

Arizona State Results		
DATE	OPPONENT (rank)	RESULT
Jan. 31	Texas-San Antonio	W, 6-5
Feb. 1	Texas-San Antonio	W, 6-3
Feb. 2	Texas-San Antonio	W, 9-1 (5)
Feb. 7	SW Texas State#	W, 12-8
Feb. 7	Texas# (12)	L, 0-1
Feb. 8	Iowa State#	W, 3-1
Feb. 8	Mississippi State#	W, 5-4
Feb. 9	Utah#	L, 3-5
Feb. 9	Massachusetts# (25)	L, 2-5 (8)
Feb. 14	Illinois State%	W, 4-1
Feb. 15	Iowa%	W, 5-1
Feb. 15	Illinois State%	W, 3-1
Feb. 16	Iowa%	W, 8-0 (5)
Feb. 16	Utah State%	W, 12-2 (6)
Feb. 21	vs. DePaul^ (8)	W, 1-0
Feb. 22	vs. Liberty^	W, 11-5
Feb. 23	vs. Ohio State^ (21)	W, 1-0
Feb. 28	UC Riverside	W, 16-0 (5)
Feb. 28	Oklahoma (9/11)	L, 2-7
March 1	Oklahoma (9/11)	L, 0-6
March 1	UC Riverside	W, 7-0
March 2	Oklahoma (9/11)	L, 5-8
March 2	UC Riverside	W, 9-2
March 7	vs. Virginia Tech!	W, 8-3
March 7	vs. Santa Clara!	W, 2-1
March 8	vs. Oregon State! (17/17)	W, 3-2 (8)
March 8	vs. California! (8/9)	L, 1-6
March 9	vs. Santa Clara!	W, 1-0
March 9	vs. Sacramento State!	W, 12-9
March 13	vs. Oklahoma+ (6/6)	L, 3-5
March 13	vs. Cal State Northridge+	L, 3-4
March 14	vs. UNLV+	W, 2-1
March 28	Oregon* (19/19)	W, 2-0
March 29	Oregon State* (22/21)	W, 7-1
March 30	Oregon State* (22/21)	W, 3-0
April 4	@ UCLA* (1/1)	L, 0-6
April 5	@ Washington* (3/4)	L, 1-2
April 6	@ Washington* (3/4)	L, 0-1
April 11	California* (6/5)	7:00 p.m.
April 12	Stanford* (16/13)	7:00 p.m.
April 13	Stanford* (16/13)	1:00 p.m.
April 18	@ Arizona*	7:00 p.m.
April 19	@ Arizona*	7:00 p.m.
April 23	Arizona* (KAZ)	7:00 p.m.
April 25	@ Oregon State*	2:00 p.m.
April 26	@ Oregon*	2:00 p.m.
April 27	@ Oregon*	1:00 p.m.
May 2	@ Stanford*	7:00 p.m.
May 3	@ California*	2:00 p.m.
May 4	@ California*	1:00 p.m.
May 9	Washington* (FSN)	7:00 p.m.
May 10	UCLA*	7:00 p.m.
May 10	UCLA*	9:00 p.m.
May 15-18	NCAA Regionals	TBD
May 22-26	NCAA College World Series	TBD

All home games are **bolded**.

Ranking are by *USAToday/NFCA & ESPN/USA Softball*.

* Pacific-10 Conference game.

Fiesta Bowl Tournament, Phoenix/Tempe, Ariz.

% Louisville Slugger Tournament, Tempe, Ariz.

^ NFCA Leadoff Classic Tournament, Columbus, Ga.

! National Invitational Tournament, San Jose, Calif.

+ KIA Classic Tournament, Fullerton, Calif.



Wednesday, April 9, 2003

SUN DEVIL SOFTBALL

No. 12/12 ARIZONA STATE HOSTS

No. 6/5 CALIFORNIA & No. 16/13 STANFORD

ON TAP: The No. 12/12 Arizona State Sun Devils (26-12; 3-3 Pac-10) returns home to Farrington Stadium to take on No. 6/5 California (32-9; 4-2 Pac-10) on Friday, April 11 at 7:00 p.m. The Devils will then face No. 16/13 Stanford (28-14; 2-4 Pac-10) on Saturday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 1:00 p.m. The game against Stanford on Saturday will be broadcast live on KAZ-TV (cable channel 13) with George Allen and Doug Gerlock on the call. California holds a 49-31 all-time mark against ASU, while the Devils hold a 26-12 lead over Stanford.

