



LSU SOFTBALL 2008

COACHES



HEAD COACH

YVETTE GIROUARD



EIGHTH YEAR AT LSU • 28TH YEAR OVERALL

National Honors

- ▶ 2005 National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2001 NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year
- ▶ 1990, 1993 NFCA National Coach of the Year
- ▶ Seven-Time NFCA South Region Coach of the Year
- ▶ Fifth-Winningest Active Division I Coach
- ▶ Third-Best Winning Percentage Among Active Division I Coaches
- ▶ Fifth-Winningest All-Time Division I Coach
- ▶ Fourth-Best All-Time Division I Winning Percentage

Postseason accomplishments

- ▶ Five Women's College World Series Appearances
- ▶ One of Three Coaches to Lead Two Programs to the WCWS
- ▶ 16 NCAA Regional Appearances
- ▶ 10 National Top 10 Finishes

Conference Honors

- ▶ 2001, 2002, 2006 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year
- ▶ 2000 Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year
- ▶ 1984, 1985, 1987 Southland Conference Coach of the Year
- ▶ Nine Conference Championships (UL-Lafayette was Independent from 1988-1999)

State Honors

- ▶ 13-Time Louisiana Coach of the Year
- ▶ 2002 Louisiana Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ 2008 New Iberia Recreation Department Softball Hall of Fame Inductee
- ▶ St. Cecilia School Hall of Fame Inductee

Other Accomplishments

- ▶ 26-Straight Winning Seasons
- ▶ 39 All-Americans
- ▶ 16 Academic All-Americans

THE GIROUARD PHILOSOPHY

I believe fully in trying to instill in our athletes a knowledge and a love for the qualities and virtues that comprise good character.

Character is what we are inside. It is often revealed by how we act when no one is looking. Winning in our program should occur both on the field as well as in the classroom, in society and in personal lives after Tiger softball. When our players leave our program, hopefully we have developed successful people that will feel that their Tiger family will always have a unique and lasting place in their hearts.

LSU is a very special place with everything provided for success; from athletic facilities to the very best academic center in the country and a first-class administration all at the disposal of our student athletes.

In addition to having the friendliness of Louisiana people, LSU has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Our players will know from their first visit to the LSU campus that their number one goal is to leave this institution with their degree in hand.

In setting our high standards for the athletes that represent this program, the number one characteristic I look for in student-athletes is discipline.

We want disciplined people in our program. It all starts with someone who can control her choices in a respectable way, both on and off the field. The ability to choose right from a wrong should not be a battle. We expect to play for championships here at LSU and every student-athlete who competes for the Tiger softball team will have to have that same discipline and expectations. Our staff is dedicated to LSU, our program and our players.

Concerning the softball side, we will incorporate the 'Tiger Attack' mind set for our games.

I'd like to think that my teams are aggressive and hard-nosed, and that they will play the game hard until the final out. We must attack every inning as if the score were 0-0, always thinking 'it is never enough'. We will always be a fundamental team with high emphasis placed on this aspect of the game throughout the entire year. Playing the game with pride, emotion and respect for tradition and class should be a goal for every LSU team. This team will embody those qualities.

A 2005 inductee into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame, LSU head coach Yvette Girouard's effect on the Tiger softball program for the last seven seasons has been powerful. A pioneer in the game of collegiate women's softball and one of the greatest coaches in history, she continues to add to her legacy by helping LSU maintain its place among the nation's elite.

Girouard, who was also inducted into the Louisiana Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June 2002, enters the 2008 season among the career leaders in NCAA Division I wins (No. 5) and winning percentage (No. 4) and among the active NCAA Division I coaching leaders in wins (No. 5) and winning percentage (No. 3).

Against Arkansas on April 6, 2005, she became the sixth coach in NCAA history in any division to earn her 1,000th career victory and just the fifth in NCAA Division I history. Averaging more than 40 wins a season in her 27 years as a head coach, she is one of only a handful of coaches who can boast that feat over such an extended and noteworthy career.

With 26-straight winning seasons to her credit, she has guided her athletes to 39 All-America honors, including 11 while at LSU, 16 Academic All-America honors, including 2007 Academic All-American Dee Dee Henderson, and taken teams to 16 NCAA Regionals and five Women's College World Series.

No stranger to Oklahoma City, Girouard became just the third coach in NCAA history to take two programs to the Women's College World Series after leading UL-Lafayette to three World Series appearances in the 1990s and LSU to the WCWS in 2001 and 2004.

In 2004, she led LSU to its second Women's College World Series appearance, where the Tigers advanced to within one game of the championship game. After defeating Michigan in extra innings in its first game, LSU fell to eventual national champion UCLA in game two.

