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## **QUICK FACTS • 2012 SCHEDULE**

### PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Location
Founded
Enrollment
Nickname
Colors
ConferenceBig Ten Conference
Home Facility Nittany Lion Softball Park (1,084)
President
Acting Director of AthleticsDr. Dave Joyner
Director of Athletics Timothy J. Curley
Senior Women's Administrator Charmelle Green
Faculty Representative Dr. Linda Caldwell
Athletics Website www.GoPSUsports.com

### **COACHING STAFF**

Head CoachRobin Petrini (16th Year)
Alma Mater Utah State '83
Overall Record
Record at Penn State
E-mailrjp13@psu.edu
Associate Head Coach Jen McIntyre (11th Year)
Alma Mater Penn State '98
E-mailjam295@psu.edu
Assistant Coach Lisa Banse (Second Year)
Alma Mater Iowa '06
E-maillab62@psu.edu
Office Phone
Office Fax
Office 302 Nittany Lion Softball Park
Park Avenue
University Park, Pa. 16802

### **TEAM INFORMATION**

2011 Overall Record
2011 Big Ten Record (Finish)
Starters Returning/Lost
Position Players Returning/Lost
Pitchers Returning/Lost
Letterwinners Returning/Lost 15/5
Newcomers
2011 Captains Cassidy Bell, Danee Collett

### PROGRAM HISTORY

First Varsity Year 1965
All-Time Record
All-Time Big Ten Record 159-267-1 (.374)
NCAA Postseason Appearances
All-Time NCAA Tournament Record 12-20
NFCA All-Americans
Academic All-Americans
First Team All-Big Ten Selections
Second Team All-Big Ten Selections
Third Team All-Big Ten Selections

### **ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS**

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Fax	
Mailing Address	101 Bryce Jordan Center
U	niversity Park, Pa. 16802

FEBRUARY							
		TIGER CLASSIC (Feb. 10-12)					
Fri.	10	at LSU Baton Rouge, La.	7:00 p.m.				
Sat.	11	vs. Louisiana Tech Baton Rouge, La.	11:00 a.m.				
		at LSU Baton Rouge, La.	4:00 p.m.				
Sun.	12	vs. Michigan Baton Rouge, La. CAROLINA CLASSIC (Feb. 25-26)	11:00 a.m.				
Sat.	25		10:00 a.m.				
Sat.	2)						
Sun.	26	James Madison Chapel Hill, N.C. James Madison Chapel Hill, N.C.	12:30 p.m.				
Suii.	20	North Carolina Chapel Hill, N.C.	10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.				
MAR	CH						
		CITRUS CLASSIC (Mar. 2-4)					
Fri.	2	vs. Virginia Kissimmee, Fla.	11:00 a.m.				
-		vs. Long Island Kissimmee, Fla.	1:00 p.m.				
Sat.	3	vs. N.C. State Kissimmee, Fla.	4:00 p.m.				
		vs. Lipscomb Kissimmee, Fla.	6:00 p.m.				
Sun.	4	vs. Auburn Kissimmee, Fla.	12:15 p.m.				
Wed.	7	Miami (Ohio) Clearwater, Fla.	1:00 p.m.				
		USF UNDER ARMOUR SHOWCASE (Mar. 9-11)					
Fri.	9	vs. Virginia Tech Tampa, Fla.	11:30 a.m.				
		at South Florida Tampa, Fla.	2:00 p.m.				
Sat.	10	vs. USC Upstate Clearwater, Fla.	11:30 a.m.				
		vs. Central Connecticut State Clearwater, Fla.	2:00 p.m.				
Sun.	11	vs. Rutgers Clearwater, Fla.	9:00 a.m.				
		JUĎI GARMAN CLASSIC (Mar. 16-18)					
Fri.	16	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette Fullerton, Calif.	2:00 p.m.				
		vs. Oklahoma Fullerton, Calif.	8:30 p.m.				
Sat.	17	vs. Fresno State Fullterton, Calif.	6:30 p.m.				
		vs. BYU Fullerton, Calif.	8:30 p.m.				
Sun.	18	vs. Cal State Fullerton Fullerton, Calif.	2:00 p.m.				
Sat.	24	* at Michigan (DH) Ann Arbor, Mich.	1:00 p.m.				
Sun.	25	* at Michigan Ann Arbor, Mich.	1:00 p.m.				
Sat.	31	* at Purdue (DH) West Lafayette, Ind					
APR	IL						
Sun.	1	* at Purdue West Lafayette, Ind	l. 1:00 p.m.				
Tue.	3	PITTSBURGH (DH) University Park, P	a. 3:00 p.m.				
Sat.	7	* MICHIGAN STATE (DH) University Park, P	a. 2:00 p.m.				
Sun.	8	* MICHIGAN STATE University Park, P	a. 1:00 p.m.				
Wed.	11	TEMPLE (DH) University Park, P	a. 3:00 p.m.				
Sat.	14	* INDIANA (DH) University Park, P	a. 2:00 p.m.				
Sun.	15	* INDIANA University Park, P	a. 1:00 p.m.				
Sat.	21	* at Wisconsin (DH) Madison, Wis.	1:00 p.m.				
Sun.	22	* at Wisconsin Madison, Wis.	1:00 p.m.				
Wed.	25	at Kent State (DH) Kent, Ohio	3:00 p.m.				
Sat.	28	* MINNESOTA (DH) University Park, P					
Sun.	29	* MINNESOTA University Park, P					
MAY							
Sat.	5	* at Illinois (DH) Urbana, Ill.	2:00 p.m.				
Sun.	6	* at Illinois (DTI) Urbana, Ill.	2:00 p.m.				
Fri.	11	* OHIO STATE University Park, P					
Sat.	12	* OHIO STATE (DH) University Park, P	<b>-</b>				
Catt		NCAA REGIONALS (May 19-21 at Campus Sites)					
Fri	19-		TBA				
	21		TBA				
Sun.	41	NCAA Regionals Campus Sites					
Er:	26	NCAA SUPER REGIONALS (May 26-28 at Campus Sites					
Fri	26-	NCAA Super Regionals Campus Sites	TBA				
Sun.	28	1 0 1					
ть	1	NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES (June 1 Women's College World Series Oldeborne City O					
Thu Wod	1-	Women's College World Series Oklahoma City, O					
Wed.	7	Women's College World Series Oklahoma City, O	kla. TBA				

