



# Seminole Softball News

SEMINOLE SOFTBALL

## A Blast From the Past

### Alumni Spotlight: Colleen Callahan

#### Why did you choose Florida State?

My father took me to FSU for a visit at which time I met the Women's Athletic Director. I loved the University, they had a strong Criminology School and I really wanted to play softball there. Then I was offered a \$100 (yes, one hundred) scholarship, so the deal was sealed. I was the first woman to receive a softball scholarship at FSU. The \$100 came with assurances that the amount would increase each year, and it did. As of my junior year time, I received a full tuition scholarship, but still paid for room, board, and equipment out of pocket. There's no doubt in my mind that, had I not received the scholarship, I still would have played.

#### What was it like being a Seminole when you played?

I was so proud of being an FSU athlete and wore the garnet and gold with pride - I'm sure this has not changed over the years! I loved every minute of it. It was different though, in terms of the facilities. Many fields had no fences-If you hit the ball over the outfielder's head, it was a homerun. There weren't a lot of bleachers because we usually did not have large crowds. On some fields you simply sat in the sun on a bench, rather than under shelter, in a dug-out. I still can't believe that you actually have a bathroom in your dug-out now!!!! In slow pitch you sometimes play several games in one day or 5 or 6 games over a weekend. I remember

how hot and exhausting it could be under the Florida sun.

#### How did you get through days when times got rough on the field?

The teams I was on were very, very good and we lost relatively few games so there were not too many frustrations on the field. When we had a bad game, we would get together as a team and talk about what we needed to do to come back strong and win the next game. Productive team communication, captain/senior leadership and solidarity were the keys. We had strong team chemistry. We kept our competitive focus at the highest level and sustained our drive to be successful both on and off the field. We remained confident by building each other

## Community Service for the Noles

A couple of weekends ago we played in Pensacola, FL and Niceville, FL. We loved this trip not only because we got to play our first fall games, but because we had the opportunity to see Amber Howard. On April 14, 2008, Amber was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the brain stem. Amber was diagnosed with ganglioglioma, a very rare, slow growing, and low grade tumor. Since then our team has taken her and her family in to raise money for them. Amber's mom Shawn informed us that the chemo she went

through does not get rid of the tumor, but it keeps it stable. She went back October 17<sup>th</sup> for another MRI and we are praying for Amber that the tumor has remained stable. With the help of the NWFS softball team we raised \$1,940 at the Sunday clinic to help Amber and her family with all of her medical needs. We really enjoy helping her out as much as we can and every time we see her we all light up with smiles

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# Blast From the Past

Lead Story Continued

up and sticking together as a team.

## Did you have a ritual before games?

We sang cheers and did little dances in a huddle or line-we had fun with this. In some of the cheers, individual players had to chant "solos".

## How did you feel when you won the National Championship?

We won the AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Activities for Women) National Slow Pitch Championship in 1976. We were absolutely thrilled. I still remember the feeling. I think we celebrated for 24 hours straight! We usually didn't get very much print in the newspaper,

but this was covered well by both the paper and "FSU TV". There was no regional or national TV coverage at the time. I remember wishing that we were on an even par with the FSU men's programs (better crowds, scholarships, facilities, etc). We lagged way behind men's athletics in every way.

## What position did you play?

First Base

## What school had the worse crowd that you came across?

The Florida Gators. The rivalry was just as strong then, as it is now.

## Who was your favorite team to play against?

Again, it would have to be Florida because they were our stiffest competition and it was such a great rivalry. We always had close games.

I also liked to play Flagler College. They were really good at the time and we liked playing in their weekend double elimination tournament in St. Augustine each year.

## How did you mentally prepare yourself for each game?

I was so excited before each game. The love of the game and pride in being a Seminole, were all it took for motivation. It sounds corny, but it's true.

Interview by: Celeste Comez

## Service for the Noles

Amber's mom brought us all "Team Amber" bracelets that we were able to wear during the game. What is so cool about the bracelets was that they glow in the dark! Stay strong Amber we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. In addition to helping out the Howards we got to bring the SEMI-

GNOME to the clinic which is always fun. The semi-gnome is a little FSU gnome that gets passed around to all the athletic teams to use at their community service projects. We took pictures of the semi-gnome with kids at the camp and even dressed him up with a little softball style.