Weather postponed play for a day and forced the Tigers into the unenviable situation of having to win three games in a single day to advance to the national championship game. LSU began the day with a win over Florida State before defeating California to force just the seventh "if necessary" game in WCWS history.

Unfortunately, the Tigers could not get past California a second time and came up seven outs shy of the national championship game. LSU's remarkable run marked the first time since 1984 a school from east of the Mississippi River had advanced to within a game of the national championship. Pitcher Kristin Schmidt was named the WCWS Most Outstanding Player, becoming the first player to earn the honor who was not a member of the national championship team.

In addition, the Tigers were ranked as high as second nationally, matching the highest national ranking for any team coached by Girouard.

In 2001, Girouard led LSU to its first appearance in the WCWS, where the Tigers finished third. Under her guidance, UL-Lafayette (formerly Southwestern Louisiana) advanced to the WCWS three times, with a pair of fifth-place finishes and a third-place finish in 1993.

With an .815 winning percentage in the 1990s, her teams posted the third-best winning percentage in the nation behind only Arizona and UCLA. In seven seasons at LSU, she has posted the second most wins in the nation over that period with the fifth-best winning percentage.

While her influence has been a catalyst for the growth of the game in the state and nationally for many years, her impact in just seven years in Baton Rouge has been no less significant. Becoming the first coach in Southeastern Conference history to lead a team to back-to-back tournament championships, Girouard made a clean sweep of the three major league titles (SEC Western Division, SEC Championship, SEC Tournament Championship) in three of her first four seasons as a Tiger.

Girouard Year-by-Year

At UL-Lafayette (Southwestern Louisiana until 2000)

Year	Won	Lost	Pct.	Notable
1981	7	15	.318	
1982	15	13	.536	LIAIW Champions
1983	22	13	.629	Third Place in Southland Conference
1984	28	9	.757	Southland Conference Champion
1985	39	13	.750	Southland Conference Champion
1986	32	19	.627	Southland Conference Champion
1987	31	16	.660	NIT; Southland Conference Champion
1988	29	16	.644	No. 22 National Ranking
1989	48	16	.750	No. 21 National Ranking
1990	44	8	.846	No. 7 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1991	33	10	.767	No. 14 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1992	41	12	.774	No. 12 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1993	57	7	.891	No. 8 National Ranking; Third place in WCWS
1994	57	5	.919	No. 2 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1995	49	9	.845	No. 5 National Ranking; Fifth place in WCWS
1996	46	10	.821	No. 5 National Ranking; Fifth place in WCWS
1997	46	18	.718	No. 13 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
1998	36	15	.706	
1999	54	11	.831	No. 4 National Ranking; NCAA Regional
2000	45	15	.750	No. 16 National Ranking; Sun Belt Champion; NCAA Regional

At LSU

2001	59	11	.843	No. 3 Final Ranking; SEC Champion; Third WCWS
2002	56	11	.836	No. 9 Final Ranking, SEC Champion; NCAA Regional
2003	50	18	.735	No. 15 Final Ranking; NCAA Regional
2004	57	12	.826	No. 3 Final Ranking; SEC Champion; Third-WCWS
2005	31	23	.574	
2006	55	14	.789	No. 11 Final Ranking; NCAA Super Regional
2007	55	12	.821	No. 10 Final Ranking; NCAA Super Regional
TOTAL	1,122	351	.762	Five WCWS Appearances; 16 NCAA Regionals
AT ULL	759	250	.752	Three WCWS Appearances; 10 NCAA Regionals
AT LSU	363	101	.782	Two WCWS Appearances; Six NCAA Regionals

Coaching Career

Head Coach, Lafayette High School (1977-80)

Head Coach, Comeaux High School (1980)

Head Coach, UL-Lafayette (1981-2000)

Head Coach, LSU (2001-present)

Milestones

First win:	USL def. New Orleans, 8-3	1981
100th win:	USL def. UL-Monroe, 5-1	April 13, 1985
200th win:	USL def. Centenary, 2-0	April 23, 1988
300th win:	USL def. Samford, 3-1	Feb. 24, 1991
400th win:	USL def. South Carolina, 6-1	April 11, 1993
500th win:	USL def. Louisiana Tech, 6-0	March 19, 1995
600th win:	USL def. Southwest Missouri State, 1-0	March 29, 1997
700th win:	USL def. Southeastern Louisiana, 9-1	April 15, 1999
800th win:	LSU def. Kentucky, 5-2	April 21, 2001
900th win:	LSU def. Alabama, 4-3	March 29, 2003
1,000th win:	LSU def. Arkansas, 8-3	April 6, 2005
1,100th win:	LSU def. Auburn, 9-0	March 31, 2007

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Last season, she kept LSU among the Top 10 nationally as the Tigers swept their NCAA Regional in Palo Alto and advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals for the second-straight year. The Tigers earned their fourth SEC Tournament championship under Girouard, and took two out of three from both No. 1 Tennessee and No. 2 Alabama during the SEC regular season, earning LSU its fourth Western Division title in the last seven years.