\* – Big Ten meet; Home games in CAPS at Nittany Lion Softball Park; All times Eastern



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**ROBIN PETRINI** Head Coach



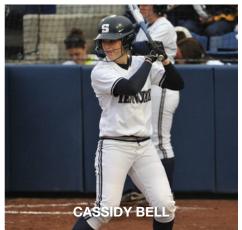
JEN MCINTYRE Associate Head Coach



LISA BANSE Assistant Coach



### **2011-12 CAPTAINS**





### ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

	= ()	
	E.	
	I	
1	120	

Contact . . . . . Jeremy S. Fallis Office. . . . . . (814) 865-1757 

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> > 3

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### **CREDITS** The 2012 Penn State Softball Yearbook

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A facility years in the making, state-ofthe-art and second to none. That is what **Nittany Lion Softball Park** and Beard Field provide to the Penn State athletic community. With numerous donations and the Penn State's Board of Trustees' approval, construction of the \$10.2 million complex was completed in time for the 2011 season. The new facility houses the Nittany Lion softball team and allows the program to compete with the best in the country.

The complex, which broke ground on March 28, 2010, features 1,084 permanent seats with fantastic sight lines, handicapaccessible seating, concession stands, permanent bathrooms and merchandise areas for fans. On the softball side of things a brand new field with irrigation, dugouts, batting cages and tunnels, bullpens, scoreboard and a brand new lighting system make the new Nittany Lion Softball Park a collegiate softball gem.

The complex gives the team the ability to consolidate its resources into one area

with new training rooms, media center, video room, study space, locker rooms and coaches' offices all housed at the softball park. Additionally, a new press area behind home plate was constructed, which further enhanced the amenities inside the stadium.

Key benefactors of the project allowed Nittany Lion Softball Park to take shape and get off the ground. The playing field was named Beard Field in recognition of a generous donation from Lee and William Beard in October 2009. The Penn State locker room was be named the Fran Vanden Locker Room, recognizing a gift from George and Frances Vanden. Another major donation came from the James M. and Margaret V. Stine Foundation to name both the Softball Office Complex and Media Center in honor of the Stine Family. Art and Paige Nagle also contributed to the project and had one of the assistant coaches' offices don their names

Penn State's first game in its new home was Mar. 26, 2011, a thrilling 8-5 victory



over Wisconsin. Plenty of firsts were delivered that afternoon and none more memorable than **Lisa Akamine's** inside-the-park home run as Penn State overcame a threerun deficit to win the inaugural game. For the season, Penn State boasted an 11-8-1 record on Beard Field in its first campaign. It was the first winning season at home since 2007 for the Nittany Lions, which coincided with PSU's last trip to the NCAA Tournament before 2011.

The stadium has already paid dividends for the Nittany Lion program as Penn State hosted the 2011 NCAA Regionals. The event marked the first time PSU hosted NCAA softball in 28 years as Oregon, Fordham and Albany competed with Penn State for the right to go to the NCAA Super Regionals. In the three-day event, nearly 1,900 fans streamed through the turnstiles. Oregon would eventually be the team that would advance, but not before an exciting 16-inning midnight thriller between Penn State and Fordam. The Nittany Lions prevailed, 5-2, in the second-longest game in PSU history.

As if the NCAA event wasn't exciting enough, Penn State then hosted the PIAA Softball Championships. Four games in one day on a sparkling afternoon in mid-June had nearly 3,000 fans attend. The first game of the day featured local powerhouse Philipsburg-Osceola and Brandywine Heights with a standing-room only crowd of 1,800 spectators. The PIAA is committed to Penn State through the 2014 event as Nittany Lion Softball Park earned rave reviews.

