

# COACHES

## #7 PAT MURPHY

ASU head coach Pat Murphy has a 360-178-1 record in nine years at the helm of the Sun Devils. He was the 2000 Pac-10 Coach of the Year and the 1998 *Baseball America* Coach of the Year.



## #29 CHRIS SINACORI



## #66 MIKE ROONEY



## #62 JAY SFERRA



## HEAD COACH

# PAT MURPHY



**P**at Murphy became only the third head coach in Arizona State's modern baseball history when he was hired in August of 1994. Following in the footsteps of legendary head coaches Bobby Winkles and Jim Brock, Murphy's nine-year tenure at the helm of the ASU program has been marked with much success. Since inheriting the Sun Devil program, Murphy has carefully nurtured the tradition of excellence in Tempe, at the same time establishing himself as one of the top collegiate head coaches in the nation. He has guided Arizona State to Top 12 national rankings in four of the last seven years, including an appearance in the 1998 College World Series national championship game. Murphy's ASU squads are always present in the national Top 25, including a streak of 78 consecutive weeks in the polls.

In nine seasons at the helm of the Sun Devil program, Murphy is 360-178-1 and has led the Devils to the NCAA Tournament in four straight years and six of the last seven. He owns an all-time 28-20 record in NCAA Tournament action as a head coach and is 19-12 in post-

season play at ASU. His coaching accomplishments include becoming the youngest collegiate coach to reach 500 career victories (with 75 percent of the wins at the Division I level). Murphy recently picked up his 700th career college coaching win against his former team, Notre Dame, on Feb. 23, 2003.

In 19 years of coaching at the collegiate level, Murphy owns a career 733-349-4 record. At the Division I level alone, Murphy has recorded 678 wins in 16 years, averaging over 42 wins a year. Before arriving in Tempe, Murphy took a virtually unknown Notre Dame baseball program from a non-fully funded sport into the national spotlight. His Notre Dame teams averaged over 45 wins a season during his seven years in South Bend, and when he left the historic campus, Murphy became the first coach in any sport at Notre Dame to leave a head coaching position for another job.

### A RECORD BREAKING SEASON IN 2003

In addition to finishing in the Top 10 in the NCAA in the four major statistical categories (scoring, batting, pitching, fielding), the 2003 season also brought about a number of entries into the ASU single-season record books. Murphy's squad ranked second in fielding percentage (.973), third in runs scored (682), sixth in hits (858), fifth in doubles (160), second in RBI (630), third in walks (406), tied for third in batting average (.347), fifth in pitching shutouts (10) and third in ERA during the aluminum bat era (3.32). The 54 wins are the most by a Sun Devil squad since the 1988 team finished with 60 victories. ASU also set an NCAA record with 14 grand slams and extended its NCAA record consecutive games scoring streak to 501 games (dating back to April 7, 1995). Individually, several Sun Devils also had record-breaking seasons. Shortstop Dustin Pedroia became only the 22nd player with 100 hits and the 16th player to hit .400. He ranks fourth all-time with his 120 hits and 15th by hitting .404. He set an ASU and Pac-10 record with 34 doubles. First baseman Jeff Larish broke into the record books in several categories, including ranking fifth with 95 RBI and second with 78 walks. He broke the school record



with four grand slams and tied the single-game records with nine RBI and four doubles. Designated hitter Jeremy West also tied the single-game records with nine RBI and three home runs.

### THE STREAK

Since Murphy took over the program in 1995, ASU has played 539 games, combining to go 360-178-1. During that stretch, ASU has built one of the greatest streaks in NCAA baseball history, scoring at least one run in 501 straight games. The Devils made history on April 7, 2001 when they scored at least one run in their 350th consecutive game, breaking the 12-year-old NCAA record in a 5-1 loss to USC exactly six years to the day when they were last shut out. ASU was shut out 9-0 in that game on April 7, 1995 at Dedeaux Field. ASU also had a stretch of 278 games without being shut out from 1990 to 1994, meaning the program has only been shutout in three games dating back to the 1990 season. **ASU is a combined 333-167-1 during the streak.** Notable pitchers the Devils have faced during the streak include Mark Prior (USC), Barry Zito (USC), Jeremy Guthrie (Stanford), Kirk Saarloos (CS Fullerton), Jason Young (Stanford), Ben Diggins (Arizona), Adam Johnson (CS Fullerton), Ryan Drese (Cal), Jeff Weaver (Fresno State), Chad Hutchinson (Stanford), Abe Alvarez (Long Beach State) and Adam Pettyjohn (Fresno State).

### SUN DEVIL HITTING UNDER COACH MURPHY

Year	G	AB	R	H	HR	BA
1995	55	1939	395	595	35	.307
1996	56	2075	552	702	73	.338
1997	61	2252	540	735	56	.326
1998	64	2277	557	723	57	.318
1999	60	2199	679	782	67	.356
2000	59	2134	647	738	86	.346
2001	58	2049	479	669	33	.327
2002	58	1994	450	618	38	.310
2003	68	2471	682	858	80	.347
Totals	539	19,390	4,981	6,420	525	.331

### THE INTERNATIONAL STORY

Throughout his illustrious career, Murphy has earned accolades in the international ranks as well, as he led the Dutch Olympic Baseball Team in the Sydney 2000 Games. In the 2000 Olympics, Murphy returned to the international baseball scene, helping lead the Dutch National team to their best showing in international competition with a 3-4 record in the Sydney games. The Netherlands placed fifth with wins over Australia, Cuba and their rival Italy. The Dutch's 4-2 victory over Cuba was the first loss in Olympic play at the time for the international power, a span that cov-



## DID YOU KNOW?

Pat Murphy's first managerial win in professional baseball (Tri-Cities Triplets) was won by him. Down, 10-1, in the ninth inning with two outs and no one on base, the Triplets came all the way back to tie the game and eventually win, 14-10, in 11 innings. Murphy pitched 4.1 innings out of the bullpen to defeat the Spokane Indians. Murphy was the player-coach for the Triplets (Northwest League) for two seasons.

ered 21 games. The win by Murphy's squad was noted by *nbcolympics.com* as one of the top four upsets in Olympic team competition. The Dutch went on to finish fifth in the Olympic tournament. In a pre-Olympic tournament, Murphy beat Team USA and their famous manager Tommy Lasorda. No stranger to international baseball, his ties to the Dutch team stretch back more than a decade. In the summer of 1987, Murphy led Holland to the European Championship, a victory that qualified the squad for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. He was asked to coach Holland in the Seoul Olympics, but declined so he could return to the University of Notre Dame, where he had recently been named head coach.

## MURPHY IN POSTSEASON PLAY

Posting a career 28-20 record (.583) in postseason play, Murphy's NCAA playoff repertoire also includes a niche for carrying out the upset victory. On four separate occasions, his teams have defeated the regional host team, while five of the last eight Murphy-coached squads to make the playoffs have reached the "Sweet 16" or better. These accomplishments have come despite the fact that his teams have been sent to play the No. 1-ranked team six times in regional play (1992 at Miami, 1993 at Florida State, 1994 at Clemson, 1997 at Miami, 1998 at Wichita State and 2001 at Cal State Fullerton). The 2003 season marked the fourth straight year ASU advanced to the Tournament and the sixth out of the last seven.