For her achievements, Girouard was honored with her unprecedented 13th Louisiana Coach of the Year honor. Killian Roessner was named the Diamond Sports National Catcher of the Year, and she and Leslie Klein earned NFCA All-America honors, the third All-America honor of Klein's career. Dee Dee Henderson also earned Academic All-America honors, giving LSU an Academic All-American in each of the past three seasons.

Two years ago, Girouard guided LSU back into the Top 10 nationally as the Tigers won their NCAA Regional in Baton Rouge and advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals for the first time. In the Super Regional in Tucson, Ariz., LSU earned its first win over a No. 1-ranked team as the Tigers took the second game from eventual national champion Arizona, 3-2. LSU was one of only two teams to hand the Wildcats a loss at home as the Tigers became the first program in history to knock off Arizona in a game at home that could send it to the Women's College World Series.

Girouard was honored with her third SEC Coach of the Year award and named the Louisiana Coach of the Year for a 12th time. Emily Turner and Klein earned NFCA All-America honors, while Stephanie Hill earned her second-straight first-team Academic All-America honor.

In 2005, she became the fifth coach in NCAA Division I history and the sixth coach in NCAA history to earn 1,000 career victories. She guided Hill to first-team Academic All-America honors, the second Academic All-American in school history and the first to earn first-team honors.

After failing to earn the league titles in 2003, LSU came back to sweep all three major titles again in 2004. The Tigers earned the top seed in NCAA Region 3, marking the 14th consecutive trip to the postseason for Girouard and the seventh for LSU. The Tigers swept through NCAA Regional play, defeating Illinois in the championship game to earn their berth in the Women's College World Series.

For their efforts, Girouard, associate head coach James DeFeo and assistant coach Lori Osterberg were named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year, marking the seventh regional coach of the year honor in Girouard's career.

In 2003, Girouard earned her 900th career victory and the Tigers advanced through the conference tournament to the championship game for the fifth-consecutive year. LSU earned its sixth-consecutive trip to the NCAA Regionals and finished the year ranked No. 15, the fourth consecutive top 15 ranking for LSU and fifth consecutive top 20-finish for Girouard.

In 2002, Girouard picked up her 100th win at LSU in just 119 games, the fastest Tiger coach to 100 victories in school history. In addition, Girouard led LSU to its then highest regular-season ranking, No. 3 nationally.

After sweeping all three of the SEC Championship titles and advancing to the NCAA Regional finals, she earned her second-straight SEC Coach of the Year honor. She has been named coach of the year by three separate conferences: the Southeastern Conference

in 2001 and 2002, the Sun Belt in 2000 and the Southland in 1984, 1985 and 1987. A fourth-consecutive Louisiana Sport Writer's Association Louisiana Coach of the Year honor followed for Girouard.

In her first season at LSU, Girouard was able to accomplish something no other coach had been able to do. She led the Tigers to their first appearance in the WCWS with a victory over her former school, UL-Lafayette, in the NCAA Regional Championship game.

In the WCWS, the Tigers fell to Stanford in the first round, but bounced back to knock off Iowa and defending national champion Oklahoma before losing out to UCLA and finishing in a tie for third place nationally, the then highest final ranking for any LSU squad.

For their accomplishments, she, DeFeo and Osterberg were named the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year. She was also named the Coach of the Year by the SEC and the LSWA. To her credit, she was named the National Coach of the Year in 1990 and 1993.

In her two decades as the Lady Cajuns' head coach, she built the team from the ground floor with no scholarships and a \$3,000 budget to one of the nation's perennial powers. She advanced her UL-Lafayette teams to the NCAA Regionals a total of 10 times, hosting on seven of those occasions.

The daughter of the late Rose Mary and Alton Girouard, Yvette was born in Broussard, La., and attended Comeaux High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from USL in 1976 in health and physical education. During her college days, she played on the Lady Cajun volleyball team and was named the school's Female Athlete of the Year in 1976.

Following college, Girouard served as head coach at Lafayette High School where she began the softball program in 1977. In 1980, she coached at her alma mater, Comeaux High School, before beginning the USL softball program in 1981.

