Northern Iowa 1983 Softball

University of Northern Iowa

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Head Coach Meredith Bakley

Meredith Bakley begins her fifth 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. Three years ago she improved that mark to 31-15. Two seasons ago, the Panthers finished 29-15, placing third in the state and fourth in the regional championships. Last year, she directed UNI to their second national title.

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 175-89-1.

She is a former volleyball and softball player.

Assistant Coach Dr. Gene Bruhn

Dr. Gene Bruhn is beginning his first year as assistant softball coach and is in fact the first part-time assistant coach ever hired in the history of UNI softball. A chiropractor practicing in Clariville, he studied two years at Ellsworth Junior College, one year at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He also has competed in city leagues in the Quad City area.

The Outlook

UNI Head Coach Meredith Bakley, in her fifth year as head coach, will find repeating last year's performance quite difficult, but nonetheless challenging. The Panthers captured their second national championship in five years when they swept the AIAW Division II National Softball Championships last May in Sioux Falls, SD, finishing with a 35-15-1 overall record. With the demise of the AIAW, the Panthers have entered the ranks of NCAA Division I competition this season and along with the other eight women's sports, have joined the new Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference.

"There's little doubt that repeating last year's performance will be much more difficult this year," says Bakley. "But we feel we have the talent to make a run for finishing in the upper division of the conference even though the league is very strong in softball."

Bakley welcomes back 14 athletes from last year's title holders, including national all-tournament selections, pitcher Jennifer Berger and first baseman Laurel Magee. The squad includes three seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and three freshmen.

At the mound, UNI has three veterans. Berger was a pleasant surprise for Bakley last year, which is an understatement. A transfer from Mt. Mercy, she threw all eight games in the regional and national tournaments. She finished the season with a 17-5 record and pitched her fifth no-hitter of the year in the national championship game, striking out eight batters and walking none in the process. In the four tournament games, she gave up only two runs, seven hits and walked only three batters. She finished ninth in the nation in earned run average (0.35). Bakley says her strongest pitch is her high rise.

Lori Cook and Trish Eason are the other two veterans. Cook finished 4-2 last year and throws the hardest ball of all the pitchers. Bakley hopes she can handle more duties this season to help relieve Berger. Eason did well as a freshman, finishing 10-4-1, and went up against some of the stronger teams on the schedule. Terri Benson, a graduate of Cedar Falls (IA) High School, is a promising pitcher who should relieve the No. 1 and 2 pitchers.

Of the two catchers, one is a veteran. Jerri Augustus caught all eight games in regional and national competition. She is a steady and quiet catcher and pitchers love to have her catch for them, according to Bakley. However, she needs to contribute more offensively and improve upon her hitting. The other catcher, Penny Seidel, is a transfer from North Iowa Area Community College and will be a valuable addition to the team. She also is expected to give some assistance at third base. Both catchers will see plenty of action.

Six out of the seven infielders are veterans. Second baseman Marshelle Clark has good speed and is in fact one of the quickest players on the squad. Magee, as mentioned above, was named to the national all-tournament team at first base. She led the team in hitting, is very enthusiastic and will be one of the primary leaders. Beth Sloan, at third base, has very quick hands and is a dedicated, hard worker. Shellie Pfohl, also at first base, returns for her second year. Her role last season also included designated hitter and she should see more time on the field this year. Sherri Salsbury at shortstop is a key to the infield and acts as the field general. She adds enthusiasm and excitement and Bakley feels very relaxed with her running the infield. Linda Stone, who played primarily left field last season, may be moved closer in this year. A strong defensive player, her presence will strengthen the infield and would be difficult to replace. Freshman Pam Phipps rounds out the slate and probably will backup Salsbury. She also has strong defensive skills and a quick arm but she needs to work on her offensive game.

Three players return to the outfield where Junior Jane Wagner is the upperclassman. Bakley describes her arm as a "bullet" and her hitting also is invaluable. She was ranked third in the nation last year in number of doubles with 12. Pam Severin has improved 100 percent over last year, according to Bakley, and says she will see a lot more playing time. Center fielder Laura Norenberg no more looks like she could throw a ball to home plate but the petite sophomore started at that position as a freshman. She made an excellent catch that was hit far over her head against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville that brought sounds of praise from the spectators and was what she described as the "thrill of her life." Teams will find it very difficult to hit a ball that she won't put in her mit. The rookie in the outfield, Marla Peterson, has much to offer. Bakley says she has an excellent hitting style. The high school teammate of Norenberg is a very well-trained athlete.