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Murphy's squads continue to demonstrate excellence in the classroom as well, as ASU boasted more First-Team Academic All-American selections (three) in 1999 than any other program in the nation. It was the most selections by an Arizona State baseball team in the history of

the school. Former Devil Casey Myers (1998-2001) was a three-time selection to the Academic All-American team and twice the Academic All-American of the Year. In all, ASU has had five selections to the Academic All-American team since 1999, and 31 Devils have earned All-Pac-10 academic acclaim under Murphy's guidance since 1995. In addition, in his 19 years as a head coach, he has never had a player declared academically ineligible.

## THE TRADITION IS ALIVE

Murphy has helped keep alive a streak of 42 straight years in which ASU has posted 30 or more victories. In the rivalry series against the University of Arizona, he has guided ASU to a 30-15 record (.667) in his nine seasons in Tempe, never losing a season series to the Wildcats. Following suit to his coaching days at Notre Dame, Murphy is also overseeing the renovation of the program's facility. Packard Stadium will undergo a multimillion-dollar renovation to improve player facilities, the stadium entrance, press facilities and the overall enjoyment for Sun Devil baseball fans over the next couple of years. A new field was installed for the 2003 season and a new clubhouse will be finished during the season.

## AN OFFENSIVE POWERHOUSE

The 2003 Arizona State Baseball team dominated the final release of the NCAA statistics as the only team in the nation (283 Division I teams) to rank in the Top 10 in the four major statistical categories. ASU, who finished the season ranked No. 7 in the nation (*Baseball America*) with a 54-14 record, placed second in batting average (.347), second in scoring (10.03 runs per game), eighth in pitching (3.32 ERA) and ninth in fielding (.973 FLD%). In addition, the Sun Devils also ranked fourth in win-loss percentage (.794), fifth in slugging percentage (.529) and 28th in home runs per game (1.18). ASU also broke the NCAA record with 14 grand slams and extended its NCAA record consecutive games scoring streak to 501 games. Individually the Sun Devils also had several players rank nationally. Sophomore shortstop Dustin Pedroia led the nation with 34 doubles (0.50 per game) and was also 31st with a .404 batting average and fourth in toughest to strikeout. Sophomore first baseman Jeff Larish led the nation in walks (1.20 per game), was sixth with 1.46 RBI per game (95 total) and 18th in runs scored per game (1.23). ASU also led the nation in hitting in 1999 while tying a school record with a .356 batting average. Murphy's 2002 squad nearly repeated as the NCAA leader in 2000, but finished second with a .346 average. The ASU offense has been potent under Murphy's watchful eye, combining to hit .331 and averaging 9.24 runs per game. The Devils have led the Pac-10 in hitting in four of Murphy's nine years.

## A MAJOR LEAGUE PIPELINE

Grooming players for the major league amateur draft has become Murphy's forte. In fact, in 19 seasons as a head coach, only three players have been drafted lower after playing for Murphy than he was out of high school or junior college—and those circumstances are widely injury

related. Since 1995, 82 players under Murphy's guidance have gone on to sign professional baseball contracts, with 69 being draft picks. The 2003 draft had a record 12 Devils selected, with three more signing free agent contracts. Several of Murphy's former players have appeared in the major leagues, including current Arizona Diamondback Craig Counsell, Willie Bloomquist (Seattle Mariners), Jeff Duncan (New York Mets) and Jon Switzer (Tampa Bay Devil Rays). Other former Devils who have emerged as top future prospects include Chris Duffy (Pittsburgh Pirates), Brooks Conrad (Houston Astros) and Andre Ethier (Oakland Athletics).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community outreach has been a signature of Murphy's teams, who are taught to give back to their communities and be positive role models. In 1995, he founded the Guadalupe Project, which provides baseball instruction and life skills lessons to underprivileged youth from Guadalupe, Ariz., a small town within the metro Phoenix area. The program provides year-round mentoring for kids aged 7-12 by Arizona State assistant coach Jay Sfera and student-athletes, the primary goal to build leadership skills, self-esteem, encourage academic success and explore career opportunities. With help from the Tempe Diablos, Murphy also instituted the annual Diablo Free Youth Clinics, held at ASU's Packard Stadium each November and December for kids aged 7-12. More than 250 kids took part in 1999. In January 2000, Murphy and ASU baseball sponsored the first 5K Fun Run to Beat Lou Gehrig's Disease along with the ALS Arizona Chapter. Murphy also takes part in a charity boxing match with Father Joe to raise funds for his Guadalupe Project. For his constant community service and giving back to the greater Phoenix area, Murphy was awarded the 2001 March of Dimes Leadership Award.

## ALWAYS A TOP RECRUITING CLASS

The 45-year-old Syracuse, N.Y., native and his coaching staff have assembled some of the finest recruiting classes in the nation during each of the past eight years. His 1995 class was ranked No. 1 in the nation, with names such as Phill Lowery, Andrew Beinbrink and Ryan Mills. Year after year, Murphy lands the nation's top talent, as last year's recruiting class was ranked No. 1 by *Baseball America* heading into the draft and despite several players signing to play professional baseball, still ended up as the No. 6 class in the nation. The freshman class of 2004 is again no exception, as Murphy pulled seven of the Top 100 players in the country to fulfill yet another top-ranked class. Despite a current trend that sees many teams reload with just top prospects, Murphy also brings players in to mold into a scrappy and hustling player. As *Baseball America* proclaimed in its annual recruiting class review in reference to Murphy's and ASU's unique and successful style of recruiting, "If you don't understand it, then you're not a Sun Devil."

## THE SUN DEVIL YEARS

Murphy led the 2002 Sun Devils to a 37-21 record overall, placing third in the Pac-10 with a 15-9 record. ASU hosted the NCAA Mesa Regional at Hohokam Park, going 2-2 before losing to No. 1 seed Houston. Dustin Pedroia, Andre Ethier and Jeremy West all earned first-team All-Pac-10 honors, while Pedroia

continued



# HEAD COACH PAT MURPHY

continued

became ASU's seventh player to compete for Team USA. The pitching staff posted a 4.40 ERA, ranking second in the Pac-10 and the lowest during the Murphy head coaching era.

The 2001 Sun Devils posted a 37-20-1 record en route to yet another NCAA Tournament bid. Led by All-Americans Casey Myers and Andy Torres and a crop of seven freshmen All-Americans, the Devils placed third in the Pac-10 and finished ranked 22nd in the nation. Myers repeated as the Academic All-American of the Year and became only the third player in Pac-10 history to repeat as the Pac-10 Player of the Year. Since the Pac-10 joined the North and Six-Pac in 1999, ASU has won three of the four Pac-10 Player of the Year awards.