Girouard served a three-year term as the South Region Representative on the NCAA All-America Committee and served two, two-year stints on the NCAA South Regional ranking committee. She also served as a member of the nine-person NCAA Softball Rules Committee.

With a list of accomplishments and awards that speak for themselves, Girouard has proven that she can take her teams to the next level and be successful. Her guidance and leadership have carried her through 27 outstanding seasons and hopefully she will continue to build upon her past successes and reach the ultimate goal of bringing LSU its first national championship in softball.



In September 2007, Girouard lost her most loyal fan as her beloved mother, Rose Mary (shown here at Girouard's 1000th win celebration), passed away. Mama G will be missed by softball fans everywhere.

Winningest Head Softball Coaches

Winningest Active Division I Head Coaches

By Percentage (minimum 5 years)

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Mike Candrea, Arizona	21	1,131-228-1	.832
2.	Stefni Lotief, UL-Lafayette	7	355-82	.812
3.	Yvette Girouard, LSU	27	1,122-351-0	.762
4.	Patty Gasso, Oklahoma	13	639-208-2	.754
5.	JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	24	1,180-397-6	.747
6.	Patrick Murphy, Alabama	10	495-169-0	.745
7.	Lu Harris-Champer, Georgia	11	568-196-1	.743
8.	Margie Wright, Fresno State	28	1,253-446-3	.737
9.	^ Karen Weekly, Tennessee	11	549-198-1	.735
10.	^ Ralph Weekly, Tennessee	11	517-189-1	.732

By Victories

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Margie Wright, Fresno State	28	1,253-446-3	.737
2.	JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	24	1,180-397-6	.747
3.	Gayle Blevins, Iowa	28	1,136-529-5	.682
4.	Mike Candrea, Arizona	21	1,131-228-1	.832
5.	Yvette Girouard, LSU	27	1,122-351-0	.762
7.	Carol Hutchins, Michigan	24	1,031-384-4	.728
6.	Joyce Compton, South Carolina	25	1,013-473-3	.681
8.	Elaine Sortino, Massachusetts	28	975-418-5	.699
9.	Margo Jonker, Central Michigan	28	943-529-5	.640
10.	Eugene Lenti, DePaul	26	932-462-6	.668

^ - Co-head coaches in 1997-98; 2001-present

Winningest All-Time Division I Head Coaches

By Percentage (minimum 10 years)

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	* Mike Candrea, Arizona	21	1,131-228-1	.832
2.	# Sue Enquist, UCLA	17	837-166-1	.834
3.	# Sharron Backus, UCLA	22	854-173-3	.831
4.	* Yvette Girouard, LSU	27	1,122-351-0	.762
5.	* Patty Gasso, Oklahoma	13	639-208-2	.754
6.	* JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	24	1,180-397-6	.747
7.	* Lu Harris-Champer, Georgia	11	568-196-1	.743
8.	* Margie Wright, Fresno State	28	1,253-446-3	.737
9.	* Carol Hutchins, Michigan	24	1,031-384-4	.728
10.	Mike McGovern, Illinois-Chicago	12	582-227-1	.719

By Victories

Rank	Coach, Team	Years	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	* Margie Wright, Fresno State	28	1,253-446-3	.737
2.	* JoAnne Graf, Florida, State	24	1,180-397-6	.747
3.	* Gayle Blevins, Iowa	28	1,136-529-5	.682
4.	* Mike Candrea, Arizona	21	1,131-228-1	.832
5.	* Yvette Girouard, LSU	27	1,122-351-0	.762
7.	* Carol Hutchins, Michigan	24	1,031-384-4	.728
6.	* Joyce Compton, South Carolina	25	1,013-473-3	.681
8.	* Elaine Sortino, Massachusetts	28	975-418-5	.699
9.	* Margo Jonker, Central Michigan	28	943-529-5	.640
10.	* Eugene Lenti, DePaul	26	932-462-6	.668

* - Active coaches

- Co-head coaches from 1989-96

Girouard vs. All Opponents

OPPONENT	W	L
Adelphi	1	0
Akron	0	2
Alabama	18	10
Alabama A&M	1	0
Alcorn State	3	0
Arizona	2	8
Arizona State	3	6
Arkansas	15	3
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1	0
Arkansas State	6	0
Auburn	17	9
Ball State	5	0
Baylor	7	4
Bowling Green	3	0
Butler	2	0
Cal Poly	1	0
Cal State Fullerton	4	5
Cal State Northridge	4	4
California	3	8
Campbell	2	0
Carthage	1	1
Centenary	41	1
Central Michigan	2	0
Central Oklahoma	1	0
Charlotte	2	0
Chattanooga	1	1
Coastal Carolina	2	0
Colorado State	2	0
Columbia	3	0
Connecticut	3	0
Cornell	1	0
DePaul	7	4
Drake	1	0
East Carolina	2	0
East Tennessee State	2	0
Eastern Illinois	3	0
Eastern Kentucky	2	0
Eastern Michigan	1	1
Eastern Oklahoma	1	0
Evansville	3	0
Florida	23	4
Florida A&M	1	0

