2002 — WINSTON-SALEM, NC

GAME 1: WAKE FOREST 12, GW 6

The 2002 season was the best in GW history. The team posted a single-season wins record with 42, won its fourth Atlantic 10 Championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. GW won the Atlantic 10 crown over rival Richmond and beat the 14-ranked Spiders in a best-of-three series to claim its first title in 10 years. Two Colonials freshmen, Anthony Raglani and Joe Michalski, received Freshman All-America recognition. Seniors Mike Bassett, Mike O’Connor and Matt Kimmel received All-East honors along with junior Greg Conden. All-Conference honorees included first-teamers O’Connor, Bassett and second-teamers Krimmel, Conden, and Jake Wald.

The Colonials’ A-10 Tournament title earned them an automatic berth to the NCAA regional, where they played No. 7-seeded Wake Forest (44-11-1) in the first round at Ernie Shore Field in Winston-Salem, NC. Despite a four-hit performance by right fielder Bassett and a 420-foot home run by center fielder Tony Brown, the Colonials fell to the Demon Deacons, 12-6, in front of a partisan Wake Forest crowd of 3,683. In game two, GW faced the Navy Midshipmen, who had lost to Richmond, 15-5. The Colonials had the tying runs on base in the top of the ninth inning with its most productive hitter at the plate, but Navy called on left-hander Steve Goocye to face Bassett. Goocye got Bassett to swing and miss on a 2-2 pitch to end the game.

1992 — WICHITA, KS

GAME 1: WICHITA STATE 9, GW 0

After beating the West Virginia Mountaineers, 13-10, to claim the 1992 Atlantic 10 Conference title, the Colonials traveled to Wichita, KS, to face second-ranked Wichita State in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament at Eck Stadium-Tyler Field.

Playing before a record crowd of 7,386, Wichita State used the home-field advantage and the GW errors to take control of the game. The Shockers jumped out to a 1-0 lead after one, then added two more runs in the second for a 3-0 lead. The Shockers blew the game open with a four-run third to go up, 7-0. Charlie Giaudrone pitched seven straight innings allowing six hits and striking out six to get the victory. First baseman Ryan Hendricks went 3-for-3 for GW.

In game two, the Colonials faced the Minnesota Golden Gophers, who lost to Oklahoma State, 12-11, in their opening game. The Golden Gophers scored 11 runs in the bottom of the first inning to take away any chance the Colonials had of avoiding elimination. The big hits of the inning for the Golden Gophers were a three-run double by shortstop Bill Mobilia and a two-run single by catcher Darren Grass. The Colonials got a run on the fourth on an RBI single by first baseman Dave Fletcher, who went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored, and two in the bottom of the ninth on an RBI groundout by pinch-hitter Steve Bettner and an RBI single by second baseman Rob Walsh.

1989 — WATERBURY, CT

GAME 1: ARIZONA STATE 5, GW 0

GW trailed the Temple Owls going into the bottom of the ninth inning of the Atlantic 10 Tournament Championship game, but a home run by Frank Terry tied the score for the Colonials. An early walk by Frank Terry and a walk by Jay Maclean loaded the bases for the Colonials, who had a chance to win the game. After earning the trip to the NCAA Tournament with the dramatic ninth-inning rally against Temple, the Colonials faced the top two seeds in the Northeast Regional at Municipal Stadium in Waterbury, CT.

In the opening game against the second-seeded Arizona State Sun Devils, the Colonials fell behind in the fourth when the Sun Devils put three runs on the board courtesy of a double and a two-run home run. Arizona State added two more in the fifth when third baseman John Finn doubled and right fielder Jim Austin was hit by a pitch. Second baseman Kevin Higgins and shortstop Anthony Manahan followed with consecutive run-scoring singles, making the score 5-0. Right fielder Gavin Hulsman, left fielder Mike Rolles and designated hitter Frank Terry all went 1-for-3 for the Colonials.

In game two, the top-seeded Arkansas Razorbacks jumped out to an early 5-0 lead with a single run in the first inning and four in the second. Dennis Fletcher pitched a complete game for Arkansas despite allowing 10 hits to the Colonials. GW scored both of its runs in the seventh on an RBI single by Mike Welch and a sacrifice fly by Greg Ortosky.

1979 — TALLAHASSEE, FL

GAME 1: ARKANSAS 8, GW 2

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GAME 2: SETON HALL 2

GAME 3: FLORIDA 12, GW 7

The Colonials’ first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 20 years produced their first NCAA Tournament victory. However, GW let an 8-4 lead against Arkansas slip away, and Florida used a six-run sixth inning in a game that was tied 3-3 to eliminate the Eastern Eight champion Colonials from the East Regional in Seminole Park at Tallahassee, FL.

