



sports



THE WEEK AHEAD

Women's Basketball

Mar. 19 @ Elite Eight vs. Montana St-Billings

Women's Golf

Mar. 17-18 @ SVSU Spring Invitational

Mar. 24-25 @ Perry Park Spring Fling

Track & Field

Mar. 23 -24@ Weems Baskin Invitational

Softball

Mar. 17 @ ODU

Mar. 18 @ Findlay

Mar. 21 @ Tiffin

Mar. 24 vs. Walsh

Baseball

Mar. 17-18 @ vs Gannon

Mar. 20 @ Walsh

Mar 23.-24 vs Northwood

Tennis

Mar. 17 @ Hillsdale

Mar. 22 vs Mercyhurst

Men's Golf

Mar. 25-26 @ GMAC Spring Invitational

AU Softball: the 2018 team

Big goals for the season under new head coach

MEGAN FURBY
@mfurby

There are a few new things that are here for this 2018 season of softball. One, five seniors are gone from last season. Two, an amazing coach known as Shelia Gulas chose to retire. Last there is a new head and assistant coach for the softball team this year and they are ready to attack.

The new head coach is Emlyn Knerem. She grew up in Brunswick, Ohio. She started playing softball when she was just 10 years old. Knerem was mainly a pitcher, but she did play a bit of infield as well.

She came to Ashland University and played under Gulas, until she graduated in 2012.

The legacy that Gulas led for so many years will continue with Knerem this season and onward and she will throw her own coaching style into the mix as well.

Maddy Grimm is the assistant coach of the softball team. Knerem met Grimm when she was an assistant coach at Kent State.

"She was an extremely talented athlete on the field with great knowledge of the game, so I knew she would be a pertinent addition to my staff," Knerem said.

Last season the Ashland University Eagles softball team went 30-23 overall and 13-9 in their conference. They also went on to the GLIAC tournament and placed second behind Saginaw Valley.

Going into the season, there will be many things that will stay the same.

"I learned a great deal from Coach Gulas, so there will be parts of her coaching sprinkled throughout our program. My plan

is to continue the tradition of hard work, dedication, and love the game, while implementing new ideas and drills into practice and games," Knerem said.

The team is filled with upperclassmen and has two seniors on the team.

So they have a lot of experience for going into this year's season and could possibly win a GLIAC Championship.

When asked about the goals for this year's team Knerem commented, "Our number one goal is to return to the GLIAC tournament and win the championship. We want to attack opponents, never settle for just one win, and play to the best of our ability."

Junior Abigail Sgro, who is a pitcher and has been with Ashland since a freshman talked about their team motto and goal, "Our team motto is consistency wins. As a team we play as one unit non above another but all as on together. Our main goal this year is to attack each game from the very beginning."

Softball season has already begun and Ashland's record is 6-8. In February on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 they played in Rosemont, Illinois and went 3-1. After their first lost to William Jewell, the Eagles did not mess around with their next three games.

In the second game vs Lewis they went into 9 innings and sophomore Camille Pollutro in her first collegiate homerun to help the team come out with a 10-5 win.

The second day the team won both of their games, playing Lindenwood and going into extra innings and having to go to the international tiebreaker to make the final decision. They won 6-4 with

Lindenwood making a fielding error and then wild pitch to finish the game. The next game was against Wisconsin – Parkside and the Eagles walked if off in the last inning to seal the win with a score of 4-3.

Over spring break, March 4-9 the softball team went to Clermont, Florida.

The team played a total of 10 games and came out winning three games and losing seven.

The Eagles got their first win during spring break on their second game vs Wayne State with a score of 13-8.

They had a seven run lead in the top of the fifth to defeat Wayne State. Junior Paige Summers helped with the win by having a big bat and drove in five runs.



The team's overall goal for this season is to make it to and win the GLIAC tournament.



The softball team ended their spring break trip with a 6-8 overall record.

The second day they Eagles lost in two straight games, but they came back the third day and split the games, winning the first. They beat Felician 5-2, by scoring all of their runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Day four, they split yet again on their spring break trip. Eagles lost the first game to Saint Anselm by two. They went into their next fighting and able to come on top vs Northern State to a score of 1-0.

The last day of the Eagles trip they fought hard but got upset losing two straight games in the end.

The team's next game will be on March 17 a double header at Ohio Dominican at 1 and 3 p.m.

BASKETBALL FROM PAGE A1

Leading the way for the Eagles was sophomore guard Jodi Johnson who was named the tournament Most Valuable Player and contributed a team-high 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting.

"I'm just really pumped that our team gets to have another opportunity at a National Championship," Johnson said.

Daugherty and Snyder contributed 19 points and 16 points respectively, while Snyder also added nine rebounds and was named to the all tournament team.

Leading the Panthers throughout the entire tournament was sophomore forward Hailey Diestelkamp who was also named to the all-tournament team and scored a game-high 27 points Monday night.

The win has sent the Eagles into the Elite Eight for the second straight year.

Ashland is the only team returning from last years Elite Eight tournament and has claimed the No. 1 seed.

They will be matched up against the No. 8 seed, Montana State Billings.

The Yellowjackets (25-11) won the West Region Championship over Alaska Anchorage, 71-70.

MSUB lost to Drury this year 74-69 in their only game against a common opponent.

The game can be heard live on 88.9 WRDL and tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. EST/ 6 p.m. CST on March 19.

Follow @AULiveTweets on twitter to stay up to date with everything Ashland University Women's basketball during their quest for back to back national championships.