LAST TIME OUT: After starting the Pac-10 season with a 3-0 mark (its best since joining the conference in 1987), the Devils evened their record at 3-3 when they fell on the difficult road trip to No. 1 UCLA, 6-0 and No. 3 Washington, 2-1 and 1-0. UCLA hit back-to-back-to-back home runs in the fifth inning to seal the victory. ASU used three pitchers with Cheryl Evans starting and Ashley Werschky and Susan Aguilar finishing the game. Kara Brun singled in the fifth inning to extend her hitting streak to 17 games. In the first game against UW, freshman pitcher Desiree Serrano had a no-hitter through four innings, but gave up a two-run home run in the sixth inning to give UW a come from behind 2-1 win. Arizona State got on the board first in the third inning on a two out rally. After the Devils hit into a double play, Valerie Sevilla's infield single to the pitcher ignited the rally. Jennifer Forner followed with double down the first base line as she moved Sevilla to third. Kristin Farber then hit a single into deep second base, but she beat out the throw to first as Sevilla scored. In the sixth inning after retiring the first UW batter, Serrano issued another walk to Dena Tyson. That walk would prove costly as Sarah Hyatt then hit the game-winning two-run shot over the leftfield fence. The Huskies had only two-hits on the day, while ASU collected five, marking the first time all season (23-1) that the Devils lost a game after out hitting their opponent. Brun went 0-for-3, snapping a career-best and current Pac-10 leading 17-game hitting streak. In game two, a controversial fifth-inning illegal pitch by Serrano marked the only run scored as UW won, 1-0. Washington challenged reliever Serrano in the fifth frame and took advantage of an infield error sandwiched between a pair a walks to load the bases. Serrano was then called for an illegal pitch, which brought home the UW baserunner for the game winner. The Devils again out-hit the Huskies 5-4, but could not plate a runner as they left seven stranded.

TOUGH SCHEDULE/TOUGHER CONFERENCE: As in any season, Arizona State will face many of the nation's top teams and traditionally holds a high RPI. Last year, ASU was second in the Pac-10 in most games played against top-25 teams (34). This year will be no different as the Devils will face numerous teams ranked in the USA Today/NFCA and ESPN/USA Softball Collegiate Top-25. Within the toughest conference in the nation, the Pacific-10, ASU will face a nationally-ranked team nearly every time out. Seven of the eight Pac-10 teams are ranked in the top-25, including the top-3 and six of the top-13. The Pac-10 holds a 198-47-1 (.807) record against non-conference teams.

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USA Today/NFCA Top-25

	<u>Team (first place)</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>LR</u>
1.	Arizona (23)	37-3	575	2
2.	UCLA	32-4	551	1
3.	Washington	34-5-1	529	3
4.	Oklahoma	32-6	495	4
5.	Texas	29-7	470	5
6.	California	32-9	460	7
7.	Nebraska	28-9	448	6
8.	Cal State Fullerton	25-12	406	9
9.	DePaul	24-4	394	10
10.	Georgia	39-7	377	8
11.	Louisiana State	29-11	340	11
12.	Arizona State	26-12	308	12
13.	Michigan	21-8	276	15
14.	Florida State	30-9	250	16
15.	South Carolina	28-10	243	14
16.	Stanford	28-14	234	13
17.	Alabama	32-13	205	18
18.	Texas A&M	28-13	181	19
19.	Oklahoma State	27-9	177	17
20.	Florida	31-11	149	24
21.	Louisiana-Lafayette	24-5	106	25
22.	Oregon	18-11	83	21
23.	South Florida	41-12	52	22
24.	Illinois	24-8	50	NR
25.	Ohio State	17-12	34	20

Dropped Out: Kansas.