By: Maddie O'Brien

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## ROOKIES

**Name:** Lacey Waldrop  
**Number:** 13  
**Year/Position:** Fr, Pitcher  
**Hometown:** Chester, VA

**-You're given \$1,000,000, what is the first thing you would do or buy with it?** A week long vacation for my family and I to the Bahamas

**-If you could have any pet, what would it be and what would you name it?** A baby giraffe (like in the

direct TV commercial) named Jiffy

**-Your mommy comes into town, what is your favorite meal she cooks?** Breakfast! best scrambled eggs, biscuits and hashbrowns ever!

**-If you could play any other position on the field, what would it be?** Outfield/Shortstop

**-One game you are looking forward to this season:** Florida!!! They're going down.

**Name:** Erika Hoffner  
**Number:** 28  
**Year/Position:** Fr, Outfield  
**Hometown:** Alpharetta, GA

**-What is one thing people don't know about you?** I get stage fright very easily

**If I was to open your fridge, what is one thing I'd find?** Japanese food

**-If you could play any other position on the field, what would it be?** Pitcher

**--What other sport would you choose if not softball?** Gymnastics and Roller Derby

**-One game you are looking forward to this season:** Georgia Tech

**Name:** Nicolette Levine  
**Number:** 31  
**Year/Position:** Fr, First Base and Third Base  
**Hometown:** Lithia, FL

**-What is one thing people don't know about you?** I had 45 hamsters at one time

**-Most embarrassing thing that has happened to you on or off the field:** I threw out the first pitch at a Rays game and I threw it in the dirt and the entire stadium booed me

**-Your mommy comes into town, what is your favorite meal she cooks?** White rice, red beans, and pork chops

**-Your daddy says he will pay for your first car, whatever you want, what do you choose?** Dodge Challenger

**-One game you are looking forward to this season:** Hawaii Classic

**Name:** Bailey Schinella  
**Number:** 27  
**Year/Position:** Fr, Pitcher  
**Hometown:** Valrico, FL

**-If I was to open your fridge, what is one thing I'd find?** A billion of vanilla yogurts

**-You take a trip to Cold Stone, what do you get?** Birthday Cake Remix!!

**-What is one thing people don't know about you?** I used to twirl fiery batons

**-If you could have any pet, what would it be and what would you name it?** A baby elephant named Ral-  
 phee

**-Your daddy says he will pay for your first car, whatever you want, what do you choose?** Lifted Jeep Wrangler

**Name:** Loren Smith  
**Number:** 12  
**Year/Position:** Jr, Outfield  
**Hometown:** Land O'Lakes, FL

**What is one thing people don't know about you?** I want to live in the mountains and become a legit mountain biker

**-If you could have any pet, what would it be and what would you name it?** Penguin named Jimmy

**-Your mommy comes into town, what is your favorite meal she cooks?** Garbanzo bean soup

**-What other sport would you choose if not softball?** (Olympic) curling

**Name:** Lindsey Peppers  
**Number:** 11  
**Year/Position:** Fr, Outfield  
**Hometown:** Tallahassee, FL

**-You're given \$1,000,000, what is the first thing you would do or buy with it?** An apartment and an everlasting supply of groceries so I would never have to buy any again

**-You take a trip to Cold Stone, what**

**do you get?** Anything chocolate!

**-If you could have any pet, what would it be and what would you name it?** Chocolate lab named Coca

**-Most embarrassing thing that has happened to you on or off the field:** I was playing volleyball, just peppering, and I leaned down to dig the ball and my pants ripped!

**Name:** Erika Leonard  
**Number:** 15  
**Year/Position:** Fr, Catcher and First Base  
**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**-If I was to open your fridge, what is one thing I'd find?** You would find a lot of food. I love to cook so I love making a good home-cooked meal

**-Most embarrassing thing that has happened to you on or off the field:** When I was in Pee-Wee Ball, I was playing catcher and the pitcher tossed it to me and I dropped the ball. I couldn't find it and after spinning around in circles looking for it, I got so dizzy that I fell to the ground and got sick to my stomach.

