

YELLOWJACKET SOFTBALL

Weekly Release - Mar. 16, 2009

2009 Softball Schedule 13-3 GNAC, 20-8

FEBRUARY

7	vs. Davis & Elkins@	W, 11-0
	vs. CSU Dominguez Hills@	W, 3-2
8	vs. Central Washington@	L, 3-4
	vs. Sonoma State@	W, 2-1
	vs. San Francisco State\$	L, 0-6
11	at CSU Dominguez Hills	W, 3-2
		W, 2-0
13	vs. Dixie State#	L, 3-4
	vs. Western New Mexico#	W, 11-2
14	vs. Eastern New Mexico#	L, 4-5
	vs. New Mexico Highlands#	W, 7-3
15	vs. Grand Canyon#	L, 5-7
21	at Western Oregon*	L, 2-3
		L, 0-3
22	at Western Oregon*	W, 6-5
		W, 10-8
28	at Saint Martin's*	W, 13-1
		W, 7-0

MARCH

1	at Saint Martin's*	W, 14-0
		W, 4-3
6	at Western Washington*	L, 2-6
		W, 6-0
7	at Western Washington*	W, 3-0
		W, 8-0
13	Northwest Nazarene*	W, 11-10 (10)
		W, 10-8
14	Northwest Nazarene*	W, 8-0 (5)
		W, 11-2 (5)
18	Univ. of Mary	1:00 p.m.
21	at Central Washington*	Noon
22	at Central Washington*	Noon
28	Saint Martin's*	1:00 p.m.
29	Saint Martin's*	1:00 p.m.

APRIL

10	Western Oregon*	1:00 p.m.
11	Western Oregon*	1:00 p.m.
15	Univ. of Great Falls	1:00 p.m.
18	Western Washington*	1:00 p.m.
19	Western Washington*	1:00 p.m.
21	at Univ. of Mary	1:00 p.m.
24	at Northwest Nazarene	3:00 p.m.
25	at Northwest Nazarene	Noon
29	Univ. of Great Falls	1:00 p.m.

MAY

1	Central Washington*	1:00 p.m.
2	Central Washington*	1:00 p.m.

- * GNAC Game
- @ Best of the West - Turlock, Calif.
- \$ Turlock, Calif.
- # Lead Off Classic - Phoenix, Arizona

THIS WEEK: Montana State Billings will be home and away this week. On Wednesday, Mar. 18, the University of Mary Marauders will come to town. The game is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 21-22, the Yellowjackets travel to Ellensburg, Wash., to take on Central Washington. The games are scheduled to start at noon on both days.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON: The Wildcats are 6-2 in the GNAC and 8-5 overall. CWU is currently in second place in the GNAC.

Central has a solid 1-2 punch in Holly Rossman and Taylor Trautman. Rossman has one double and three home runs, scored 11 runs, driven in eight runs while hitting .487. Trautman has scored eight runs and is batting .395.

On the mound, Linse Vlahovich is 6-2 with 36 strikeouts and a 2.27 ERA. CWU beat MSUB 4-3 on Feb. 8 at The Best of the West Invitational.

UNIV. OF MARY: The Marauders are currently 5-16 on the season. At the plate Jenna Button has scored 14 runs while hitting .379. Megan Lun has three doubles and three home runs, scored eight runs, driven in 19 runs and is hitting .377.

Mary leads the series 5-1. However, the Yellowjackets are looking for their first win at home against UM. MSUB is 0-4 at Cenex Stadium against them.

Montana State Billings Quick Facts

UNIVERSITY

Name: Montana State University Billings
Location: Billings, Mont.
Founded: 1927 (Formerly Eastern Montana College)
Enrollment: 4,799
Chancellor: Dr. Ronald Sexton
Director of Athletics: Dr. Gary Gray
Nickname: Yellowjackets
Colors: Navy Blue & Gold
Conference: Great Northwest Athletic Conference
Facility: Cenex Stadium
Capacity: 300

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Anthony Stone
E-Mail: AStone@msubillings.edu
Record at MSUB: 28-21, 1 yr
Overall Record: 70-58, 3 yrs
Assistant Coaches: Lisa Allen, Aaron Jackson
Softball Office Phone: 406-657-2398

TEAM INFORMATION

2008 Record: 28-21
GNAC Record/Finish: 16-8/3rd
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/3

SOFTBALL HISTORY

First Season: 2001
All-Time Record: 163-182 (Eight Years)
Conference Tournament Appearances: 2
..... (2006, 07)
NCAA Appearances: 1
..... (2005)
All-Conference Selections: 39
Academic All-Conference Selections: 22
Academic All-District Selections: 2
All-West Region Selections: 6
All-American Selections: 1
..... Theresa Campbell - 2005 (3rd Team)

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LAST WEEK: It was a roller coaster weekend for Montana State Billings as they swept Northwest Nazarene on Mar. 13-14 at Cenex Stadium. On Friday, Mar. 13, the Yellowjackets out slugged the Crusaders, 11-10 and 10-8.

