

FERRIS STATE DIAMOND DAWGS

THE 2003 DIAMOND DAWGS

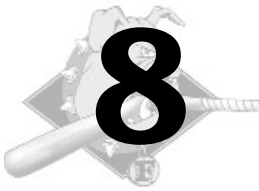
NICKI MERCHANT



5-8 * JUNIOR * FIRST BASE *
BATS: RIGHT * THROWS: RIGHT
WAYLAND, MICHIGAN

COLLEGE: 2003: Gifted Athlete . . . Has shown dedication . . . Expected to add versatility in the lineup . . . Understands the game well . . . **2002:** Started 41 games . . . Led the team with 37 hits and placed second in RBI (16) . . . Posted 10 multiple-hit game performances, including a career-high four vs. Lake Superior State (4/10) . . . Ranked third among FSU's leaders in batting average (.272) . . . Honored as a GLIAC All-Academic Team selection and a National Fastpitch Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete . . . **2001:** Started in all 45 games played, including 29 at shortstop . . . Paced team in total base hits (43) and runs scored (21) . . . Finished third among squad's batting average leaders (.272) and tied for third in RBI's (16) . . . Belted eight doubles . . . Compiled eight multi-hit games, including a trio of three-hit contests . . . Had three hits, including a solo home run, and scored three runs vs. St. Joseph's (4/21) . . . Posted a team-best seven-game hit streak (4/6-13).
HIGH SCHOOL: A 2000 graduate of Wayland High School . . . Coached by Cheri Ritz . . . Four-time all-conference performer . . . Achieved all-state, all-region and state all-academic accolades as a senior in helping team to a 39-2 mark . . . Batted .400 or better all four years and helped guide the Wildcats to a 141-12 combined record during career . . . Two-time all-state honorable mention honoree in basketball and three-time all-conference selection in volleyball . . . Two-time winner of school's best female athlete and selected Senior Athlete of the Year.

PERSONAL: Born 9/19/81 in Grand Rapids, Mich. . . . Daughter of Bill and Deb Merchant . . . Her mother attended FSU and competed in tennis . . . Enjoys athletics . . . Accountancy major.



Nickname
Merch

Pregame Ritual
Braid my hair

Why I chose Ferris State
The softball tradition

CAREER HIGHS

Hits4 vs. Lake Superior State, 4/10/02
Runs3, twice-last vs. Lake Superior State, 4/10/02
RBI3, three times-last vs. Hillsdale, 5/3/02
Doubles2 at Hillsdale, 4/28/02
Triples1, twice-last vs. Lake Superior State, 4/10/02
Home Runs1, twice-last vs. Missouri-St. Louis, 4/20/02
Stolen Bases1, three times-last vs. Gannon, 4/13/01

MERCHANT FILE

The motto I live by
Live life one day at a time

Favorite music group
Dixie Chicks

My role model
My mom and Aunt Missy

Advice to youngsters
Follow your dreams

If I could change one thing about softball
No playing when its snowing

What I am going to be when I grow up
Certified public accountant

Worst fear
Failing

The thing I like most about FSU softball
Teammates

MERCHANT'S CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	AVG	G-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SF	SH	SO	BB	HP	SB-A	TB	SLG%	OB%	PO	A	E	AVG
2001	.272	45-45	158	21	43	8	1	1	16	0	1	23	10	1	3-4	56	.354	.320	77	76	10	.939
2002	.272	41-41	136	10	37	7	1	1	16	1	5	24	4	2	0-0	49	.360	.301	93	79	15	.920
TOTALS	.272	86-86	294	31	80	15	2	2	32	1	6	47	14	3	3-4	105	.357	.301	93	155	25	.929

AMANDA OPBROEK



5-6 * SENIOR * PITCHER/DESIGNATED PLAYER *
BATS: RIGHT * THROWS: RIGHT
SANFORD, MICHIGAN (SANFORD-MERIDIAN)

