



Lovieanne Jung - #3

5-6, Senior, 2L

Shortstop

Bats-R, Throws-R

Birthdate: 1-11-80

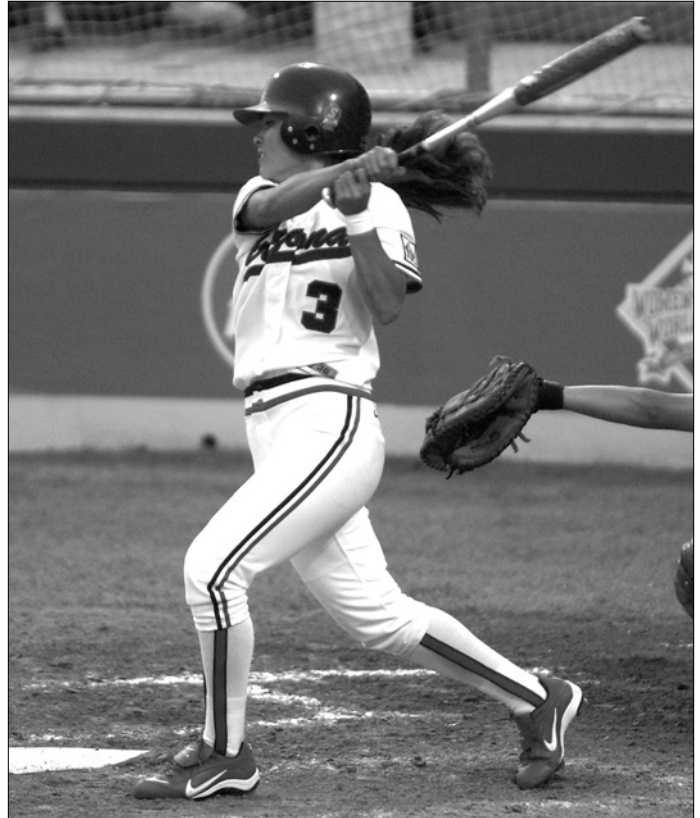
Hometown: Fountain Valley, Calif.

Arizona: Jung's outstanding junior year and summer play on the USA Team makes her a contender for National Player of the Year honors in **2003** as among the top hitters in the nation... A vital player both defensively and offensively for the Wildcats in **2002**, Jung started all 67 games at short-stop... Indisputably the most powerful leadoff hitter in UA history... Jung led the team in batting average (.364), runs (64), hits (75), extra-base hits (31) and walks (44), with 16 home runs and 40 runs batted in out of the leadoff spot... Jung was named first-team All-Pac-10 and Pac-10 Newcomer of the Year... Named Pac-10 Player of the Week on March 25 when she had a .400 batting average, four runs, two home runs and six RBI over three games against No. 18 Louisiana-Lafayette... Jung had an impressive 23 multiple-hit games... Tied for a team-best 10-game hitting streak at one point in 2002... Drew 44 bases on balls, No. 5 in UA single-season history... Against Washington on April 5, 2002, her solo home run in the fifth inning helped the Cats to a 1-0 win... In October, Jung was named a finalist for the USA National Softball Training Team... A two-time All-American, Jung was a key addition to the Wildcat lineup after redshirting in **2001** following a transfer to UA from Fresno State in fall 2000...

Fresno State: Led the Bulldogs with a .391 batting average and banded out 19 extra-base hits for a team-best .512 slugging percentage her sophomore year in **2000**... Earned third-team All-America honors as a second baseman... Power or bat control player who drove in 34 runs and had six sacrifice hits... Seven stolen bases in seven attempts... Finished her career at Fresno State with a batting average of .359, 7 home runs, 84 RBI and 158 hits, plus started 141 of 142 games... Hit .330 as a freshman in **1999** in earning third-team All-America honors, also at second base... Was named to All-College World Series team after hitting .500 in Oklahoma City... Western Athletic Conference All-Academic... Played on 1999 USA Junior World team.

High School: Fountain Valley High School, Westminster, Calif., 1998... Highly recruited player who opted for defending NCAA titlist Fresno State...

Personal: Academic major is sociology... Daughter of William and Gloria Jung... Full name is Lovieanne Jung.



Lovieanne Jung - Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
1999	75	233	41	77	12	6	6	50	8/5	20	19	3	11-12	.330
2000	67	207	41	81	14	4	1	34	6/2	19	15	2	7-7	.391
2002	67	206	64	75	13	2	16	40	0/1	28	44	3	9-10	.364
Totals	209	646	146	233	39	12	23	144	14/8	67	78	8	27-29	.362

Also: Fielding: .956, .953, .943; Slugging: .512, .512, .680



Lisha Ribellia - #8

5-5, Senior, 3L
 Second Base
 Bats-S, Throws-R
 Birthdate: 5-27-81
 Hometown: Moses Lake, Wash.

