1982 Panther Softball

University of Northern Iowa
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UNI Head Coach Meredith Bakley, in her fourth year as head coach, welcomed back 10 athletes this season from last year's 29-15 squad. The Panthers placed third a year ago in the Division II state tournament and fourth in the regional championships.

"We have a lot of talent returning," said Bakley. "We'll have excellent speed, good arms and our players are very knowledgeable in the game. The few players we lost have been more than adequately replaced."

At the mound, UNI has two of four athletes returning. Junior Kathy Gross has done a lot of pitching for UNI the past two years and will do a lot more along with returning Lori Cook and freshman Trish Eason. Bakley says all three pitchers will see equal amounts of time during the Oklahoma trip in order to determine a true starter. Gross throws a lot of "stuff," says Bakley, and has a good rise and drop ball. Cook's strength is in her fast ball. Eason and another pitcher, Jennifer Burger, will need to adjust to collegiate ball, Bakley says, but she is expecting good things to come from both pitchers.

The Outlook

Head Coach
Meredith Bakley

Meredith Bakley begins her fourth year as the Panthers' head softball coach. In her first year at the helm, she guided the team to a 22-10 overall record and a second place finish in the AIAW state tournament. Two years ago she improved that mark to 31-15. Last season, the Panthers finished 29-15, placing third in the state and fourth in the regional championships.

A graduate of Black Hills State College in Spearfish, SD, she received her master's degree from Colorado State University in 1974 and has completed some hours towards her doctorate from the University of Iowa and Northern Colorado.

Bakley was an instructor at Valley City State College in Valley City, ND, where she was head basketball and softball coach before coming to UNI. Her Valley City softball team placed second in the state in 1978, losing to North Dakota State in the finals. Her overall win-loss record is 140-74.

Two of three catchers are returnees. Sophomore Jackie Winter played a lot last year and probably will play 50 percent of the time this season, sharing duties with returnee Robyn Murken, a senior. Both have very good arms but Winter lacks the speed that Murken possesses. The third catcher is junior Jerri Augustus who Bakley feels will be a valuable asset. She has an excellent throw to second base and gets out of the box quickly.

The infielders have four veterans. Laurel Magee returns at first base and was a backup at second last season. She's a very consistent, reliable player and was one of the better hitters on the squad with 17 RBIs to her credit. Battling with her for position is rookie Shellie Pfohl, a freshman, who with her height, strength and exceptional skill should be another great addition to the squad.

Second baseman Marshelle Clark returns to her spot after working into a starting role a year ago. She's an excellent defensive player, says Bakley, and is working hard to improve her hitting. She's been called a "natural" athlete.

At shortstop, senior Betty Throndson returns for her fourth year and obviously will be the leader in the infield. The most experienced player on the team, she has started every game since she was a freshman and was second high on the team with 25 RBIs.

At third base, sophomore Sherri Salsbury returns after starting as a freshman. She was disappointed in her hitting last season but her strengths are in handling line drives and fielding bunts. She also has a very quick arm. Backing her up is newcomer Beth Sloan, a freshman. Sloan needs collegiate experience but she is an aggressive player and is not afraid to meet the ball.

Only two players return from the outfield. Sophomore Jane Wagner most likely will be placed in right field and senior Linda Stone will play at left. Stone was the best hitter on the team last year. The newcomers are freshmen Laura Norenberg, Pamela Severin and Melinda McCauley. All the outfielders have great speed but Bakley says the freshmen are exceptional in this area.

"We've always been strong on defense and weak offensively," said Bakley, "but we should be stronger and more aggressive in this area of our game. We'll be able to mix up our hitting a little bit more this year and we'll be more aggressive on the bases."

Of those people who have left the team, three will be missed the most. Pitcher Lesa Trenary threw her best game of her career, according to Bakley, in the regional tournament last year, but has since married and left school. Right fielder Sue Tyler has graduated and with her loss goes the Panthers' only southpaw and her ability to drag bunts. She also was a mainstay on defense. Left fielder Sheryl Schlader also was an important person on defense.