The 2000 edition of Arizona State baseball finished with a 44-15 record, and made its third postseason appearance in four years. Finishing within the Top 12 in the nation, the Sun Devils also captured their first Pac-10 Championship since 1993 with a 17-7 conference record, earning the league's automatic bid by virtue of tiebreakers against both Stanford and UCLA. Murphy's 2000 Devils once again made a dent on the NCAA record books, leading the nation in scoring (10.97 runs/game), second in batting average (.346), fifth in fielding (.971), seventh in home runs (1.46 HR/game), second in slugging percentage (.561) and first in triples (0.63 per game). Senior outfielder Mitch Jones, who Murphy lured to ASU just one year earlier as a junior college transfer, set the ASU record for home runs with 27.

Despite bowing out to Texas in the 2000 regional championship game, the Sun Devils led the nation in scoring and finished near the top in batting average for the second straight season, averaging just under 11 runs per game and hitting .346. ASU, playing "old school" college baseball, avoided being swept by an opponent in 2000. The Sun Devils also led the Pac-10 in attendance, averaging more than 2,600 fans at each home game. Mitch Jones, Casey Myers and Jon Switzer earned All-America honors. Adding to his credentials, Murphy was voted the 2000 Pac-10 Coach of the Year by his peers.

During the 1999 season, Murphy assembled one of the most prolific offensive teams in ASU history. Concluding

the year with a 39-21 overall record, the 1999 Sun Devils led the nation in batting average (.356) and scoring (11.32 runs per game). Their .356 team average tied the top single-season mark in ASU history, set by the 1981 National Championship Team. The Devils had the remarkable offensive season despite playing the first 17 games of the season with wood bats. In addition, the Sun Devils led the conference in virtually every offensive category. Arizona State had more players drafted in the 1999 Major League Amateur Draft (10) than any other school in the Pac-10 Conference. The 1999 season also produced a Sun Devil Pac-10 Player of the Year and current Seattle Mariner utility player Willie Bloomquist.

Murphy and his coaching staff led the 1998 Sun Devils to the pinnacle of collegiate baseball—the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. It was Murphy's first trip to the big show, and it would be a memorable one. Earning an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament, Murphy's squad was once again tested by being sent to play the No. 1 team in the nation. Traveling to Wichita, Kansas, the Devils started a journey that would eventually land them in college baseball's premier showcase, becoming ASU's 18th team to play in the annual College World Series, and only the second to play for the national championship without having hosted a regional tournament. The Devils finished regional play 4-1, notching wins over nationally ranked Georgia Tech, Oklahoma State and Wichita State along the way to advance to Omaha. Advancing through the CWS bracket without a loss, ASU faced Pac-10 foe USC in the championship game. In a record-breaking game, ASU came up short, falling to the Trojans 21-14. ASU finished second in the nation with a 41-23 overall record and a third-place finish in conference play (18-11). After storming through the postseason, falling just one win short of a national championship, the Sun Devils concluded the season with a consensus No. 2-ranking and a total of six players earned All-America status. In addition, 10 Sun Devils were taken in the 1998 MLB Amateur Draft, including Ryan Mills, the sixth pick overall by the Minnesota Twins. In just his fourth season at ASU, Murphy became the second-fastest Pac-10 coach to reach the CWS championship game, behind only former Sun Devil Coach Jim Brock. For his efforts, he was named the *Baseball America* National

## THE LUCK OF THE IRISH

During his seven-year head coaching stint at Notre Dame, Murphy led the Irish to a 318-116-1 record. Taking the non-fully funded program from a virtual unknown into a national power, he led the Fighting Irish to the NCAA Tournament in only his second year (1989), ending an 18-year stretch with Notre Dame not advancing to the NCAA Tournament. The Irish averaged just over 45 wins a season under Murphy and advanced to the NCAA regional finals three different times.

Coach of the Year.

Only two years into his ASU coaching career, Murphy took the program back to where it belonged, in postseason play. Murphy guided the Devils to their 16th regional appearance, taking his team across the country to face No. 1 seed Miami in Coral Gables. The '97 Sun Devils came within one out of making an 18th trip to Omaha, bowing out in the championship game of the Atlantic Regional to host Miami in dramatic fashion. After defeating the No. 1 Hurricanes 10-3, ASU dropped a pair of one-run games to Miami to fall short of a trip to Omaha. ASU finished with a No. 11 ranking by *Baseball America* and a 39-22 overall record.

The Sun Devils again fell short of the NCAA Tournament in 1996, despite finishing the year ranked 25th by *Baseball America* and posting 35 Division I wins, with eight of those coming against top 25 teams. The 1996 squad posted the fourth-best team batting average (.338) in ASU history, and led the Pac-10 Southern Division in seven offensive categories including batting average, runs and hits. The Devils recorded a 35-21 record, despite being without pitching ace Phill Lowery, Kaipo Spenser and Ryan Mills for most of the year. Murphy graduated 11 players from the 1996 team to the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft.

Inheriting an average team in 1995—at a school where average is unacceptable—with only two returning starters and without the benefit of his own recruiting class, Murphy's first ASU squad posted 34 wins in 1995. Always a flare for the big game, nine of those victories came over Top 10 foes such as College World Series participants USC, Stanford and Florida State. During one stretch of games in mid March, Murphy led the Devils to six consecutive wins over eventual CWS participants Oklahoma, USC and Stanford. Despite being ranked in the top 25 all season and the numerous big wins, the Devils fell short of a trip to the NCAA Tournament, but the foundation was laid for the Devils to remain as one of the powers in college baseball.

### THE NOTRE DAME YEARS:

Prior to arriving at Arizona State, Murphy spent the previous seven seasons as head coach at the University of Notre Dame, where he guided the Irish to a consistent level of success unmatched in the history of the

## PAT MURPHY'S YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD

YEAR	SCHOOL	OVERALL
1983	Maryville (Tenn.)	10-21-1
1986	Claremont-Mudd Scripps	24-16
1987	Claremont-Mudd Scripps	21-18-1
1988	Notre Dame	39-22
1989	Notre Dame	48-19-1
1990	Notre Dame	46-12
1991	Notre Dame	45-16
1992	Notre Dame	48-15
1993	Notre Dame	46-16
1994	Notre Dame	46-16
1995	Arizona State	34-21
1996	Arizona State	35-21
1997	Arizona State	39-22
1998	Arizona State	41-23
1999	Arizona State	39-21
2000	Arizona State	44-15
2001	Arizona State	37-20-1
2002	Arizona State	37-21
2003	Arizona State	54-14

Overall Record at ASU: 360-178-1 (9)  
Overall Division I Record: 678-294-2 (16)  
Career Coaching Record: 733-349-4 (19)