In the first game, GW led Arkansas 8-4 after scoring five runs in its half of the fifth. The Razorbacks scored seven of their own in the sixth to seemingly put the game out of reach. The Colonials fought to the last out after scoring three in the top of the seventh, but losing 12-11. GW hit two home runs, but left nine on base. First baseman Mike Howell went 4-for-4 with two RBI to pace the Colonials attack. Future major league Johnny Ray was 3-for-5 with three RBI for the Razorbacks. Arkansas would advance all the way to the finals of the College World Series before losing the title game to Cal State Fullerton.

GW fought off elimination in the next game with a 5-2 victory over Seton Hall. The Colonials scored four times in the third and added a single run in the fifth before allowing Seton Hall a pair of single runs in the seventh and ninth. Mike Howell went the distance for the Colonials, striking out three. Right fielder Tom Beebe was 1-for-3 with two RBI and third baseman Jim Goss was 2-for-3 with two runs scored for GW.

1959 — GASTONIA, NC

GAME 1: FLORIDA STATE 3, GW 2 (10)

GAME 2: GEORGIA TECH 7, GW 2

The last of three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances at Sims Legion Park in Gastonia, NC, for George Washington was the same as the others for the Southern Conference champions. The rule which made freshmen and four-year seniors ineligible was in effect, which meant that GW was without Don Herman (.369) and Gino D’Ambrosio (.328), two of the team’s leading hitters and pitcher George Bickerton. Even without those players, the Colonials hoped to do better this time.

In their first game, the Colonials sent unbeaten sophomore left-hander Dennis Hill up against Florida State, which beat GW, 3-1, in the ’58 tournament. Hill, with a career record of 12-0 in his two seasons, lost his first decision to the Seminoles. Hill went 9-1 in 1957 before doubling up Neil Martin in the 10th. The Seminoles led 2-0 after the first inning, but the Colonials tied the game in the ninth when center fielder Jerry Power singled home Babe Marshall to cap a thrilling rally.

GW had a chance to take the lead in its half of the 10th when Ron DeMeffi was cut down trying to score to end the inning. Hill allowed nine hits and struck out seven in going the distance. First baseman Des Gatti was 2-for-5 with a run scored for GW.

The next day Georgia Tech ended the Colonials hopes for advancing in the tournament by defeating GW, 7-2. Tech scored four in the second and two more in the seventh. GW scored a pair of single runs in the seventh and the ninth. The Colonials got eight hits, two each by Dennis Hill and Ralph Kunze, in what would be the last NCAA game for GW for 20 years.

1958 — GASTONIA, NC

GAME 1: FLORIDA STATE 3, GW 1

GAME 2: CLEMSON 4, GW 2

The Colonials entered the 1958 NCAA Tournament almost as an unwilling participant. Both Richmond and GW had exams scheduled and did not want to go on to postseason play after tying for the Southern Conference title. The Colonials decided to go but were without the services of two of their top pitchers, Dennis Hill and Frank Campana, because of an NCAA rule which prohibited freshmen and seniors with four seasons played from participating. With that in mind, coach Bill Reinhart recruited four players, three from the football team, which he also coached, to fill out the roster.

Back in Gastonia’s Sims Legion Park, the Colonials lost their first game, 3-1, to Florida State, the defending Region 3 champions. The Seminoles used one run in the second and two more in the sixth to grab a 3-0 lead. GW scored a single run in the eighth with two singles and a pair of Florida State errors. First baseman Don Herman was 2-for-4 for the Colonials.

The next day, the Colonials had a 7-0 lead in the second inning against Clemson but rain washed out the game until the following day. The Tigers would not allow the Colonials a second chance to win, however, eliminating GW, 4-2. Clemson scored three runs in the bottom of the first as Larry Wilson hit a two-run single for the Tigers. GW left fielder George Bickerton singled home one run in the fifth and had another run score when the Clemson catcher could not handle the throw from the outfield. Third baseman Gino D’Ambrosio was 2-for-4 for the Colonials.

1957 — GASTONIA, NC

GAME 1: DUKE 9, GW 5

GAME 2: GEORGIA TEACHERS COLLEGE* 5, GW 3

The Colonials’ first official NCAA tournament appearance was very short as the Southern Conference champion Colonials lost two games in one day to Duke and Georgia Teachers College at Sims Legion Park in Gastonia, NC.

The Duke Blue Devils stopped a GW 12-game winning streak in the first game, 9-5. Duke scored three runs in the first and five more in the fourth to lead, 8-0. Colonials first baseman Don Herman hit a three-run blast to highlight a four-run sixth, but it was not enough to stop Duke. GW’s Sam Kinsley hit a solo shot in the ninth for the final margin.

Later in the day, the Colonials faced Georgia Teachers. The Teachers scored a single run in the second and two in the sixth before Dave Esmont hit a two-run single to highlight the game. The Colonials managed to score one in the eighth and one more in the ninth off successive doubles by right fielder Jerry Gallagher and shortstop Dick Clento.

*Now Georgia Southern