The Panthers will be playing a very tough schedule, opening up with the Oklahoma trip and returning April 2-3 to compete in the 18-team Southwest Missouri Invitational against all Division I teams. UNI's first home games will be April 5 at 4 p.m. against Iowa.
1982 Schedule
March 15
March 16
March 17
March 18
April 2-3
April 5
April 6
April 7
April 9-10
April 12
April 14
April 16-17
April 19
April 20
April 21
April 23-24
April 27
April 30-
May 1
May 6-8
May 19-22
at Southwest Missouri State Invitational
at Iowa (2), 4 p.m.
St. Ambrose (2), 4 p.m.
at Iowa Invitational
at Mt. Mercy, 3:30 p.m.
at Iowa State, 3:30 p.m.
at Nebraska-Omaha Invitational
at William Penn
Wartburg, 3:30 p.m.
at Luther
AIAW Sectional Tournament
Grand View, 3:30 p.m.
at Loras
at AIAW State Championships
at Fort Dodge
at AIAW Regional Championships
at AIAW National Championships at Augustana (SD)

1982 Roster
No. Name Pos. Class Hometown Colleague Exp.
42 Jerri Augustus C Jr. Jefferson, IA 3rd year
48 Jennifer Burger P So. Marengo, IA 2nd year
14 Marshelle Clark* 2B So. Lake Mills, IA 2nd year
46 Lori Cook* P So. Green Mountain, IA 2nd year
6 Trish Eason P Fr. Scranton, IA 1st year
16 Kathy Gross* P Jr. Waterloow, IA 4th year
32 Laurel Magee* 1B Fr. Adel, IA 1st year
24 Melinda McCauley OF Sr. Story City, IA 4th year
44 Robyn Murken* C Fr. Dubuque, IA 1st year
12 Laura Noreenberg OF So. Norwalk, IA 2nd year
3 Shellie Pfohl 1B So. Norwalk, IA 1st year
38 Sherri Salsbury* 3B Fr. Nevada, IA 1st year
30 Pamela Sevierin OF Fr. Corwith, IA 3rd year
20 Beth Sloan 3B Sr. Edgewood, IA 4th year
36 Linda Stone* OF Sr. New Hampton, IA 2nd year
40 Betty Thordenson* SS So. Dubuque, IA 2nd year
34 Jane Wagner* OF So. Waucoma, IA 2nd year
28 Jackie Winter* C So. Waucoma, IA 2nd year

*Returning athlete

1981 Softball Statistics

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(Returnees in bold)
Year-By-Year Results

Season results prior to 1974 are unavailable.

1974 (15-3)
Luther 14-2, 2-0
Graceland 2-3
Grand View 18-4, 9-1
Iowa State 6-5, 7-3
Luther 6-3, 7-6
Iowa 13-0, 34-1
Wartburg 4-3, 5-4
IAIAW Championships (3rd)
Graceland 9-2
Buena Vista 11-1
Luther 1-2
Iowa State 1-4
Head Coach: Jane Mertesdorf

1975 (20-4)
Luther 3-0, 5-6
Iowa 10-0, 6-4
Iowa State 7-1, 10-2
Graceland 8-3
Kansas State 3-4 (8 Inn.)
Wartburg 15-1, 9-0
IAIAW District Championships (1st)
Wartburg 5-1
Luther 4-0, 4-0
IAIAW State Championships (1st)
Graceland 12-3
Iowa Wesleyan 10-0
Iowa State 2-1, 3-2
Women's College World Series (2nd)
Oklahoma 5-0
Michigan State 4-3
Kansas 4-1
Nebraska-Omaha 0-1
Michigan State 7-3
Nebraska-Omaha 11-1, 4-6
Head Coach: Jane Mertesdorf