Receiving Votes: Southern Illinois (20), Tennessee (15), Oregon State (12), Northwestern (7), Kansas (6), Texas-Arlington (5), Massachusetts (4), Missouri (4), South-west Texas (3), Iowa (3), Florida Atlantic (2).

ESPN.com/USA Softball

	<u>Team (first place)</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>LR</u>
1.	Arizona (17)	37-3	449	2
2.	UCLA (1)	32-4	433	1
3.	Washington	34-5-1	408	4
4.	Oklahoma	32-6	391	3
5.	California	32-9	376	6
6.	Texas	29-7	363	5
7.	Nebraska	28-9	348	7
8.	Cal State Fullerton	22-12	320	8
9.	DePaul	24-4	307	10
10.	Georgia	39-7	283	9
11.	Louisiana State	29-11	255	13
12.	Arizona State	26-12	251	12
13.	Stanford	28-14	225	11
14.	Florida State	30-9	200	16
15.	South Carolina	28-10	196	14
16.	Michigan	21-8	185	17
17.	Alabama	31-13	154	18
18.	Oklahoma State	27-9	143	15
19.	Texas A&M	28-13	141	19
20.	Oregon	18-11	96	20
21.	Florida	31-11	82	NR
22.(t)	South Florida	41-12	43	22
22.(t)	Louisiana-Lafayette	24-5	43	NR
24.	Oregon State	25-18	36	24
25.	Iowa	25-8	30	21

Dropped Out: Ohio State, Massachusetts.

Receiving Votes: Ohio State (27), Missouri (15), Massachusetts (15), Northwestern (9), Tennessee (8), Kansas (4), Southern Illinois (4), Illinois (4), Minnesota (4).

*TEAMS IN BOLD INDICATES 2003 OPPONENTS.

THE WRIGHT STUFF: Junior All-American third baseman **Phelan Wright** enters the 2003 season as one of the premier softball players in the country. After posting outstanding numbers as a freshman and as a sophomore, Wright continues to post great numbers. In 2003, Wright is currently batting at a .322 clip with a team-leading 38 RBIs (only two short from last year's total and 16 coming with 2 outs) and tied for the lead with 10 home runs. Wright also accomplished an ASU record (as far as the books indicate) by slugging three home runs in three straight at-bats against SW Texas State. In addition, she is currently ASU's all-time leader in career batting average (.382). Last year Wright led the team throughout the year in batting average (.405/4th Pac-10), hits (75/6th Pac-10) and doubles (17/3rd Pac-10). She finished second in home runs (8), RBIs (40) and batted .350 in the pitching rich Pac-10 Conference. Wright also led the team in multi-hit games (23), multi-RBI games (11) and posted the team's second longest hitting streak at 10 games. She was also one of 10 finalists for National Player of the Year honors and was named first-team All-Pacific Region and All-Pac-10. Wright also was named to the NIST All-Tournament team and the Region III All-Tournament team. As a freshman, Wright was named the team's Offensive Player of the Year after leading ASU in batting average (.399/average was the highest posted by a freshman in the Pac-10 since 1999), hits (67) triples (2) and slugging percentage (.530). She also earned second-team All-Pac-10 honors, Louisville Slugger/NFCA National Player of the Week honors and Pac-10 Player of the Week honors. In 21 Pac-10 games she batted an amazing .418 in the pitching rich conference and posted the team's longest hitting streak at 13 games (fifth longest in the Pac-10). Wright produced a team-high 18 RBIs with two outs and finished tied for second on the team with 17 multi-hit games and third in multi-RBI games (6). She batted .530 at the National Invitational Tournament, earning all-tournament honors and led the team in postseason batting average at a .455 clip, earning Region III All-Tournament team honors.