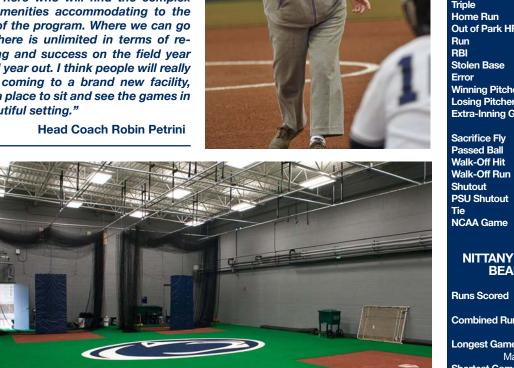
Nittany Lion Softball Park is located adjacent to the old Nittany Lion Field near the East Area dorms, on the corner of Park Avenue and University Drive. The new field faces the Bryce Jordan Center, Mount Nittany and University Drive to the southeast, providing spectacular views and a gorgeous setting for all that attend softball games.

## **BEARD FIELD & NITTANY LION SOFTBALL PARK**

"Bill and I are both very pleased to be a small part of this very impressive facility. For us, the decision to give to this facility, to this program, was easy because one of our big passions is certainly the students of this university, but in particular the softball program. Our passion to help the softball program is because we've watched this program grow. There are some common links to this group [of donors]: Fran and George [Vanden], the Stine Family, Peter and Ann Nagle, Bill and I all have in common a link in believing that this is a program that deserves the typical Penn State, first-class facility to be successful."

Lee Beard, Lead Benefactor

"We finally have a stadium that's worthy of the program. Nittany Lion Softball Park will clearly impact our recruiting efforts in the future. We are truly excited to be in the stadium and play on Beard Field. The Beards' support is phenomenal. I had the Michigan State head coach [Jacquie Joseph] say to me. `vou're going from worst to first' in terms of facilities in the conference. Nittany Lion Softball Park will bring recruits here who will find the complex and amenities accommodating to the level of the program. Where we can go from here is unlimited in terms of recruiting and success on the field year in and year out. I think people will really enjoy coming to a brand new facility, have a place to sit and see the games in a beautiful setting."







# NITTANY LION SOFTBALL PARK & BEARD FIELD FIRSTS

Game	Mar. 26, 2011; Penn State 8, Wisconsin 5
Pitch	PSU's Jackie Hill to Wisconsin's Jennifer
	Kreuger, called ball at 2:02 p.m.
Strikeout	Jackie Hill, Penn State vs. Kreuger
Hit	Karla Powell, Wisconsin
Single	Karla Powell, Wisconsin
Double	Cassidy Bell, Penn State
Triple	Mary Massei, Wisconsin
Home Ru	Lisa Akamine, Penn State
Out of Par	k HR Karla Powell, Wisconsin
Run	Cassidy Bell, Penn State
RBI	Kailyn Johnson, Penn State
Stolen Ba	se Cassidy Bell, Penn State
Error	Lauren Rossi, Penn State
Winning P	itcher Lisa Akamine, Penn State
Losing Pit	cher Cassandra Darrah, Wisconsin
Extra-Inni	<b>ng Game</b> Mar. 27, 2011
	Penn State 3, Wisconsin 2 (8 inn.)
Sacrifice I	Fly Michelle Mueller, Wisconsin
Passed Ba	Whitney Massey, Wisconsin
Walk-Off	lit Alyssa Sovereign, Penn State
Walk-Off	Run Shannon Hutchinson, Penn State
Shutout	Morgan Melloh, Indiana
PSU Shut	Lisa Akamine vs. Purdue (5/1/11)
Tie	PSU 0, Purdue 0 (8 inn., May 1, 2011)
NCAA Ga	me May 21, 2011
	Oregon 3, Albany 1

### **NITTANY LION SOFTBALL PARK &** BEARD FIELD RECORDS

Runs Scored	9; April 13, 2011
	Penn State 9, Kent State 1 (6 inn.)
Combined Runs	13, March 26, 2011
	Penn State 8, Wisconsin 5
Longest Game	16 innings; (3 hours 35 minutes)
May 2	21, 2011; Penn State 5, Fordham 2
Shortest Game	1 hour, 28 minutes
Apri	il 10, 2011; Indiana 1, Penn State 0
Attendance (PSU	) 751; May 21, 2011
P	SU 6, Albany 1; PSU 5, Fordham 2
Attendance (Any)	
Philipsburg	-Osceola 1, Brandywine Heights 0

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## **2012 NITTANY LION ROSTER**