OPPONENT	W	L
Florida Atlantic	1	0
Florida International	3	0
Florida State	8	9
Fresno State	3	2
Furman	6	0
George Mason	2	0
Georgia	15	12
Georgia Southern	2	0
Georgia State	8	2
Georgia Tech	3	0
Grambling State	12	0
Hawai'i	1	0
Hill College	1	0
Hofstra	5	1
Houston	4	1
Houston Baptist	12	0
Illinois	2	2
Illinois State	6	1
Illinois-Chicago	2	0
Indiana	4	1
Indiana State	3	4
Iowa	2	0
Iowa State	0	2
Jackson State	5	0
Jacksonville State	2	0
Jerry's Caterers	1	1
Kansas	3	1
Kent State	1	0
Kentucky	19	1
Lamar	17	0
Long Beach State	1	0
Long Island	1	0
Louisiana Tech	30	30
UL-Lafayette	5	1
UL-Monroe	61	19
Louisville	1	0
LSU	2	8
LSU-Alexandria	4	0
Manhattan	1	0
Maryland	1	0
Massachusetts	3	0
McNeese State	66	21

OPPONENT	W	L
Memphis	2	0
Michigan	5	1
Michigan State	3	0
Middle Tennessee State	2	0
Midwestern State	1	0
Minnesota	3	1
Mississippi State	25	7
Mississippi Valley State	1	0
Missouri	1	1
Missouri State	6	0
Nebraska	6	3
New Mexico State	2	0
New Orleans	14	2
Nicholls State	68	19
North Carolina	10	0
North Texas	5	1
Northeastern State	1	0
Northern Illinois	2	1
Northwestern	1	1
Northwestern State	64	11
Notre Dame	1	2
Ohio	3	0
Ohio State	1	0
Oklahoma	16	3
Oklahoma City	1	2
Oklahoma State	2	5
Ole Miss	24	1
Oregon	1	2
Oregon State	2	1
Penn State	2	0
Portland State	3	0
Princeton	4	0
Rhode Island	2	0
Sam Houston State	13	8
Samford	8	0
San Diego State	1	0
Seton Hall	2	1
South Carolina	37	10
South Dakota State	1	0
South Florida	5	1
Southeast Missouri State	2	0
Southeastern Louisiana	51	2

OPPONENT	W	L
Southern	4	0
Southern Illinois	0	1
Southern Miss	41	3
Southern Utah	1	0
St. Edward's	4	0
St. Louis	2	0
St. Mary's	4	1
Stanford	1	4
Stephen F. Austin	3	5
Stetson	1	0
Tennessee	14	13
Texas	1	3
Texas A&M	10	9
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	6	0
Texas Southern	2	0
Texas State	14	1
Texas Tech	4	1
Texas-Arlington	13	4
Texas-San Antonio	6	1
Toledo	0	2
Troy	6	0
Tulsa	6	1
UAB	1	0
UCLA	1	11
UC-Riverside	1	0
UC-Santa Barbara	1	0
UNLV	6	3
Utah	4	3
Utah State	1	0
Villanova	1	0
Virginia	4	0
Virginia Tech	1	0
Washington	9	5
Western Illinois	1	0
Western Kentucky	3	0
Western Michigan	2	0
Wichita State	3	0
Winthrop	1	0
Wisconsin	2	2

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James DeFeo

Associate Head Coach
Eighth Year

James DeFeo enters his fourth season as the associate head coach at LSU after four years as an assistant coach. It is also his ninth season under head coach Yvette Girouard after one year with her at UL-Lafayette.

Prior to joining Girouard's staff, DeFeo was a graduate assistant at Southern Miss in 1999 when the Golden Eagles became the first, first-year program to advance to the Women's College World Series.

In 2004, he, Girouard and former assistant coach Lori Osterberg were named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year after leading the Tigers to their second WCWS appearance. The trio was also named the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year in 2001 after they led LSU to its first WCWS berth.

DeFeo's main duties include working with the hitters and the outfielders as well as recruiting, scouting and practice management. Last season, the Tiger hitters ranked in the top 50 nationally in doubles (8th), batting average (22nd), slugging percentage (27th), scoring (31st) and home runs (45th).

