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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of School:..... University of Memphis
 Location:..... Memphis, Tenn.
 Founded:..... 1912
 Enrollment:..... 20,379
 Nickname:..... Tigers
 Colors:..... Blue and Gray
 Home Field:..... Tiger Softball Complex
 Capacity:..... 275
 Surface:..... Natural Grass
 Dimensions:..... 200-220-200
 Affiliation:..... NCAA Division I
 Conference:..... Conference USA
 President:..... Dr. Shirley Raines
 Athletic Director:..... R.C. Johnson
 SWA:..... Lynn Parkes
 Athletic Dept. Phone:..... (901) 678-2335

HISTORY

First Year of Softball:..... 2006
 Overall Record:..... 64-51
 College World Series Appearances:..... N/A
 NCAA Regional Appearances (Last):..... N/A
 Conference Championships (Last):..... N/A
 Last Postseason Opponent (Result):..... N/A

2007 TEAM INFORMATION

Overall Record:..... 36-25
 Home:..... 19-7
 Road:..... 9-13
 Neutral:..... 8-5
 Conference USA Record (Finish): 10-12 (6th)
 Home:..... 7-5
 Road:..... 3-7
 Neutral:..... 0-0
 C-USA Tournament:..... 1-2
 Final Ranking:..... None

2008 COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:.. Windy Thees (Florida State, 1997)
 Record at Memphis/Years:..... 64-51/Two
 Collegiate Record/Years:..... 227-143/Seven
 Assistant Coaches:
 Donald Pickett (Chattanooga, 1998)/2nd
 Ashley Blanton (GCSU, 2004)/2nd
 Athletic Trainer:..... Kai Washington
 Softball Office Phone:..... (901) 678-2315
 Softball Office Fax:..... (901) 678-2162

2008 TEAM INFORMATION

Starters Returning/Lost:..... 5/4
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost:..... 10/6
 Pitchers Returning/Lost:..... 1/2
 Newcomers:..... 6

MEDIA RELATIONS

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 Memphis, TN 38152
 Website:..... www.GoTigersGo.com

MEDIA INFORMATION

• All interview requests for Lady Tiger softball players and coaches must be directed through the Athletic Media Relations Office at (901) 678-2444. Interviews will be arranged around practice times and class schedules.

• Practices are open to the media. The coaches and players will be available following practice for interviews upon advanced request.

• Working press will be admitted to all 2008 Tiger home games by credential provided by the Athletic Media Relations Department. Parking is free.

• Space is limited in the press box and media will be accommodated according to NCAA policies and procedures.

• Teams traveling with a radio broadcast crew will have to contact Brandon Kolditz at (901) 678-2444 to inquire about phone line availability.

TIGER SOFTBALL COMPLEX

In 2008, the Tigers will play their first full season in their new \$1.7 million stadium on the University of Memphis' Park Avenue Campus on the corner of Park Avenue and Getwell. Memphis officially opened the complex on April 7, 2007 against Tulsa. The natural grass outfield boasts spacious locker rooms and dugouts on each side of the base path. The dimension of the 275 capacity stadium are 200 to the right and left fields and 220 to center. Bullpens are found to the side of each dugout and a batting cage rests beyond the right field fence. The press box to the complex consists of two broadcast booths and two workroom areas. High speed wireless Internet is available for the working media.

TICKET INFORMATION

For ticket information to University of Memphis softball games, call the Athletic Ticket Office at (901) 678-2331.

GOTIGERSGO.COM

The official website of U of M Athletics is www.GoTigersGo.com. Check out the site for updated information on all Tiger teams as well as recruiting information, ticket information, the Tiger Scholarship Fund and more.

The primary mission of the Department of Athletics is to provide a successful athletic program at the highest level of competition. Characterized by academic, athletic and moral excellence in a diverse collegiate environment, the program will abide by the spirit of the rules governing students and intercollegiate athletics and will be known for its good sportsmanship and integrity.

The U of M is an equal opportunity/affirmative action university.