	2012 PENN STATE SOFTBALL NUMERICAL ROSTER						
No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	B/T	Hometown	High School
00	Jordan Wheatley	P/INF	So.	5-11	R/R	Troy, Mich.	Troy
2	Alicia Walker	UTL	Fr.	5-6	R/R	Los Alamitos, Calif.	Los Alamitos
3	Liz Presto	С	So.	5-7	R/R	Bethlehem, Pa.	Bethlehem Catholic
4	Marissa Diescher	Р	Fr.	5-10	R/R	Livingston Manor, N.Y.	Livingston Manor
8	Ashley Todd	INF	Sr.	5-9	R/R	Mill Creek, Wash.	Henry M. Jackson
9	Lauren Yao	INF	Jr.	5-6	R/R	Los Angeles, Calif.	Cantwell Sacred Heart
11	Shannon Hutchinson	OF	Jr.	5-9	L/R	Sewell, N.J.	Washington Township
12	Lisa Akamine	P/UTL	Sr.	5-6	L/R	Escondido, Calif.	Escondido
15	Kasie Hatfield	C/3B	So.	5-5	R/R	Lutz, Fla.	Chamberlain
16	Danee Collett	C/UTL	Sr.	6-0	R/R	Rogersville, Tenn.	El Modena (Calif.)
18	Rachel Myers	UTL	Jr.	5-7	R/R	Millheim, Pa.	Penns Valley
20	Ellen McNair	C/UTL	Sr.	5-7	L/L	Niceville, Fla.	Niceville
21	Cassidy Bell	OF	Jr.	5-7	L/R	Bakersfield, Calif.	Liberty
22	Alyssa Sovereign	OF	So.	5-5	L/R	La Canada, Calif.	Crescenta Valley
23	Lauren Anderson	C/INF	Fr.	5-7	R/R	Valencia, Calif.	William S. Hart
24	Kailyn Johnson	1B	Jr.	5-8	L/L	Yorba Linda, Calif.	Esperanza
25	Meghan Bradley	OF	Fr.	5-7	L/L	Santa Monica, Calif.	Santa Monica
28	Morgan Long	INF	Sr.	5-4	R/R	Oro Valley, Ariz.	Ironwood Ridge
33	Mackenzie Liss	INF	Fr.	5-5	R/R	Mountainside, N.J.	Governor Livingston
44	Alyssa Renwick	SS	Jr.	5-7	R/R	Laurens, S.C.	Clinton

Head Coach: Robin Petrini (16th Year)

Associate Head Coach: Jen McIntyre (11th Year); Assistant Coach: Lisa Banse (Second Year)

### 2012 PENN STATE SOFTBALL ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	B/T	Hometown	High School
23	Lauren Anderson	C/INF	Fr.	5-7	R/R	Valencia, Calif.	William S. Hart
12	Lisa Akamine	P/UTL	Sr.	5-6	L/R	Escondido, Calif.	Escondido
21	Cassidy Bell	OF	Jr.	5-7	L/R	Bakersfield, Calif.	Liberty
25	Meghan Bradley	OF	Fr.	5-7	L/L	Santa Monica, Calif.	Santa Monica
16	Danee Collett	C/UTL	Sr.	6-0	R/R	Rogersville, Tenn.	El Modena (Calif.)
4	Marissa Diescher	Р	Fr.	5-10	R/R	Livingston Manor, N.Y.	Livingston Manor
15	Kasie Hatfield	C/3B	So.	5-5	R/R	Lutz, Fla.	Chamberlain
13	Shannon Hutchinson	OF	Jr.	5-9	L/R	Sewell, N.J.	Washington Township
24	Kailyn Johnson	1B	Jr.	5-8	L/L	Yorba Linda, Calif.	Esperanza
33	Mackenzie Liss	INF	Fr.	5-5	R/R	Mountainside, N.J.	Governor Livingston
28	Morgan Long	INF	Sr.	5-4	R/R	Oro Valley, Ariz.	Ironwood Ridge
20	Ellen McNair	C/UTL	Sr.	5-7	L/L	Niceville, Fla.	Niceville
18	Rachel Myers	UTL	Jr.	5-7	R/R	Millheim, Pa.	Penns Valley
3	Liz Presto	С	So.	5-7	R/R	Bethlehem, Pa.	Bethlehem Catholic
44	Alyssa Renwick	SS	Jr.	5-7	R/R	Laurens, S.C.	Clinton
22	Alyssa Sovereign	OF	So.	5-5	L/R	La Canada, Calif.	Crescenta Valley
8	Ashley Todd	INF	Sr.	5-9	R/R	Mill Creek, Wash.	Henry M. Jackson
2	Alicia Walker	UTL	Fr.	5-6	R/R	Los Alamitos, Calif.	Los Alamitos
00	Jordan Wheatley	P/INF	So.	5-11	R/R	Troy, Mich.	Troy
9	Lauren Yao	INF	Jr.	5-6	R/R	Los Angeles, Calif.	Cantwell Sacred Heart