Arizona: Ribellia started all but one game at second base in in the last two seasons and 56 games in **2002**, giving UA good defense, decent hitting and steady play up the middle... Ordinarily was the defo... Fielding percentage of .956 in 181 chances, plus led the team with five double plays... Chipped in with a .224 batting average as a switch-hitter in 49 at-bats, with two doubles... Had two big hits and two runs scored in UA's Regional championship game against DePaul... Frequent base runner as the defo when Leneah Manuma or others played DP and reached base, scoring 14 runs... As a sophomore in **2001**, she stepped up and started all 69 games for the Cats... Batted in the ninth hole in 23 games, and otherwise served as the defo for UA's designated player, frequently serving as a pinch runner in close games... Able to bat as a right-handed gap hitter, but was taught to handle lefty slapper situations... Finished the season with a .214 batting average and a .956 fielding percentage... Ribellia hit her first career home run at an opportune time in 2001, against Southwest Texas State in the NCAA Regional... Ribellia played in 32 games in **2000** at the designated player position, learning the second base position behind Katie Swan... Finished the season with a batting average of .167 with 10 runs and five RBI...



High School: Moses Lake High School, Moses Lake, Wash., 1999... Earned four letters in softball for coach Dave Gregory, four in soccer and one in basketball... First-team all-conference shortstop honors... Team captain final two years... Soccer team captain and earned all-area goalie honors and first-team all-conference midfielder honors... School soccer MVP junior and senior years... Voted Superwoman award and named Best Female Athlete senior year... Earned school scholar-athlete honors...

Personal: Academic major is general biology... Daughter of Richard and Stacey Ribellia... Father is a chiropractor... Mom graduated from Fort Wright College... Brother, Saul played baseball at Hawai'i, and younger brother Galen, was a high school soccer player... Two other older brothers, Quincy and Caleb, played collegiate soccer... Likes horses, hiking, camping and canoeing, plus reading and family gatherings... Full name is Lisha Anne Marie Ribellia.

Lisha Ribellia- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2000	32	42	10	7	0	3	0	5	1/0	13	8	1	1-0	.167
2001	69	56	18	12	4	0	1	3	1/0	17	11	0	2-3	.214
2002	67	49	14	10	2	0	0	3	1/0	18	2	3	4-6	.204
Total	168	147	42	29	6	3	1	11	3/0	48	21	4	7-9	.195

Also: Fielding: 1,000, .956, .956; Slugging: .310, .339, .245



Mackenzie Vandergeest - #52

5-7, Junior, 2L
 Catcher
 Bats-R, Throws-R
 Birthdate: 11-25-81
 Hometown: Newbury Park, Calif.

Arizona: Vandergeest had an impressive season as catcher in **2002**... She moved to No. 1 on the UA record charts with 577 putouts, in part due to a record-setting strikeout season by All-American Jennie Finch... All-Region honors and second-team All-Pac-10 selection... Knocked out 12 home runs, including three grand slams... Vandergeest's .327 batting average in Pac-10 play was second on the team... Opened the season with a six-game hitting streak, going 7-for-16 with nine runs and nine RBI... Tied for the team lead with a .355 batting average in nine NCAA games... Along with teammate Lovie Jung, Vandergeest was one of the players named to the USA National Team for summer play in 2002... Vandergeest moved behind the plate in 2002 after an outstanding year as a freshman right fielder and occasional catcher in **2001**... All-NCAA Regional honors and second-team All-Pacific-10 selection... Platooned early but a pair of 11-game hitting streaks in February and early March earned her a regular role... One streak was a 22-for-36 (.611) splurge in which she had eight multiple-hit games including a season-best 4-for-4 effort against Oklahoma State... Drove in season-high six runs with a double and a home run against Pacific... Hit her first grand slam against Indiana State March 3... Proved herself to be one of the nation's best sluggers with 20 home runs among 33 extra-base hits... Finished with 17 multiple-hit games and 16 multiple-RBI contests... Home run at UCLA broke open that game and helped UA to 4-0 victory... Home run at ASU broke open the game and led UA to a 5-0 victory... Home run in regional play vs. Southwest Texas broke a tie and led UA to victory... Lead-off home run at the College World Series in the top of the seventh breathed life into UA by tying the game against defending champion Oklahoma and Cats won in eight innings... Started 39 times in right, 10 behind the plate, once at third, once in left and six times as DP.. Finished the season with a batting average of .339... The 20 home runs set a UA freshman record, breaking the mark of 18 by Leah Braatz in 1994...

High School: La Reina High School, Newbury Park, Calif, 2000... Voted 1997 *Los Angeles Times* All-Ventura Team Catcher... Team Outstanding Offensive player... 1998 *Daily News* All-Area Team... Small Schools Player of the Year... Team MVP... 1999 Los Angeles Times All Ventura Team Catcher... Team Outstanding Defensive Player... Inducted into Ventura Hall of Fame for Athletes... 2000 MVP of Tri-Valley League... Daily News Player of the Year... Small Schools MVP... City of Thousand Oaks Honoree for Volunteer Services... Athletic Ambassador for the city of Thousand Oaks...

