

YELLOWJACKET SOFTBALL

Weekly Release - Apr. 30, 2009

2009 Softball Schedule 29-7 GNAC, 38-12

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	W, 8-2
		W, 8-2
21	at Central Washington*	L, 2-3 (11)
		W, 9-6
22	at Central Washington*	W, 3-1
		L, 2-3
28	Saint Martin's*	W, 6-5
		W, 1-0

APRIL

10	Western Oregon*	W, 2-1
		W, 4-2
11	Western Oregon*	W, 5-2
		L, 2-7
18	Western Washington*	W, 3-0
		W, 5-1
19	Western Washington*	W, 10-2
		W, 10-8
23	vs. Saint Martin's (Spokane, WA)	L, 0-8
		W, 8-2
24	at Northwest Nazarene	W, 7-0
		W, 10-8
25	at Northwest Nazarene	W, 4-1
		W, 8-5

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: The battle for the GNAC championship comes down to Fri.-Sat., May 1-2 at Cenex Stadium. The Yellowjackets are playing Central Washington in a four game series and need just one win to capture the GNAC crown and earn a bid to the NCAA Championships. Both days are scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON: The Wildcats are 26-10 in the GNAC and 30-19 overall. At the plate Holly Rossman has 17 doubles and 10 home runs, scored 36 runs, drove in 44 runs and is batting .410. On the mound, Linse Vlahovich is 21-7 with 200 strikeouts and a 2.17 ERA in 193 and 1/3rd innings.

NFC A NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL POLL April 30, 2009

TEAM	W-L	PTS
1 Alabama-Huntsville (9)	42-4	367
2 North Georgia (5)	43-3	361
3 Lock Haven (1)	40-5	346
4 Angelo State	41-8	327
5 Valdosta State	44-6	296
6 Ferris State	32-6	289
7 Southeastern Oklahoma	50-11	273
8 Kutztown	43-8-1	261
9 Winona State	36-11	240
10 Dixie State	34-10	231
11 Humboldt State	37-16	216
12 Abilene Christian	41-11	179
13 Metro State	36-10	170
14 USC Aiken	34-14	147
15 Bloomsburg	33-8	144
16 LeMoyne	34-10	138
17 Rollins	39-8	130
18 Hawaii Pacific	36-10	122
19 Ashland	34-10	107
20 C.W. Post	30-16	97
21 Wayne State (Mich.)	34-12	76
22 Florida Southern	37-12	72
23 California (PA)	33-8	38
24 Francis Marion	32-19	32
25 Nebraska-Omaha	39-12	30

Others Receiving Votes: Central Missouri, Minnesota State-Mankato - 29, Georgian Court - 27, Colorado School of Mines - 26, Lenoir-Rhyne - 25, Saginaw Valley State - 19, **Montana State Billings - 9**, Caldwell - 8, Missouri-St. Louis - 4, Nova Southeastern - 3, West Florida - 2, Augusta, Missouri Western, NYIT, Sonoma State - 1

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 (2002)
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: Montana State Billings took one step closer to winning its first league championship ever. Heading into the week, the Jackets led by just one game over Central Washington. However, MSUB went 5-1 while the CWU was 3-3. The Yellowjackets now need just one win for the title.

RBI RECORD: On March 18 against the University of Mary, the career RBI record was broken, tied and broken. In the first game, Steph Gosselin drove in Terina Stacks in the first inning. That was Gosselin's 92nd career RBI breaking a three way tie.

In the second inning, Stacks doubles to drive in Kelly Parsons for her 92nd career RBI to tie Gosselin. In the first innings of the second game, Gosselin drove in Stacks to take back the RBI mark with 93.

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 (205) and total bases (301). Stacks was the all-time leader in runs with 107 until Steph Gosselin passed her against Western Oregon. Gosselin now has 117 runs.

Gosselin is currently the all-time leader in RBI's with 108 and home runs with 24.

Stacks has 826 putouts to break the career record of 737 while Leslie Davis has accumulated 92 assists and needs eight to break the record of 299. Stacks also broke the at-bat record with 534.

HOME RUN RECORD: Steph Gosselin is chasing both the school and GNAC single season record for home runs. She currently has 13 with the GNAC being 14 by Brandi Harrison (Humboldt State) and Mallory Holtman (Central Washington), both in 2006. The school record is 15 by Theresa Campbell in 2004.

WEST REGION POLL: Montana State Billings is currently ranked fourth in the NCAA Division II West Region Poll as of Apr.22. In parentheses is where they are ranked nationally.

1. Humboldt State (11)
2. Dixie State (10)
3. Hawaii Pacific (18)
4. Cal State Stanislaus
5. Montana State Billings (32)
6. Sonoma State (38)
7. UC San Diego
8. Cal State Monterey Bay
9. San Francisco State
10. Cal State Dominguez Hills

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.)

FIRST-FIRST: Montana State Billings currently leads the GNAC with a mark of 29-7. In addition 23 times this season, the Yellowjackets have scored at least one run in the first inning of a GNAC game. MSUB is 23-0 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 nine of the 11 weeks it has been awarded. The latest recipients are Kasie Conder and Bekah Tsatsa for April 29.