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CREDITS

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2008 ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos.
7	Kimber Bossom	P
4	Leila Dolfo	INF
24	Brittany Gooch	OF
5	Tori Gross	2B
21	Kimmi Hayden	C
1	Leandra Hines	OF
44	Kailey Kassner	C/1B
12	Lindsay Kelso	C/3B
16	Rayna McClinton	P
3	Maddie McKinley	3B/SS
17	Heather Mott	SS
10	Melissa Nance	INF
8	Leigh Rowan	3B/OF
22	Sara Schneider	OF
6	Kim Sirman	OF
23	Lyndsey Sterling	P
13	Janelle Valle	P

TEAM MANAGERS

Ryan McPhail/Third Season
 Jessica Jones/First Season
 Christi Morrison/First Season

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Leila Dolfo.....LAY-la DOLL-fo
 Tori Gross grōs
 Kim Sirman sir-MAN
 Leigh Rowan..... ROW-en
 Janelle Valleval-EE

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	NAME	Pos.	Ht.	B/T	Yr.	Exp.	HOMETOWN/LAST SCHOOL
1	Leandra Hines	OF	5-5	L/R	Jr.	2L	McDonough, Ga./Union Grove HS
3	Maddie McKinley	3B/SS	5-7	R/R	Fr.	HS	Chickamauga, Ga./Gordon Lee HS
4	Leila Dolfo	INF	5-6	R/R	Jr.	2L	Chula Vista, Calif./Eastlake HS
5	Tori Gross	2B	5-4	R/R	Jr.	2L	San Diego, Calif./Ramona HS
6	Kim Sirman	OF	5-4	R/R	Fr.	HS	Sugar Land, Texas/Clements HS
7	Kimber Bossom	P	5-10	R/R	Fr.	HS	Dayton, Texas/Dayton HS
8	Leigh Rowan	3B/OF	5-7	R/R	So.	1L	Marietta, Ga./Lassiter HS
10	Melissa Nance	INF	6-1	R/R	Sr.	2L	Frankfort, Ind./Clinton Prairie HS
12	Lindsay Kelso	C/3B	5-8	R/R	Sr.	1L	Phoenix, Ariz./Phoenix College
13	Janelle Valle	P	5-6	L/L	Fr.	HS	Lake Elsinore, Calif./Temescal Canyon HS
16	Rayna McClinton	P	5-8	R/R	Fr.	HS	Columbia, S.C./Spring Valley HS
17	Heather Mott	SS	5-4	R/R	Fr.	RS	Pensacola, Fla./Escambia HS
21	Kimmi Hayden	C	5-7	R/R	Jr.	2L	El Cajon, Calif./Valhalla HS
22	Sara Schneider	OF	5-5	L/R	So.	1L	Cordova, Tenn./St. Benedict
23	Lyndsey Sterling	P	5-7	L/R	Jr.	2L	Atoka, Tenn./Tipton-Rosemark Aca.
24	Brittany Gooch	OF	5-4	L/L	Jr.	2L	Nashville, Tenn./Wilson Central HS
44	Kailey Kassner	C/1B	6-1	R/R	Fr.	HS	Elk Grove Village, Ill./Conant HS

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Windy Thees (Florida State, 1997)/Third Season
 Assistant Coach: Donald Pickett (Chattanooga, 1998)/Second Season
 Ashley Blanton (GCSU, 2004)/Second Season

SUPPORT STAFF

Athletic Trainer: Kai Washington/First Season
 Strength & Cond.: Chad Smith/Second Season
 Academic Advisor: Jessie Mills/Third Season
 Media Relations: Brandon Kolditz/Second Season
 Marketing: Jennifer Archibald/First Season



STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

Arizona (1).....Kelso
 California (4)..... Dolfo, Gross, Hayden, Valle
 Florida (1).....Mott
 Georgia (3).....Hines, McKinley, Rowan
 Illinois (1)..... Kassner
 Indiana (1)..... Nance
 South Carolina (1).....McClinton
 Tennessee (3).....Gooch, Schneider, Sterling
 Texas (2)..... Bossom, Sirman

SUPPORT STAFF



RYAN MCPHAIL
TEAM MANAGER



JESSICA JONES
TEAM MANAGER



CHRISTI MORRISON
TEAM MANAGER



KAI WASHINGTON
ATHLETIC TRAINER



JESSIE MILLS
ACADEMIC ADVISOR



BRANDON KOLDITZ
MEDIA RELATIONS



JENNIFER ARCHIBALD
MARKETING

Experienced lineup and talented freshmen pitching generate excitement for 2008 season

The University of Memphis softball team continued to reach program firsts last season, qualifying for its first Conference USA Championship and finishing the year with a 36-25 record. But the one first that will have the biggest impact on the 2008 season is the loss of the team's first seniors at the end of last year.

Memphis lost six seniors in 2007, including three starters and all of its starting pitching. As a result, the biggest question mark in 2008 will be how a freshman rotation with three talented newcomers will handle the pitching duties.