The Tigers also recorded the second best slugging percentage and third best on base percentage in school history. LSU tied for the second most doubles in school history and fourth most in SEC history with 102. The 58 home runs hit, including home runs by 10 difference players, tied for the second most in a single season in school history.

The Tigers had at least two players ranked in the top 10 individually in the SEC in five different hitting categories, including batting average, slugging percentage, hits and doubles. LSU also had at least one person ranked in every hitting category, while three Tigers ranked in the top 10 in the SEC in doubles.

Individually, three-time All-American Leslie Klein ranked in the top 10 in the SEC in virtually every hitting category and ranked in the top 50 in the NCAA in batting average and doubles per game. She finished her career as one of the most prolific hitters in both LSU and SEC history with three Tiger single-season records – doubles, home runs and total bases; and five LSU career records – slugging percentage, doubles, home runs, RBIs and total bases.

Over the previous three seasons, the Tiger hitters ranked in the top 30 in the NCAA in batting average, while posting two top 20 rankings in slugging percentage. LSU ranked in the top 10 nationally in doubles per game in 2006 and 2004, with top 30 rankings in scoring in both 2005 and 2006.

In 2004, LSU broke the school record and led the SEC in home runs, while LSU ranked second in the league in batting average, runs scored, hits, triples and RBIs. Individually, then-freshman Klein ranked in the top 10 in the SEC in every hitting category and ranked in the top 50 in the NCAA in slugging percentage, runs per game and RBIs per game. The Tigers had at least two players ranked in the top 10 individually in the SEC in every hitting category, including five of the

top 10 individuals ranked in total bases.

In 2002, former Tiger All-American Trena Peel led the nation in triples, while breaking the LSU and SEC single-season records. With 14 triples, she was just two shy of the NCAA record. In his first season at LSU the Tigers were second in the SEC and 12th nationally with a .293 team batting average. LSU also led the league in scoring and finished ranked 16th nationally with more than five runs per game.

At UL-Lafayette, DeFeo's team hit .310 and finished the season with a No. 22 national ranking and in the top 10 in hitting and scoring. The 1999 Southern Miss team finished the season ranked second nationally in batting and 10th in scoring. DeFeo was instrumental in helping to revive the Golden Eagle team after a six-year hiatus.

For 10 years, he has served as sole proprietor and instructor of the All-American Softball Clinics in New Jersey, New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and Mississippi. DeFeo has coaching experience at nearly every level of fastpitch softball, including Under-12, Under-16, 18 and Under and Women's Major. DeFeo also is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

A native of New Jersey, DeFeo graduated from Rutgers University in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in sport management. He received his master's in sports administration from Southern Miss in 1999. His sister, Stephanie DeFeo, was a three-time All-American under Girouard at UL-Lafayette and is a current assistant coach at Ball State.

In 2000, DeFeo was married to the former Samantha Rock of Orlando, Fla. They have two daughters, Victoria, 5, and Zoe, 3, and son, Zachary, 1.



Megan Smith

Assistant Coach
Second Year

Megan Smith enters her second season coaching the infielders in the LSU softball program after spending one year as the head coach at Western Carolina, where she served for the inaugural 2006 season.

In her first year as an assistant with the Tigers, Smith helped LSU to its second best fielding percentage in school history, which also ranked 28th in the NCAA. Overcoming injuries that decimated the infield, she was forced to shift players to unfamiliar positions and have several players learn new positions during the season.

A broken finger by third baseman Tayl'r Hollis forced her to miss 15 games and put Erika Sluss at the hot corner for the first time in her career. Shannon Stein also broke her finger at second base, which forced Vanessa Soto to shift from first to second and Kristen Hobbs to move from behind the plate to first for the first time in her career. Despite these difficulties, Tiger infielders committed only 35 errors the entire season, one of the best seasons in the field in school history.

As the head coach for the Catamounts in 2006, she guided the first-year program to their first Southern Conference title, compiling a 41-20 record, including a 16-4 mark in league play. For her success, she was named the SoCon Coach of the Year.

Her team posted 81 home runs, which ranked third nationally, while WCU ranked 12th in the NCAA in slugging percentage, 19th in scoring, 38th in win-loss percentage and 50th in batting average. Additionally, three players ranked nationally statistically and two were named to the NFCA All-Southeastern Region team.

Hired in July 2004, Smith built the Western Carolina program from the ground up, spending a year and a half to build the program, including the hiring of staff and the recruitment of players, while supervising the construction of a state-of-the-art softball facility.