### **PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

### LIONS BY ELIGIBILITY

### LIONS BY POSITION

Utility Players (4): Akamine, Collett,

McNair, Myers, Walker

Lisa Akamine Ah-kah-MEE-nay Seniors (5): Akamine, Collett, Long, Catchers (4): Anderson, Collett, Arizona (1): Long Lisa Banse BANCE McNair, Todd McNair, Hatfield, Presto California (7): Anderson, Bradley, Danee Collett DAN-ee Juniors (6): Bell, Hutchinson, Johnson, Infielders (9): Anderson, Hatfield, Akamine, Bell, Johnson, Walker, Yao Marissa Diescher DEE-sher Myers, Renwick, Yao Johnson, Liss, Long, Renwick, Todd, Florida (2): Hatfield, McNair Kasie Hatfield KAY-see Sophomores (4): Hatfield, Presto, Wheatley, Yao Michigan (1): Wheatley Jen McIntyre Sovereign, Wheatley MACK-in-tire Outfielders (4): Bell, Bradley, New Jersey (2): Liss, Hutchinson Robin Petrini Peh-TREE-nee Freshmen (5): Anderson, Bradley, Hutchinson, Sovereign New York (1): Diescher Lauren Yao YOW Diescher, Liss, Walker Pitchers (3): Akamine, Diescher, Pennsylvania (2): Myers, Presto Wheatley South Carolina (1): Renwick

Tennessee (1): Collett

Washington (1): Todd

LIONS BY STATE

## **2012 NITTANY LION TV/RADIO ROSTER**



JORDAN WHEATLEY Sophomore • P/INF Troy, Mich.



ALICIA WALKER Freshman • UTL Los Alamitos, Calif.



LIZ PRESTO Sophomore • C 10 Bethlehem, Pa.



MARISSA DIESCHER Freshman • P Livingston Manor, N.Y.



KASIE HATFIELD Sophomore • C/3B Tampa, Fla.



**ASHLEY TODD** Senior • INF Mill Creek, Wash.



LAUREN YAO Junior • INF Los Angeles, Calif.



SHANNON HUTCHINSON LISA AKAMINE Junior • OF Sewell, N.J.



Senior • P/UTL Escondido, Calif.



DANEE COLLETT Senior • C/UTL Rogersville, Tenn.



RACHEL MYERS Junior • UTL Millheim, Pa.



**ELLEN MCNAIR** Senior • C/UTL Niceville, Fla.



CASSIDY BELL Junior • OF Bakersfield, Calif.



ALYSSA SOVEREIGN Sophomore • OF La Canada, Calif.



LAUREN ANDERSON Freshman • C/INF Valencia, Calif.



KAILYN JOHNSON Junior • 1B Yorba Linda, Calif.



**MEGHAN BRADLEY** Freshman • OF Santa Monica, Calif.



MORGAN LONG Senior • INF Oro Valley, Calif.



MACKENZIE LISS Freshman • INF Mountainside, N.J.



ALYSSA RENWICK Junior • SS Laurens, S.C.



**ROBIN PETRINI** Utah State '83 Head Coach • 16th Year



**JEN MCINTYRE** Penn State '98 Assoc. Head Coach • 11th Year



LISA BANSE lowa '06 Asst. Coach • 2nd Year



Sixteen years after arriving in Happy Valley, fans and foes alike know that Penn State head coach **Robin Petrini** has brought the Nittany Lions to a new level. Petrini's vision of taking a below average Big Ten team and building it into a force that expects a run to the NCAA Tournament every year. In the past 12 years alone, Petrini has guided the Nittany Lions to eight appearances in the NCAA Tournament, while her overall record stands at 455-371-2. Petrini owns the all-time mark for career wins by a Penn State coach and has the longest tenure of any PSU skipper.

With a quality coaching résumé, top-notch Division I playing credentials and unbridled ambition, Petrini and her staff have rebuilt a program that hadn't been to an NCAA Tournament since 1985 when she took the 2000 Lion squad to the national tournament.

"We've established a standard and our expectation is that we get to NCAAs every year. Now we're looking to improve upon that," stated Petrini. "We've been to the NCAAs eight times. It doesn't get any easier to accomplish that goal, but now we want to take it to the next level. We want to get to the next round of the NCAAs and move forward with our expectations of this program."

Since taking over in 1997, Petrini has upgraded the program to become nationally competitive. She brought on board an excellent coaching staff with competitive experience at the collegiate ranks and upgraded the schedule to include nationally prominent teams year in and year out. In 1999, she led the Nittany Lions to their first 30-win season since 1988 and earned Big Ten Co-Coach of the year en route to a Big Ten Tournament bid. Since then, Petrini's teams have recorded seven more 30-win seasons, including 2006's 39-17 NCAA Tournament campaign, which set the school record for wins in a season.

More recently, Petrini overcame a three-year drought from the NCAA Tournament by taking the 2011 club not only to the event, but by hosting the NCAA Regionals at brand new Nittany Lion Softball Park and Beard Field. Petrini was instrumental in the building of the \$10.2

million, softball-only complex on Penn State's campus. In less than a year's time, the new facility has hosted the NCAA Tournament and all four levels of the PIAA Softball Championship.

### The Early Years at Penn State...

After only two seasons rebuilding the program, Petrini and the Lions started to become a factor in the conference with the 2000 season. That year, Penn State recorded its first back-to-back 30-win seasons and broke the school record for wins, which it set in the previous year. A school-best eight Lions were named All-Big Ten, including four first team selections. Petrini not only guided Penn State to its second consecutive Big Ten Tournament appearance, but the team also participated in its first NCAA Tournament since 1985.

