

FERRIS STATE DIAMOND DAWGS

THE 2002 DIAMOND DAWGS

NICKI MERCHANT



5-8 * SOPHOMORE * INFIELD *
BATS: RIGHT * THROWS: RIGHT
WAYLAND, MICHIGAN

COLLEGE: 2002: Quality shortstop . . . One of team's leaders and is a proven offensive threat . . . Swings a great bat . . . Shows good athleticism . . . Reacts to the ball well and displays great range with a quick release . . . FSU Dean's Academic Award honoree . . . **2001:** Started in all 45 games played in, including 29 at shortstop . . . Paced team in both total base hits (43) and runs scored (21) . . . Finished third among squad's top batting average leaders (.272) and tied for third in RBI's (16) . . . Belted eight doubles to place second on team . . . Compiled eight multi-hit games, including a trio of three-hit contests . . . Had three hits, including a solo home run, and scored three runs against St. Joseph's (4/21) at Great Lakes Region Showdown . . . Registered a team-best tying seven-game hitting streak (4/6-13) with 10 total base hits.

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 in each of her 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 of Wayland, Mich. . . Father is a factory worker and mother is employed as a teacher's aide . . . Her mother attended FSU and competed in tennis . . . Enjoys athletics . . . Accountancy major.

CAREER HIGHS

Hits3 vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.), 4/21/01
 Runs3 vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.), 4/21/01
 RBI3 vs. Aquinas, 3/19/01
 Doubles1, eight times-last vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.), 4/21/01
 Triples1 vs. Northwood, 3/30/01
 Home Runs1 vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.), 4/21/01
 Stolen Bases1, three times-last vs. Gannon, 4/13/01

MERCHANT FILE

The motto I live by
 Live everyday to the fullest
Favorite music group
 Dixie Chicks
My role model
 My mom and Aunt Missy
Advice to youngsters
 Dream big and never give up on your dreams
Something unusual about me is that
 I played four sports in high school
If I could meet anyone in history
 Julia Roberts
Worst fear
 Failing
If I could change one thing about softball
 Never play in cold weather, especially when it's snowing



Nickname
 Merch
Pregame Ritual
 Braid my hair
Why I chose Ferris State
 Their winning tradition
The motto I live by
 Live everyday to the fullest

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
2000	.272	45-45	158	21	43	8	1	1	16	0	1	23	10	1	3-4	56	.354	.320	77	76	10	.939
TOTALS	.272	45-45	158	21	43	8	1	1	16	0	1	23	10	1	3-4	56	.354	.320	77	76	10	.939

AMANDA OPBROEK



5-6 * JUNIOR * PITCHER/OUTFIELD *
BATS: RIGHT * THROWS: RIGHT
SANFORD, MICHIGAN (SANFORD-MERIDIAN)

COLLEGE: 2002: Returns as a starter on the mound . . . Offensive threat and is one of team's best hitters . . . Performs well in pressure situations . . . Possesses a tremendous work ethic . . . Her speed and mastery of pitches will be a stronghold of the pitching staff . . . FSU Dean's Academic Award recipient . . . **2001:** Started all 45 contests . . . Had a team-high 14 doubles which tied for fourth among school's all-time single-season leaders . . . GLIAC All-Academic honoree . . . Placed fourth in team batting average (.257) and was second in overall base hits (35) . . . Knocked in a team-high tying 18 RBI's . . . Posted nine multi-hit games - second best on the squad . . . Had season-high nine strikeouts apiece 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) in GLIAC Tourney . . . 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 of Sanford, Mich. . . Born 7/28/80 in Midland, Mich. . . Father is employed as a mechanical engineer . . . Majoring in applied biology.

CAREER HIGHS

Hits3, twice-last vs. Saginaw Valley State, 4/26/01
 Runs2, five times-last vs. Southern Indiana, 4/22/01
 RBI3 vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.), 4/21/01
 Doubles2, three times-last vs. Findlay, 4/27/01
 Home Runs 1, three times-last vs. Saginaw Valley State, 4/26/01
 Stolen Bases1, twice-last vs. Hillsdale, 4/29/01
 Strikeouts (pitching) .9, twice-last vs. Saginaw Valley State, 4/26/01

OPBROEK FILE

If I could meet anyone in history
 Nostradamus, Joan of Arc, Jesus
Advice to youngsters
 Set your goals high and work hard to achieve them
Worst fear
 Deep water
Why I chose Ferris State
 They had a good softball team and a strong science program
The motto I live by
 Count on yourself to get things done and not others
The thing I like most about FSU Softball
 My teammates are like family
Favorite music group
 Aerosmith
Something unusual about me is that
 I love lima beans!



Nickname
 Opie
If I could change one thing about softball
 Less fundraising
My favorite movie
 Dirty Dancing

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	ACG	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	01.000	3-2	1-0	0	1	0.72	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
TOTALS	.260	68-59	181	26	47	18	2	3	25	0	1	38	18	0	2-3	78	.431	.327	30	27	6	.905	21-15	7-8	0	2	2.06	9	105.1	102	57	31	30	81	15