Personal: Academic major is physical education... Daughter of John and Kelly Vandergeest... Father is a landscape contractor, and mother is a homemaker... Brother, Wyatt, rides motorcycles... Sister, Chelsea, plays softball and soccer... Uncle Larry Yount is a pitcher for the Houston Astros... Uncle Robin Yount is in the Baseball Hall of Fame... Wants to be a firefighter and coach softball.



Mackenzie Vandergeest- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2001	64	183	44	62	12	1	20	61	1/3	34	16	2	1-1	.339
2002	67	192	42	59	14	0	12	50	2/1	45	30	4	2-2	.307
Total:	131	375	86	121	26	1	32	111	3/4	79	46	6	3-3	.323

Also: Fielding: .971, .994; Slugging: .743, .568



Candace Abrams - #20

5-2, Sophomore, 1L
Catcher/Outfielder
Bats-R, Throws-R
Birthdate: 5-28-82
Hometown: Tucson, Ariz



Arizona: Abrams was one of the team's hardest workers during her redshirt freshman season in **2002**... Primarily used in the outfield and as a utility player, with 21 starts in 42 games played... Started eight Pac-10 games... The right-handed line-drive hitter collected 12 runs, 24 hits and two home runs, hitting .293... Abrams hit her first career home run on February 23 against Drake... Had four pinch hits in 17 attempts... Career-high three hits against Drake... Had a 7-for-9 streak in some February games... Abrams redshirted during the **2001** season, serving as a bullpen catcher...

High School: Flowing Wells High School, Tucson, Ariz., 2000... Earned three letters in golf, four letters in soccer and four letters in softball...

Personal: Academic major is physical education... Daughter of Chris and Kori Abrams of Tucson... Father works at Abrams Airborne, and mother is a teachers' assistant at Homer Davis Elementary... Likes golfing, writing poetry and collecting CDs... Born in Tucson... Full name is Candace Amanda Abrams.

Candace Abrams- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2002	42	82	12	24	0	0	2	8	2/0	25	3	0	0-0	.293

Also: Fielding 1.000; Slugging .366



Jackie Coburn - #77

5-8, Sophomore, 1L
Third Base/Catcher
Bats-R, Throws-R
Birthdate: 9-12-82
Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.



Arizona: Coburn was a bright spot for the Cats at the corner in **2002** as a true freshman... Had a hit in her first College World Series at-bat and an 11th-inning three-run homer against Florida State to earn WCWS All-Tournament honors... Earned All-Pac-10 honorable mention honors... Coburn hit 14 home runs and 49 RBI... Tied for team lead with three grand slams... Had six multiple-hit games and was second on the club with 14 multiple-RBI games... Hit fifth or sixth in the order most of the year... Season-best five RBI against Oregon in a game... Led the team with five homers and 18 RBI in Pac-10 play... Had one appearance at catcher and could be in that role more in the future...

High School: North Canyon High School, Phoenix, Ariz., 2001... Four-year first-team All-Region honoree... All-state honorable mention... Three-year first-team all-state... Earned the state Gatorade Award as the top player... Received eight letters, including one in volleyball and seven in basketball...

Personal: Academic area of interest is criminal studies... Daughter of Kathy and Larry Coburn... Cousins, Dee Ann, Laura, and Natalie, play soccer at Bluffton College in Ohio... Mother is a registered nurse, and father is an engineer... Likes swimming, listening to music and hanging out... Full name is Jaclyn Coburn.

Jackie Coburn- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2002	66	176	23	44	4	1	14	49	0/1	53	20	8	1-1	.250

Also: Fielding: .954; Slugging: .443



Crystal Farley - #5

5-7, Sophomore, 1L
 Centerfield
 Bats-L, Throws-L
 Birthdate: 8-7-83
 Hometown: Lompoc, Calif.



Arizona: Farley started 60 games in centerfield as a true freshman in **2002** and provided speed and set-up play as a lefty slapper in the No. 9 hole in the batting order... One of the top five on the club in Pac-10 play with a .255 batting average in those games... Hit .304 leading off innings... Solid defender with two errors in 40 chances... Flawless in the field in Pac-10 play... Had four multiple-hit games... She had her career best 3-for-3 day against Louisiana-Lafayette in Tucson in March... Had one of the Cats' five triples during the season, against Oregon...

High School: Lompoc High School, Lompoc, Calif., 2001... Earned four letters in cross country, three in basketball, and four in softball... Received the Scholar-Athlete Award... League MVP for softball... All-Cross-Country and Softball award... League MVP for cross country... All-area MVP for softball...