Thees said she is excited in the talent of the newcomers as well as the leadership and ability of the returning players.

"We don't have experience (at pitching)," Memphis head coach Windy Thees. "That is the one thing we're going to lack, but we have great pitching. It's just a matter of when they mature. I'm really excited about the pitching staff that we have.

"We have great juniors on this team and a couple of great seniors who are taking care of the youngsters. Our freshman class is quite large and we're going to have some impact players on there, not just on the mound."

PITCHING

Three freshmen will compete for starting time in the Tigers' rotation in 2008 to replace Jenna Kubesch and Nicki Johnson who both split the



majority of the pitching duties the last two seasons. Kimber Bossom was a four-year letterwinner at Dayton High School in Dayton, Texas and earned first team all-district three times. The right hander struck out 160 in one season and earned the district MVP the last three years. Bossom struck out six and allowed just two hits in six innings of work in a fall shutout against Northwest Community College.

Right-handed freshman Rayna McClinton comes to Memphis after playing three years as a pitcher and outfielder for Spring Valley High School in Columbia, S.C. She played her freshman season at Woodward Academy in Atlanta, Ga., and holds the school's record for most strikeouts in a season with 197. As a senior, McClinton hit .323, while sporting a 1.04 ERA.

Freshman Janelle Valle lettered three years at Temescal Canyon High School in Lake Elsinore, Calif. The southpaw holds the all-time win record at the school and was named a 2007 Riverside County All-Star player. Valle struck out six and allowed just two hits in a fall 2-1 victory against cross-town Christian Brothers University.

Juniors Lyndsey Sterling and Leila Dolfo are the only returning players with collegiate pitching experience on the roster. Sterling has pitched five and a third innings the last two seasons and had two appearances in 2007. Dolfo has pitched 40 and two-thirds innings in two years with seven starts, but had only two appearances last season and is expected to primarily play in the infield in 2008.

INFIELD

The Tigers have significant starting experience returning in three of the five infield positions. Back is All-C-USA First Team selection Leila Dolfo who started 49 games at shortstop in 2007. The junior should see starting time at third and first base in 2008, switching positions to fill the void left by last year's seniors Bridgette McNulty and Kara Ross. Dolfo led the team with 11 home runs, while making 53 starts in the leadoff position. She finished with a .300 batting average, 19 doubles, 34 runs scored and 26 RBI.

Competing for starting time at third and first

base will be senior Melissa Nance who begins her first collegiate season as a softball-only athlete. Nance played the last four seasons on the Memphis volleyball team and served as the team-captain the last three years. On the softball field, Nance has a career .292 batting average with nine home runs, 11 doubles and 33 RBI and sports a .515 slugging percentage. She played in 31 games last season with 19 starts with five coming at first base.

Junior Tori Gross returns to play second base after starting 113 of the school's 115 games the past two years at the position. The San Diego, Calif., native has a career .971 fielding percentage with 30 RBI and 33 runs scored.

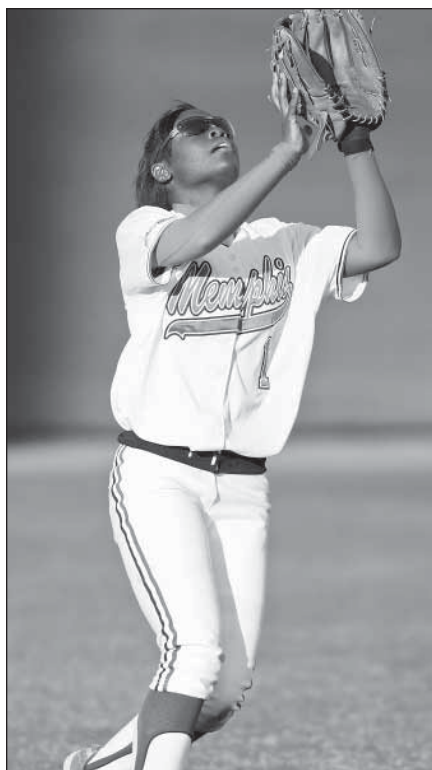
Shortstop Heather Mott returns to complete her freshman season after starting the first 10 games in 2007 at the position. Mott broke her leg early in the year and received a redshirt for the season. In last year's opening tournament at LSU, Mott belted four home runs and had eight RBI, seven hits and six runs scored in the six games.

Competing for playing time in the infield will be freshman Maddie McKinley. The Chickamauga, Ga., native played four years at Gordon Lee Memorial High School and is a four-time *Chatanooga Times* Best of Preps.