Petrini's teams have consistently rewritten the Lion record books since her arrival. In 2000, her squad broke four team records and eight individual records. Jaci Kalp graduated as Penn State's most decorated pitcher in school history. Kalp left as the school's career-victories leader and broke the season mark for strikeouts, now held by 2006 graduate Missy Beseres.

**2001...** The 2001 campaign saw the Lions post their third-straight 30-win season. That team went on to break eight Penn State marks, including the single-season marks for victories by a pitcher and doubles. Kelly McCann won 22 games that year, while Megan Humphrey broke an 11-year old record for doubles with 15. The Lions made their second-straight trip to both postseason tournaments (NCAA and Big Ten).

**2002...** Eight single-season Penn State records fell in 2002 as the Nittany Lions made their fourth-straight trip to the Big Ten Tournament and third consecutive NCAA Regional Tournament appearance. All-Great Lakes Region selection Jennifer Tripken's 16 home runs broke an eight-year old Penn State mark as the team belted out 28 on the season, also a school record. She also tied the single-season RBI record set in 1988 while Gina Bianchini broke the season record for singles. This Penn State squad set or tied three Big Ten Tournament records.

**2003...** A 31-23 record found the Lions in their fourth-straight NCAA Tournament, but a 9-9 conference record left Penn State just outside the Big Ten Tournament picture. On March 23 vs. James Madison, Petrini recorded her 200th career victory with a 3-0 shutout. Bianchini earned second team All-Great Lakes Region in her final campaign and finished as the team's all-time leader for stolen bases.

**2004...** Compiling a 25-33 season after a grueling schedule, Penn State made the Big Ten Tournament with an 8-12 record, but missed selection to the NCAA Tournament. The Lions placed three on the All-Big Ten teams with freshmen Jen Williams and Meghan Wolfer landing on the second team, while junior Leigh Murray earned third team honors.

**2005...** Penn State compiled its sixth 30-win season in the past seven when it finished the year 36-23, two wins shy of matching the then-program record for victories. The Lions made both Big Tens and NCAAs, winning a pair of games at the NCAA Region 5 Tournament. Freshman utility player Ashley Esparza exploded onto the scene, batting .402 for the year and earning NFCA third team All-America.



- S	CAREER RECORD						
f	Season	Overall	Pct.	Big Ten	Pct.	Finish	Postseason Appearances
	1997	23-32	.418	2-22	.083	10th	-
	1998	21-28-1	.430	8-14	.364	7th	Big Ten Tournament
	1999	35-22	.614	15-9	.625	3rd	Big Ten Tournament
,	2000	38-19	.667	12-5	.706	3rd	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
ſ	2001	34-28	.548	9-11	.540	T-5th	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
,	2002	34-26	.567	10-9	.526	T-5th	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
ì	2003	31-23	.574	9-9	.500	7th	NCAA Tournament
-	2004	25-33	.431	8-12	.400	7th	Big Ten Tournament
t	2005	36-23	.610	10-9	.526	6th	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
5	2006	39-17	.696	10-10	.500	5th	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
-	2007	26-25	.510	5-9	.357	8th	Big Ten & NCAA Tournaments
t	2008	34-22	.607	6-12	.333	T-9th	-
	2009	19-27	.413	7-13	.350	7th*	-
-	2010	29-22	.569	8-11	.421	7th*	-
1	2011	31-24-1	.563	11-8-1	.575	4th*	NCAA Tournament
t	Career	455-371-2	.551	130-163-1	.444		8 NCAA Appearances (10-14)

\* – No Big Ten Tournament Held

8

## **HEAD COACH ROBIN PETRINI**

Redshirt-junior Missy Beseres broke the school's single season strikeout mark by fanning a record 260 batters. A third team selection, she joined Esparza, who was named first team, on the All-Big Ten squad. Four Lions were named All-Region, with Esparza and classmate Hollee Haines garnering first team and freshman Jen Acunto and Beseres earning second team recognition.

2006... The 2006 season brough the Nittany Lions their highest win total in program history (39) and saw Penn State earn its sixth NCAA appearance in the past seven years. The Lions posted a 39-17 record, made their seventh Big Ten Tournament appearance, and won two games during the NCAA Tournament en route to the recordbreaking year. Sophomore Jen Reynolds was named first team All-Big Ten as a utility player and five Lions total received all-conference accolades. Three members of the Penn State team were also named to the 2006 Great Lakes All-Region

team including sophomore utility player Ashley Esparza, who got a first-team nod for the second consecutive season. Red-shirt senior pitcher Missy Beseres and sophomore shortstop Jen Acunto repeated as second-team all-region selections. Beseres also became the first Nittany Lion drafted to the NPFL when she was selected in the fourth round by the Chicago Bandits.

2007... In a year wrought with injuries and what seemed like the curse of Mother Nature on the conference season, Penn State still rose to the occasion and earned a spot in both the Big Ten and NCAA Tournaments. Sophomore Danielle Kinley cemented her place in Nittany Lion history by becoming the third Penn Stater to earned All-America honors overall and the second in three years. The outfielder's .375 at the plate and command of centerfield for the Nittany Lions grabbed her second team honors. Kinley and junior pitcher/first baseman Ashley Esparza earned All-Conference honors, with both landing on the third team.