Personal: Academic major to be determined... Daughter of Randy and Cindy Farley... Father is a vehicle maintenance officer, and mother is self-employed... Brother, Craig, 22, is a distance runner at Sacramento State... Full name is Crystal Janean Farley.

Crystal Farley- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2002	62	120	18	32	0	1	0	5	4/0	31	10	0	2-2	.267

Also: Fielding: .950; Slugging: .283



Courtney Fossatti - # 22

5-8, Sophomore, 1L
 Leftfield
 Bats-L, Throws-R
 Birthdate: 1-25-83
 Hometown: Tustin, Calif.



Arizona: Fossatti was one of six freshmen on the **2002** UA squad and made solid contributions as the set-up hitter in the No. 2 hole most of the year... Left-handed slapper who had a .342 batting average, second-best on the club... Hit .355 in NCAA play in nine games, tying Vandergeest for team-high honors... Named to the All-Region 2 Team after eight hits, four runs and two doubles in Minneapolis... Had a 1.000 fielding percentage in left field... Started in 48 games and committed zero errors in 45 chances in leftfield... Suffered a stress fracture in her left foot and missed nearly a month of action and 19 games from late February through much of March... When hurt she had a team-high .475 average through 14 games, with hits in 11 of those... Opened her career with a 4-for-4 day against Alabama... Fourteen multiple-hit games including four in conference play...

High School: Foothill High School, Santa Ana, Calif., 2001... Two-time All-American... Two-time state player of the year... Four-time all-league and All-CIF selection... Defensive player of the year her senior year... Four time scholar-athlete... Also won a coach's award for volleyball...

Personal: Academic major is communication... Daughter of Bill and Gale Fossatti... Mother and father both attended Arizona State University... Sister played softball at Fresno State... Likes going to the beach and going shopping... Full name is Courtney Grace Fossatti...

Courtney Fossatti- Career Statistics

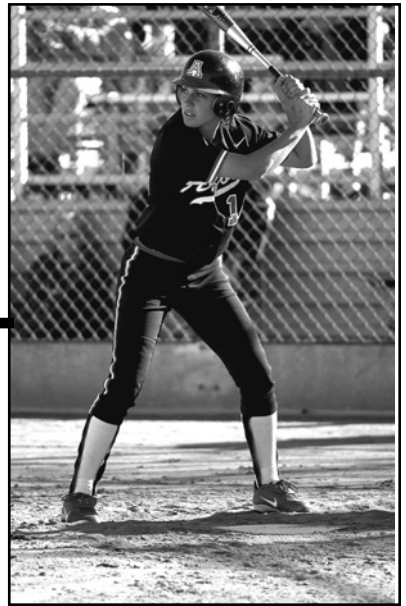
Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2002	48	152	27	52	5	0	0	8	6/0	24	12	2	0-1	.342

Also: Fielding: .1.000; Slugging: .375



Allyson Von Liechtenstein - #12

5-9, Sophomore, 1L
Outfield
Bats-L, Throws-L
Birthdate: 12-24-82
Hometown: Highland, Calif.



Arizona: Played in 47 games, with 37 starts in the outfield in 2002... Played mostly rightfield... Finished the season third on the team with a .321 batting average, and one error in the field for a .944 fielding percentage... She had an on-base percentage of .415... Second on team with seven stolen bases in nine attempts... Had a five-game hitting streak during the early part of the season... Hit .308 leading off innings and .383 with runners on base, plus advanced runners 27 times in 53 opportunities...

High School: Redland East Valley High School, Highland, Calif., 2001... First-team All Citrus Belt league for four years... First-team All San Bernardino County for four years... Defensive MVP for four years... Won the student-athlete award all four years...

Personal: Academic major to be determined... Daughter of David and Susan Von Liechtenstein... Father attended Cal State Los Angeles, and mother attended Woodbury University... Father is a supervisor, and mother is a secretary... Likes going to the beach... Full name is Allyson Ann Von Liechtenstein.

Allyson Von Liechtenstein- Career Statistics

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	S/SF	SO	BB	HBP	SB-CS	AVG
2002	47	81	25	26	0	0	0	6	2/0	23	11	2	7-9	.321
Also: Fielding: .944; Slugging: .321														

Newcomer Bios 2003



Wendy Allen - #2

5-2, Junior, Transfer
Pitcher/First Base
Bats-L, Throws-L
Birthdate: 4-5-82
Hometown: Moreno Valley, Calif.



Arizona: Allen will be competing for a spot in the pitching rotation and a place among the infielders in 2003 after two productive years in the Big Ten...

Ohio State: Pitched at OSU for two seasons... 2002 Big Ten Player of the Year... 2002 second team All-American... During the 2001 season, Allen had a batting average of .355 and ERA of 0.65... Had a sophomore year batting average of .393 and an earned run average of 1.00... Two-time Big Ten Player of the Week... 2002 Team Scholar Athlete of the Year...

