1978

UMass makes its first trip to the AIAW World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Southwest Missouri 11, UMass 2
Texas 1, UMass 0 (9 innings)

• Finished 20-8 and advanced to the school’s first AIAW/ASA Championships. The 20 wins were the most by a UMass team to date.
• Went 6-0 en route to the EAI AW crown.
• Kathy Horrigan enjoyed a 14-game hitting streak, while future UMass Athletics Hall of Fame member Sue Peters strung together an 11-game streak at one time.
• Peters batted .466 to go along with three doubles and home runs, four triples and a team-leading 22 RBIs. She also recorded an 11-1 record on the mound. Rhonda McManus was second on the squad hitting at a .400 clip, while Horrigan batted .362 with three home runs. They each drove in 17 runs.
• UMass pitchers had a 1.87 ERA in the World Series.
• Minutewoman hitters combined to bat .111 in the World Series and were no-hit for nine innings in the season-ending loss to Texas.
• Defensively, Massachusetts committed seven errors in the two national tournament games.
• Under first-year Head Coach Elaine Sortino, the Minutewomen advanced to the school’s second World Series in three years.
• Pitcher Kathy O’Connell was an All-New England selection.

Two of the three softball players currently in the UMass Athletics Hall of Fame were members of the 1980 AIAW World Series team.
1992

UMass makes first WCWS appearance and advances to the semifinal game against UCLA.

UCLA 4, UMass 0
UMass 4, Florida State 2
UMass 2, Long Beach State 1
UCLA 9, UMass 1

• Finished third in the nation at the College World Series.
• First Northeast team since 1985 to reach the College World Series.
• Recorded a 39-16 overall mark and captured the Atlantic 10 regular season and tournament championships.
• Reeled off 12 consecutive wins, including seven straight shutouts during the regular season.
• Recorded a perfect 10-0 record against A-10 opponents.
• Captured its fourth consecutive A-10 Tournament title.
• Six Minutewomen were honored on the A-10 All-Tournament team, including Most Outstanding Pitcher Holly Aprile and Most Outstanding Player Sherri Kuchinskas.
• Three Minutewomen earned third team All-America accolades including Aprile, Kuchinskas and Barb Marean.
• Finished the regular season ranked 20th in the nation and hosted one of the eight NCAA Regional Tournaments.
• Defeated the UConn Huskies in the Regional finals, 10-0, to advance to the WCWS in Oklahoma City.
• Dropped game one of the WCWS, 4-0, to UCLA. In a “play to stay” situation, they defeated Florida State, 4-2; and Long Beach State, 2-1, in a 10-inning upset to advance to the semifinal game and rematch against the eventual national champions UCLA. UMass fell to the Bruins, 9-1, to close out its season with a third-place finish.
• A 37-23-1 record propelled the Minutewomen to Atlantic 10 regular season and tournament titles, as well as a seventh-place finish at the Women’s College World Series.
• The pitching staff strung together 79.1 consecutive hitless innings inclusive of the entire A-10 Tournament and a NCAA playoff sweep of Canisius. Danielle Henderson threw 63.2 of those innings, including the first no-hitter in A-10 Tournament history.
• Tied its own NCAA record by belting seven triples in the second game of the Canisius sweep.
• As host of the regional tournament, they defeated Boston College once and Western Athletic Conference champion Colorado State twice to advance to the WCWS. Trailing, 2-0, in the bottom of the seventh, the Minutewomen made a dramatic comeback with a two-out infield single by Mandy Galas, UMass knotted the score at 2-2 and won the game an inning later by one run. Tracey Osier drove in the winning run on a bloop single to send the Minutewomen back to the College World Series.
• At the national tournament, they dropped a pair of heart breaking games to eventual national champion, Arizona, in eight innings and Fresno State.
• Henderson was named to the College World Series All-Tournament Team and earned All-America honors.
UMass returns to the "Big Show" for the second straight year and third time in the decade.

