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The Doubleheader

DEFIANCE COLLEGE SOFTBALL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 11

Winter 2008

Yellow Jackets Preparing to Defend HCAC Title

2008 SEASON OUTLOOK

- Returning Letterwinners: 10
- Letterwinners lost: 10
- 2007 HCAC Record: 13-2
- 2007 Overall Record: 23-19
- Starters Returning: 5
- Newcomers: 15
- Top Returners: Robin Diers, Justine Johnston, Amanda Auzins, Melanie Bushman, Aarika Davis
- 4th consecutive 20-win season
- 3 schools records broken in 2007: hits (383) doubles (72) and total bases (498)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **SPRING TRIP:**
March 7– March 14
- **FACULTY/STAFF APPRECIATION DAY:**
April 15 vs. Manchester College at 3:00 p.m.
- **SENIOR DAY:**
April 21 vs. Bluffton University at 3:00 p.m.
- **HCAC TOURNAMENT:**
May 2 and 3, 2008 at HCAC Champion site

The Defiance College Softball team enters the 2008 campaign looking for its fifth consecutive 20-win season. The reigning regular season HCAC champion, Defiance will look to defend its title despite losing three seniors from a year ago. The Yellow Jackets finished the 2007 season with a 13-2 mark in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and a 23-19 record overall. DC saw five Lady Jackets earn All-HCAC honors, while setting school records in hits (383), doubles (72) and total bases (498).

Returning five starters and two All-HCAC performers from 2007, DC will enter this season as one of the favorites once again in the HCAC. The Yellow Jackets return two seniors in Robin Diers (Pleasant Hill, Ohio/Newton) and Laurel Palk (Lansing, MI/Grand Ledge) who have helped Defiance to 80 wins over the past three seasons and are looking to become the most successful class in DC history. Diers is coming off a great season on the mound for the Jackets, going 10-6 with a team-leading 3.65 ERA. Palk, an outfielder, hit .290 on the year with two stolen bases.

Starters Amanda Auzins (Napoleon, Ohio/Napoleon), Melanie Bushman (Harrison, Ohio/William Henry), Kayla Crager (Marion, Ohio/Elgin), Aarika Davis (Canton, Ohio/McKinley), Justine Johnston (Wauseon, Ohio/Wauseon), and Stephanie Lieto (Monroe, Mich./Jefferson) all return for the Jackets. Davis, an All-HCAC performer, returns for her sophomore campaign after hitting .333 and leading the team with three home runs. Johnston will begin her third season as the Yellow Jackets ace after she went 12-9 with a 3.80 ERA, while leading the HCAC in innings pitched (138.1) and strikeouts (119) and earning all-conference honors a year ago. Auzins returns to her outfield position after finishing third on the team in hitting (.381) and RBI's (28) a year ago. Bushman is back at first base where she hit .339 with 17 RBI's in 2007. Crager and Lieto provide experience up the middle, as the two bring back a combined 62 starts from a year ago. Julie Miller (Horton, Mich./Hanover-Horton) and Allison Ramsay (Van Wert, Ohio/Van Wert) also return for the Jackets providing depth in the bullpen and the outfield.

Fifteen freshmen will make their collegiate debuts for the Jackets this season. These newcomers will add valuable depth to an already potent lineup. Defiance will open the 2008 season on March 7 when they travel to Danville, Kentucky, to face Centre College before heading further south to compete in the Rebel Spring Games in Orlando, Florida.



ALUMNI DAY SET FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008!

Come out and cheer on the Defiance College Softball team as they take on conference foe Hanover College at 12:00 pm on April 13th. Then, join us for post-game activities at Buffalo Wild Wings in Defiance to celebrate. Watch your mail for more information in the upcoming weeks. Please RSVP no later than March 21, 2008 to Assistant Coach Amanda Hayman at ahayman@defiance.edu or 419-783-2446. You can also RSVP to Head Coach Jodie Holava at jholava@defiance.edu or 419-783-2379.



2008 ORLANDO, FL SCHEDULE

March 7	at Centre College	Danville, KY	4:00 p.m.
March 8-14	at Rebel Spring Games	Orlando, FL	
March 9	Manhattanville College	Orlando, FL	11:00 a.m.
March 9	Ramapo College	Orlando, FL	3:00 p.m.
March 10	Marian College	Orlando, FL	9:00 a.m.
March 10	Hiram College	Orlando, FL	11:00 a.m.
March 12	Heidelberg College	Orlando, FL	9:00 a.m.
March 12	Husson College	Orlando, FL	1:00 p.m.
March 13	Simpson College	Orlando, FL	9:00 a.m.
March 13	Mount Union College	Orlando, FL	11:00 a.m.