High School: Moreno Valley High School, Moreno Valley, Calif., 2000... Earned four letters in softball and soccer... Two-time Team Most Valuable Player... Two-time first-team All-Region... First-team All-American... 2000 Female Athlete of the Year (Moreno Valley)... Four-time Scholar Athlete...

Personal: Academic major is business... Career ambition is to own her own business... Daughter of William and Arretta Allen... Father is a flight simulator technician, and mother is a Civil Service employee... Has one sister, Karrie (25), and one brother, Clinton (18)... Enjoys river activities, watching movies and playing with her nephew... Full name is Wendy Jo Allen.



Autumn Champion - #00

5-5, Freshman, HS
Outfield
Bats-L, Throws-R
Birthdate: 11-6-83
Hometown: Tustin, Calif.

Arizona: Champion will contend for a position in the outfield entering the 2003 season... Had a solid fall campaign and is a potential leadoff batter...

High School: Foothill High School, Tustin, Calif., 2002... Four-time letterwinner in softball... Four-time Orange County All-District first-team selection... Two-time first-team All-American... League MVP in 2002... Team MVP 2002... Also lettered in volleyball...

Personal: Academic major is education... Enjoys working with children... Career ambition is to teach... Mother, Lisa, is a landscaper... Has one older brother, Skyler (21)... Enjoys hanging out with friends and going to the beach... Full name is Autumn Elizabeth Champion.



Alicia Hollowell - #44

6-1, Freshman, HS
Pitcher
Bats-R, Throws-R
Birthdate: 2-29-84
Hometown: Suisun City, Calif.

Arizona: Hollowell will compete for the top role in the Wildcats' brand new pitching rotation in 2003... Good showing in fall ball...

High school: Fairfield High School, Suisun, Calif., 2002... Gatorade national softball Player of the Year for 2002... Two-time All-America honoree... Gatorade state Player of the Year in 2001-2002... Four-time first-team all-state honors and first-team all-conference honors all four years in high school... State Softball Player of the Year in 2002... Most valuable pitcher each year at Fairfield... Softball team captain in 2002... Holds the school record for strikeouts in a season, strikeouts in a career, strikeouts in a game and most wins in a career...

Personal: Academic major is business... Daughter of Doug and Suzanne Hollowell... Father is an accountant, and mother is a special education teacher... Has two brothers, Doug Jr. (16) and Bryan (8), and two sisters, Erica (19) and Caroline (6)... Likes spending time with friends... Full name is Alicia Kay Hollowell.





Erin Palomarez - #33

5-7, Junior, Transfer
First Base
Bats-L, Throws-L
Birthdate: 2-14-81
Hometown: Tucson, Ariz.

Arizona: Palomarez will compete for a position at first base in 2003...

Northwestern State: Natchitoches, La.... First-team all-conference selection in 2000 and 2001... Louisiana Sports Writers Player of the Week in 2000 and 2001... Second-team All-Louisiana selection... Had .320 batting average, seven home run, and 27 RBI her junior year... Spent three semesters on the Dean's List...

High School: Sunnyside High School, Tucson, Ariz., 1999... Earned four letters in softball and basketball... Earned three letters in swimming... Earned two letters in golf and volleyball... School Female Athlete of the Year in 1999... 5-A second team all-state honors in 1999... 5A Southern Region Athlete of the Year in 1999...

Personal: Academic major is psychology with a minor in sociology... Daughter of Ernie and LeeAnn Palomarez... Father is a teacher... Mother is a secretary... Has two brothers, Jacob (19) and Joel (16)... Has a son, Brayden... Enjoys spending time with her son... Full name is Erin Elizabeth Palomarez.



Samantha Quintero - #7

5-7, Junior, Transfer
Shortstop
Bats-L, Throws-R
Birthdate: 6-3-82
Hometown: Mountain View, Calif.

Arizona: Quintero will compete for a spot among the infield in 2003, likely at shortstop...

West Valley College: Saratoga, Calif., 2002... Played second base and shortstop... In her sophomore year Quintero had an outstanding batting average of .490, stole 30 bases, scored 68 runs, and collected 99 hits in 202 at-bats... Fielding percentage of .945... West Valley was California State Community College champion...

High School: Los Altos High School, Mountain View, Calif... Four-time team MVP... Two-time Most Valuable Defensive Player... Earned four letters in softball... Earned three letters in volleyball and basketball...

Personal: Academic major is detailing and consumer sciences... Plans to be a fashion designer... Daughter of Bernie and Charlotte Quintero... Father is a construction superintendent... Mother is a food service manager... Played at the same junior college where UA assistant coach Larry Ray was a football and baseball star, though the school moved from Campbell, Calif., to Saratoga... The youngest of six children, she has one brother, Dino (22), and sisters Elena (31), Regina (29), Valeri (27) and Sabrina (25)... Enjoys drawing and painting... Full name is Samantha Charlotte Quintero.