She was hired to head the Catamount program from the University of North Carolina, where she had also been a player. As an assistant coach for Donna Papa, she helped the Tar Heels with recruiting, fundraising, and oversaw the academic progress of student-athletes, while participating in practice planning and game management.

In 2004, she helped guide the North Carolina program to a 46-24 record, including a second place finish in the Atlantic Coast Conference, while earning an NCAA Regional bid. In addition, she directed the Carolina Softball Camps, overseeing all aspects of the camps.

Prior to her stay at her alma mater, Smith was an assistant coach at Charlotte for the 2002 season. She worked with the infielders, pitchers and served as the hitting coach. The assistant also organized all recruiting efforts for head coach Aimee DeVoss.

For two seasons, Smith served as the head coach at Young Harris College in Georgia from 2000-2001. While there, she guided her program to a 79-41 record. Without an assistant coach, she oversaw all aspects of the team, from practice to strength training to academics to fundraising.

While at Young Harris, she finished second in the regional championships twice and was one game away from the national tournament in 2001. Her team broke nearly every school record, including wins in as season with 45. In addition, in 2002, her squad ranked nationally in batting average and eight players were named to the all-regional team.

During her collegiate career at North Carolina, Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in exercise and sport science and recreation administration. Playing third base primarily, she served as captain during her senior season and broke the school record for RBIs in a game and was named the Defensive Player of the Year in 1999.

Also an exceptional student, the Walkertown, N.C., native was named to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference honor roll for three year and made the Dean's List twice. In 2000, she earned her Master's of Science degree in human performance and sports studies with a concentration in sports management from the University of Tennessee.

On June 19, 2004, she married Paul Buske, and the pair welcomed their first child, Cooper Smith Buske, on Aug. 6, 2007.





Adam Roorbach

Director of Softball Operations

Adam Roorbach enters his first season with the LSU softball program as the Director of Softball Operations, after serving as an assistant coach at Houston for the 2007 season.

No stranger to the softball community, he has spent three years as an assistant softball coach at the Division I level after spending four seasons as a head coach at the NAIA and junior college levels. Although new to the LSU program, Roorbach already has ties to the Tiger coaching staff after working with current assistant coach Megan Smith for one season at Western Carolina in 2006.

As an assistant coach with the Cougars last season, he helped the program to its Conference USA Regular Season and Tournament championship in school history, advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2004. After knocking off UL-Lafayette and Texas A&M, Houston advanced to the final day of competition at the College Station Regional before falling twice to Aggies to end its season with a school record 44 wins.

Prior to his one-year stint at Houston, Roorbach was an assistant coach at Western Carolina under Smith, who was the Catamounts' head coach. In its inaugural season in 2006, Western Carolina posted a 41-20 record and won the Southern Conference Championship. The Catamounts also ranked third nationally with 81 home runs and 12th in the NCAA with a .476 slugging percentage. Three WCU players were ranked nationally statistically and two were named to the NFCA All-Southeastern Region team.

In 2005, Roorbach served as an assistant coach at Nicholls State. Working primarily with the Lady Colonel hitters and outfielders, Nicholls set a school record with 31 home runs and improved its team batting average by 29 points over the previous season.

Roorbach moved to the Division I level at Nicholls after serving for three seasons as the head coach at NAIA affiliate Bethel College in Mishawaka, Ind. From 2002-2004, he compiled a 102-56 record and won three consecutive Mid-Central Conference Championships and qualified for the NAIA Regional and National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Tournaments all three years.

Earning 2003 Mid-Central Conference Coach of the Year honors, Roorbach guided 14 Pilot players to All-Mid-Central Conference awards. Equally as impressive, all three of his teams were awarded the prestigious NFCA Top 10 Academic Team Award and 17 of his players were named NFCA Academic All-Americans.

Prior to arriving at Bethel, Roorbach spent one season as the head coach at Andrew College in Cuthbert, Ga. In his only season, he guided the Tigers to a 14-18 record, a 13-win improvement over the previous years' 1-32 mark. In addition, he faced Smith on the field for the first time as Andrew College took on Young Harris College, where Smith was the head coach.

Roorbach graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in 1999 with a double major in business administration and sports management, he went on to earn his master's degree in physical education from Eastern Illinois in 2000. While attending Indiana Wesleyan, he served as an assistant softball coach and also the school's sports information director.



Kristen Hobbs

Student Assistant Coach

After an outstanding four-year career for the Tigers, Kristen Hobbs returns to the LSU softball program as a student assistant coach for the 2008 season.

A native of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., Hobbs was awarded the Brad Davis SEC Community Service Scholarship last year for her work with the CHAMPS/Life Skills program and volunteering in the area. She was also a three-time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll and the SEC Good Works Team.