2008... An increase in playing time allowed the Nittany Lions to gain more experience before heading into Big Ten play and helped them amass a 30-win season for the eighth time in the past 10 years. Once again, inclement weather canceled two crucial games and this time it caused Penn State to just miss the cut to the Big Ten Tournament. Despite the outcome, senior pitcher Ashley Esparza earned her third all-conference honor, and 10 Nittany Lions earned Academic All-Big Ten accolades.

2009... The Nittany Lions endured one of the toughest schedules in the program's history, which included games against eventual NCAA champion Washington, Women's College World Series qualifier Michigan as well as Super Regional participants Ohio State, among others. Ashley Griffith and Lisa Akamine each earned their first All-Big Ten honors.

2010... The Nittany Lions saw a return to its winning ways in 2010 behind a young team that featured six underclassmen as everyday starters during a 29-22 campaign. Penn State rattled off a six-game winning streak in February before an 8-3 Spring Break trip to Florida that saw the Nittany Lions capture the USF Under Armour Showcase crown and leave PSU at 17-7. PSU fell short one game of capturing Petrini's ninth 30-win season when rain halted the season finale at Indiana, but there were plenty of positives to take away from the season. Namely, the emergance of Cassidy Bell as PSU's most potent offensive threat (.329, 55 hits, 21 RBI) and Jackie Hill's impressive pitching performance (14-14, 2.35 ERA), which included 211 strikeouts, third-most in a PSU season. Utility player Lisa Akamine garnered her second All-Big Ten honor with an all-around campaign that saw her pitch career best numbers (15 wins, 12 CG, 162K) and put together solid numbers at the plate.

2011... Penn State played one of its toughest schedules in school history in search of a return to NCAA Regionals. Buoyed by a great strength of schedule and a closing five-game winning streak, the Nittany Lions not only made the NCAA postseason, they hosted the four-team regional event for the first time in 28 years. Petrini led Penn State to its ninth 30-win season and eighth NCAA appearance during her tenure. Four Lions earned All-Big Ten honors, including three on the second team (Jackie Hill, Lisa Akamine and Cassidy Bell). Penn State's regular season was highlighed by a 5-2 win over then-No. 9 and eventual College World Series participant Oklahoma on Mar. 18, while PSU earned a spot in the NCAA Regional Final. The Lions reached the final after a 16-inning thriller over Fordham in the second-longest game in school history before falling to No. 12 Oregon in the final, 3-1.

	MILES	TONE WINS	RÉSUMÉ			
1	2/28/97	Towson State (5-1)	Head Coach			
50	3/10/99	Ball State (2-1)	Penn State	1997-present		
100	4/8/00	Purdue (2-0)	BYU (Club)	1984-88		
150	5/17/01	Cornell (4-0)	Associate Head Coach			
200	3/23/03	James Madison (3-0)	Northwestern	1995-96		
250	3/11/05	Chattanooga (9-4)	Assistant Coach			
300	4/11/06	Bucknell (8-0)	Northwestern	1988-95		
350	3/8/08	Maine (5-1)	Brigham Young	1983-84		
400	2/19/10	Utah State (6-1)	Student-Athlete			
450	5/11/11	Ohio State (10-2)	Utah State	1980-83		
			1980-81 AIAW National Champions			

### **Before Penn State**

Petrini spent eight seasons at Northwestern University prior to her tenure at PSU. Named associate head coach in 1995-96, Petrini served as an assistant coach for the Wildcats from 1988-95. The primary Northwestern recruiter, she was instrumental in assembling the 1997 class, regarded as one of the top-two in the nation.

During Petrini's appointment, Northwestern produced 12 All-Big Ten selections, as well as an All-American and several GTE Academic All-Americans. The Wildcats compiled 30-win seasons in four of her last five years, and finished fourth or better in the conference race five times during her eight seasons.

"I am a firm believer in the student-athlete concept," confided Petrini. "I am committed to making sure that our athletes are given the opportunity to be successful academically and athletically. I believe our athletes have the opportunity to get a quality education and play some of the finest softball in the country."

She continues that excellence with her Penn State teams, as well. While in Happy Valley, she has produced 33 All-Big Ten performers, 94 academic all-conference, 16 Academic All-District honorees, six overall Academic All-Americans, multiple National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Americans as well as three Academic All-American First Teamers including current assistant coach Jen McIntyre.

Prior to her position at Northwestern, Petrini spent five years at Brigham Young University, where she received her master's degree in physical education. After one season as the Cougars' assistant coach, she was promoted to head coach. Working without the aid of scholarships, she developed a nationally competitive program that beat a pair of top 20 teams in 1988.