Shelly Schultz - #6

5-8, Freshman, HS
Pitcher/Infielder
Bats-R, Throws-R
Birthdate: 12-13-83
Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.

Arizona: Schultz will compete for a spot in the infield on the left side and also contend for a spot in the pitching rotation in 2003...

High School: Greenway High School, Phoenix, Ariz., 2002... Earned four letters in softball... Gatorade Player of the Year 2002... Arizona Player of the Year 2002... Four-time first-team All-conference player... First-team all-state selection her senior year... NW Valley Player of the year 2001 and 2002... Holds Greenway High School's single-season hit record of 48...

Personal: Academic major is business... Wants to pursue a career in the field of marketing and promotions... Daughter of Jim and Sharon Schultz... Father is an engineer, and mother is an accountant... Has one brother, Eric (15)... Likes swimming, hanging out with friends and working out... Full name is Michelle Lee Schultz.



Leslie Wolfe - #17

5-9, Freshman, HS
Pitcher/First Base
Bats-R, Throws-R
Birthdate: 11-10-83
Hometown: Scottsdale, Ariz.

Arizona: Wolfe will compete for a position in the pitching rotation and for a role at first base in 2003...

High School: Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale, Ariz., 2002... Four-year letterwinner in high school... Also lettered in soccer... Four-time team MVP... Three-time Arizona All-State honoree... 2002 *Scottsdale Tribune* Pitcher of the Year 2002... Scottsdale View Female Athlete of the Year...

Personal: Academic major to be determined... Daughter of Kip and Cindy Wolfe... Father owns a golf course construction company... Mother is a landscape designer... Has a younger sister, Molly (16) and a younger brother, Sam (11)... Enjoys going to the movies, traveling, and hanging out with friends... Full name is Leslie Anne Wolfe.



Coaches' Bios





Head Coach Mike Candrea

926-184 overall record
279-71 in Pac-10 games
89-24 record in NCAA games
46-6 in NCAA Regionals
43-18 record in CWS games

Head coach Mike Candrea knows how to recruit — he has attracted players who earned a nation-best 40 first-team All-America honors. He knows how to coach — he's been named Pac-10 Coach of the Year seven times since the league began softball play 16 years ago. He knows how to win — with six NCAA Women's College World Series titles and six Pacific-10 Conference championships to his credit.

Now, Candrea can add Olympic Coach to his resume. In May 2002, USA Softball selected Candrea as head coach of the women's national team program for the 2004 Olympic Games, in Athens, Greece. The man knows how to teach, too, and what better platform to illustrate that than to guide America's young women at the games' birth-place.

Hopefully, Candrea will keep at it for a few more years. Winning 1,000 games in any sport is a benchmark touched by only a few coaches, and he deserves to be one of them.

In 17 years as Arizona's coach, Candrea has established a record of 926-184 and has a .834 winning percentage. In 2002 he became only the fifth coach in Division I history to win 900 games. At Arizona, his victories have accumulated by the 100s every couple of seasons.

In those 17 years, he's taken 16 consecutive teams to the NCAA tournament and the last 15 to the Women's College World Series. Candrea has a winning percentage of .600 — in *national championship games*. Arizona has played in 10 of those, and won six.

In 2002, with a team that lost five All-Americans from the previous season Candrea turned in another 50-plus victories season, won an NCAA Regional title and made it to the NCAA title game. He also produced his fifth Honda Softball Award winner in pitcher Jennie Finch. The Pac-10 coaching honor was his 16th league, regional or national coaching honor in his 17 seasons.

As always, Candrea sets the bar high and will be looking for more of the same in 2003. With nine returnees and eight newcomers, he'll field a combination of new and old at every position.

Youth has been served well by Candrea in the past. In fact, of UA's 61 All-Americans Candrea has coached, 39 of those honors were earned by freshmen, sophomores or juniors. Talent and coaching did the trick.

Here are a couple of yearly averages for Candrea: a record of 54-11; producing 3.5 All-Americans; winning five NCAA games; winning 2.5 College World Series games... the gist is that his abilities mean he puts a good team on the field and gets it to play outstanding softball, then the postseason comes around and the team continues to perform.

Few teams ever have the opportunity to play for the big prize in college softball — only seven different teams since UA's first title game in 1991 have played for the College World Series title. Arizona prepares to be in contention by playing the best teams around, and the Cats were 27-9 against ranked teams a year ago.

Exit interviews of student-athletes who have played for Candrea typically reveal that Wildcat players believe in the same principles as their coach, and they know that to work toward his standard of excellence is to improve, help one's team and achieve unity with a single goal in mind- the national championship.

Still, one of Candrea's trademarks is that winning, coaching and teaching softball are things to be shared. He's helped revolutionize the game in recent years by encouraging collegiate coaches to share tips and work together to improve their skill-teaching efforts.

