

# Arizona State Baseball - Things You Need To Know

- ASU's 2005 schedule is one of the toughest in the nation. It includes 50% of games (28 of 56) against teams that played in 2004 NCAA Tournament and 63% of games (35 of 56) against teams that have played in NCAA Tournament in last two years. ASU opens the 2005 season Jan. 28-30 against nationally ranked Long Beach State. ASU is scheduled to play 21 games against eight teams listed in Baseball America's preseason top 25. The Devils head into the season ranked No. 9 (*Baseball America*) and No. 11 (*Collegiate Baseball*).
- Head Coach Pat Murphy has a career 401-196-1 (.671) record in his 10 seasons at the helm of the Sun Devils. He has led the Sun Devils to the NCAA Tournament in five straight seasons and seven of the last eight.
- Over the last five years, ASU is second among all Pac-10 schools (trailing Stanford) for overall winning percentage (.708) and in Pac-10 play (.625).
- Arizona and Arizona State are the only two division I baseball programs in the state of Arizona and have met 405 times since 1907. While Arizona leads the overall rivalry 220-188, ASU leads the series 165-103 since the school officially adopted the program as a varsity sport in 1959. Additionally, ASU has dominated the rivalry in recent years, winning 16 of the last 20 games since 2000, and have won seven of the last eight games. Since head coach Pat Murphy took over the program in 1995, ASU is 34-16 (.680) and has never lost a season series to the Wildcats. ASU swept the series from Arizona in 2003 by a combined score of 36-4 and won four of five games last season.
- Arizona State has finished in the top 12 in the national rankings in four of the last eight years ('97, '98, '00, '03) and has been ranked for 98 consecutive national polls, including 53 weeks in the top 10 dating back to the start of the 2000 season. Having never been ranked out of the polls during the current decade, ASU is a combined 213-88-1 during that stretch.
- ASU has an average final *Baseball America* ranking of 16.0 dating back to 1997. The ranking is ninth best among the top traditional programs in the nation and only one school (Cal State Fullerton) ranks ahead of ASU that is either not a private school or has an in-state scholarship program that creates a distinct advantage with the 11.7 scholarship limit.
- During Murphy's tenure at ASU, the baseball team has an overall 2.60 GPA. The team GPA has steadily risen since he arrived in 1995, improving the 2.31 GPA from 1991-95. ASU ranks third with four first-team Academic All-Americans dating back to 1995. The baseball program's graduation rate has also increased from 9% (1985-95) to 50% during the two countable years so far (1995-96, 1996-97).
- In a recent ranking provided by *Boydsworld.com*, the website dedicated to college baseball rankings and RPI, the Arizona State Baseball program ranked No. 9 in the nation for sustained excellence over the past three and five years. The ranking is a direct reflection of the strength of the recently departed recruiting class (the three-year ranking) or the strength of the program in general (the five-year ranking). The rankings are the result of a system of calculations designed to properly weight a team's winning percentage and strength of schedule, while taking inter-regional play into account.
- The Arizona State Baseball program is coming off a strong 2004 season in which they went 41-18 and finished with a No. 20 national ranking by *Sports Weekly/ESPN*. Over the last four years, ASU baseball has combined to go 169-73 with a strength of schedule ranked in the top 20 in the nation. Over the past six years, head coach Pat Murphy's squads have combined for an impressive 252-109 (.698) record. The Sun Devils have advanced to the NCAA Tournament in seven of the last eight years.
- ASU set the NCAA record scoring in 506 consecutive games. The streak lasted over parts of 10 seasons from 1995 to 2004. ASU was a combined 338-167-1 during the stretch of games and averaged 9.4 runs per game. ASU broke the previous NCAA record of 349 games on April 7, 2001, exactly six years to the day when they were last shutout.
- With an all-time 2,358-1,154-6 (.671) record in 93 seasons of Sun Devil Baseball, ASU ranks sixth among all major colleges. The Devils have made 28 postseason appearances and ranks fifth with 18 College World Series appearances. With five NCAA titles (1965, 67, 69, 77, 81), ASU is tied for second. In 46 years of varsity baseball dating back to 1959, ASU is 2,025-809-1 (.714).
- ASU's recruiting classes have been ranked nationally in the top 10 in each of the past seven years, including the class that will debut in 2005 being ranked No. 2 in the nation by *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball*. The class that is set to debut in 2006 has already been tabbed as the top recruiting class in the nation.
- ASU has ranked in the top three on the west coast in attendance in each of the last six years, including first in 2003 and 13th in the nation for average attendance. ASU was second on the west coast and 21st nationally in 2004, averaging 2,654 fans per home game.
- The Sun Devils had six players selected in the 2004 Major League Draft. Since the inception of the draft in 1965, ASU has had more players drafted (332) and more first-round picks (21) than any other school. During the Pat Murphy era (1995-P), 78 players have been selected in the draft, leading all major colleges.
- The Arizona State Baseball program ranks 8th in a poll that measures top collegiate programs for producing players to the USA Baseball National Team. Since USA Baseball began selecting players and operating an official National Team to represent the United States in 1984, ASU has had 10 different players selected to the National Team. Additionally, ASU has had at least one selection in six of the last seven years. ASU has had Junior outfielder Travis Buck is the latest Sun Devil to add his name to the impressive list, helping Team USA to a gold medal in the FISU World University Baseball Championship last summer in Tainan, Taiwan. Buck was named a first-team Summer All-American by *Baseball America* after hitting .412 (28-for-68) for Team USA.
- Former Arizona State pitcher Jon Switzer (1999-2001) and outfielder Jeff Duncan (1999-2000) made their major league debuts during the 2003 season, becoming the 79th and 80th Sun Devils to wear a MLB uniform. Seven former Sun Devils who in the major leagues at one point in 2004: Barry Bonds (San Francisco Giants), Willie Bloomquist (Seattle Mariners), Duncan (New York Mets), Paul Lo Duca (Los Angeles Dodgers/Florida Marlins), Fernando Viña (Detroit Tigers), Jacob Cruz (Cincinnati Reds) and Cody McKay (St. Louis Cardinals). 50 former Sun Devils also played in the minor leagues in 2004.
- ASU has hit over .300 at the plate in 33 of 46 varsity baseball seasons, including a string of 17 straight seasons. The Devils have combined to hit at a .331 clip during the 10 years under current head coach Pat Murphy. ASU has hit .315 overall since varsity baseball started in 1959 and has led the Pac-10 in hitting in five of the last six seasons.
- With three Golden Spikes Award winners, Arizona State ranks tied for first with Florida State and Cal State Fullerton. Bob Horner (1978), Oddibe McDowell (1984) and Mike Kelly (1991) all won the prestigious GSA. Dustin Pedroia was one of five finalists in 2004.