HEAD COACH LINDA WELLS: The Sun Devil softball program continues its success on the national scene under the tutelage of 14th-year head coach **Linda Wells**, one of the most prominent and successful coaches in NCAA history. Wells, who is currently the seventh-most successful active coach in NCAA Division I history with 845 victories, has led the Sun Devils to 10 (six consecutive 1997-02) NCAA Regional appearances in 13 seasons, including two trips in the past four years to the College World Series (1999/2002). While at Arizona State, Wells has compiled 494 wins (11 short of the all-time record) and has had seven players earn a total of 10 All-American awards. Wells' vast coaching experience and tireless work ethic has not gone unnoticed by the country or by the world as she was named the head coach of the Greek Olympic National Team that will compete in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Wells, who has previous international experience, was selected among several highly qualified coaching professionals to lead the host team into the games. Wells' achieved a coaching milestone that few can or will ever obtain, winning 800 career games. The Sun Devils earned Wells her 800th win with an 11-1 win over Rutgers (3/16/02). The 2002 team, arguable her most talented and successful, also tied a school-record in the national polls, finishing at No. 3 and for posting the most wins in a single season with 46. The 2002 season also marked the second appearance for Wells in the Women's College World Series where they finished third, the best in school history since the NCAA established the current format. Players again flourished under Wells as she produced two All-Americans, five All-Pac-10 players, two All-Pacific Region players and two Academic All-American players. Wells also had two players earn National Player of the Week honors and five Pac-10 Pitcher/Player of the Week honors. With the addition of five All-Pac-10 selections in 2002, Wells has now coached 64 all-conference players during her tenure at Arizona State, averaging five All-Pac-10 selections every season. Wells has coached 31 career .300 hitters at ASU in her 12 seasons, averaging a combined .330 — not an easy accomplishment in the pitching-rich Pac-10 where games are traditionally low scoring.

BEHIND THE PLATE: Senior **Adriana Garcia**, who is having her best year as a Sun Devil, leads a trio of catchers in 2003. Garcia is currently hitting a team second-best .351 and has already surpassed all of last year's totals by hitting eight home runs (tied for second) and posting 28 RBIs (third on the team). She has also thrown out nine base runners, picked off another while recording 21 assists and a .992 fielding percentage. Last year Garcia played in 60 games, making 57 starts with five doubles, 21 RBIs, while 17 of her 21 RBIs came with two outs. Defensively, she picked off eight base runners and made only two errors in 268 chances for a team-high .993 fielding percentage. Prior to ASU, Garcia earned 2001 NFCA/NJCAA Division I Diamond Sports National Catcher of the Year honors and was a 2001 first-team All-American. The two-time all-region and all-conference selection, Garcia played two years at Arizona Western College in Yuma, Ariz. where she batted .448 with six home runs and 68 RBIs. Garcia recorded a fielding percentage of .991, while throwing out 29 base runners attempting to steal.

Arizona State Starters & Key Reserves

#	Name	Yr.	Pos.	B/T	Avg.	Notes
99	Desiree Serrano	R-Fr.	P	R/R	.000	16-7 w/ 5 saves and 174 strikeouts; holding teams to a .197 avg.
4	Kristin Farber	Jr.	OF	L/R	.322	46 career steals in 51 attempts; 38 hits and 28 runs scored
7	Kara Brun	Sr.	SS/2B	R/R	.430	Team high 52 hits, 11 doubles and 10 home runs
13	Phelan Wright	Jr.	3B	R/R	.322	First-team All-American; team-high 38 RBIs; 10 home runs
24	Cheryl Evans	Jr.	P/1B	R/R	.342	JC first-team All-American; 5 HRs and 4 doubles; 2-2 pitching rcd.
17	Adriana Garcia	Sr.	C	R/R	.351	Career-high 8 home runs and 28 RBIs; team second best 39 hits
8	Jennifer Forner	Sr.	OF	L/L	.308	28 hits with 5 doubles and 15 runs scored; batting .400 as leadoff
9	Jen McCard	Fr.	2B	R/R	.104	Played and started in 33 games; hit first career HR vs. Oklahoma
12	Valerie Sevilla	So.	OF	L/R	.278	2 doubles with 10 runs scored, 3 sacrifices and 6 assists from OF
20	Kim Zadrozny	Fr.	2B/OF	R/R	.103	Played in 22 games with 13 starts; 2 RBIs
23	Ashley Werschky	Fr.	P/1B	R/R	.233	6-3 in 54 innings; hit 2 home runs with 9 RBIs
10	Carla Strege	Fr.	2B/1B	R/R	.182	Played in 27 games with 10 hits and 2 doubles
22	Keri Pulcifer	Jr.	OF	L/L	.274	Started 28 games with 20 hits, 2 home runs and a grand slam
1	Billie Akauola	So.	OF	R/R	.300	Played in 28 games; NFCA Leadoff Classic All-Tournament Team
5	Kari Reidhead	Jr.	1B	L/L	.333	Played in 17 games; 2 x 2 with 2 RBIs against Utah State
21	Joy Hull	Jr.	OF	R/R	.214	Played in 16 games with 6 starts; double with 8 putouts
19	Susan Aguilar	Jr.	P	R/R	.000	8 app.; 2-0 in 15 innings
15	Katie Cobos	Jr.	C	R/R	.000	Played in 23 games with 6 runs scored
6	Andria Berrera	Jr.	C/OF	R/R	.000	Played in 16 games with 5 runs scored