Without question, the goal in mind for Candrea's teams at Arizona always is the ultimate goal — win the national title. And, his teams are not pretenders to the throne. He's led UA to six championships — 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997 and 2001.

Candrea was honored in 1999 by the University of Arizona Alumni Association with an Honorary Alumnus Degree, a prestigious campus-wide honor bestowed annually by the association upon educators and faculty who help teach University of Arizona students.

But no Division I softball coach currently coaching — or in history — has matched his career winning percentage. He was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of fame in 1996 and since then his teams have a record of 425-54 to keep up with his own reputation. Candrea (Arizona State '78) was selected as Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year in 2002, the seventh time he has been so honored in a league which each year includes outstanding performances by head coaches.

It's obvious he can recruit quality players and induce them to play to their potential. To underscore that one, in his tenure, his players have earned 61 All-America playing honors, plus six Academic All-America honors. Motivator. Coach. Technician. Leader. Put his six NCAA and six



Pac-10 championships against any coach's mark in any sport, and he's right up there as a Hall of Famer.

His teams' victory total of 67 in 1998, plus 66 victories in 1995, 65 victories in 2001, 64 victories in 1994 and 61 in 1997 are among the top five in the NCAA record books.

Including a five-season stint as a junior college coach at Central Arizona, Candrea has a career record of 1111-253.

In 1994, 1996 and 1997 when his team won it all, Candrea was named Speedline/NFCA National Coach of the Year. In all, during his 17 seasons at Arizona, he has earned 15 conference, regional or national Coach of the Year awards.

Such national proficiency started at Arizona with the hiring of Candrea prior to the 1986 season, the school's first season in the Pacific-10 Conference. UA finished 27-13-1 that first year, his "worst" record to date. The following year, 1987, the Cats were 42-18 and qualified for their first of 16 consecutive NCAA appearances.

Those early years marked the upswing in Candrea's recruiting skill at the Division I level, and by 1988, the team turned in a 54-18 record and made it to the College World Series for the first time and recorded two Series victories. Pitcher Teresa Cherry became Candrea's first UA All-American.

Afterward came more of the same in the ensuing two years — UA finished 48-19 in 1989 and 49-17 in 1990, placed third and second respectively in the tough Pac-10, and acquitted itself well but still came up short in CWS play.

The bigger picture jelled in 1991 when things looked somewhat bleak as the Cats finished 11-9 in conference play — tied for his worst such record — for fourth place. When push came to shove, though, UA swept Arizona State in NCAA Regional play in Tempe, then played five games pivotal to the history of Arizona softball, at Oklahoma City in the College World Series. Candrea and the Cats earned their first national championship, beating UCLA 5-1 in the title game.

The program was off and running. Certainly no team can claim more productivity, with six NCAA championships (1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997 and 2001), six league championships (1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001) and a '90s winning record of 523-75, a percentage of .875. Four times Candrea's teams won more than 60 games in a season. Candrea knows you don't win games without players, so he gets the finest ones he can find, and coaches them to be the best. A succession of top-level players — sluggers, hitters, dominant pitchers, Olympians — has kept Arizona at the top.

For 13 consecutive years, at least two of Candrea's players earned All-America honors in voting by the coaches association. Four times it was six players — the only times that many players from one team have been picked. In 1994, 1995 and 1998, the six selections all were first-team All-Americans. In 1997, all five Arizona honorees were first-team players. In 2001, the Cats had four first-team and one third-team selections. Last year two earned first-team honors.

In 13 of the past 15 years, Arizona players have been named to the NCAA All-College World Series team 46 times. That's good players playing at their best in the most clutch of all times — playoffs.

He has stressed academics as well — with Leah O'Brien (first-team in 1994, 1995 and 1997), Jenny Dalton (first-team in 1996, second-team in 1995) and Nancy Evans (1998) earning first-team Academic All-America honors recently. Evans and the late Julie Reitan have joined the others in winning Academic All-Pac-10 accolades several times.

Pitcher Jennie Finch won the 2001 and 2002 Honda Softball Player of the Year award. Finch also received Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year honors in 2001 and 2002. Pitcher Evans won the 1998 Honda Softball Award as college Player of the Year.

Outfielder Alison Johnsen won the league's 1998 Player of the Year award for the second consecutive year. Formerly, Jenny Dalton in 1996, Laura Espinoza in 1995 and Susie Parra in 1994, won that league honor, and Parra and Dalton were Honda Award winners.

With outstanding media coverage forged by Candrea's style and success, obviously Arizona players are aware of some of the numbers they put up. But he won't post statistics and refuses to foster individual goals on his teams. His motto -- *teams* battle adversity and win games, not individuals.