Last but not least, utility Betty Davis does a little bit of everything and does it right. Her speed as a baserunner has saved many a
scores and her specialty is the "Pete Rose dive." She also can play outfield and doubles as the team manager. An excellent athlete, she has been a starter on the UNI basketball team.

The Panthers open the season March 11-12 at the Central State University (OK) Invitational.

### 1983 Roster

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(Returnees in bold)
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 228-78-1. 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) Bisons pro team, captured the Women's College World Series crown and finished the year with a 32-2 overall record. Last year, UNI won its second national title.

Throughout the years, the Panthers have won three state championships, placed first in the regional championships in 1977 and 1982, fourth in 1978 and 1981 and besides winning the national title in 1977 and last year, 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 Jeremi, Sandra Williamson
Sports Information Director: Nancy Justis (319-273-6354)
Assistant Sports Information Director: Dave Starr (319-273-3642)

On the Cover: UNI's returning national all-tournament team selections, first baseman Laurel Magee (back) and pitcher Jennifer Berger along with Head Coach Meredith Bakley.
Year by Year Results
Season results prior to 1974 are unavailable.

1974 (15-3)
Luther 14-2, 2-0
Graceiland 2-3
Grand View 18-4, 9-1
Iowa State 6-5, 7-3
Luther 6-3, 7-6
Iowa 13-0, 34-1
Warburg 4-3, 5-4
IAIAW Championships (3rd)
Graceiland 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
Graceiland 8-3
Kansai State 3-4 (8 Inn.)
Warburg 15-1, 9-0
IAIAW District Championships (1st)
Warburg 5-1
Luther 4-0, 4-0
IAIAW State Championships (1st)
Graceiland 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
Warburg 3-2, 8-1
Iowa State 7-4, 1-0
Luther 1-0
Graceiland 8-0, 15-0
Warburg 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
Warburg 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)
Warburg 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
Warburg 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)
Warburg 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) 1-0
Minneota 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)
Warburg 4-7, 6-5
Wichita State 10-2
Nebraska 2-5
Wayne State 5-4
Emoria 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
Warburg 8-2, 3-1
Grand View 1-3, 2-1
IAIAW State Championships (2nd)
Iowa Wesleyan 8-0
Iowa State 5-0
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
Hillo Comets 1-0, 0-1, 10-0
Northern Colorado 5-3
Texas Women's 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
Warburg 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

1982 (35-15)
Oklahoma Baptist 3-6, 13-5 (5 Inn.)
Southern Illinois 3-4 (8 Inn.)
Oklahoma 0-6
Oklahoma City 7-3
Texas-Arlington 1-6
Oklahoma City 11-2 (5 Inn.), 1-6
Southwest Missouri State 2-7
Southern Illinois 1-0 (10 Inn.)
Minnesota 1-9
William Penn 3-1, 3-2 (9 Inn.)
St. Ambrose 3-0, 4-2
Grand View 0-4, 12-3
Iowa 5-0, 0-3
Iowa State 0-1 (8 Inn.), 5-5 (5 Inn.)

Missouri Western Invitational (2nd)
Wayne State 4-0
Missouri Western 2-0
Nebraska-Omaha 2-0
Northeast Missouri State 3-0
Missouri Western 0-3, 0-2
William Penn 0-2, 7-2
Warburg 10-2, 10-0 (5 Inn.)
Luther 2-1, 9-3

IAIAW Western Championships (23)
Grand View 15-3
Northwestern (IA) 14-2 (6 Inn.)
Northwestern (IA) 10-0 (5 Inn.)
Grand View 5-1
Grand View 6-0
Loras 8-4, 14-2 (6 Inn.)
IAIAW State Tournament (3rd)
St. Ambrose 4-1 (8 Inn.)
William Penn 0-2
St. Ambrose 1-2 (10 Inn.)
IAIAW Region 6 Championships (1st)
Minnesota-Duluth 2-0
Northwest Missouri State 4-0
Augustana (SD) 3-0
St. Ambrose 13-1
IAIAW II Women's College World Series
Eastern Illinois 1-0
Northern Arizona 6-2
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 1-0
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 5-0
Head Coach: Meredith Bakley
The 1983 UNI Softball Team