Hobbs had the best season of her career as a senior, being named to the NCAA Tempe Super Regional All-Tournament team and being selected the Most Valuable Player of the Easton Tiger Classic. Overcoming Tommy John surgery that limited her to just seven games and no starts during the 2006 season, she closed out her career on a high note playing behind the plate, and also filling in at first base and as designated player.

A career .232 hitter, she hit .283 as a senior with a career-high eight home runs, after having hit only two in her previous three seasons at LSU. One of three Tiger softball team captains, she has also surpassed her season-bests with 32 hits, 20 runs scored and 22 RBIs. Hobbs is also the LSU career fielding percentage record holder, having committed just five errors in over 600 chances for a .992 mark in four years.

In May 2007, she earned her bachelor's degree from LSU in mass communications. Hobbs is currently working towards her master's degree in sports management.



Ana Gross

Associate Athletics Trainer

Ana Gross begins her second season as the associate athletics trainer for the LSU softball program. She joined the Tigers' staff after spending two years at Southern Miss. In addition to her duties as the athletics trainer for softball, she works to coordinate the drug prevention program for LSU's student-athletes.

While at Southern Miss, Gross spent two years working for the baseball team. She also worked with the cross country, soccer and football teams. In January 2006, she was promoted to Assistant Athletic Trainer.

A New Orleans native, Gross graduated from LSU with a bachelor's degree in athletic training. As an undergraduate for the Tigers, she worked with LSU's 2003 National Champion football team, nationally ranked women's basketball team, and men's tennis team.

Gross earned her master's degree from Southern Miss in sports administration in May 2006. The oldest of Greg and Maria Gross' five children, she is certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association.



Melissa Moore

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coordinator

Melissa Moore enters her second year at LSU as the assistant strength & conditioning coordinator with the Tiger softball team.

Moore, a native of Enon, La., also coordinates the strength and conditioning of LSU women's basketball team and assists with the LSU Football.

Moore came to LSU after stints at both Georgia Tech and Elon as an assistant strength & conditioning coach. She spent two years at Georgia Tech working with Yellowjackets' softball and women's tennis programs after a brief stint working with Elon's baseball, men's and women's soccer, women's basketball and track teams.

A graduate of Southern Miss, Moore spent two years working with the football, baseball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, tennis, softball and volleyball programs at USM while working toward her master's degree.

Moore's expertise in strength and conditioning has led her to be published in two publications, including The Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research and Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise. She also authored an online presentation for the Atlantic Coast Conference's website about Georgia Tech's off-season softball training.



Melissa Foley

Associate SID/Softball Contact

Melissa Foley enters her seventh year on the LSU sports information staff as Associate SID in charge of the nationally recognized softball program. She is also in her sixth season as the primary contact for the nationally ranked women's volleyball program.

Last season, her softball media guide was judged second best in the district and ranked third nationally by the College Sports Information Directors of America, after being awarded second best in the district and fifth nationally in 2006. In 2004, her softball guide ranked best in the district and third in the nation, while her volleyball guide was ranked second in the district and seventh nationally. Her 2005 softball guide earned first place honors in the district and was judged second in the nation.

Foley, 31, is a Marksville, La., native and a 1997 graduate of LSU in mass communications. Prior to coming to LSU, Foley was the assistant SID at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. At NSU, she was the primary media contact for the women's basketball, soccer and softball teams and assisted with the other II sports including the NCAA Tournament men's basketball team and Division I-AA football team.

From 1999-2000, Foley worked as an intern at Ole Miss. In Oxford, she worked primarily with the volleyball and men's and women's track and field programs while assisting with football and both basketball teams.

Foley began her career at Northwestern State where she was a graduate assistant for two years while earning a master's degree in sports administration in Spring 1999.

In December 2006, the former Melissa Reynaud married Damian Foley, a native of Christchurch, New Zealand, in a pair of ceremonies in Baton Rouge and Nelson, New Zealand.

SUPPORT STAFF



Travis Clapp
Student Manager



Jace Cobb
Student Trainer



Matthew McCallum
Student Manager



Ashley Stringfellow
Administrative Assistant



THE DIAMOND BACKERS

The LSU Softball Diamond Backers is a booster club of softball families and fans that support the Tigers not only with financial contributions, but also with their loyal attendance and support at each game. The Diamond Backers' donations help to ensure that LSU remains among the elite college softball programs. The contributions are used to help upgrade softball facilities, purchase equipment and enhance student-athlete and coaching needs.

For more information concerning the Diamond Backer organization, please call (225) 578-3947

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Bryan & Celeste Hollis
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