1976 (23-3)
Iowa 11-0
Luther 3-0
Wartburg 3-2, 8-1
Iowa State 7-4, 1-0
Luther 1-0
Graceland 8-0, 15-0
Wartburg 5-0, 1-0
Luther 1-0, 3-4
Mankato State 10-0
Minnesota 10-0
Moorhead State 11-0
IAIAW Championships (1st)
William Penn 10-0
Drake 11-0
Wartburg 2-0
Iowa State 9-1
Luther 7-2
Women's College World Series (top 6)
Northern State College (SD) 3-1
Arizona State 0-2
Indiana State 10-2
Texas 6-0
Northern Colorado 0-1
Head Coach: Jane Mertesdorf

1977 (32-2)
Wartburg 4-3, 9-1
Nebraska-Omaha 9-3, 7-2
Iowa 6-5, 7-0
Grand View 12-0, 12-2
Mt. Mercy 6-1, 7-1
IAIAW District Championships (1st)
Upper Iowa 13-0
Luther 3-2
Iowa State 2-0, 1-0
Wartburg 9-0, 10-3
Waldorf 12-0, 9-0
Luther 0-1, 13-0
IAIAW State Championships (1st)
Mt. Mercy 9-0
William Penn 2-0
Iowa State 2-1, 4-2
IAIAW Region 6 Championships (1st)
North Dakota State 4-0
Tarkio 1-0
Southwest Missouri State 3-2, 6-1
Women's College World Series (1st)
Southern Illinois 3-0
Kansas 4-0
Michigan State 7-3
Arizona 1-0 (8 Inn.), 0-1 (9 Inn.), 7-0
Head Coach: Jane Mertesdorf

1978 (21-11)
Wartburg 2-1, 5-3
Luther 4-3, 0-1
Grand View 4-3, 5-1
Iowa 1-5
Luther 1-4
William Penn 5-3, 5-4
Drake 13-3, 10-3
Iowa State 2-4, 9-7
Loras 2-4, 0-5
Loras (Default 2)
Minnesota 9-2, 0-3
IAIAW District Championships (1st)
Upper Iowa 13-4
Luther 7-5
IAIAW State Championships (5th)
Central 4-2
Mt. Mercy 4-2
Grand View 1-2
Iowa State 1-2
IAIAW Region 6 Championships (4th)
Minnesota 0-4
South Dakota 11-2
Luther 8-3
Kansas 0-5
Head Coach: Jane Mertesdorf

1979 (22-10)
Wartburg 4-7, 6-5
Wichita State 10-2
Nebraska 2-5
Wayne State 5-4
Emporia State 1-6
Drake 1-0 (9 Inn.), 5-1
St. Cloud State 6-3, 6-5
Minnesota 5-7
Minnesota JV 2-3
Iowa State 0-1, 4-3 (10 Inn.)
Luther 15-5 (5 Inn.), 5-4
Mt. Mercy 2-3, 10-6
Loras 1-0, 8-2
IAIAW District Championships (1st)
Luther 7-2
Upper Iowa 5-2
Wartburg 8-2, 3-1
Grand View 1-3, 2-1
IAIAW State Championships (2nd)
Iowa Wesleyan 8-0
Iowa State 5-4
William Penn 3-1
Drake 0-1 (12 Inn.)
William Penn 6-5 (8 Inn.)
Drake 1-2
Head Coach: Meredith Bakley