NOTES
School's most wins in 10 years.
Southern California Intercollegiate Champions.
MCC Eastern Division Champs.
Program's first NCAA appearance since 1970.
.793 winning percentage - fourth-best in Division I.
Second MCC Championship.
Third MCC Championship / NCAA Regional Final.
Fourth MCC Championship / NCAA Regional Final.
Third straight MCC Championship and NCAA Regional.
Recorded nine wins over top 10 ranked teams.
Finished ranked 25th in nation, but no NCAA Tournament.
Murphy's Devils one out away from trip to College World Series.
Named Baseball America Coach of the Year; Devils 2nd in CWS.
Devils lead NCAA in hitting (.356) and scoring (11.32 runs/game).
ASU wins Pac-10 title. Murphy wins Pac-10 Coach of the Year.
Guides ASU to NCAA Tourney for fourth time in last five years.
Devils advance to NCAA Tournament for third straight year. Ranked wire to wire.
ASU records 54 wins and ranks in top 10 in all four major NCAA statistical categories.

program. Building the program from the ground up with the support of only four full scholarships, Murphy guided the Irish to a 318-116-1 (.732) record in South Bend, including consecutive trips to NCAA regional finals in 1992, 1993 and 1994, a streak matched only by Texas. He built Irish Baseball into a Top 25 program, laying a strong foundation that still exists today. Under Murphy's guidance, the Irish averaged more than 46 wins per season and rejuvenated the pride in the program to the point where a new 3,000-seat stadium was built on the campus in the fall of 1993. Murphy's 1994 Notre Dame squad finished 46-16 and came within one win of a trip to the College World Series. The Midwestern Collegiate Conference Champions advanced to the finals of the NCAA East Regional in Clemson, S.C., knocking off the host and No 1-ranked Tigers along the way. Notre Dame finished the season ranked 18th by *Collegiate Baseball* and 20th by *Baseball America*. Current Arizona Diamondback Craig Counsell and Texas Rangers pitcher Chris Michalak are just two of Murphy's products from ND who have excelled at the Major League level.

Murphy began his Notre Dame tenure in 1988, taking over a team that posted a combined 65-80 record in the three previous seasons. With a nucleus of players who finished 15-29 in 1987, and had never enjoyed a winning season at Notre Dame, Murphy began revamping the program and promptly led the Irish to a 39-22 mark. The following six campaigns saw the Irish garner national rankings, conference titles, NCAA tournament appearances, 45-win seasons and more.

Murphy's efforts were rewarded in just two years, as in 1989 the Irish posted a school-record 48 wins and logged their first NCAA tournament appearance in 19 years. Murphy guided the program to its first national ranking as the Irish were rated that year as high as 16th in *The Sporting News*, 23rd in *Baseball America*, and 24th in the *Collegiate Baseball* polls. Later, the Irish would earn their first MCC title by winning the final four games of the conference tournament in a span of 23 hours as Murphy snared his first MCC Coach-of-the-Year honor. That season was followed by two more 45-win seasons. The 1990 Irish squad put together a 46-12 record, which ranked fourth in the nation. Over the last 29 games of the season, Notre Dame achieved a 25-4 mark to bring Murphy another

her MCC Coach-of-the-Year award.

In 1991, Notre Dame overcame a schedule that saw the Irish play their first 27 games on the road to post a 45-16 record. Included were wins away from home over national powers Texas and Miami as well as eventual national champion LSU and a mid-season 18-game win streak. In 1990, Murphy began a baseball tournament hosted by Notre Dame that was held in Seattle's Kingdome. The 1992, 1993, and 1994 seasons added emphasis to Murphy's status as one of the nation's top coaches, as his Irish teams grabbed MCC titles and in each year beat regional hosts to come within one game of a trip to Omaha for the College World Series. It's no wonder why the Irish were labeled in 1992 by *Baseball America* as "the nation's fastest rising program." In fact, Murphy shunned the University of Miami's attempts to lure him away from Notre Dame and accept the Hurricanes' head job in 1992. When he left Notre Dame for ASU in 1995, he became the first Irish head coach of any sport to leave South Bend for another job.

#### WHERE IT ALL STARTED:

In addition to his head coaching and international coaching experience, Murphy has spent numerous years in the collegiate ranks as both a player and assistant coach. He gained his collegiate experience as a pitcher at Florida Atlantic University, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. Murphy played catcher, infield and pitched for FAU, and was recently honored on FAU's 20th Anniversary All-Star team as a pitcher and utility player. After college, Murphy signed a professional baseball contract with the San Francisco Giants in 1982. His four-year professional career included stints in the Giants and San Diego Padres organization, along with two independent clubs.

Murphy began his collegiate head coaching career at Maryville (Tenn.) College, leading the Division III Fighting Scots to their best record in 10 years during his first and only season in 1983. He was also an assistant football coach while at Maryville. He then returned to Florida Atlantic to serve as an assistant coach and administrative assistant to the athletic director. During his two-year stay, FAU compiled an 84-30 record and was consistently ranked among the Top 10 Division II teams in the nation.

During the summer of 1984, Murphy embarked on his first international experience, helping develop baseball in Australia as a state manager in New South Wales. He was in charge of running baseball clinics and promoting the sport to the public. Following his stint in Australia, Murphy was named player-coach of the Tri-Cities (Wash.)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- During his Division I head coaching career, Murphy's teams have averaged 42 wins per season. During his seven years at Notre Dame, Murphy led the Irish to an average of 45 wins per season for seven years.
- Murphy's Sun Devil teams have been one of the most potent offensive teams in the NCAA each year. In fact, since 1995, Murphy's teams have combined to hit .332 with an average of 9.28 runs scored per game. ASU led the nation in runs scored and batting average in 1999-2000 and set a school record in 1999 with a team .356 batting average. The Devils finished the 2003 season ranked second in the nation in batting and scoring.
- Murphy was named the 2000 Pac-10 Coach of the Year by his peers, and was the 1998 *Baseball America* National Coach of the Year.
- Attendance at Packard Stadium during Murphy's tenure has constantly improved and has led the Pac-10 in each of his nine years as head coach. Last year, ASU finished 13th nationally and was the highest ranked team on the West Coast.
- ASU has an average end-of-the-year national ranking of 10th in the nation over the last seven years under Murphy. ASU ended the year in the top 12 in the nation in four of those years. ASU has currently spent 79 straight weeks in the national polls, dating back to the start of the 2000 season.
- Murphy was the first head coach at Notre Dame to leave for another college head coaching job.
- Murphy coached four years of Division III college football.
- While in South Bend, Murphy helped found the Team One Showcase, which stands today as one of the premier amateur baseball showcases in the nation.
- Murphy's first recruiting class at Notre Dame included a pair of infielders from Milwaukee and Philadelphia. Those two players were, respectively, current Milwaukee Brewer Craig Counsell and ASU assistant head coach Mike Rooney.



## THE YOUNG LEFTY

### KAI JOSEPH MURPHY

Kai Joseph Murphy was born August 26, 2000 and is quickly becoming one of the favorite future Sun Devils to watch. The three-year-old lefty loves playing baseball and hanging out on his own sandlot at the Murphy house in Tempe. His favorite players include Garrett Schoenberger, Dustin Pedroia and former Devil Bryce Kartler. His favorite movie is "The Sandlot."



Triplets of the Single-A Northwest League, making him the youngest manager in professional baseball.