HOME COOKING: They say there is no place like home. That is definitely true for Montana State Billings. Since Cenex Stadium was built in 2002, the Yellowjackets have won 93 games against just 20 defeats. That equates to a winning percentage of .825. In addition, MSUB has won its 17 of its last 18 games at Cenex.

GNAC POLL: The bull's-eye has been hung on the Montana State Billings' 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 Apr 30, 2009)
 (All games Sorted by Batting avg)

Record: 38-12 Home: 15-1 Away: 18-5 Neutral: 5-6 GNAC: 29-7

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%
25 Hilliard, Kielie.	.667	5-1	6	0	4	0	0	0	3	4	.667	0	0	2	0	.667	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
26 Stacks, Terina...	.390	50-50	172	36	67	10	2	5	33	96	.558	10	0	10	0	.414	4	6	8-10	332	15	1	.997
10 Gosselin, Steph..	.373	50-50	150	41	56	10	0	13	42	105	.700	20	4	11	1	.447	5	0	10-13	32	4	2	.947
16 Tsatsa, Rebekah...	.365	25-20	63	9	23	3	1	4	20	40	.635	9	1	16	0	.452	0	1	1-1	3	13	5	.762
7 Whittemore,Whitne	.325	43-41	120	25	39	5	1	4	15	58	.483	4	5	19	0	.369	1	3	7-8	36	64	7	.935
22 Parsons, Kelly...	.313	42-40	115	17	36	9	2	5	27	64	.557	15	0	19	2	.389	1	0	0-0	265	21	3	.990
20 Hood,Amanda.....	.313	13-4	16	8	5	0	0	0	4	5	.313	0	0	3	0	.313	0	0	3-3	5	0	0	1.000
9 Davis, Leslie....	.307	47-46	140	32	43	11	0	4	20	66	.471	19	0	10	0	.388	1	3	8-9	38	81	8	.937
8 Frank, Alyssa....	.299	35-30	97	14	29	7	0	3	13	45	.464	3	1	13	2	.324	1	1	2-3	39	48	10	.897
4 Howard, Stevie...	.294	39-36	102	16	30	3	0	2	13	39	.382	9	3	11	0	.365	1	2	6-7	75	61	9	.938
30 Oberg, Shay.....	.291	39-32	103	19	30	3	1	3	16	44	.427	2	0	19	0	.305	0	5	4-5	25	2	1	.964
15 Lee, Bobbie.....	.281	24-9	32	9	9	1	0	0	3	10	.313	4	0	7	0	.361	0	0	2-2	9	0	0	1.000
12 VanEykeren,Jenna.	.269	24-20	67	10	18	1	0	2	12	25	.373	0	0	7	0	.265	1	5	2-2	90	23	4	.966
6 Moore, Lisa.....	.250	11-10	20	1	5	1	0	0	1	6	.300	3	0	7	0	.348	0	2	0-0	2	25	0	1.000
18 Norcross,Dawn....	.232	25-18	56	14	13	0	0	3	7	22	.393	4	1	7	0	.295	0	1	5-6	12	0	1	.923
17 Goings,Amanda....	.231	38-12	39	22	9	1	1	0	7	12	.308	8	0	6	0	.362	0	2	5-5	4	0	0	1.000
2 Bentley, Crystal.	.200	35-32	100	14	20	4	0	1	15	27	.270	5	1	17	0	.245	0	4	4-4	36	5	1	.976
14 Conder,Kasie.....	.000	1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	.000	0	0	0-0	8	17	2	.926
Totals.....	.312	50-50	1399	287	436	69	8	49	251	668	.477	115	16	185	5	.367	15	35	67-78	1013	387	55	.962
Opponents.....	.225	50-50	1269	155	286	41	1	27	132	410	.323	155	34	347	6	.325	3	35	31-41	983	442	84	.944

LOB - Team (316), Opp (334). DPs turned - Team (15), Opp (15). IBB - Team (2), Gosselin 2, Opp (2). Picked off - Norcross 1, Gosselin 1, Bentley 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....	1.51	16-3	25	14	14	4/0	3	115.2	81	31	25	28	136	10	0	4	416	.195	4	11	0	2	11
6 Moore, Lisa.....	2.48	10-2	17	14	9	2/0	1	93.0	71	46	33	60	97	9	0	15	336	.211	2	10	0	0	13
16 Tsatsa, Rebekah..	2.72	6-6	18	14	9	4/0	0	90.0	80	49	35	40	89	13	0	5	348	.230	7	9	0	1	7
11 Grotbo,Josie....	4.85	6-1	8	8	3	1/0	0	39.0	54	29	27	27	25	9	1	3	169	.320	1	4	0	0	4
Totals.....	2.49	38-12	50	50	35	11/0	4	337.2	286	155	120	155	347	41	1	27	1269	.225	14	34	0	3	35
Opponents.....	4.76	12-38	50	50	24	3/0	1	327.2	436	287	223	115	185	69	8	49	1399	.312	31	16	1	15	35

PB - Team (15), Parsons 9, VanEykeren 6, Opp (17). Pickoffs - Team (6), Parsons 5, VanEykeren 1, Opp (2). SBA/ATT - Parsons (22-29), Tsatsa (14-18), Conder (10-12), VanEykeren (9-11), Moore (3-6), Grotbo (4-5), Davis (0-1).