1980 (31-15)
Hawaii-Hilo Invitational (2nd)
Texas Women's 0-1
Utah State 0-2
Northern Colorado 0-1
Golden West State 1-0, 4-5
Northern Colorado 1-5
Hilo Comets 1-0, 0-1, 10-0
Northern Colorado 5-3
Texas Wesleyan 2-3
Utah State 1-0
Minnesota Invitational (3rd)
Iowa State 0-3
Northwestern 7-2
Iowa 6-0
Minnesota 2-6
Northwestern 6-0
Wartburg 10-0, 4-0
Iowa 7-1, 1-0
Nebraska-Omaha 8-1
Nebraska 1-5
Northwest Missouri State 8-5
South Dakota 5-2
Wayne State 2-3
Luther 5-0, 2-0
Loras 2-0, 11-0
Central 7-0, 7-0
Mt. Mercy 5-3, 8-6
Upper Iowa (Forfeits 2)
Drake 6-3, 2-4
Clarke College 18-0 (5 Inn.), 9-0
IAIAW State Championships (3rd)
Westmar 3-1
Northwestern College 1-0 (9 Inn.)
William Penn 0-3
Drake 1-5
Head Coach: Meredith Bakley

1981 (29-15)
Texas-Arlington 0-1 (9 Inn.), 2-1
Texas Women's 1-4, 2-3
Iowa State 1-2
South Carolina 4-5
Western Michigan 2-3
North Texas State 9-0
Oklahoma City 6-1
Texas Women's 1-3
Wartburg 12-2 (5 Inn.)
Grand View 0-1 (8 Inn.)
William Penn 3-2, 4-1
Mt. Mercy 4-1, 12-0 (6 Inn.)
St. Ambrose 3-2 (Inn., 8), 3-1
Iowa 5-4, 4-1
Iowa State 3-0, 1-2
Colorado State 3-0
Wyoming 5-2
Nebraska-Omaha 4-3
William Penn 6-2, 7-2
Luther 7-1, 13-0 (5 Inn.)
Ellsworth (Exhib.) 4-0, 1-0
Loras 1-4, 12-0 (5 Inn.)
IAIAW Sectionals (3rd)
Grand View 4-0
Drake 2-1
Northwestern College 1-5
Drake 1-5
IAIAW State Championships (3rd)
St. Ambrose 0-2
Loras 9-1
St. Ambrose 3-0
Grand View 0-5
IAIAW Region 6 Championships (4th)
Moorhead State 7-0
South Dakota 2-1
Northeast Missouri State 0-1
St. Cloud State 6-0 (8 Inn.)
Grand View 0-1
Head Coach: Meredith Bakley
A Short History

Women's intercollegiate softball at the University of Northern Iowa has a short history but a very proud history. Even though the program is young, with competition beginning in the 1972 season, UNI's teams have made a name for themselves state-wide, regionally and nationally.

Since the sport was initiated, each team has recorded a winning record. The overall win-loss mark (since 1974) is an astounding 193-63. Without any doubt, the premier season was 1977 when the Panthers, behind the pitching of Pat Stockman, who later went on to play with the Buffalo (NY) Briskies pro team, captured the Women's College World Series crown and finished the year with a 32-2 overall record.

Throughout the years, the Panthers have won three state championships, placed first in the regional championships in 1977, fourth in 1978 and 1981 and besides winning the national title in 1977, they placed eighth in 1973, second in 1975 and in the top six in the nation in 1976.

Facilities

The UNI softball team found its home on the UNI campus in the 1978 season with the construction of its own diamond after previously playing all home games at a softball complex in Waterloo, IA. Ground-level dugouts have been added just this spring to afford protection for the athletes from the possibility of inclement weather.

However, if the weather dictates that games can no longer be played outdoors, the UNI softball team has the advantage of being able to play indoors in the UNI-Dome, a multi-purpose, air-supported coliseum. Thus, the Panthers are rarely rained out when they play at home.

UNI at a Glance

Location: Cedar Falls, IA 50614
Enrollment: 10,954
Nickname: Panthers
Colors: Purple and Gold
Founded: 1876
Home Facility: UNI Softball Diamond, UNI-Dome
Softball Office Phone: 319-273-2520
President: Dr. John J. Kamerick
Athletic Director: Stan Sheriff
Associate Athletic Directors: John Jermier, Sandra Williamson
Sports Information Director: Nancy Justis (319-273-6354)
Assistant Sports Information Director: Dave Starr (319-273-3642)