A return to the college ranks came in 1986, as Murphy signed on as head coach at California's Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges. In his first year as head coach, Murphy piloted Claremont to a 24-16 record, earning the program its first Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship in 11 years. Murphy was named the West Region's Division III Coach of the Year as the Stags finished the year ranked 10th in the nation.

#### WHAT THEY ARE SAYING:

"What makes Pat Murphy so successful is his philosophy: playoff baseball every day. He says to watch the major leagues. They don't play like that every day... hit-and-run, stealing, bunting, moving runners over. When they get to the playoffs, all of a sudden they start doing the little things. That's what Murphy and his teams do all the time."  
—Willie Bloomquist, former Sun Devil All-American and current Seattle Mariner.

#### MURPHY'S FAVORITES

- Bruce Springsteen
- Muhammad Ali
- Ara Parseghian

# THIS IS WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

## Coach Pat Murphy

*Craig Counsell  
Former Murphy player at Notre Dame  
and current Milwaukee Brewer*

"Excluding my parents, no one has had a greater impact on my career as a baseball player and as developing as a person than Coach Murphy."

*Willie Bloomquist  
Former Sun Devil and current Seattle Mariner*

"Coach Murphy is a very intense baseball coach, and that is what makes him so special, because he gets the most out of his players. He is great at teaching his players not only on the field, but off the field as well. He is a great all-around individual."

*Joe Garagiola Jr.  
Arizona Diamondbacks general manager*

"Any player who plays for Coach Murphy can count on two things: He will make them a better player and a better person."

*Dan Evans  
Longtime Los Angeles Dodgers general manager*

"I've known Pat for over 15 years. He has a passion for baseball and teaching the game that very few people match in intensity. He is a winner!"

*Bob Welch  
Former Cy Young Award winner*

"Coach Murphy is someone that stays your friend for life. If my son had the opportunity to play at ASU, I would feel very comfortable with what Coach Murphy does and how he runs his program. He is like a brother to me and has always been a great help for me. He is the guy that can pick you up when you are down. I am thankful to have a friend like Coach Murphy."

*Ron Coomer  
Los Angeles Dodger*

"Pat Murphy has been a truly great friend for a very long time, and is what competitive baseball is all about: a will to win and having the plan to make it happen."

*Barry Alvarez  
University of Wisconsin head football coach*

"I had the pleasure of working with Coach Murphy for three years at Notre Dame. He is intense, knowledgeable—a player's coach. He coaches baseball with a football mentality."

*Ron Scheuler  
Former MLB general manager*

"I've known Pat for a number of years, and he is an outstanding coach and person. He is dedicated and I believe he will bring a together a championship team. He has put a together a great staff, and I know the program will have a lot of success under Pat."

*Phill Lowery  
Former Arizona State pitcher and current  
California highway patrol officer*

"He is one of the most dynamic people I have ever met. It goes without saying that he is an outstanding coach. He taught me a lot about baseball and life. He goes above and beyond the call of duty with everything he does for his players."

*Harvey Dorfman  
Sports psychologist*

"What I admire is his intensity, which is often misunderstood by people who don't know him. My admiration is based on the fact that when he addresses whatever task is in front of him, he does it with such strong focus that many who are incapable of doing it, either misunderstand it or are envious. His intensity includes competition and doing the best for his players as athletes, students and young people."

*Mike Gallagher  
ASU Alumni*

"Pat is one of the best coaches I've ever observed regardless of the sport."

*Lou Holtz  
College Football Coaching Legend*

"Pat is one of the best coaches I've ever observed regardless of the sport. He is enthusiastic, intelligent and an excellent communicator and motivator. I learned a great deal by observing him coach his Notre Dame teams."

*Brian Cleary  
Former Murphy assistant and current head coach  
at the University of Cincinnati*

"Not many would have left Notre Dame, especially to follow a legend [ASU coach Jim Brock] who had recently passed away. He had his dream job with Notre Dame baseball, and he developed it from nothing to a big-time program. It was his program. He did it without scholarships or funding. He just loves challenges, and that is a statement of who he is."

*John Pawlowski  
Former Murphy assistant and current head coach  
at College of Charleston*

"With all of the parity and changes in college baseball, all big-time programs have had to make significant changes. These changes affect Arizona State as much as anyone else, and Murphy has done a tremendous job of quietly leading them to the World Series in '98 and having them in the hunt for the national title every year. It's tougher at ASU than ever before, and the draft especially impacts ASU more than other programs, but Murphy manages to do well regardless."

## Coach Jay Sferra

*Joe Garagiola Sr.  
Former major-leaguer and current VP  
for the Arizona Diamondbacks*

"For me, he is a perfect coach. He works hard at helping the athlete develop as both a player and a man. Coach Murphy and Coach Sferra are a great combination."

*R.J. Harrison  
National crosschecker for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays*

"He is a hard-working, very honest man of integrity. He gives his best effort trying to find the best players. He does a good job working for Murphy, and I see him everywhere always working his tail off."

*Mike Esposito  
Former ASU All-American pitcher*

"Coach Sferra's hard work and dedication exemplify what Arizona State baseball is about."

## Coach Chris Sinacori

*Don Cooper  
White Sox pitching coach*

"Chris Sinacori was a big part of our minor league instruction and an instrumental part of helping our younger pitchers develop. He is one heck of a pitching coach. He's got all the attributes of a real good coach—he has knowledge of the game and of pitching mechanics and he has the personality to make it all understandable. When my 5-year-old grows up, I would want Chris Sinacori to be his coach because I know how much he cares about his players."

## Coach Mike Rooney

*John Flanagan  
Teammate at Notre Dame and owner  
of CF Swingtown in Chicago*

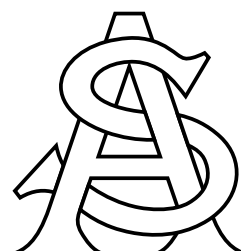
"Mike Rooney is definitely a guy you want on your side. Roons combines a blue-collar work ethic with wit and style. His sincerity makes him a natural leader. He is an absolute winner."

*Ty Johnson  
Former ASU player*

"Coach Rooney is an incredible representative of the Arizona State baseball program. His intensity and passion to win rubs off and pervades the entire team."

*Casey Myers  
Former ASU All-American catcher*

"Coach Rooney has pure knowledge of the game and ability to relate and teach players. Great eye for finding talented kids. In my opinion, one of the top assistants in college baseball."





# JAY J. SFERRA

Assistant Coach/Recruiting Coordinator • 9th Year



Jay J. Sferra begins his ninth year at Arizona State University. In addition to his duties as the recruiting coordinator, Sferra oversees the outfielders and coaches first base.

"Jay has been an integral part of Sun Devil baseball and no one works harder," said head coach Pat

Murphy. "He has the pulse of high school baseball and continues to be instrumental in our recruiting efforts. As recruiter, his focus is not only on bringing talent into the program, but also kids with great character."