ASU Career Leaders

Batting Average

1. Phelan Wright (2001-present)	.382
2. Lisa Dacquisto (1994-97)	.378
3. Leanne Easley (1972-75)	.377
4. Rachel Brown (1991-92)	.362
5. Jodi Rathbun (1985-87)	.361
6. Kara Brun (2000-present)	.354
7. Peggy McAbee (1978-79)	.349
8. Nichole Thompson (1999-2002)	.333
9. Raja Woods (1997-98)	.332
10. Kristin Farber (2001-present)	.324

Home Runs

1. Kara Brun (2000-present)	34
2. Erica Beach (1999-2002)	27
3. Phelan Wright (2001-present)	22
4. Suzie Gaw (1979-82)	16
5. Chris Gill (1997-99)	14

Runs Batted In

1. Kara Brun (2000-present)	164
2. Erica Beach (1999-2002)	153
3. Chris Gill (1997-99)	115
4. Alyssa Johnson (1993-96)	108
5. Phelan Wright (2001-present)	105
6. Kathy Escarcega (1984-87)	95

Hits

1. Lisa Dacquisto (1994-97)	296
2. Nichole Thompson (1999-2002)	253
3. Kara Brun (2000-present)	251
4. Ann Rowen (1988-91)	245
5. Missy Hixon (1999-2002)	228
6. Alyssa Johnson (1993-96)	224
7. Erica Beach (1999-2002)	222

Doubles

1. Kara Brun (2000-present)	48
2. Kathy Escarcega (1984-87)	39
3. Missy Hixon (1999-2002)	37
Alyssa Johnson (1993-96)	37
5. Phelan Wright (2001-present)	29
Nichole Thompson (1999-2002)	29
Chris Gill (1997-99)	29

Stolen Bases

1. Lisa Dacquisto (1994-97)	102
2. Erin Hull (1994-98)	52
3. Raja Woods (1997-98)	47
4. Kristin Farber (2001-present)	46

BRUN'S AN ALL-TIME HIT: Senior shortstop **Kara Brun**, who was featured on espn.com (<http://sports.espn.go.com/ncaa/index>), has made a huge impact while wearing the Maroon and Gold, offensively and defensively. Brun, who has a team-leading 11 doubles this year, is now the all-time record holder with 48. She also became ASU's all-time home run hitter, currently at 34 and all-time RBI producer at 164. Brun currently leads the team in batting average (.430), runs (37), hits (52) and home runs (10). At the National Invitational Softball Tournament, Brun, who hit safely in all six games, led the team in every offensive category, batting .591 (13 x 22) with three home runs, three doubles, seven runs scored and seven RBIs. She had a 1.136 slugging percentage and a .485 on-base percentage. Brun also did not strikeout in 22 at bats and did not commit an error in 20 chances. For her efforts she was named the Pac-10 Player of the Week and to the All-NIST Tournament Team. Brun, one of 25 finalists for National Player of the Year honors as a junior, led the team in home runs (10), RBIs (52) and finished second in hits (72). The 52 RBIs was also a single-season record along with her 10 home runs. Brun was a first-team All-Pac-10 selection and struck out only 14 times in 206 at bats (once every 15 ab). She also turned a Pac-10 and team-high 17 double plays, as well as leading the team and Pac-10 with 168 assists. Academically, Brun is just as impressive, earning second-team Verizon Academic All-American acclaim, first-team Academic All-Pacific Region and first-team Academic All-Pac-10 honors. She also earned Pac-10 Player of the Week honors (2/25). As a sophomore, Brun earned second-team All-Pac-10 honors, as well as the team's Defensive Player of the Year while recording a 12 game hitting streak, second longest on the team and eighth longest in the Pac-10. She batted .311 with 59 hits, a team-high 34 runs and posted team-highs in RBIs (42) and doubles (10). Brun finished second on the team in home runs (6), had a .458 slugging percentage and recorded a team second-best 15 RBIs with two outs. Defensively, she turned 14 double plays, good for fourth in the Pac-10 and led the team with 129 assists. As a freshman, Brun earned All-Pac-10 second team honors, selected to the Region V All-Tournament team and was named the team's Freshman and Defensive Player of the Year.