2008 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

March 19	Alma College	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
March 21	University of Findlay	Findlay, OH	12:00 p.m.
March 25	Adrian College	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
March 27	Albion College	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
April 2	Heidelberg College	Tiffin, OH	3:00 p.m.
April 4	Tri-State University	Angola, IN	3:30 p.m.
April 6	Rose-Hulman	Terre Haute, IN	2:00 p.m.
April 8	Tiffin University	Tiffin, OH	3:00 p.m.
April 11	Franklin College	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
April 13	Hanover College	Defiance, OH	12:00 p.m.
	Alumni Day		
April 15	Manchester College	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
	Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day		
April 17	Anderson University	Anderson, IN	3:00 p.m.
April 21	Bluffton University	Defiance, OH	3:00 p.m.
	Senior Day		
April 25	Transylvania University	Lexington, KY	3:00 p.m.
April 26	Mount St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH	12:00 p.m.
May 2-3	HCAC Tournament	TBA	

DEFIANCE COLLEGE SOFTBALL 2008 ROSTER

No.	Name	Class	Position	Hometown/H.S.
1	Aarika Davis	SO	3B	Canton, OH/McKinley
2	Katie Bowman	FR	OF	Toledo, OH/Start
3	Allison Ramsay	JR	OF	Van Wert, OH/Van Wert
4	Laurel Palk	SR	OF	Lansing, MI/Grand Ledge
5	Tasha Stucke	FR	SS	Coldwater, OH/Coldwater
6	Kayla Crager	JR	2B/P	Marion, OH/Elgin
7	Nicole Lovins	FR	1B	Pettisville, OH/Pettisville
8	Hadass Harris	FR	C	Akron, OH/Akron East
10	Julie Miller	SO	P	Horton, MI/Hanover-Horton
11	Robin Diers	SR	P	Pleasant Hill, OH/Newton
12	Cara Hughes	FR	3B	Xenia, OH/Beavercreek
13	Amanda Auzins	JR	OF	Napoleon, OH/Napoleon
14	Elizabeth Petrie	FR	1B	Attica, OH/Seneca East
15	Stephanie Lieto	JR	2B/SS	Monroe, MI/Jefferson
16	Mallory Faling	FR	OF/C/SS	Clark Lake, MI/Columbia Central
17	Justine Johnston	JR	P	Wauseon, OH/Wauseon
18	Marah Robinson	FR	OF	New Philadelphia, OH/New Philadelphia
19	Meredith Burns	FR	2B/OF	North Canton, OH/Green
20	Nicole Diers	FR	C	Pleasant Hill, OH/Newton
21	Kelly Coble	FR	OF	Cloverdale, OH/Continental
22	Kaycee Butt	FR	C	Hilliard, OH/Hilliard Darby
23	Kelly Schnipke	FR	P	Kalida, OH/Kalida
24	Melanie Bushman	JR	1B	Harrison, OH/William Henry
26	Michelle Schwab	FR	2B	Custar, OH/Patrick Henry
30	Amy Nile	FR	P	Dearborn Heights/Crestview

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Jodie Holava

Holava enters her third season at the helm of the Yellow Jackets after leading the 2007 team to the HCAC Conference Championship. She is a native of North Ridgeville, Ohio and a 2001 graduate of Mount Union College, where she was a two-time All-OAC player and two-time All-Central Region Player. In her first season at Defiance, Holava coached a DC squad that set a new school record for wins in a season with 29. Those 29 wins also marked the third consecutive 20-win season for the Yellow Jackets, while posting a 10-4 HCAC record and a third-place conference finish. Holava helped develop five All-HCAC players and one All-Central Region player. Last season, Defiance posted another 20-win season under the guidance of Holava, with an overall record of 23-19. DC also claimed the HCAC regular season title with a conference record of 13-2. Additionally, five players were named All-HCAC. In her time at DC, Holava has had 10 All-HCAC players and one All-Central Region player.

Assistant Coach Amanda Hayman

Hayman begins her second year at Defiance College as assistant softball coach. Hayman, a native of Marysville, MI, is a 2006 graduate of Northwood University, where she played second base for the Timberwolves, winning the conference her junior season.

Student Assistant Sara Wlasiuk

Wlasiuk begins her second season as a student assistant for Defiance College. She is a senior at Defiance College and spent her first two years as a member of the DC Softball squad. Her sophomore season, she appeared in 24 games, while batting .167 with an RBI and a run scored.

PURPLE & GOLD

The Purple & Gold Club was founded in the early 1970's by Defiance community members who wanted to do something extra for all the student athletes at Defiance College. Since its inception, the club has continually grown and now exceeds 225 members from all walks of life. The club serves to provide both financial assistance and personal support for the entire athletic department. For over 30 years, the supporters of the Purple & Gold Club have made Defiance College a better experience for all athletes. Please contact Michelle Trubey at 419-783-2342 or by email at mtrubey@defiance.edu for more information.

ALUMNI VARSITY 'D'

The Alumni Varsity 'D' represents the 1,400 former Defiance College "letter" recipients who wish to further promote the Defiance College athletic programs. It has contributed over \$90,000 to the Defiance College athletic department to fund projects such as the women's softball diamond, women's softball press box along with many other projects. The Alumni Varsity 'D' has provided assistance to every athletic program over the years. The Alumni Varsity 'D' also acknowledges former letter athletes of Defiance College through Athletic Hall of Fame, Coach of the Year and Honorary Letterman programs. Additional information is available at <http://alumni.defiance.edu>.

We want to hear from you!

Please send any updates regarding careers, marriages, children or any contact information that you would like printed in our next issue. The Doubleheader will be published biannually, and we would love to include an "alumni news" section to keep former coaches and players in touch. Please send all correspondence to Assistant Coach Amanda Hayman at ahayman@defiance.edu or call 419.783.2446. We look forward to continuing the Yellow Jacket softball tradition. GO JACKETS!

Jodie Holava
Head Softball Coach
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