The tag-team catching duo of senior Lindsay Kelso and junior Kimmi Hayden return in 2008. The two split starting time at catcher and designated player. Kelso started 50 games last season with 28 coming behind the plate. The Phoenix, Ariz., native threw out seven runners and had two pick offs, while hitting four home runs with 21 RBI and 29 runs scored.

Hayden made 32 of her 54 starts at catcher and hit .299 with five home runs and 22 RBI. In two seasons, the El Cajon, Calif., native has a .283 career batting average, eight home runs, 52 RBI and 36 runs scored. Her .993 career fielding percentage also ranks first all-time in school history.

Competing for playing time at catcher and first base is freshman Kailey Kassner. Kassner lettered four years as a first baseman and catcher at Conant High School in Elk Grove Village, Ill.



Junior outfielder Leandra Hines led the team with 20 sacrifice hits in 2007.



2008 PREVIEW

OUTFIELD

Memphis returns two of its three starters in the outfield as well as a 2007 C-USA All-Freshman team selection in sophomore Leigh Rowan. Junior Leandra Hines started all 61 games last season in left field and will resume her post in 2008. The McDonough, Ga., native led the team in stolen bases last season and was one of the team's most productive players at advancing runners; finishing with 20 sacrifice hits.

Junior Brittany Gooch started 33 games last season primarily in right field before suffering a leg injury on April 18 and missing three weeks. Gooch hit .275 on the season and committed just one error. The Nashville, Tenn., native was also a perfect six-for-six in stolen base attempts.

Rowan filled in for Gooch during her injury and made enough of an impact to be voted to the Freshman Team by the league's coaches. The Marietta, Ga., native started 20 games and ended the season with 17-straight starts in right field. She led the team with a .317 batting average and also had seven pinch hits off the bench. Rowan could also see time in the infield at third base.

Freshman Kim Sirman will compete for the starting job in center field to replace last year's senior starter Lindsey Pridgen. The Sugar Land, Texas, native was a four-year letterwinner at Clements High School. Also competing for playing time is sophomore Sara Schneider who scored five runs in 2007 and was primarily used as a pinch runner.

SCHEDULE

Memphis will play six teams that competed in the NCAA 2007 Regionals, including the Women's College World Series participant, Arizona State. The Tigers will also play two other Super Regional teams in Oklahoma and Florida.

The Tigers begin the year at a tournament hosted by former C-USA member and current Big East affiliate, USF, in Tampa, Fla., from Feb. 8-10. Memphis will open the first day against Il-



Junior outfielder Brittany Gooch celebrates with junior catcher Kimmi Hayden after scoring the tying run in the seventh inning of an eventual 2-1 victory over Tulsa in the 2007 Conference USA Championship.

linois before facing the tournament host. The U of M will also face Florida, Florida Gulf Coast and Bethune Cookman in the invitational.

Memphis will then travel to Tempe, Ariz., to compete in Arizona State's tournament with a game scheduled against the nationally-ranked Sun Devils as well as Texas Tech, Oklahoma State, Nebraska and Idaho State. The Tigers will also play in tournaments hosted by Oklahoma and Winthrop.

From February 22-24, Memphis will host its second annual Blues City Classic. The tournament will be held at Greenbrook Park in Southaven, Miss., due to the facility's capability of hosting multiple games simultaneously. The Tigers will host five teams in the round robin style tournament.

Memphis opens its conference schedule at home against Marshall with a doubleheader on March 8. Other home conference series will be played against UTEP, Southern Miss and East

Carolina, while the Tigers will travel to UAB, Houston, UCF and Tulsa. Houston will host the C-USA Championship from May 8-10.

Last season, the Tigers won its final six conference games of the season to earn its first trip in the program's two-year history to the conference championship tournament. This year, teams will not need dramatic finishes to earn their spot. The league's coaches approved a tournament format that includes all of the league's nine teams instead of the six slots open in the past.

"That will make the conference tournament so much more meaningful," Thees said. "Anybody can be hot, and if you get hot, you could win it. If everybody went, everybody's going to be playing to be at their peak at that time. In the past, I think some teams had fallen off knowing they weren't going to get to the tournament. You've got to give something for your players to play for even if you're having a bad year."



Junior infielder Leila Dolfo led the team in 2007 with 11 home runs and 19 doubles.



Senior catcher Lindsay Kelso finished eighth in C-USA in 2007 with 28 walks.



Senior infielder Melissa Nance led the team with a .553 slugging percentage.