**-You're given \$1,000,000, what is the first thing you would do or buy with it?** Buy plane tickets for all my family and friends to come down to Florida and watch me play softball.

**-Your daddy says he will pay for your first car, whatever you want, what do you choose?** I would choose my jeep because I love my car. It's cute and perfect for me.

Interviews by: Mallory Borden

## In The Land of Academia

Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Cathy Badger



**Where are you originally from?**  
 Naperville, Illinois Western suburbs of Chicago

**If you could change your name what would you change it to? What is your nickname?**

Alyssia and my nickname given to me by track and field is Sunshine

**What is your favorite food?**  
 Cool whip

**What are two of your biggest pet peeve?**

Dry windshield wipers, and lying

**If you weren't doing what you were doing now at Florida State University, what do you think you would be doing?**

I would teach high school in English or chemistry, and coaching soccer.

**What is your philosophy on advising?**

To give everyone an opportunity after graduation, to get a job that they enjoy as much as I enjoy my job

Interview by: Tiffani Brown

# PENSACOLA

Pensacola was definitely a trip to remember. Even though our phones were confiscated for the weekend, the trip was still great and the team bonded very well. Half of the team left early and got to visit the Eglin Air Force Base. We took a small tour around the base and learned about the history in the making of one of the newest battle planes. We also got a tour of the area where most of the helmets and safety objects are built. You would be surprised as to how much money is put into the planes, buildings and safety gear. After visiting the Air Force Base the rest of the team finally met up with us and we experienced our first true test of team bonding.

We were split up into two teams on the bus on the way to our mystery destination, Team Garnet (sophomores and juniors) vs Team Gold (seniors and rookies) and showed up at a ropes course!!! The object of the ropes course was to get two members on your team through a course and if the whole team got through it you would receive extra points. Not only were our athletic skills tested during this mission but our team skills were also put towards the test. Team Garnet was the winners of the ropes course but Team Gold was only a couple of points behind. After getting back to the hotel and cleaning up we had another challenge. The coaches decided to put us on our own game show called "In it to Win it." We played many silly yet inexplicable games that had everyone laughing hysterically!

Saturday after our games we had our final challenge, Sumo Wrestling!! We had actual sumo outfits and each person randomly wrestled another person on the opposite team. All in all we laughed all weekend long and truly grew together as a team.



## Meet Coach Snider

### **How are the dynamics of the Florida State team different from previous teams you have coached?**

I have never seen a team give back to the community like this one does. It truly has been a joy to watch! Not only will the athletes walk away with skills on the field, but they graduate this program a better person and citizen. And that starts at the top with Coach Alameda. I am excited to be a part of that process!

### **When did you get your first coaching job? What was your role?**

I got my first coaching job in 2001...I was 18. I was a hitting coach for Lindsey Wilson College, A small NAIA in Kentucky. I was going there to play baseball and had a career ending injury the spring before. After two years Centenary College of Louisiana called! They asked me to come down and work with their hitters and finish my BA in Psy-

chology.

I met my wife there, and then we both did our grad work at OU (yes Oklahoma). I was the softball GA there. After that stint we moved to Texas and I worked with the offense at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches Texas. I was there for 4 years until now! 10 years later, a wife, and baby we find ourselves a Seminole!

### **Fun fact?**

Growing up I had a pet pot belly pig named Biscuits. She could play fetch.

### **How have you and your family adjusted to living in Tallahassee?**

We love it! The town and Seminole family have really made us feel welcome!

### **What's your favorite part about coaching? What makes all the time and effort worthwhile?**

My favorite part of coaching is

seeing the look or smile on a young lady's face when she has worked and worked and finally it pays off. There is not a better feeling in the coaching profession.

### **Where do you see yourself ten years from now?**

A little more bald, 2 more kids, and still winning World Series' at FSU!

Interview by: Bailey Schinella