As the recruiting coordinator, Sferra has established himself as one of the nation's top recruiters. *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball* ranked this year's recruiting class of newcomers for 2004 as one of the top classes in the nation. Year in and year out, ASU's recruiting classes, built by Sferra and the Sun Devil coaching staff, are among the nation's elite. The 2002 MLB draft saw eight Sun Devil signees drafted in the first five rounds, including three of the first seven draft picks in the first round.

Sferra tutored one of the best defensive outfielders in the nation in 2003 that helped lead the Devils to a 54-14 record. Junior Andre Ethier repeated as an All-Pac-10 performer, hitting .377 with 10 home runs, and was

ASU's highest draft pick when he was selected in the second round of the 2003 draft by the Oakland A's. Sferra also helped freshman All-American Travis Buck make the transition from a high school shortstop into one of the best corner outfielders in the Pac-10.

In addition, Sferra coached the ASU pitching staff in 2001 and 2002. The 2002 squad ranked second in the Pac-10 behind Stanford with a 4.40 team ERA, marking the second lowest staff ERA during Murphy's nine years at ASU. The pitching staff also led the league in strikeouts (417), was second in opponent batting average (.263) and second in games won (37).

Returning to coaching the outfielders, Sferra will once again be working where he helped coach some of ASU's best recent outfielders. He mentored Jeff Duncan and Willie Bloomquist, who are now playing in the major leagues. Former Devils Mitch Jones, Jay Sitzman and Dustin Delucchi also trained under the watchful eye of Sferra during at least part of their successful ASU careers.

Sferra has also served as the director of instruction for Murphy's All Nine Baseball Academy and presently is the Executive Director of Coach Murphy's Programs for Youth, "The Guadalupe Project."

The program provides baseball instruction and life-skills lessons to the youth of Guadalupe and is a favorite among the Sun Devil players. "This program is all about personal development for our players and the kids in Guadalupe," said Sferra.

Sferra gained his collegiate experience at the University of Colorado as a four-year letterwinner in baseball and three-year letterwinner in basketball. An All-Big-Eight selection and honorable mention All-American in 1976 and '77, he ranks at the top of several all-time Buff categories. He trails former major-leaguer John Stearns by one in lifetime hits and is third on the career list in runs scored. He holds the all-time record in Colorado history with 621 at bats. He holds the NCAA record for most at bats in a single game with 10, in a 22-inning game vs. Nebraska. As a basketball player, Sferra was the starting point guard for CU and lettered three years for the Buffalos. While playing summer ball for the Boulder Collegians in 1977, he played with Arizona State notables Bob Horner and Hubie Brooks.

Sferra was named 1972-73 basketball and baseball Player of the Year in high school at Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, N.Y. He earned his bachelor's degree in Community Recreation from the University of Colorado in 1977.

He signed professionally with the Philadelphia Phillies organization in 1978 and played in the New York-Penn League.

Born and raised in Syracuse, N.Y., Sferra and his wife, Gerrie, have two children, Carrie (21) and J.J. (18). Carrie is a junior at Arizona State, while J.J. is a senior at Mountain Pointe High School.

# MIKE ROONEY

Assistant Head Coach • 6th Year



Mike Rooney begins his sixth season as an assistant coach for the Arizona State baseball team and his first as the assistant head coach to Pat Murphy. He handles a variety of duties for the Sun Devils, including coaching the infielders and overseeing all academic facets of

the program.

Rooney has helped turn the ASU defense into one of the best in the nation over the last four years. Led by National Defensive Player of the Year Dustin Pedroia, the 2003 Sun Devils ranked ninth in the NCAA and second best in school history with a .973 fielding percentage. Under Rooney's watchful eye, the Devils only made 70 errors in 2,612 total chances as ASU finished 54-14 overall. ASU's defense also finished fifth in the nation in 2000 with a .971 fielding percentage and tied for second in the

Pac-10 with a .967 fielding percentage in 2002.

Off the field, Rooney oversees the academic program for the Sun Devil baseball program that has also endured great success over the last few years. With four first-team CoSida Academic All-Americans since 1999, ASU ranks second, trailing the five from Nebraska.

Rooney spent five years coaching at Malvern Prep in Malvern, Penn., prior to arriving at ASU. While at Malvern Prep, he coached two first-round MLB picks in four years as the head coach—Ben Davis (2nd pick overall, by the Padres in 1995) and Josh McKinley (11th overall, by the Expos in 1998). He also coached future first-round pick Glenn Davis (27th overall, by the Dodgers in 1997) who played at Vanderbilt after graduating from Malvern Prep.

During Rooney's tenure at MP, his teams averaged 22 wins per season while setting a school record for victories in 1997 with 26. He was also a successful fundraiser at Malvern Prep, adding indoor and outdoor batting cages for the program and touring Florida and Puerto Rico on baseball trips.

A graduate of Notre Dame in 1992, Rooney earned his

bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. While at Notre Dame, he played for Coach Murphy from 1989 to 1992 on the Irish baseball team. Rooney played six different positions during that time (every position except first, pitcher and catcher). He was a member of the '92 squad that was one win away from a trip to the College World Series. While Rooney was with the Irish, the teams averaged 47 wins per year. A native of Philadelphia, Rooney competed throughout his ND career with current Arizona Diamondback and the 2001 NLCS MVP Craig Counsell.

"Rooney was a great player for me at Notre Dame and he has been tremendous here at ASU," said Murphy. "He is a true teacher of the game."

Rooney earned his Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Phoenix in March, 2000. He married his wife, Jenny, in July, 2003 and currently resides in Scottsdale.

# CHRIS SINACORI

Pitching Coach • 3rd Year



**C**hris Sinacori is in his third year with the Arizona State baseball program and will again serve as pitching coach for the 2004 Sun Devils.

Sinacori returned to the ASU baseball family in 2003 after serving as a pitching coach in the Chicago White Sox minor league system for four years. Sinacori was also in charge of the rehabilitation programs throughout the organization for all pitchers. His previous time on the ASU coaching staff during the 1998 season when he mentored the pitchers during the College World Series runner-up season.

In his first year back with the program, the 2003 Sun Devil pitching staff became a benchmark for success on the mound. Helping guide the Devils to a 54-14 record, the pitching staff led the Pac-10 with a 3.32 ERA and ranked eighth in the NCAA. The 3.32 team ERA marked the first time since 1990 that an ASU pitching staff finished a season with an ERA lower than 4.00, and is the best dating back to 1979 when ASU joined the

Pac-10. Since the NCAA adopted the designated hitter and aluminum bats in 1974, the 3.32 ERA is the third lowest. The Devils also led the Pac-10 with 530 strikeouts, adding to the 1998 strikeout crown Sinacori helped bring to Tempe.

In addition, the 2003 pitching staff combined for 10 shutouts to mark the most by a Sun Devil squad since recording 11 in 1976. Six pitchers from Sinacori's 2003 staff were selected in the 2003 MLB Amateur Draft and two more signed free agent contracts. Beau Vaughan, a true project that Sinacori helped develop in his only year as a Sun Devil, was selected in the 3rd round by the Boston Red Sox.

