

# 2004 Creighton Softball

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

1878 **125** 2003

## On the Covers

**Front:** Seniors Stacey Rybar and Kari Shank.

**Back:** Juniors Katie Ayers, Melanie Dorsey, Abby Johnson, Tammy Nielsen and Melissa Plog.

**Inside Front:** A celebration of Creighton's 2003 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Championship.

**Inside Back:** Team photo, CU Sports Complex and Kitty Gaughan Pavilion photos.

## Kitty Gaughan Pavilion

Renovations on the pavilion at the Creighton Sports Complex were completed during fall 2001. Dedicated the Kitty Gaughan Pavilion on Oct. 27, 2001, the two-story clubhouse includes the following amenities for both the baseball and softball programs:

- Coaches offices
- Locker rooms
- Training room
- Umpire locker room
- Indoor batting cages
- Furnished lounge area with television
- Kitchenette
- Concession area
- Public restrooms
- Indoor viewing area
- Viewing deck

*View photos on inside back cover*

## Media Guide Credits

The 2004 Creighton University Softball Media Guide is a production of the Creighton University Sports Information Office. Interior design, writing and editing by Assistant Sports Information Director Rob Simms, using an iMac with QuarkXpress, Ofoto, Polacolor Insight and Adobe PhotoShop softwares. Editorial assistance provided by Sports Information Director Rob Anderson, Assistant Athletics Director Kevin Sarver, Director of Media Relations Joan McLaughlin and sports information intern Matt Beltz. Cover design by Damon Andersen of A-1 Design, Omaha, Neb., (402) 880-5570. Photos by Scott Bruhn, Eric Francis Photography and Creighton University Media Services. Printing by Forms Associates of Omaha, Neb.

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## Creighton Quick Facts

### General Information

Location .....	Omaha, Neb.
Founded .....	1878
Enrollment .....	6,537
President .....	Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.
Director of Athletics .....	Bruce Rasmussen
Colors .....	Blue and White
Affiliation .....	NCAA Division I
Conference .....	Missouri Valley

### Bluejay Softball

Head Coach .....	Brent Vigness
Alma Mater .....	Central College, [Iowa] ('88)
Career Record / Years .....	.435-.319-1 / 15
Record at CU / Years .....	.287-.248 / 10
Assistant Coach .....	Leticia Pineda-Boutte
Alma Mater .....	Arizona ('98)
Graduate Assistant .....	Jessica Draemel
Alma Mater .....	Stanford ('02)
Home Field .....	Creighton Sports Complex
Capacity .....	1,000
2003 Overall Record .....	.26-.24
2003 MVC Record/Finish .....	.14-.12 / 4th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost .....	10/5
Starters Returning/Lost .....	6/3
Pitchers Returning/Lost .....	3/1
NCAA Tournament Appearances .....	7
1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1999, 2003	
College World Series Appearances .....	2
1982, 1986	

### Sports Information

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MVC Scoreboard Phone .....	(314) 997-9877

# 2004 Roster Information

## Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	B-T	Hometown (High School / Previous School)
1	Melanie Dorsey	Jr.	OF	5-3	L-R	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
2	Jamie Reiss	Fr.	IF	5-4	L-R	Omaha, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
3	Kate Muldoon	Fr.	C	5-8	R-R	Omaha, Neb. (Central)
4	Jamie Schuck	Fr.	IF	5-7	R-R	Urbandale, Iowa (Urbandale)
5	Jessica German	Fr.	UT	5-11	L-L	Cozad, Neb. (Cozad)
6	Tammy Nielsen	Jr.	P	5-8	R-R	Fremont, Neb. (Bergan Catholic / Augustana)
8	Katrina Keyes	So.	OF	5-4	B-R	Shawnee, Kan. (Notre Dame de Sion)
9	Lauren Flores	So.	IF	5-5	R-R	Chino, Calif. (Don Lugo)
11	Katie Ayers	Jr.	OF	5-6	L-R	Omaha, Neb. (Ralston)
12	Stacey Rybar	Sr.	OF	5-5	R-R	Omaha, Neb. (Papillion-LaVista)
13	Christine Fukumoto	Jr.	OF/C	5-7	L-R	Flagstaff, Ariz. (Sinagua / Pima CC)
14	Melissa Plog	Jr.	P	5-8	R-R	Savage, Minn. (Burnsville)
15	Tiffany Madison	Jr.	IF	5-3	R-R	Rifle, Colo. (Rifle / Navarro College)
16	Kari Shank	Sr.	C	5-8	R-R	Omaha, Neb. (Central)
18	Kate Petullo	Fr.	IF	5-5	R-R	Waterloo, Iowa (West)
19	Jessica Merkel	Fr.	IF	5-7	B-R	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley Northwest)
20	Caitlin Marciano	Fr.	IF	5-3	R-R	Kansas City, Kan. (Piper)
21	Stephanie Cortese	So.	P	5-6	L-L	Omaha, Neb. (Marian)
22	Abby Johnson	Jr.	IF/P	5-9	R-R	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
24	Meredith Nunnikhoven	So.	C	5-7	R-R	Oskaloosa, Iowa (Pella Christian)

**Head Coach:** Brent Vigness (Central College [Iowa], 1988)

**Assistant Coach:** Leticia Pineda-Boutte (Arizona, 1998)

**Graduate Assistant:** Jessica Draemel (Stanford, 2002)

### Alphabetical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.
11	Katie Ayers	OF
21	Stephanie Cortese	P
1	Melanie Dorsey	OF
9	Lauren Flores	IF
13	Christine Fukumoto	OF/C
5	Jessica German	UT
22	Abby Johnson	IF/P
8	Katrina Keyes	OF
15	Tiffany Madison	IF
20	Caitlin Marciano	IF
19	Jessica Merkel	IF
3	Kate Muldoon	C
6	Tammy Nielsen	P
24	Meredith Nunnikhoven	C
18	Kate Petullo	IF
14	Melissa Plog	P
2	Jamie Reiss	IF
12	Stacey Rybar	OF
4	Jamie Schuck	IF
16	Kari Shank	C

### Breakdown By Class

<b>Seniors (2)</b>	<b>Sophomores (4)</b>
Stacey Rybar	Stephanie Cortese
Kari Shank	Lauren Flores
	Katrina Keyes
<b>Juniors (7)</b>	Meredith Nunnikhoven
Katie Ayers	
Melanie Dorsey	<b>Freshmen (7)</b>
Christine Fukumoto	Jessica German
Abby Johnson	Caitlin Marciano
Tiffany Madison	Jessica Merkel
Tammy Nielsen	Kate Muldoon
Melissa Plog	Kate Petullo
	Jamie Reiss
	Jamie Schuck

### Pronunciation Guide

Ayers	<b>A • ers</b>
Cortese	<b>Cor • TEE • zee</b>
Flores	<b>FLOOR • ez</b>
Fukumoto	<b>Foo • coo • MO • toe</b>
Merkel	<b>MER • kul</b>
Nunnikhoven	<b>NUN • uh • coe • ven</b>
Petullo	<b>Pi • TOO • low</b>

### Breakdown By State

<b>Arizona (1)</b>	Christine Fukumoto
<b>California (1)</b>	Lauren Flores
<b>Colorado (1)</b>	Tiffany Madison
<b>Iowa (3)</b>	Meredith Nunnikhoven Kate Petullo Jamie Schuck
<b>Kansas (3)</b>	Katrina Keyes Caitlin Marciano Jessica Merkel
<b>Minnesota (1)</b>	Melissa Plog
<b>Nebraska (10)</b>	Katie Ayers Melanie Dorsey Abby Johnson Tammy Nielsen Stacey Rybar Stephanie Cortese Jessica German Kate Muldoon Jamie Reiss Kari Shank

# 2004 Season Outlook

Look up the middle of the softball diamond this spring and discover the keys to Creighton's success. An all-region center fielder, an all-region pitcher and a four-year starting catcher will look to lead the Bluejays back to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season in 2004.

Head Coach **Brent Vigness** believes his team can repeat the success it found late in the 2003 season, which propelled the Jays to their second Missouri Valley Conference Tournament title. In each of the past three campaigns, the Bluejays have started the season by digging themselves a hole in the conference standings, before a late-season surge boosted them into the upper tier of the Valley. Vigness said he hopes this year's team can get off to a quicker start while once again challenging for a conference title and NCAA appearance.

The heart of CU's up-the-middle success begins with pitching. Junior **Tammy Nielsen** made an immediate impact in her first season with the Bluejays last year, earning second-team all-Midwest Region honors. Last year she led the team in every pitching category and ranked among NCAA leaders in strikeouts and earned run average in her first year at the Division I level. The right-hander established a school single-season record with 261 strikeouts last year and earned first-team all-MVC honors as well as MVC Tournament MVP accolades.

"Tammy is working harder and better this year," Vigness said of his ace hurler. "The conference has seen her pitch now, but she is more confident and is capable of an even better season this spring."

The Jays hope to have a healthy **Melissa Plog** back in the circle this year. The junior's 2003 season was cut short due to a back injury, which limited her to only 21 innings. Sophomore **Stephanie Cortese** looks to move up in the rotation this year as well. The left-hander made seven appearances as a rookie, including a five-inning no-hitter over UMKC. All-conference designated player **Abby Johnson** is expected to make a return to the circle this year. The junior pitched one inning as a freshman, but did not make any pitching appearances last spring.

Vigness said his deep stable of pitchers will challenge each other for time and give him the luxury of four unique styles of pitching. Each hurler offers different pitches, speeds and motions, a rare benefit in college softball.

The experience of fourth-year starting catcher **Kari Shank** anchors the up-the-middle look for CU. Shank started all 50 games behind the plate last year, making just two errors in 416 chances. The senior has the bat to match her defensive excellence and could challenge to become one of the best backstops in the MVC this spring.

"Kari does such a good job back there," Vigness stated. "Her experience behind the plate, calling games is just a great luxury for us to have."

Look for **Meredith Nunnikhoven** and newcomer **Christine Fukumoto** to give Shank a rest behind the plate this season. Freshman **Kate Muldoon** will also serve as a back-up catcher.

The middle of the outfield is built around two-time, first-team all-conference center fielder **Stacey Rybar**. Rybar, a second-team all-Midwest Region performer last year, is the school's all-time home run leader, entering the year with 24 career round-trippers. The MVC RBI leader last year begins her senior campaign as a legitimate Valley Player of the Year candidate. The Jays' leadoff hitter as a freshman and sophomore, Rybar moved to the third spot in the order last year, but is expected to return to the top of the lineup this spring.

"She's really swinging the bat better now than she has in a long time," Vigness said of Rybar. "We like what she's doing and she likes what she's doing. She's just so much more explosive than in the past."

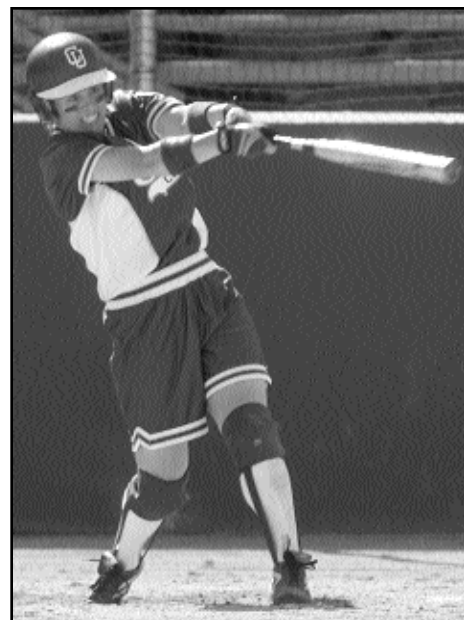
Juniors **Melanie Dorsey** and **Katie Ayers** return to start in left field and right field, respectively, for the Bluejays. Dorsey, a slap-hitter by trade, has started to drive the ball more and Vigness said he believes the speedy junior may be even faster this season.

Ayers, who started 46 games last year, will compete with Fukumoto for playing time. Ayers provides a swift left-handed bat, while Fukumoto, a junior-college transfer, brings a powerful left-handed swing to the lineup. Sophomore **Katrina Keyes** adds depth to the Bluejay outfield.

**Abby Johnson**, who set a school record with 12 home runs last year, will take her bat from her designated player role over to first base this year. The all-conference player could split time at first with freshman **Jessica German**. German, an athlete with power and speed, can also expect to see time as a DP this year. Cortese may see increased at bats this year as well, either at first base or DP.

**Lauren Flores** continues the pattern of CU's strength up the middle. The sophomore started all 50 games as a rookie at second base last year and earned first-team all-MVC honors. She smacked 10 home runs and nearly half of her hits went for extra bases. Flores struggled on defense, but Vigness stated she has made huge strides and is much improved with the glove this year.

If there is a question mark for the 2004 Bluejays, it is the left side of the infield. The Jays lost long-time starters Cara Van Winkle and Sami Herbster, who combined for 387 starts at shortstop and third base, respectively,



*Two-time first-team all-MVC center fielder  
Stacey Rybar*

over the past four seasons. A new crop of infielders is poised to replace the graduated seniors and make their mark on the program.

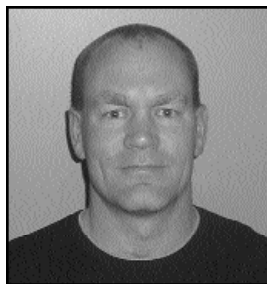
Freshman **Jessica Merkel** appears to have the edge at shortstop. The rookie is a gifted athlete with a strong arm and great range with an ability to make the flashy plays. Vigness will look for her to improve on the routine plays and become more consistent in the field.

Papillion-LaVista product **Jamie Reiss** will push Merkel at shortstop and also compete for a starting role at third base. The freshman played second base as a prep, but will be used to fill the vacated CU left side this year. Another rookie, **Caitlin Marciano**, has an opportunity to see plenty of time at third base this year. Vigness could also shift Johnson over to third base when looking for a more experienced infield. Newcomers **Jamie Schuck**, **Kate Petullo** and **Tiffany Madison** also add to a youthful infield.

Nunnikhoven led the team with 14 pinch-hit at bats last year and is pushing to see more at bats in the designated player role this spring. With a surplus of hitters, Vigness has the advantage of moving streaking players in and out of the lineup this year, something he wasn't able to do last season with 10 players seeing 98 percent of Bluejay at bats.

The Bluejays know their strength is in the middle this year. They also know they'll need to surround those core players with solid play from key newcomers if they want to repeat as MVC champions and once again make some noise in the NCAA Tournament.

# Head Coach Brent Vigness



## Brent Vigness

**Head Coach • 11th Season**

**287-248 at Creighton**

**435-319-1 Overall**

**Central College (Iowa), 1988**

**B**rent Vigness is now in his 11th season at the helm of the Creighton Bluejays and his 16th season as a collegiate head coach. He has guided one of the most successful teams in the Missouri Valley Conference during his tenure in Omaha. The 1998 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year is one of the top-50 winningest active coaches in college softball. The Bluejays have won three MVC regular-season titles, two MVC Tournament titles and twice appeared in NCAA Regionals under the leadership of Vigness.

Over the past six seasons, CU's winning percentage in conference play is an impressive .677. Since the beginning of the 1998 season, the Jays have gone 86-41 in league play, won three regular-season Valley titles and appeared in four of the last five MVC Tournament championship games. In 10 years as the Bluejays' leader, Vigness has amassed a 287-248 (.536) record and a 117-76 (.606) mark against MVC foes. His 2003 squad won the MVC Tournament title, while the 2002 team established a school record with 18 conference victories.

In 2003, Vigness guided his team to the NCAA Regionals in Lincoln, Neb., after the Jays captured the second Valley tournament title in school history. With a 3-1 win over Florida International in the second game of regionals, Vigness captured his first postseason NCAA victory and the Jays' first since 1989. The Bluejay offense continued to excel in conference play, leading the MVC in runs scored, triples, total bases and stolen bases. The Jays' 43 home runs established a school and MVC record for the second time in three seasons.

Vigness' 2002 squad demonstrated why the Jays have been one of the top teams in the MVC over the past six years, finishing the regular-

season in second place. CU rebounded from an 0-4 start in Valley play to finish 18-7 in the conference. Vigness' Bluejays continued their power display, cranking 22 home runs, the third-most in school history. The Jays batted .317 in conference play after battling through another tough non-conference schedule.

Vigness led the 2001 Bluejays to a record-setting season at the plate. The Jays' offense exploded, crushing 38 home runs, formerly the school and MVC record. The 38 long balls annihilated the former CU mark of 18. The 2001 squad also connected for 74 doubles, a total topped by only one other Bluejay team. After a slow start, the Jays went 21-9 over their last 30 games, which included a 16-3 run in conference play. For the third consecutive season, the Jays battled to an appearance in the MVC title game.

After claiming the 1999 MVC Tournament crown and an NCAA Tournament appearance, Vigness guided a young Creighton squad through a hard-fought and injury-riddled season to a share of the MVC regular-season title in 2000.

Despite losing the opening game in the 2000 Valley Tournament, the youthful Bluejays won three straight games the following day and returned to the MVC Tournament title game for the second straight season.

Vigness boosted his coaching staff prior to the 2003 season, with the addition of former Pac-10 athletes, Leticia Pineda-Boutte' and Jessica Draemel. Pineda, a 1998 graduate of Arizona, and Draemel, an Omaha native and 2002 Stanford graduate, bring a vast knowledge of the highly competitive West Coast softball scene.



## Vigness' Career Coaching Ledger

Year	School	Overall	Pct.	Conference	Pct.	Notes
1989	Assumption College (Mass.)	27-13	.675	12-4	.750	NE 10 "Coach of the Year"
1990	Assumption College (Mass.)	37-14	.725	14-4	.778	
1991	Assumption College (Mass.)	34-15-1	.690	15-3	.833	NE 10 "Coach of the Year"
1992	Assumption College (Mass.)	31-16	.660	14-4	.778	Led nation with .370 batting average
1993	Assumption College (Mass.)	19-13	.594	9-9	.500	
<b>Assumption Totals (5 yrs.)</b>		<b>148-71-1</b>	<b>.675</b>	<b>64-24</b>	<b>.727</b>	
1994	Creighton University	24-31	.436	6-10	.375	4th place at MVC Tournament
1995	Creighton University	32-19	.627	9-9	.500	
1996	Creighton University	17-24	.415	6-12	.333	
1997	Creighton University	32-30	.516	10-4	.714	
1998	Creighton University	33-15	.688	16-2	.889	MVC Coach of the Year, MVC Champs
1999	Creighton University	31-28	.525	11-3	.786	MVC regular-season & Tourney Champs
2000	Creighton University	34-22	.607	11-7	.611	Third straight regular-season MVC title
2001	Creighton University	30-27	.526	16-10	.615	Fifth consecutive 30-win season
2002	Creighton University	28-28	.500	18-7	.720	Most conference wins in CU history
2003	Creighton University	26-24	.520	14-12	.538	MVC Tourney Champs, NCAA appearance
<b>Creighton Totals (10 yrs.)</b>		<b>287-248</b>	<b>.536</b>	<b>117-76</b>	<b>.606</b>	
<b>Career Totals (15 Years)</b>		<b>435-319-1</b>	<b>.577</b>	<b>181-100</b>	<b>.644</b>	

# Head Coach Brent Vigness

The addition of both coaches once again proved Vigness' commitment to increase the Jays' regional and national reputation.

The Bluejays always play one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the MVC in order to prepare for conference play. Over the past few seasons, the Jays have traveled to nationally-ranked Arizona, Baylor and Oklahoma for tournaments, as well as battling national powers Nebraska and Iowa. The Jays' strong schedules have paid big dividends in conference play in recent years, helping Vigness' teams become battled tested before entering Valley play each season.

Vigness arrived at CU after leading Division II Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., to a 148-71-1 (.675) mark between 1989 and 1993. Vigness left as the winningest coach in Assumption College history. He guided the Lady Hounds to three consecutive 30-win seasons. The 37 victories posted by the 1990 Assumption College squad is the best single-season mark in school history. In 1992, in just his fourth year, Vigness became the youngest coach in the school's history to amass 100 wins.

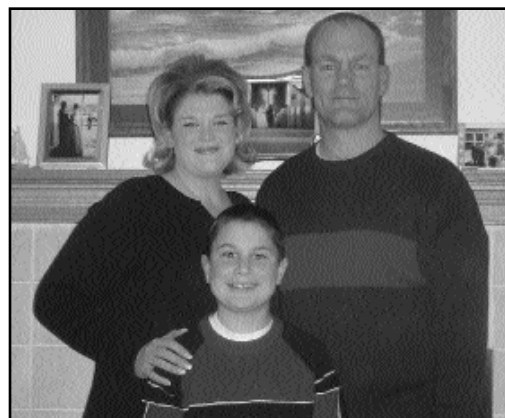
Named the Northeast 10 Conference "Coach of the Year" in both 1989 and 1991 after leading the Lady Hounds to the league regular-season title, Vigness' 1992 Assumption squad led all Division II teams in batting average, by hitting an amazing .370 for the season.

In his first season at Assumption (1989) Vigness was hired as the school's head softball coach, assistant women's basketball coach and women's trainer before dropping the latter two positions to concentrate solely on softball.

From 1986 to 1988 Vigness served as a student assistant softball coach at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where he graduated in 1988 with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and recreation. Central College reached the Division III national quarterfinals in each of Vigness' three seasons there, finishing as the national runner-up in 1986 and national champion in 1988.

A two-year letterwinner in football at Central College, Vigness lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track at Nesco High School in Zeating, Iowa. As a senior, he was the captain of both the football and basketball teams and earned all-conference honors in both football and baseball.

Vigness' sister, Brenda Coldren, is in her second season as head coach at MVC rival, Indiana State. The 38-year-old Vigness lives with wife, Cris, and eight-year-old son, Brady, in Carter Lake, Iowa.



*Brent and Cris Vigness with son Brady.*

## Vigness vs. All Opponents at Creighton

Team	W-L	Team	W-L	Team	W-L
Akron	3-0	Illinois State	11-18	Pacific	0-4
UAB	1-2	Indiana	1-0	Portland State	0-1
Arizona	0-2	Indiana State	21-2	Sacramento State	0-2
Arizona State	1-0	Iowa	1-6	Saint Louis	2-0
Arkansas	2-1	Iowa State	5-7	College of Saint Mary	4-0
Auburn	0-1	IUPUI	1-0	Sam Houston State	3-0
Austin Peay	3-0	Kansas	4-13	Samford	1-1
Baylor	0-2	Long Beach State	1-2	San Diego State	0-1
Bellevue	2-0	Louisiana-Lafayette	0-1	Santa Clara	4-0
Boston College	1-0	Louisiana-Monroe	0-1	Southeast Missouri State	5-2
Boston University	0-1	Loyola (Ill.)	4-1	Southern Illinois	14-10
Bradley	17-7	Maine	2-0	Southwest Missouri State	18-16
Buffalo	1-0	McNeese State	1-0	Southwest Texas State	3-1
California	0-5	Miami (Ohio)	1-0	Stephen F. Austin	3-1
Cal Poly	0-1	Middle Tennessee State	1-1	Tennessee-Martin	2-0
Cal State-Fullerton	0-1	Minnesota	1-1	Texas	0-2
Cal State-Northridge	0-1	Mississippi	0-2	Texas A&M	2-0
Campbell	1-0	Missouri	0-4	Texas A&M Corpus Christi	0-2
Centenary	1-0	Morehead State	1-0	Texas-Arlington	1-0
Colorado State	3-8	Nebraska	4-35	Texas-San Antonio	1-1
Dayton	2-0	Nebraska-Omaha	2-0	Tulsa	8-1
DePaul	0-2	Nicholls State	0-1	UCLA	0-2
Detroit	4-0	North Carolina	1-0	UMKC	28-1
Drake	19-11	UNC-Greensboro	1-0	Utah	0-1
Eastern Illinois	1-0	Northern Illinois	1-0	Utah State	0-1
Eastern Michigan	1-0	Northern Iowa	15-11	Valparaiso	1-0
Evansville	15-12	Northwestern State	1-0	Washington	0-1
Florida Atlantic	1-0	Notre Dame	1-0	Western Illinois	1-2
Florida International	1-0	Oakland	1-0	Western Kentucky	1-0
Fresno State	0-1	Oklahoma	0-11	Western Michigan	1-0
Hawaii	0-1	Oklahoma City	1-1	Wichita State	14-12
Hawaii-Hilo	1-1	Oklahoma State	0-2	Wisconsin-Green Bay	2-0
Hofstra	0-1	Oregon State	0-1		
Illinois-Chicago	1-2				

# Bluejay Coaching Staff



**Leticia  
Pineda-Boutte'**

**Assistant Coach**

**Second Season  
Arizona, 1998**

Leticia Pineda-Boutte' enters her second year as an assistant coach with the Bluejays. A highly-decorated athlete at the University of Arizona, this former professional softball player provides the Jays with knowledge unmatched by previous CU assistants.

Pineda-Boutte' arrived in Omaha after working with the United States Air Force Academy's club softball team in 2001-02. Prior to her stint as a volunteer with Air Force, she served as the interim head coach at Division II, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs during the 1999-00 season. While at the helm of the Mountain Lions, she guided her team to a 16-14 mark in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and its first postseason appearance in four years.

"Leticia has been a tremendous help with our pitchers and catchers," said Vigness. "Our battery has been an area that may have been neglected in the past and with her experience as a catcher in the Pac-10, she brings incomparable knowledge to our staff."

Her playing career ranks as one of the most prolific in the storied softball history of Arizona. She is the only Division I athlete to be named first team All-American at three different positions - catcher (1996), third base (1997) and first base (1998). She helped guide her squads to National Championships in 1996 and 1997 as well as Pac-10 titles in 1995, 1996 and 1997. The Wildcats advanced to the College World Series each of her four seasons in Tucson.

The three-time all-region and All-America honoree connected for 52 home runs in her career, 10th all-time in NCAA history. Her 240 career runs batted in also rank as the sixth most in NCAA history. She finished with a .375 career batting average and a .687 slugging percentage, which ranks in the NCAA Top 20. Her 96 RBI in 1996 is topped by just four players in NCAA Division I history, while her 20 home runs in 1998 is in the NCAA Top 20.

She has also been honored with the Courage and Leadership Award by the National Hispanic Women's Corporation (1998) and recognized by Hughes Missile Systems Company as the Sportswoman of the Year (1997).

Prior to her stint at CU-Colorado Springs, she spent the 1999 season playing for the Tampa Bay Firestix of the Women's Professional Softball League.

Pineda-Boutte' graduated from Arizona with a bachelor of arts in humanities in 1998. She and her husband, Shawn Boutte', have been married for two years and live in Omaha.



**Jessica  
Draemel**

**Graduate Assistant**

**Second Season  
Stanford, 2002**

Jessica Draemel, an Omaha native, is in her second season on the Creighton softball staff after finishing her collegiate playing career at Stanford in 2002.

A graduate of Stanford, she acquired her degree in psychology after a two-year stint on the Cardinal softball team. The outfielder transferred to Stanford after attending classes and playing two seasons at the University of Nebraska. Draemel started 48 of the 58 games in which she participated as a senior. In 2001, the Cardinal advanced to the College World Series where she contributed to Stanford's third-place finish. While at Stanford she was a scholar-athlete both seasons and earned Pac-10 All-Academic First-Team honors as a senior.

Draemel was a National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-America Scholar-Athlete her entire four-year career. She also was tabbed to the Big 12 All-Academic First-Team twice and appeared in the College World Series with the Huskers. The three-time high school All-American also earned Dean's List notice, Big 12 Honor Roll notice and UNL Student-Athlete Advisory Board Honor Roll accolades.

"Jessica knows what it takes to succeed at the highest level of competition," said Vigness. "She is familiar with Omaha and very well respected in the area and has been a great addition to our program."

Draemel, a 1997 graduate of Millard South High School, served as an academic advising intern at Stanford upon graduation. As the academic advising intern she helped coordinate freshmen student-athlete orientation and assisted with the daily operations of the academic advisor. She has worked softball clinics at Stanford and served as a summer instructor at the Strike Zone Softball Camps in Omaha since 1997.

She is currently pursuing her master's degree in the Counselor of Education program at Creighton while also assisting with compliance in the CU athletics department.

