



Paw Prints



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Head Coach's Corner

The America East Conference is one of the toughest mid major conferences in the country annually. The league champion always does a terrific job in the representing the America East in the NCAA tournament.

This year is probably the most balanced league since we joined six years ago. The top four teams in the conference qualify for the conference tournament, and these teams will not be determined until the last day of the season. The teams still fighting for a playoff birth, besides us, are Stony Brook, Boston, Albany, Maine, and Hartford.

We are the youngest team

challenging for a berth and we hope to be one of the final four standing. We have numerous players who are among the leagues elite. The season has been filled with both terrific wins and heart-breaking losses. This weekend we play a crucial three game series versus Hartford and hope to clinch a spot; but we control our own destiny and that's all you can really ask for. We need all the support from our fans to pull this out.

Top players rise to the occasion and I expect our team to do just that. We have had a great season winning over 30 games but it all

comes down to one weekend, May 2nd and 3rd versus Hartford. Stay tuned.



Head Coach
Joe French

True Life: I'm a Freshman

Being a freshman on a softball team has its ups and downs as everyone knows. Everyone, at one point or another, has to start off as a rookie and my time is almost done.

Coming into the fall season, I was a little nervous to be on a new team with new girls but all the upperclassmen were friendly and welcoming. They were good mentors and helped me and the other freshman out when we needed it. I enjoy being on the softball team and having

as what I consider a "built in family".

It was a little more nerve wracking when spring season came around because of the self induced pressure to produce when Coach gave me chances to go in the game. After a few outings the butterflies went away and I was able to go up to bat without my front leg shaking.

Overall, between my teammates being fun on and off the field, and the general softball atmosphere I'm around for almost every day

of this year, I have enjoyed my freshman year. I'm looking forward to the following years and being able to say I am no longer a freshman. Most of all, I can't wait until the day I will not have to carry the ball bucket, uniform bag or water to any game or practice.

#13 Angela Yannone



1994-1995 Team Celebration



Partying Like it's 1995

After scheduling, rescheduling, and a few more changes here and there the Retrievers kicked off their first weekend of conference play. The weekend was shared with the 1994-1995 team, celebrating the 15th anniversary of the first 40 win team in the program's history. This squad went 41-13 in the '95 season, including a 9-4 record in the Big South Conference that advanced them all the way to the championship game.

Six '95 players came to represent their team in a ceremony in between games during the Sunday doubleheader against the Maine Black Bears. The former Retrievers received tee shirts honoring their 40 win season and a hearty tailgate. The current Retrievers finished 2-1 on the weekend. If you were a 1994-1995 Retriever and were not able to attend the ceremony please let us know and we will send you your commemorative tee shirt.



Team Stats:

- ◆ *First 40 win team in program history*
- ◆ *41-13 overall record*
- ◆ *Advanced to the Big South championship game*

Alumni Spotlight: Deanna Vecchio



What years did you play at UMBC?
1998-2002

What is your best UMBC memory?
Riding on the bus... as stupid as it sounds, we definitely had the most fun. Playin' SPADES. Outback cheese fries. Playing at Fresno and scoring a run. All my favorite memories from UMBC involve either softball or my teammates. And who could forget about winning 2 Northeast Conference Championships (NEC)

Which team was your biggest rival and why?
I think I would have to say Long Island University (LIU). They were one of the best teams in our conference. They usually placed first in the NEC so when we would beat them, it was a good feeling. Did I mention the fact that we usually hated most of their players, ok, mainly the pitchers??

Where do you call home?
DIRTY JERSEY!!! I live on the east coast of central NJ and am lovin' it!

Family Stuff: (job, married, kids, etc.)

It's just me and my adorable 3 children. Their names, Tiger, Mango & Tarzan. They all have orange fur and I love them dearly. Okay, so yea, just 3 cats, how exciting. For those of you who grew to love her, I must mention that Minnie passed away last month. And Gizmo, the one that lived in our dorm room, is doing just well, despite all the abuse he took from some of my roommates. After I graduated from college, I started working as an insurance adjuster for Travelers Insurance.... You see the stupid commercials, I'm sure. I'm still with Travelers, however I'm actively looking into changing my career and going into law enforcement. I also was an assistant high school softball coach for 2 years and then I coached at Drew University for a year. I currently give softball lessons, coach softball, and referee high school basketball games. I do continue to play competitive fastpitch in the summers.

What other alumni do you remain in contact with?

Some people you talk to once a week, some once a month and others once a year. The best part is knowing that no matter who it is, they will always be there. It's comforting to know that a five minute conversation with anyone feels like you never left.

When was the last time you attended a UMBC softball game?

That would have to be Oct. 2007... wish I lived closer to get to more games.

What advice do you have for current Retrievers?

Don't take one single second for granted. These are the best years of your life and they fly-yyy by. Soon, you too will be sitting there with YOUR three cats wishing you could play just one more game...

Career Highlights:

- ◆ NEC 1st Team All Conference in 2000, 2001 and 2002
- ◆ NEC Player of the Year in 2002
- ◆ .353 career batting average
- ◆ Holds UMBC Runs record with 179 runs scored
- ◆ Holds UMBC Stolen Bases record with 135 stolen bases
- ◆ Member of the 2000 & 2002 teams that advanced to the NCAA Tournament



Upcoming Events

Friends of UMBC Softball Alumni Luncheon

When: Sunday May 3rd 2009

Time: Following the 12pm Senior Day game, approximately 2 pm

Food served for about 2 hours

Cash Bar

Where: Ship's Café 828 Frederick Rd Catonsville, MD 21228

Price: We hope to be able to cover the cost of food for everyone. If we get a large turn out, we might need to ask everyone to chip in a few bucks. But that will be determined later.