In 1998 under Sinacori's guidance, the ASU pitching staff posted a 41-23 record and came within one game of recording ASU's sixth national championship. Ten future professional pitchers highlighted Sinacori's first college pitching corps, including first-round draft picks Ryan Mills and Jay Gehrke.

In the four years in the White Sox organization, Sinacori mentored six current big league pitchers (Danny Wright, Jon Rauch, Matt Ginter, Rocky Biddle, David Sanders and Josh Stewart) and six first-round draft picks (Jason Stumm, Ginter, Brian West, Rob Purvis, Kris Honel and Royce

Ring). His 2001 (3.35 ERA) and 2002 (3.62) pitching staffs both finished second in the Arizona League.

Prior to his coaching work with the Sun Devils in 1998, Sinacori spent seven years as a professional player with four different organizations (Los Angeles, Toronto, Florida and Arizona). He was the 15th selection of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1991 MLB Amateur Draft. Sinacori played two years for the University of Tennessee and one year for Florida International.

Sinacori was a two-time *USA Today* All-American at MacArthur High School in Levittown, N.Y., and earned the New York Diamond Award as the top prep player in the state of New York. He was also a member of the 1988 USA Baseball Junior Olympic team that won the gold medal in Australia. Sinacori graduated with a degree in liberal arts and sciences (psychology) from the University of Tennessee.

Sinacori and his wife, Coren, reside in Chandler.

# GRAHAM ROSSINI

Director of Baseball Operations • 5th Year



**G**raham Rossini enters his first season as Director of Baseball Operations and fifth year overall with the Sun Devil Baseball program.

Rossini brings solid baseball credentials to the program and is responsible for the overall operations of the baseball office. He oversees the baseball budget, game operations, official recruiting visits, team travel, baseball camps and all other business aspects of the baseball office.

Rossini is baseball's liaison with ASU's media relations office, the Pac-10 Conference and the

NCAA. Rossini also works closely with the large contingent of Major League Baseball scouts and executives that work in the Valley.

In an effort to increase ASU Baseball awareness nationally and improve upon ASU's already impressive status as the top attendance team on the West Coast, Rossini is working with other members of ASU's Athletic Department to develop ticket and marketing programs that will continue to promote Sun Devil Baseball. The recently created Baseball Advisory Committee is in place to develop these fan programs as well as plan the next phase of renovation at Packard Stadium. Rossini will be the baseball office's liaison with ASU's Athletic Operations and Facilities during current and future construction at Packard.

Following three years with the San Diego

Padres' Class AA affiliate in Mobile, Ala., Rossini joined Sun Devil Baseball prior to the 2000 Pac-10 Championship season as a Baseball Operations Intern. Shortly before the 2002 season, he was named Director of Baseball Administration, a position he held until the summer of 2003 when he was promoted to Director of Baseball Operations.

Rossini was born in Red Bank, N.J., grew up in Mobile, Ala., and attended Baker High School before graduating Cum Laude from ASU's nationally renowned W.P. Carey School of Business.



# SUPPORT STAFF

## Carlos Arguello

**UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANT,  
FIRST YEAR**

Carlos Arguello enters his first year as the undergraduate assistant for the Sun Devil Baseball team. He will assist pitching coach Chris Sinacori with the pitching staff and also help in the office while he completes his undergraduate degree in mathematics.

A two-year letterwinner for the Devils in 2002-03, Arguello pitched in 37 career games and went 8-1 with a 3.08 ERA. He went 3-0 with a 4.88 ERA as a senior in 2003 and went 5-1 with a 2.03 ERA as a junior. Primarily a specialist against left-handed batters during his career, Arguello had the best game of his ASU career with a complete-game, seven-hitter against San Diego in the 2002 NCAA Regional at Hohokam Park.

The Albuquerque, N.M., native transferred to ASU from Cochise College.



## Kenny McCarty

**SPORTS MEDICINE, SEVENTH YEAR**

Kenny McCarty begins his seventh year as the head trainer of the Arizona State baseball program.

An invaluable part of the program with his extensive knowledge of baseball-related injuries, McCarty has successfully rehabbed two pitchers from Tommy John surgery, including former Sun Devil All-American pitcher Mike Esposito, who is currently a top pitching prospect in the Colorado Rockies minor league system.

"Kenny is an invaluable part of our program," said head coach Pat Murphy. "What he has done rehabbing our pitchers and some of our other players, getting them healthy and mentally tough is truly amazing."

McCarty came to ASU in 1996 after graduating from Purdue University with a degree in athletic training.

A native of Freemont, Ind., McCarty is very active in the National Association of Athletic Training (NATA) and also teaches an athletic training class at Arizona State. He is a huge NASCAR fan.



## Steve Kirkman

**OPERATIONS AND RECRUITING  
ASSISTANT, SIXTH YEAR**

Steve Kirkman begins his sixth year in the Arizona State Baseball program and his first as an operations and recruiting assistant.

Kirkman's duties extend both on and off the field. Off the field, he is responsible for managing the equipment inventory, maintaining the recruiting database, and executing other various projects for the coaching staff. On the field, his daily duties include field setup and assisting coaches during practice. He also helps with various baseball projects around the office.

Kirkman came to ASU in the Fall of 1998 and graduated from the College of Business in 3 1/2 years, with a BS in Accountancy.

A native of Spring Valley, Calif. (San Diego area), Kirkman was a distinguished graduate and baseball manager at Monte Vista High School.



## Jeff Evans

**MEDIA RELATIONS, FOURTH YEAR**

Jeff Evans begins his fourth year as the sports information director for Arizona State baseball.

Prior to his duties at ASU, Evans was the sports information contact for baseball at Washington State University for three years (1998-2000). Evans is a 2000 graduate (cum laude) from WSU, where he attended the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication and received a degree in public relations. He is an active member in CoSIDA and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association of America. He has also served internships with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) and the Tacoma Rainiers. His baseball media guide in 2003 received second place honors in the district. He is also the main media relations contact for volleyball and swimming and diving at Arizona State.

A native of Gig Harbor, Wash., Evans lettered in golf, swimming, water polo and baseball at Peninsula High School. He also played in the 1994 NABF World Series in Northville, Mich., and the 1995 CABA World Series in Euclid, Ohio.



## Jim Mancuso

**CONDITIONING COACH, NINTH YEAR**

Jim Mancuso begins his ninth season with the Sun Devil baseball staff. He heads up the rigorous strength and conditioning program, which prepares the Sun Devils for the upcoming season.

He is known for his "Mancuso Workouts" for the players on Saturday mornings. A former Sun Devil baseball pitcher, Mancuso was well known and loved by coaches, teammates and fans alike. Mancuso was hampered by injuries throughout his Sun Devil career, but was an inspiration to his teammates because of his hard work and dedication. He has brought that work ethic to the strength, conditioning and stretching programs that ASU baseball players live by today.

A '95 graduate of ASU, Mancuso recently passed the Arizona Bar exam and is currently a practicing partner at a law firm in downtown Phoenix.