A native of South San Francisco, Calif., Petrini is a 1983 graduate of Utah State University with bachelor's degrees in political science and physical education. She enjoyed a successful playing career as a four-year letterwinner and starting shortstop for the Aggies' 1980 and 1981 AIAW national championship squads. In September 2011, Petrini and her teammates from those national championship teams were inducted into the Utah State Athletics Hall of Fame. A three-time all-conference selection, she was also an All-America nominee. In the summer of 2003, she was inducted into the San Mateo County Sports Hall of Fame, which also includes the likes of Tom Brady and John Madden.



## **ASSISTANT COACHING STAFF**



After returning to Happy Valley as an assistant in 2001 for her college coach Robin Petrini, **Jen McIntyre** is entering her second year as associate head coach and the program's recruiting coordinator in her 11th season overall on staff. In addition to her extensive duties identifying Penn State's next great talents, McIntyre also works with the outfield defense as well as with the Nittany Lion hitters. Her ability to break down the mechanics has allowed Penn State to improve exponentially in each area.

In 10 years with Penn State, McIntyre has become one of the top recruiters in the conference. Twenty-seven of her recruits have been named to All-Big Ten teams since she joined the staff in 2001, while six have been named to all-region teams and three have become NFCA All-Americans. Last season featured four Nittany Lions on All-Big Ten teams as outfielder Cassidy Bell, pitcher Jackie Hill, utility player Lisa Akamine and outfielder Alyssa Sovereign gathere all-conference accolades.

Prior to Akamine arriving in Happy Valley, she was named to a EA Sports High School All-America First Team honoree. McIntyre has played a pivotal role in the Nittany Lions' success bringing in fantastic talent from all over the country, while honing the play of student-athletes once they are in Happy Valley.

Prior to returning to her alma mater, McIntyre spent the 2000 and 2001 season at Big Ten foe Indiana as the second assistant coach. During her time in Bloomington, three players were named to the All-Big Ten team.

A 1998 graduate of Penn State with a degree in kinesiology, McIntyre played her last two years under head coach Robin Petrini and was the starting third baseman from 1995-98. In 1997, she had a career year posting a .304 batting average over 53 games while leading the team in runs scored (29) and

assists (138). A 1997 CoSI-DA Verizon Academic All-America selection, she ranks sixth all-time with 42 career stolen bases. McIntyre is also a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection, was named team Most Valuable Player in 1997 and captain as a senior.

"It is great to have Jen at Penn State," said Petrini. "Not only because she is a Penn Stater, but also because of her knowledge of the University and all it has to offer. She is a dynamic recruiter and an outstanding teacher on the field. Jen also has a tremendous rapport with our players and keeps a great pulse on the team and its needs."

In May 2001, McIntyre earned her master's degree in kinesiology/sports management and athletic administration at Indiana. McIntyre lives in State

College.

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Entering her second year as pitching coach, **Lisa Banse** (nee Birocci) was instrumental in Penn State's return to the NCAA Tournament as its pitching corps ranked third in the Big Ten in 2011. In addition to her pitching duties Banse handles the catchers as well as other aspects of the program including recruiting and travel.

"I'm very excited that Lisa chose to join the Penn State staff," said Petrini of Banse's hiring in Sept. 2010. "Her vast experiences in international play and coaching at multiple levels are tremendous assets to the program. I'm eager to continue her exceptional work with our pitchers and catchers."

Banse has had an extensive playing career as evidenced by being a member of the D.E.S. Caserta professional softball team in Caserta, Italy after a successful four-year career at Iowa. During the 2009 season in Caserta, she was named the most valuable player of the Italian Serie A softball league. Banse has also featured as an Italian National Team member in 2005, 2006 and 2009. She recently participated in the 2010 European Champions Cup hosted in Haarlem, Netherlands.

"I want to thank Coach Petrini and Coach McIntyre," Banse said. "For the honor of being part of the Penn State softball program. I am excited to be back in the Big Ten and to be part of a successful program with an exciting future. I have enjoyed working closely with the student-athletes and administration at Penn State University to make this program one of the best in the country."

The right-hander is an accomplished coach as well as a superb all-around player. She has been a part of the University of Iowa softball clinic scene since 2001 and was an assistant coach at Bethune-Cookman University in 2006-07. At Bethune-Cookman, Banse worked with the pitching staff and outfielders while organizing team travel, hotels and other travel related to the program. She was also influential on the recruiting front at B-CU. Most recently, Banse spent time as assistant coach of the Regina Catholic High School softball program in Iowa City.

As a collegiate student-athlete, Banse was a two-time NFCA All-American

Third Team member (2003 and 2005), while earning firstteam All-Region honors three straight seasons (2003-05). The right-handed pitcher earned Big Ten Pitcher of the Year honors in 2003 when she initially broke the Iowa single-season strikeout record with 267. She would go on to fan 313 her junior season and 288 her senior season in 2005 en route to her second All-Big Ten First Team honor. Banse twice won 29 games in a single year doing so in both the 2003 and 2005 seasons.

She currently ranks second all-time in strikeouts at Iowa with 946 career strikeouts as well as second in shutouts (40). Banse is married to Andrew Banse and resides in Boalsburg, Pa. The couple have a son, Luca.