COLLEGE: 2003: Performs well in pressure situations . . . Expected to carry weight of pitching staff . . . **2002:** Led team with 10 pitching victories and 23 complete games . . . Recorded school's sixth-best single-season earned run average (1.41) and fourth-best strikeout total (117) . . . Gave up three hits and no runs while pitching seven innings vs. Mercyhurst (4/14) . . . Belted in three RBI with a home run vs. Grand Valley State (4/5) . . . Named to GLIAC All-Academic Team . . . Had six multiple-hit outings . . . **2001:** Started all 45 contests . . . Posted school's fourth-best single-season doubles mark (14) . . . GLIAC All-Academic honoree . . . Placed fourth in team batting average (.257) and was second in base hits (35) . . . Knocked in a team-high tying 18 RBI's . . . Had season-high nine strikeouts vs. Lake Superior State (4/3) and Saginaw Valley State (4/26) . . . **2000:** Placed eighth among team batting leaders (.267) . . . Had an extra-inning game-winning RBI single vs. Ashland (3/5) . . . Hit a solo homer against St. Joseph's (3/9) . . . Hurlled a two-hitter vs. Lock Haven (3/10).
HIGH SCHOOL: A 1999 graduate of Sanford-Meridian High School . . . Coached by Gary Edwards . . . Led the Mustangs to four straight Jack Pine Conference titles . . . A three-time all-state and four-time all-conference honoree . . . State record holder for most career doubles (44) . . . Won over 20 games twice (1997-98) while striking out 1,168 batters during her career . . . Received *Detroit Free Press* Scholar-Athlete Award and was a three-time academic all-state selection . . . Named both SMHS' Senior Athlete-of-the-Year in 1999 and homecoming queen.

PERSONAL: Daughter of Ron and Nadine Opbroek . . . Born 7/28/80 in Midland, Mich. . . Majoring in applied biology.



Nickname
Opie

If I could change one thing about softball
The weather

My favorite movie
A Walk To Remember

CAREER HIGHS

Hits3, twice-last vs. Saginaw Valley State, 4/26/01
Runs2, five times-last vs. Southern Indiana, 4/22/01
RBI3, three times-last vs. Lake Superior State, 4/10/02
Doubles2, three times-last vs. Findlay, 4/27/01
Home Runs1, four times, last vs. Grand Valley State, 4/5/02
Stolen Bases1, twice-last vs. Hillsdale, 4/29/01
Strikeouts (pitching)11 vs. Gannon, 4/13/02

OPBROEK FILE

Advice to youngsters
No goal is too high as long as you believe that you can do it and know you will have to work hard

The thing I like most about FSU softball
We're like a family

Why I chose Ferris State
Strong health sciences programs

The motto I live by
Count on yourself to get things done and not others

Favorite music group
Aerosmith

What I am going to be when I grow up
Physician Assistant

Pregame Ritual
Eat a light meal, stretch and mentally focus for the contest

OPBROEK'S CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	AVG	G-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SF	SH	SO	BB	HP	SB-A	TB	SLG%	OB%	PO	A	E	AVG	G-GS	W-L	SV	SHO	ER	ACC	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WP
2000	.267	23-14	45	11	12	4	0	1	7	0	0	12	4	0	1-1	19	.422	.327	1	0	0	1.000	3-2	1-0	0	10.72	1	9.2	5	6	1	3	6	4	
2001	.257	45-45	136	15	35	14	2	2	18	0	1	26	14	0	1-2	59	.434	.327	29	27	6	.903	18-13	6-8	0	1	2.20	8	95.2	97	51	30	27	75	11
2002	.235	41-40	115	6	27	4	0	1	11	1	3	25	11	1	0-2	34	.296	.305	15	37	9	.852	27-25	10-14	0	5	1.41	23	169.0	158	57	34	341	17	10
TOTALS	.250	109-99	296	32	74	22	2	4	36	1	4	63	29	1	2-5	112	.378	.318	45	64	15	.879	48-40	17-22	0	7	1.66	32	274.1	1260	114	65	64	198	25

