

FERRIS STATE DIAMOND DAWGS

HEAD COACH KERI BECKER



If building a winning program is supposed to take time, then Ferris State University seventh-year head coach Keri Becker has exceeded virtually everyone's expectations but her own.

As with any highly-competitive individual, Becker has experienced early success in a relatively short period of time at Ferris State. But, despite facing adversity the past few years, she has aspirations of attaining even more significant goals in the seasons to come.

"Like many coaches, I've faced my share of adversity when it comes to winning," said Becker. "While this may create frustration for some, it only has driven me to work harder in finding different ways to prepare, train and inspire my players. I stress to my players the importance of keeping winning and losing in perspective and coaching is no different."

Adversity makes the drive to succeed that much greater and Becker has experienced her share of adversity both on and off the field. She was called to active United States Army duty in late February 2003 in support of Operation Enduring

and Iraqi Freedom and subsequently missed the entire 2003 softball campaign. On Feb. 20, 2003, Becker's travels started with refresher military training at Ft. Leonardwood, Mo., and eventually landed her at Camp As Sayliyah in Doha, Qatar. She served a six-month stint there before returning to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. to complete her tour of duty.

"It was difficult not being able to coach my team, but the experience of serving my country was certainly a positive one," stated Becker, who was selected the 2003 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Coach of the Year. "The time away made me realize just how much passion I have for coaching and my team. I'm rejuvenated and ready more than ever to lead this program to greatness."

Ferris' recent success can be traced back to the 2000 season when the Bulldogs posted a 33-18 overall mark and claimed the GLIAC Championship title for the first time since 1982. The previous campaign (1999), Ferris set a team single-season record with 46 victories and captured its second straight Great Lakes Regional title.

Following its first-ever regional title in 1998, Becker's team finished third at the NCAA Division II Championships in Pensacola, Florida. The placing marked the highest national finish ever for a Ferris women's athletics team.

In six seasons at FSU, Becker holds the distinction of being the school's all-time winningest coach with a 201-125 career record (.617 winning pct.) as the Bulldogs have averaged over 33 victories per season during her coaching career. Furthermore, Becker has directed Ferris to an overall conference title (2000), two back-to-back (1999-00) first-place GLIAC Tournament finishes, a pair (1998-99) of NCAA-II Great Lakes Regional Championship crowns and the three (1997-99) most successful seasons in the program's history. She made her first season as head coach a memorable one by being honored as the 1997 GLIAC Coach of the Year.

Prior to Ferris, Becker served two seasons (1995-96) as an assistant coach at Saginaw Valley State University. As a student-athlete at SVSU, Becker enjoyed a stellar softball career for the Cardinals in which she received all-conference first-team honor four straight seasons and was a two-time academic all-league selection as a four-year starter.

The Sanford, Mich., native received a softball scholarship to SVSU after concluding a notable prep athletics career at Sanford-Meridian High School in Sanford, Mich. An all-state and four-time all-conference pick in softball, Becker played an integral role in helping the Mustangs capture the 1987 State Class B title under coach Gary Edwards. A four-year starter at SMHS, she presently holds seven school batting records, including most hits, home runs and RBI, and four pitching records, including most wins and lowest earned run average. Becker competed in basketball three years, attaining all-conference and all-area laurels. Becker serves as a member of the National Championship Softball Committee and is chair of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional Ranking Committee. She also holds membership in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

A resident of Howard City, Mich., Becker also serves as the FSU Athletics Department's Compliance Coordinator. Her interests include downhill skiing, boating and playing with beloved dogs -- McKenzie, a Labrador Retriever, and Gabby, a Husky.

Prior to being called to active duty, Becker served eight years (1992-00) in the United States Army Reserve and held the rank of sergeant.

BECKER BY OPPONENT

OPPONENT	W	L
Adelphi (N.Y.)	1	0
American International (Mass.)	0	3
Albion	2	0
Alma	3	0
Aquinas	10	2
Assumption (Mass.)	1	0
Ashland	15	11
Barry (Fla.)	0	2
Bellarmine (Ky.)	0	0
Bloomsburg (Pa.)	1	1
California (Pa.)	3	4
California State-Bakersfield	1	0
Calvin	1	1
C.W. Post (N.Y.)	1	0
Central Missouri State	1	0
Central Oklahoma	1	0
Concordia (Minn.)	0	1
Delta State (Miss.)	1	1
Dowling (N.Y.)	1	0
East Stroudsburg (Pa.)	0	1
Eckerd (Fla.)	1	0
Findlay	7	4
Florida Southern	1	0
Florida Tech	0	0
Gannon	11	3
Grand Valley State	7	9
Hillsdale	11	3
Hope	0	2
Holy Family (Pa.)	1	0
Humboldt State (Calif.)	0	1
Indiana (Pa.)	1	2
Indianapolis	2	0
IUPUI-Ft. Wayne	1	0
Kentucky Wesleyan	2	1
Lake Superior State	15	1
La Salle (Pa.)	1	0
Lewis (Ill.)	2	6
Lock Haven (Pa.)	3	1
Longwood (Va.)	0	1
Madonna (Mich.)	1	0
Mercyhurst	11	1
Merrimack (Mass.)	1	1
Minnesota State, Mankato	0	2
Missouri-St. Louis	0	1
Molloy (N.Y.)	1	0
Monmouth (N.J.)	0	1
New Haven (Conn.)	1	0
North Alabama	1	0
North Dakota State	1	1
North Florida	1	1
Northern Kentucky	0	3
Northwest Missouri State	1	0
Northwood	18	11
Nova Southeastern (Fla.)	0	0
Quincy (Ill.)	3	1
Rollins (Fla.)	1	0
Saginaw Valley State	10	8
St. Leo (Fla.)	1	2
St. Anselm (N.H.)	0	1
St. Cloud State (Minn.)	1	0
St. Joseph's (Ind.)	2	1
St. Mary's (Mich.)	1	0
St. Xavier (Ill.)	0	0
Shippensburg (Pa.)	3	1
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	1	3
South Dakota	3	1
Southern Indiana	2	3
Southwest State (Minn.)	1	1
Stonehill (Mass.)	2	0
Texas Woman's	0	1
Tiffin (Ohio)	0	0
Truman State (Mo.)	0	2
Valdosta (Ga.)	2	0
Villanova (Pa.)	0	1
Wayne State (Mich.)	15	11
West Chester (Pa.)	1	0
West Florida	0	1
West Virginia Wesleyan	0	0
Western Michigan	1	1
Westminster	3	0
Wisconsin-Parkside	2	2
TOTALS	201	125
vs. GLIAC (ALL GAMES)	123	62
GLIAC TOURNAMENT	17	9
NCAA TOURNAMENT	9	5
2004 Opponents in Bold		

BECKER YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

YEAR	GAMES	OVERALL			CONFERENCE			CONFERENCE FINISH	
		WON	LOST	PCT.	WON	LOST	PCT.	PLACE	TOURNEY
1997	60	40	20	.667	13	4	.764	2nd	4th
1998	61	44	17	.721	15	5	.750	2nd	2nd
1999	64	46	18	.719	13	6	.684	4thT	1st
2000	51	33	18	.647	16	4	.800	2nd	1st
2001	45	22	23	.489	13	7	.650	7th	7thT
2002	45	16	29	.356	7	13	.350	9th	4th
2003		* Leave of absence due to military commitment							
TOTALS	326	201	125	.617	77	39	.664		