Candrea is sought out by softball and baseball coaches around the country and has delivered instructional clinics throughout the nation. He is particularly known for hitting techniques, team fielding drills

and squad motivational preparation. In recent years, he has consulted with major league baseball stars and other learned technicians to conduct national hitting clinics and participate in dozens of such sessions to help improve the way softball is taught and played.

He has written several books and produced a number of videotapes on various softball subjects and has designed specific practice aids and equipment which are widely used at various levels of play.

His teams' style of play, public comportment and the consistent winning puts Wildcat fans in the stands at Rita Hillenbrand Memorial Stadium. Last year the Wildcats drew in 49,140 spectators and had 25 crowds in excess of 1,000, including 10 games with over 2,000 fans. Arizona is among national leaders in home attendance (and led by averaging 1,755 in 2002, 1,661 per game in 2001, 1,486 per game in 1995, 1,330 in 2000 and 1,316 per game in 1994).

Candrea spent 1981-85 coaching Central Arizona College and his team won consecutive NCAA World Series in his final two seasons, earning him national coach the year honors each time. Prior to coaching softball, he was a Central assistant baseball coach from 1976-80.

He played baseball at Central, but his career was cut short by an elbow injury. He earned an associate's degree at Central in 1975, a bachelor's degree at Arizona State in 1978 and a master's degree from ASU in 1980.

Candrea, and his wife, Sue, a corporate accountant, reside in the Casa Grande area 70 miles north of Tucson. They have two children - son Mikel, 23, and daughter Michelle, 21. He was born in New Orleans, La., on August 29, 1955. He is an avid golfer and major league baseball fan.



Candrea Year-by-Year Coaching Record

Year	Overall	Conference	Notes
2002	55-12	15-6 (2 nd)	Pac-10 Coach of the Year, won his 900 th game, Region 2 seed, 15 th consecutive CWS.
2001	65-4	19-2 (1st)	NCAA Champions; Pacific-10 Champions; Pac-10 co-Coach of the Year; 15th consecutive NCAA, No. 1 Regional seed, 14th consecutive CWS; Ranked 1-2 all year
2000	59-9	16-4 (2nd)	14th consecutive NCAA, No. 1 Regional seed, 13th consecutive CWS; Ranked 2 all year; 800th career victory
1999	53-16 (.768)	19-9 (2nd)	13th consecutive NCAA, No. 1 Regional seed, 12th consecutive CWS; Ranked 2-3 all year; 1000th program victory
1998	67-4 (.944)	27-1 (1st)	Pacific-10 Champions; 12th consecutive NCAAs, 11th CWS; No. 1 ranking, No. 1 NCAA seed, NCAA Runner-up. Pac-10 Coach of the Year
1997	61-5 (.924)	26-1 (1st)	NCAA Champions; NSCA National Coach of the Year. Five All-Americans; one Academic All-American; Region Coach of Year
1996	58-9 (.866)	23-5 (2nd)	NCAA Champions; NSCA National Coach of the Year; Six All-Americans; one Academic All-American; one U.S Olympian gold medalist; Region Coach of the Year
1995	66-6 (.917)	24-4 (1st)	NCAA runner-up; Region Coach of the Year; Six 1st-team All-Americans, two Academic All-Americans; Regional Champion, Pacific-10 Champion; No. 1 ranking
1994	64-3 (.955)	23-1 (1st)	NCAA Champions; NSCA National Coach of the Year; NCAA-record 64 season victories; record six All-Americans Pacific-10 Champions; Pac-10 Coach of the Year NCAA Region 1 Champions; Region Coach of the Year
1993	44-8 (.846)	15-3 (2nd)	First No. 1 ranking for Arizona; NCAA No. 3 Regional Champions; NCAA Champions; Five All-Americans, one USA Team pick
1992	58-7 (.892)	16-2 (1st)	Pacific-10 Champions; NCAA No. 2 Regional Champions; NCAA College World Series runner-up; Five All-Americans
1991	56-16 (.778)	11-9 (4th)	NCAA Champions; NCAA No. 4 Regional Champions
1990	49-17 (.742)	12-6 (2nd)	College World Series (tied for 7th); NCAA No. 3 Regional Champions
1989	48-19 (.716)	11-9 (3rd)	College World Series (tied for 3rd); NCAA No. 6 Regional Champions
1988	54-18 (.750)	15-5 (2nd)	College World Series (tied for 3rd); NCAA Mideast Regional Champions; Pac-10 Coach of the Year; Northwest Region Coach of the Year
1987	42-18 (.700)	6-4 (3rd-T)	NCAA Regional; Pac-10 Co-Coach of the Year
1986	27-13 (.675)	5-6 (3rd)	Pac-West Co-Coach of the Year
1984 and 1985			National JC Coach of the Year
17-year Arizona Totals			926-184 (.834)
Five-year Central Arizona JC totals			185-69 (.728)
Candrea's 20-year coaching record			1111-252 (.815)