Washington 1, UMass 0
Oklahoma State 6, UMass 0

- Finished the season with a 45-14 overall mark, setting a school record for victories in a season.
- Concluded their season ranked No. 9 in the NFCA/USA Today Coaches Poll.
- Claimed its 11th Atlantic 10 regular season and tournament championship in 13 seasons of A-10 play.
- Won 42 of their last 47 games. UMass won 22 straight games (April 14-May 17), the nation’s second-longest win streak of 1998.
- Elaine Sortino earned her 600th career victory, becoming the first northeast coach to achieve this milestone. Sortino and her assistant, Kathryn Gleason and Chris Martens, were named Speedline/NFCA Northeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year.
- Senior Kim Gutridge and junior Danielle Henderson were named to the NFCA/Louisville All-America second team.
- Henderson was the NCAA strikeout champion, averaging 11.9 strikeouts per seven innings. Her 430 strikeouts ranked fifth on the NCAA single-season chart.
- Henderson was named the A-10 Pitcher of the Year for the second straight year. Becky George, Gutridge and Tracey Osier earned All-Atlantic 10 honors. Henderson, Kelly Buckley, Nikki Faessler, Gutridge and Osier were named to the A-10 All-Tournament team.
All-Time Letterwinners

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Dawn Albert 3B 1990
Holly Aprile P/OF 1989-92
Kelli Arnold P/DP 2002-

B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B-B
Ashley Bakken IF 1999-02
Lynn Barry OF 1976-77
Jessica Bartlett P 2001-
Emily Bietsch OF 1984-87
KC Budrewicz IF 2002-
Susan Brophy OF/C 1976
Octavia Brown OF 1996-99
Carol Bruce CF/2B 1976-78
Angyla Brumm OF 1992
Kelly Buckley SS/C 1995-98
Peggy Bush OF 1991-92

C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C-C
Jamie Cahalan C 2001-
Barbara Cameron DP 1982
Samantha Cardenas 3B 1994-97
Joan Carew SS 1977
Kelley Carr C/IF 1989
Gail Carter P/1B 1977-79
Jen Case 1B 1990, 91-92
Chris Ciepiela OF 1985-88
Darlene Claffey P 1990-93
Amy Cockley OF/IF 1990-91
Christina Coffin CF 1980, 82-84
Debbie Cole 3B 1984-87
Dana Colla P 1993-94
Beth Collins C/OF 1977-78
Chris Collins IF 1988-91
Fran Cornacchioli IF 1978-80
Chris Coughlin 3B/SS 1980-83
Donna Crook C 1987
Brandi Cross 1B 2000-

D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D-D
Kelly Daut P 1992-95
Cherie DellAnno C 1988-91
Nicole DeMauro U 1998
Denise Denis OF 2002-

E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E-E
Michelle Eovine 2B 1981

F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F-F
Nikki Faessler C 1997-00
Alisa Fila SS/3B 1985
Denise Fleming DP/C 1981
Lu-Ann Fletcher SS/P 1976
Mary Forbes LF/C 1979-81
Alison Forman 3B 1986-89
Aisha Franke OF 2001-
Carol Frattaroli 2B 1984-87
Irene Freeman C 1985-88
Beth Fulcher C 1990-91

Jackie Gaw C/CF/3B 1980-83
Mandy Galas IF/OF 1996-99
Becky George IF/OF 1996-99
Kim Gutridge 1B 1995-98
Marcie Gyure OF 1997

Jennifer Hadley P 1999-02
Kim Harrigan OF 2002
Monica Hashiguchi OF 1997
Ashlie Hayes SS 1996
Danielle Henderson P 1996-99
Kendall Hodson P 1990-91
Tiffany Hodson 3B 1990-91
Kaila Holtz P 2000-
Kathy Horrigan OF/1B 1978-79
Elaine Howle 3B/RF 1976-79

Nikki Faessler, a three-year starting catcher, ranks fourth all-time with 11 career home runs.
Chris Martens, a four-year letterwinner, is fifth all-time with a .345 career batting average.