RUNNING WITH THE DEVIL: Junior **Kristin Farber** looks to continue her fast pace from last year when she led the team for the second straight year in stolen bases (21). This year, Farber is 9-for-12, and in her two-plus year career, Farber has been cut down only five times in 51 chances and is fourth all-time with her 46 steals. Named to the WCWS All-Tournament Team, Farber also posted the team's longest hitting streak (third longest in Pac-10) at 16 games and batted .330. In her initial season she was named the team's Freshman of the Year, earning second-team All-Pacific Region accolades and was named honorable mention All-Pac-10 after finishing fifth in the Pac-10 with 16 stolen bases.

GOING DEEP ALL-TIME: Through 38 games this season, the Devils have hit 39 home runs, shattering the all-time mark of 31 set in 2000. Eight different players have hit home runs while six different players have slugged multi-home runs with Kara Brun (10) Phelan Wright (10) and Adriana Garcia (8) leading the team. ASU has hit at least one home run in 19 games and have tallied multi-home runs in 10 different games. In addition, the Devils have hit three grand slams to date (Wright, Pulcifer, Evans). The 39 home runs is fourth-best in the Pac-10 Conference.

Arizona State Records

Pacific-10.....	3-3
Non-Conference	23-9
Against Ranked Teams	6-10
Against Unranked Teams	20-2
Home Games.....	17-6
Road Games	0-3
Neutral Sites.....	9-3
Day Games	18-11
Night Games.....	8-1
Vs. Right Handed Starters	24-7
Vs. Left Handed Starters.....	2-5
Extra Innings.....	1-1
One Run Game.....	8-4
Two Run Game.....	3-2
Five Run (+) Game.....	9-4
Shutouts	8-4
ASU Scores First	18-4
Opponent Scores First	8-8
Out-Hit Opponents	23-2
Out-Hit by Opponents	1-10
January.....	1-0
February	14-4
March	11-5
April.....	0-3
May.....	0-0
Last 5 Games	2-3
Last 10 Games	5-5
Current Winning Streak.....	0
Longest Winning Streak	9
Longest Losing Streak.....	3

SERRANO ON FIRE: In 32 appearances (Pac-10 high), freshman pitcher **Desiree Serrano** is now 16-7 overall with six shutouts (one combined), five saves (Pac-10 high/fifth all-time in the Pac-10—single season) and 174 strikeouts (59 looking a Pac-10 high), while holding opponents to a .197 batting average. To open Pac-10 play against the Oregon schools, she recorded a perfect 0.00 ERA, going 2-0 with one shutout, one combined shutout and a save to propel ASU to its best start in conference play since joining the Pac-10 in 1987. Overall in three appearances, Serrano pitched 14.1 innings, allowed eight hits, no runs, walked only three batters while striking out 14. At the NIST Tournament, Serrano recorded a 4-0 record, including a shutout in 30 innings with 37 strikeouts. In addition, Serrano posted shut-out wins against No. 8 DePaul and No. 21 Ohio State at the NFCA Leadoff Classic. Serrano recorded four of Arizona State's five wins, including her first career no-hitter as she led the Sun Devils to a perfect 5-0 record to take the Louisville Slugger Classic Tournament title and win Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week honors. On the weekend, Serrano went 4-0 with a 0.31 ERA in 22 innings of work. She allowed only nine hits and one earned run while striking out 26 batters. In her no-hitter against Iowa, Serrano faced one batter over the minimum, and was just an infield error short of a perfect game as she struckout five Hawkeye's to record ASU's first no-hitter since Kirsten Voak accomplished the feat (2/29/01). In her opening win against Illinois State, Serrano did not allow an earned run while striking out 10 Redbirds. In the Sun Devils other game against Illinois State, Serrano came in relief and pitched the final three innings for the win, allowing just one hit with four strikeouts.