Game one was a marathon taking 10 innings and two hours and forty-three minutes to finish. In the second inning, MSUB used a walk, error and a ground out to score a run and make it 1-0. NNU came back with a pair of solo home runs in the fourth inning.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kelly Parsons walked and moved to second on a ground out. Dawn Norcross then ripped the ball down the left field line and over the fence to make it 3-2, MSUB. In the fifth inning, the Yellowjackets struck the first two batters out. Two walks and a single loaded the bases for Vanessa Shaw who blasted the ball over the left center field fence for a grand slam.

Stevie Howard homered in the fifth inning to make it 6-4. The Jackets bats erupted in the sixth. Crystal Bentley reached on an error and moved to second on a single by Alyssa Frank. Both runners advanced a base on a pass ball and Bentley scored on a single from Stevie Howard.

Terina Stacks singled to right field to score Frank and move Howard to second. Whitney Whittemore laid down a bunt single to load the bases. Steph Gosselin lifted a fly deep to centerfield with Howard scoring after the catch. Parsons then laced a double to right field to score Whittemore and Stacks.

Leslie Davis drew a walk and then moved to third on a single by Norcross that scored Parsons. That made it 10-6. In the bottom of the seventh MSUB struck out the first two batters. Déjà vu occurred as two singles and a walk loaded the bases for Haley Haven who tied the game at 10 with a grand slam.

In the bottom of the tenth, the international tie breaker rule placed Frank on second. She moved to third on a ground out and then scored the game winner on a bunt single by Stacks.

The Yellowjackets struck early in game two. In the first inning, Stacks singled to left field and Shay Oberg hit a bomb to centerfield to make it 2-0. In the third inning, Stacks hit a sacrifice fly to score Amanda Goings.

In the third inning, MSUB rallied with two outs. Whittemore and Bobbie Lee both singled and moved a base on a passed ball. Goings then crushed a triple to left center field to drive in Whittemore and Lee. Howard stepped up and single to drive in Goings and then scored on a double by Stacks.

In the fourth inning, the Jackets picked up three more runs to make it 10-3. The Crusaders began to chip away with one run in the fifth and two in the sixth. In the seventh, Shaw was hit by a pitch and Hevern homered to right center field to make it 10-8, MSUB. The Jackets then got a ground out, a foul out, a single and a ground out to end the game.

On Saturday, Mar. 14, MSUB never looked back as they rolled over NNU, 8-0 and 11-2.

In game one, MSUB drew blood in the second inning. Kelly Parsons walked and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Leslie Davis. Following a strikeout, Whitney Whittemore sent the ball into orbit over the left field fence to make it 2-0. MSUB would score one run each in the third and fourth innings.

In the bottom of the fifth, Terina Stacks reached on an error. Stacks was then forced out at second on a fielder's choice by Shay Oberg. Oberg moved to second on a wild pitch and scored on Steph Gosselin's double to left field.

Parsons singled up the middle to score Gosselin. Amanda Hood came in to run for Parsons and moved to third on a double by Davis. Rebekah Tsatsa walked to load the bases and another walk, this one to Whittemore, scored Hood. Amanda Goings singled to center field to plate Davis and end the game at 8-0.

In game two, MSUB lit up NNU like a pinball machine in the first inning. Stacks led off with a bomb to dead center field. Oberg singled to left center field, Gosselin was hit by a pitch and Jenna VanEykeren laid down a bunt single to load the bases.

The Crusaders got a line out and pop up to make it two outs. Crystal Bentley drew a walk to push Oberg across the plate. With the runners going, Goings laced a shot up the middle. When the dust settled, VanEykeren and Gosselin had scored, Bentley was at second and Goings at first. Stevie Howard dropped a single into left field to score Bentley to make it 5-0. MSUB would add three runs in the bottom of the second with two outs.

In the third innings, NNU attempted to break up the shutout. With a runner at first, Vanessa Shaw crushed the ball down the left field line. Bobbie Lee ran it down and made a home-run saving catch at the fence.

In the fourth inning, the Crusaders managed to break up the shutout bid. Sarah Varaday singled up the middle and was replaced on the bases by Kristin Refsland. Jael Henthorn ripped a triple down the left field line to score Refsland. Chelsey Anderson singled up the middle to score Henthorn and make it 8-2.

In the fourth inning, Davis singled to left field and moved to second on a single up the middle by Alyssa Frank. Bentley then ripped a single up the middle to move Frank to second and plate Davis. Goings walked to load the bases. Stevie Howard then singled down the right field line to score Bentley and Frank.

Down 11-2, NNU needed to score at least two runs to keep the game going. The first two Crusaders drew walks to make the scenario possible. The Yellowjackets then got a fielder's choice and two pop outs to complete the four game sweep.

2009 Season Outlook

The 2008 season was a tale of two halves. Montana State Billings got off to a slow start winning just six of its first 21 games. After a pair of one-run losses to the University of Mary, the Yellowjackets suddenly caught fire. They finished as one of the hottest teams in the country winning 22 of their last 28 games. That run ended up producing a flashy 16-8 record in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, good for third place. MSUB finished the season at 28-21 overall.

For the 2009 season, Head Coach Tony Stone has set forth a goal of 23=8. There are 23 players on the Yellowjacket squad. Every single player needs to make valuable contributions to the team in order for MSUB to be one of the eight teams selected for regionals.

With Seattle moving to NCAA Division I, Montana State Billings is now the top offensive and fielding team in the GNAC. The Yellowjackets finished fifth in the conference for ERA last season. Lisa Allen, former Oregon State star, has been brought in to coach the pitchers this season.

MSUB returns 10 players from last year's squad. That experience will be needed as they face a very challenging schedule. The Yellowjackets open the season at the Best of the West Invitational facing the defending NCAA Division II national champions, Humboldt State. They will also face two West regional qualifiers at the tournament in Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State Stanislaus.

After a non-conference double header with Dominguez Hills, the Yellowjackets head to Phoenix to participate in the Lead-Off Classic. Among the teams they will face are Eastern New Mexico and Western New Mexico, two traditionally strong programs. MSUB will then open the GNAC season with West Region runner-up, Western Oregon, on Feb. 21.

INFIELD

The Yellowjackets have lost two of their top five hitters in Jessica Frank (Shortstop) and Jenna Haacke (2nd Base). Frank earned All-GNAC 1st team honors in a solid season (9 doubles, 3 triples, 10 Home Runs, 43 Runs, 34 RBI's, 18 stolen bases, .352 BA). Her stolen bases were a single-season school record and she was the all-time career leader in stolen bases (34) and assists (298). Haacke earned 2nd team all-league honors for the third straight season. She had eight doubles and was the second leading hitter on the team with a .383 average. Leslie Davis and Terina Stacks return as regulars. Davis was All-GNAC 1st team in 2008 with 15 doubles, two triples and seven home runs, scored 31 runs, drove in 33 runs and hit .361. Stacks was equally impressive hitting six doubles, two triples and five home runs, scored 29 runs, drove in 28 runs and hit .373. Stevie Howard and Alyssa Frank saw considerable playing time as well in 2008 and will step into lead roles at second and shortstop, respectively. Whitney Whittemore is expected to challenge for a starting spot. She earned all-region honors at Bellevue CC last season.

OUTFIELD

Midway through the 2008 season, the Yellowjackets saw significant injuries to the squad. Shay Oberg filled in nicely as a reserve during that time hitting .280. Steph Gosselin had 10 doubles and five home runs, scored 32 runs, drove in 27 and hit .408. Bobbie Lee gained a valuable season of practice as a redshirt in 2008 and will compete for a starting position. Three newcomers to MSUB will add depth and athleticism. Amanda Goings and Amanda Hood were both two-time all-conference selections in high school. Dawn Norcross was a two-time All-American at Bellevue CC.

CATCHER

Kelly Parsons earned All-GNAC 2nd team honors as well as being named the GNAC Freshman of the Year in 2008. She had eight doubles and nine home runs, scored 21 runs and drove in 34 runs while hitting .341. Behind the plate she had 267 chances with just four errors and threw out seven runners. Backing her up will be freshman newcomer Jenna VanEykeren. VanEykeren was a two-time academic all-state selection at Centennial High School.

PITCHING

Returning pitchers Lisa Moore and Rebekah Tsatsa combined to go 23-13 for the Yellowjackets last year. Moore threw to a 12-5 record with 87 strikeouts and a 2.40 ERA. Tsatsa went 11-8 with 101 strikeouts and a 3.29 ERA. Josie Grotbo and Kasie Conder add considerable depth as they join the Lady Jackets squad in 2009. Grotbo was a two-time all-conference selection at Helena HS (Mont.). Conder was a three-time All-State selection at Corvallis HS (Mont.)

RECORD CHASERS: The Yellowjackets are already hard at work rewriting the individual career record book. Earlier this season, Terina Stacks became the all-time leader in hits (172) and total bases (257). Four other records are being challenged as well.

Steph Gosselin and Stacks currently have driven in 91 runs putting them into a tie with Christy Wankel (2003-06). Gosselin also has 100 runs and needs just four to break the mark of 104 held by Joey Ehnes (2002-05).

Stacks has 677 putouts and needs 61 to break the mark of 727 while Leslie Davis has accumulated 265 assists and needs 35 to break the record of 299.

FIRST-FIRST: Montana State Billings currently leads the GNAC with a mark of 13-3. In addition nine times this season, the Yellowjackets have scored at least one run in the first inning of a GNAC game. MSUB is 9-0 in those games.

GNAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: They should start calling it the GNAC MSUB Player of the Week Award. The Yellowjackets have had at least one player been named POW four of the five weeks it has been awarded. The latest recipients are Stevie Howard and Kasie Conder.

GNAC POLL: The bull's-eye has been hung on the Montana State Billings's softball team. The Yellowjackets have been picked to win the GNAC according to the Preseason Softball Poll. MSUB received 33 points to 32 points for defending champion, Western Oregon.

Both teams garnered three first places votes but MSUB got the edge with three second place votes to two seconds and one third for the Wolves. Western Washington received 23 points to take third place. Rounding out the poll was Central Washington (18), Saint Martin's (13) and Northwest Nazarene (7).

After a slow start, MSUB caught fire, winning 21 of its last 27 games. The Jackets finished 16-8, third in the GNAC and 28-21 overall. The Yellowjackets returned 10 letterwinners including five all-conference selections.

"As far as being picked the preseason number one in the coaches poll, it's no doubt a very high compliment," Said head coach Anthony Stone. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for the coaches in our conference, and I think it says something special not only for our team, but for the conference overall. The GNAC is highly competitive, and I think the rest of the coaches would agree with me that there are no "gimmies" here. You better come ready to play everyday, because the day you don't is the day you can get beat by anyone. I think that's what makes it so much fun, is that up and down the league, you have to play your best against everyone."

Montana State Billings

No.	Name	YR	Pos.	Hometown – Previous School
2	Crystal Bentley	SR	OF	Kirkland, Wash. – Lake Washington HS
4	Stevie Howard	JR	INF	Prineville, Ore. – Crook County HS
6	Lisa Moore	SR	P/OF	Bakersfield, Calif. – Liberty HS
7	Whitney Whittemore	JR	INF	Puyallup, Wash. – Bellevue CC
8	Alyssa Frank	SO	INF	Great Falls, Mont. – C.M. Russell HS
9	Leslie Davis	SR	INF	Federal Way, Wash. – Federal Way HS
10	Steph Gosselin	SR	INF/OF	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada – Stelly's Secondary
11	Josie Grotbo	FR	P	Helena, Mont. – Helena HS
12	Jenna VanEykeren	FR	C/INF	Las Vegas, Nev. – Centennial HS
14	Kasie Conder	FR	P	Hamilton, Mont. – Corvallis HS
15	Bobbie Lee	FR	OF	Great Falls, Mont. – C.M. Russell HS
16	Rebekah Tsatsa	SR	P/INF	Eagle, Idaho – Eagle HS
17	Amanda Goings	FR	OF	Puyallup, Wash. – Puyallup HS
18	Dawn Norcross	JR	OF	Belfair, Wash. – Bellevue CC
20	Amanda Hood	FR	OF	Hamilton, Mont. – Hamilton HS
22	Kelly Parsons	SO	C	Seattle, Wash. – Mount Rainier HS
26	Terina Stacks	SR	P/INF	Washougal, Wash. – Washougal HS
30	Shay Oberg	SR	OF	Billings, Mont. – South Western Oregon CC
HC	Tony Stone			
AC	Lisa Allen, Aaron Jackson			

Montana State University-Billings
 Overall Statistics for Montana St. Billings (as of Mar 16, 2009)
 (All games Sorted by Batting avg)

Record: 20-8 Home: 4-0 Away: 12-3 Neutral: 4-5 GNAC: 13-3

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%
7 Whittemore,Whitne	.381	21-20	63	17	24	3	0	1	7	30	.476	2	4	8	0	.435	0	2	6-6	18	32	4	.926
12 VanEykeren,Jenna	.367	12-10	30	7	11	1	0	1	8	15	.500	0	0	3	0	.355	1	1	1-1	48	4	1	.981
26 Stacks, Terina...	.366	28-28	93	17	34	6	0	4	24	52	.559	6	0	5	0	.396	2	6	3-3	183	10	1	.995
17 Goings,Amanda....	.364	23-8	22	14	8	1	1	0	7	11	.500	6	0	1	0	.500	0	1	1-1	4	0	0	1.000
6 Moore, Lisa.....	.364	5-5	11	0	4	1	0	0	1	5	.455	3	0	4	0	.500	0	0	0-0	0	14	0	1.000
10 Gosselin, Steph..	.341	28-28	88	24	30	7	0	7	25	58	.659	7	2	6	0	.386	4	0	3-4	16	1	1	.944
16 Tsatsa, Rebekah..	.324	13-10	34	6	11	0	0	3	7	20	.588	5	0	7	0	.410	0	1	1-1	1	9	3	.769
8 Frank, Alyssa....	.310	20-18	58	9	18	4	0	2	10	28	.483	2	1	6	1	.339	1	0	2-3	23	27	9	.847
30 Oberg, Shay.....	.296	21-16	54	11	16	2	1	1	8	23	.426	1	0	9	0	.309	0	2	2-3	16	0	0	1.000
4 Howard, Stevie...	.294	25-23	68	10	20	2	0	1	10	25	.368	3	2	9	0	.338	1	1	4-5	52	43	5	.950
9 Davis, Leslie....	.271	28-28	85	20	23	5	0	2	12	34	.400	14	0	7	0	.370	1	2	4-5	20	54	6	.925
22 Parsons, Kelly...	.262	23-21	61	7	16	6	0	2	14	28	.459	12	0	9	1	.378	1	0	0-0	131	13	2	.986
18 Norcross,Dawn...	.222	20-18	54	11	12	0	0	3	7	21	.389	4	0	7	0	.276	0	1	4-5	12	0	1	.923
2 Bentley, Crystal..	.175	19-17	57	9	10	1	0	0	6	11	.193	4	1	10	0	.242	0	3	1-1	20	2	0	1.000
15 Lee, Bobbie.....	.091	13-2	11	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	.091	3	0	3	0	.286	0	0	1-1	4	0	0	1.000

20 Hood,Amanda.....	.000	3-0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
Totals.....	.302	28-28	789	170	238	39	2	27	146	362	.459	72	10	94	2	.363	11	20	33-39	556	223	34	.958
Opponents.....	.217	28-28	688	86	149	25	1	12	71	212	.308	90	19	168	4	.323	3	19	19-28	554	240	49	.942

LOB - Team (182), Opp (181). DPs turned - Team (9), Opp (5). Picked off - Bentley 1, Norcross 1.

(All games Sorted by Earned run avg)

Player	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
14 Conder,Kasie.....	1.52	7-2	11	8	8	3/0	0	55.1	36	15	12	14	46	6	0	1	191	.188	2	7	0	2	8
16 Tsatsa, Rebekah..	1.83	5-4	10	8	8	4/0	0	61.1	47	24	16	25	64	6	0	3	231	.203	3	6	0	1	3
6 Moore, Lisa.....	2.46	4-1	8	7	5	1/0	1	42.2	28	25	15	29	40	5	0	6	153	.183	0	4	0	0	5
11 Grotbo,Josie.....	5.65	4-1	5	5	2	0/0	0	26.0	38	22	21	22	18	8	1	2	113	.336	1	2	0	0	3
Totals.....	2.42	20-8	28	28	23	8/0	1	185.1	149	86	64	90	168	25	1	12	688	.217	6	19	0	3	19
Opponents.....	4.55	8-20	28	28	11	2/0	0	184.2	238	170	120	72	94	39	2	27	789	.302	17	10	1	11	20

PB - Team (10), Parsons 6, VanEykeren 4, Opp (13). Pickoffs - Team (2), Parsons 2, Opp (2). SBA/ATT - Parsons (15-22), Tsatsa (9-13), VanEykeren (4-6), Conder (5-6), Moore (2-5), Grotbo (3-4).