

Athletics at Southeastern Louisiana University

Notable Highlights 2002 - 2003

□ Southeastern continued to progress toward the return of football. With offensive mastermind Hal Mumme already on board as head coach, the Lions hired Woody Widenhofer as defensive coordinator on August 8, 2002. Most recently the head coach at Vanderbilt University, Widenhofer served as linebackers coach and defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won four Super Bowl titles during his tenure. Excitement spread throughout the university and community, as over 5,000 fans attended the intrasquad Spring Game on April 10th at Strawberry Stadium.

□ Southeastern played host to its first-ever Southland Conference (SLC) Tournament, hosting the 2002 Women's Soccer Championships on November 8-10. The university will host three more SLC tournaments in the coming years, including the 2004 Baseball and Women's Soccer Championships, and the 2005 Softball Tournament.

□ Southeastern's volleyball team made their second straight trip to the Southland Conference Tournament. The Lady Lions continued to be one of NCAA's premier defensive teams, leading the nation in digs. Sarah Gascon led the way for Southeastern, setting an NCAA record for average digs in a game (6.42). She became the sixth player in NCAA history to record more than 700 digs in a season, finishing the year with 745 digs.

□ Southeastern places twenty-one athletes on All-Southland Conference teams. Women's soccer led the way with five selections, with softball and men's tennis each earning three selections.

□ Southeastern's soccer team won the Southland Conference (SLC) regular-season title, their first since 1999. The Lady Lions advanced to the SLC championship match for the sixth consecutive year, making Southeastern the only school to reach the final match since the SLC first sponsored women's soccer in 1997. SLC and Louisiana Newcomer of the Year Kim McNally led the conference in every offensive category. The sophomore rewrote Southeastern and SLC record books, setting single-season marks for goals (21), points (52), and shots (105).

□ Golfer Brett Bergeron was named Southland Conference and Louisiana Freshman of the Year. Bergeron, a native of LaPlace, finished his rookie campaign averaging 73.1 strokes over 21 rounds and tied for 11th at the conference championship. Out of seven spring events, Bergeron posted five top-15 finishes, including a tie for third at the Sam Hall Intercollegiate.

□ Track and field athlete Chris Carter competed in the javelin at the 2003 NCAA Championships, becoming the first Southeastern athlete to advance to the NCAA's since Christine Amertil in 2000. Carter finished 23rd at the event.

□ Southeastern made several improvements to athletic facilities in the past year, including: installation of a new artificial surface (Sprinturf) on the Strawberry Stadium football field, new nets and scoreboards at the Southeastern Tennis Complex, and a new scoreboard and sound system at Alumni Field.

Source: Office of Sports Information