DEVILS UP FOR POY: The Amateur Softball Association, the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, announced its initial watch list for the 2nd annual USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award. Arizona State senior short-stop **Kara Brun** and junior third baseman **Phelan Wright** are among the initial 40 players selected to be on the watch list. Last year, Wright was one of 10 finalists for the inaugural player of the year honor, while Brun was one of the 25 finalists. The award is considered the Heisman Trophy in women's collegiate softball and is the only national player of the year award. The first cut of the 25 finalist will be announced on April 8th. It will then be reduced to 10 players on April 29th, with three finalists named on May 13th. The winner of the 2003 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award will be announced at the 2003 NCAA Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City.

DEVIL NOTES: Arizona State was picked to finish sixth in the 2003 Pac-10 Pre-season Coaches Poll ... the Sun Devil preseason ranking of No. 13 is the lowest beginning ranking since the 1999 preseason poll tabbed ASU No. 15. Also, the No. 13 ranking is the lowest ASU has been ranked since the beginning of May 1999 (No. 16) before the Devils advanced to the College World Series, finishing 7th ... the opening game against UT-San Antonio on January 31 was the earliest opening game, dating back to at least the mid 1980's and is the earliest opening game in head coach Linda Wells 14 years ... ASU's 3-0 start to the Pac-10 season was their best since joining the conference in 1987 ... ASU is holding opponents to a .190 average with the bases loaded (8-for-42), while ASU is hitting .471 with the bases loaded (three grand slams) and .330 with runners in scoring position ... ASU's nine game winning streak (2/14-28) was the longest in two years ... Kara Brun's 17 game hitting streak was a team high and the third longest in the Pac-10 ... Brun has struckout only four times in 121 at bats (1:31) ... the Devils have hit two less home runs (39) than doubles (41) this year ... ASU is third in the Pac-10 with a .297 batting average ... ASU is second in the Pac-10 in turning double plays with 11.

TELEVISION EXPOSURE: The Sun Devils are scheduled to have two games broadcast live on KAZ-TV (cable channel 13). The televised games are against Pac-10 foes Stanford (April 12) and Arizona (April 23). The Devils are also selected for a FOX Sports Net broadcast against Washington on Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. That game, however, will be broadcast at a later date and time.

NEW TOP-25 RANKINGS: In addition to the USA Today/NFCA Top-25, a second Top-25 poll will be released by ESPN/USA Softball. The poll is voted on by NCAA Division I coaches representing 15 ASA regions and 12 collegiate conferences. The poll is also voted on by selected media members. In this release the rankings are in the order of the USA Today/NFCA Poll/ESPN.com/USA Softball.

MEDIA INFORMATION: All publicity for the ASU softball team are coordinated by Assistant Media Relations Director **Will Phillips** at (480) 965-1237. Any interviews with ASU softball players or coaches should be arranged through Phillips with at least 48 hours notice.

STADIUM & FIELD AWARDS: For the second time in the past three years, Arizona State was the college/university winner of the NFCA/Turfce Grounds Crew Field Maintenance award for the 2002 season. Dedicated in April, 2000, Alberta B. Farrington Stadium is a 1,500 seat facility that includes 500 back seats. Among the stadium's many features are sunken dugouts, home/visitor/umpire locker rooms, offices, trainers room, concession stands, a team shop and a team room. Arizona State also won the 2000 NFCA/Turfce Grounds Crew Field Maintenance award. The field maintenance staff is headed by Pete Wozniak. