament, no Seminole was more dominant than junior **Jessica van der Linden. The outfielder/pitcher hit .692, scored three runs, hit two doubles, drove in five runs, had 11 total bases, slugged .846 and was on base 75% of the time. She also went 2-0 in two starts in the circle.** She led FSU in average, at bats, hits (9), doubles, RBIs, total bases and on base percentage as the Tribe won the Sunshine State Tourney. In FSU's four games, van der Linden had two or more hits in three contests, she drove in at least one run in three of four games and she either doubled or drew a walk in all four games. She started the weekend off with a 2 for 4 performance versus Iowa State that included an RBI double and a five inning win in the circle where she allowed just one earned run. In the second game of the day, van der Linden had her best game of the week. Against MTSU, van der Linden went 3 for 4, scored three runs, drove in three RBIs and recorded another double. Her two RBI double in the second inning broke the game open. ISU didn't let van der Linden beat them in the next meeting as she went 1 for 2 with a walk and was hit by a pitch. In the final game of the weekend, she started inside the circle against MTSU and once again got a win as she struck out eight Lady Blue Raiders. She also went 3 for 3 with a walk and an RBI earning NFCA National Player of the Week honors.

GUT CHECK

You have to give junior **All-America candidate Jessica van der Linden** a lot of credit for her performance inside the circle versus Florida. Despite being so sick she couldn't speak just a day before, the junior gutted out a seven inning win over the Gators, her second in a row versus UF. The Gators got to the weakend lefty early on and scored on her in the first inning. **That run ended the juniors 47 scoreless inning streak. The junior hadn't allowed an earned or unearned run in seven straight appearances as she posted six consecutive shutouts.**

TOLD YA SO

We told you that if you were looking for a couple of Seminoles who could be in for a big weekend at the Sunshine State Tournament, look no further than junior teammates **Elisa Vasquez** and **Jessica van der Linden**. The two Californians had combined to go 7 for 14 with four RBIs, a run and a triple in four games versus Iowa State and Middle Tennessee and van der Linden threw her second career no-hitter versus the Cyclones as a freshman. Against MTSU, Vasquez had the biggest hit of the game as the Seminoles were down to their last out in the bottom of the ninth before her RBI triple evened the game and allowed FSU to go on to a win in the 10th. Well that was nothing compared to this season. **In the four Sunshine State Tournament games, van der Linden and Vasquez hit .542, slugged .708, launched four doubles, knocked in nine runs, scored seven times, drew five walks and did not strikeout once.** The two posted a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage and van der Linden also went 2-0 in the circle.





DR. JOANNE GRAF
2003 ACC COACH OF THE YEAR

LESLEY PALMER
2003 ACC TOURNAMENT MVP



2003 ACC CHAMPIONS



BETH WADE AND THE
2003 SENIOR CLASS