**Graham Ferguson**  
Manager



**John Bieber**  
Equipment Manager



**Sammie Nakama**  
Office Assistant



**Rich Wenner**  
Strength Coach

## Support Staff

## Q&A

**Q:** What is the philosophy behind playing what will most likely be the toughest schedule in the nation in 2004?

**A:** We feel that the Pac-10 is the toughest conference in the nation, and that is evidenced by the fact that five of the last nine teams to play for the national title in college baseball have been Pac-10 teams. Therefore, our schedule has to match that difficulty for proper preparation for our conference and, hopefully, postseason schedule. We will play 30 games this year vs. teams that participated in the NCAA tourney in 2003. In order to be your best, you have to play the best.

**Q:** How have former Sun Devils made an impact in professional baseball?

**A:** The seasons that Barry Bonds had in the last three years winning the MVP award each year speak for themselves. Our entire program is tremendously proud of his accomplishments. Overall, we had eight former Sun Devils play in the major leagues in 2003 and another 53 in minor league baseball, and the great number of these players speaks volumes for the program and the level of player who is attracted to ASU. Jeff Duncan and Jon Switzer each made their MLB debuts in 2003, bringing the total number of former Devils to play in the pros to 79.

**Q:** How is recruiting affected by professional baseball?

**A:** Almost all of our recruits will be drafted each spring, and that makes it very difficult to maintain a strong recruiting class. As the signing bonuses in baseball continue to escalate, this will not get easier. However, we will continue to recruit the very best student-athletes in the nation, and we always anticipate that about half of these players will choose signing a professional baseball contract over playing college baseball. Therefore, after the draft has hit, our typical recruiting class of 20 players will then be reduced to 10 players who will actually matriculate at ASU. While this can be disappointing, we are always happy for these players as they chase their dream of playing major league baseball. Players like Jimmy Rollins, Dontrelle Willis, Prince Fielder, Ben Petrick and Andrew Good are prime examples of guys who committed to ASU for baseball but then signed professionally and are already in the big leagues. We are not only excited for their successes but also proud that they once chose ASU over other college baseball programs.

**Q:** What are the keys to recruiting quality student-athletes to the Sun Devil baseball program?

**A:** One of these keys is that our great tradition enables us to recruit the entire country and, for example, we were able to land players from 10 different states. Also, we are very interested in our recruits having outstanding personal character in addition to exceptional baseball talent. Thus, the kids in our program our first-class people, and they will always attract excellent student-athletes to our program. Our current players sell our program, and it is no surprise that our last three recruiting classes have been ranked amongst the highest in the nation.

**Q:** How does attendance at ASU baseball games compare to the rest of college baseball?

**A:** Out of the 280 schools playing baseball in 2003, attendance at Sun Devil baseball ranked No. 13 in the entire country. Last year we averaged over 2,800 fans per game and had several games with over 3,000 fans. We consistently lead the Pac-10 and over the past five years have led the entire West Coast. Our baseball atmosphere here at ASU is outstanding, and our entire team really appreciates it and enjoys it.

**Q:** What are the unique graduation challenges for the Sun Devil baseball player?

**A:** Our players are eligible for the baseball draft after their junior year, and over the last nine years, over 60 of our juniors have in fact been drafted. Since the year following a player's junior season is his best opportunity for bargaining leverage in the draft, this is the ideal time for these players to sign a professional contract. Thus, 85 percent of these juniors have signed professionally. Once a student-athlete enters minor league baseball, the logistics involved with taking classes and eventually graduating are quite challenging. We believe the key here is to stay on track to graduation in the student-athlete's first three years at ASU. Despite these inherent difficulties, we are extremely proud of the fact that 51 of our players have graduated in the last eight years. Also, ASU had led all of college baseball in our number of first-team Academic All-Americans over the last five years.

**Q:** What have been the effects of the recent changes in college baseball?

**A:** The parity in college baseball is greater than it has ever been. Whereas 20 years ago, many of the top programs had 30 full scholarships to award, the current NCAA limit is 11.7 full scholarships for the entire program of 30-40 players. This has helped level the playing field in some ways, while at the same time increasing the importance of both financial aid that can be awarded at private institutions and individual state scholarship programs, as seen in such states as Louisiana and Georgia. Unfortunately, we at ASU are unable to take advantage of either of these opportunities, and this puts great stress on our limited scholarship dollars. In addition, the college baseball season has been pushed back by two weeks over the last five years, and this is helping cold-weather programs to even the gap with the warmer-climate programs, which are the traditional powers.

**Q:** What are the effects of the recent changes in the NCAA regional format?

**A:** Since the tourney will actually now be regional, it will make it very difficult for West Coast teams. This is because the strength of college baseball is in the West, but there are far fewer teams there than in the East. So quality teams from the West will be matched up very early in the tournament. The key, then, to getting a quality draw in the tourney becomes hosting a regional. This has also been proved over time as the Sun Devils have only three trips to Omaha that



occurred when not hosting a regional, compared to 15 trips to Omaha in years in which we did host a regional. Besides having a great season, the other key to being awarded a host regional site is having an outstanding facility. There is no doubt that the exciting renovations that are in progress for Packard Stadium will have an enormous impact on our program.

**Q:** What have been the keys to the Sun Devils' recent offensive successes?

**A:** We are very proud of the fact that we have led the nation in both batting average and runs scored in recent years. Those statistics, combined with our current NCAA-record streak of 501 games without being shut out, are great indicators that our hitters are on the right track. The key to this type of offensive production is the concept of team offense. Our hitters have been very unselfish, and put the team goals ahead of their own. We feel this is why our offense has been so successful, because of a tremendous team attitude. During the scoring streak we have faced 16 eventual big-league pitchers.

**Q:** What have been some of the accomplishments of some of ASU's players in the various summer leagues?

**A:** We feel that outstanding summer competition is critical to player development in our program. We typically send players to many different leagues across the nation, including the Cape Cod League and also the Alaskan Summer League. However, the highlight of our summer program has been the overwhelming number of our recent players who have been selected to play for the USA Baseball National Team. Dustin Pedroia, Jeff Larish, Mike Esposito, Jon Switzer, Casey Myers and Willie Bloomquist have all played for Team USA in the last six years.

**Q:** What are some of the national and Pac-10 awards ASU players have won?

**A:** Arizona State is a constant among the national college baseball powers when it comes to awards and recognition. We are tied for first when it comes to winning the Golden Spikes Award, with Bob Horner, Oddibe McDowell and Mike Kelly winning the prestigious award. Since the Pac-10 joined the Northern and Southern Divisions in 1999, we have won four of the five Pac-10 Player of the Year Awards. Willie Bloomquist (1999), Casey Myers (2000, 2001) and Dustin Pedroia (2003) have all earned the top conference honor. Each year we also have a number of players earn All-America honors. Last year, seven Sun Devils earned All-America honors.

**Q:** What kind of media coverage does Sun Devil Baseball get?

**A:** Each year between 5-10 baseball games are televised locally in the Phoenix area, along with a nationally televised game on Fox Sports. 35-40 games are also scheduled to be on the radio.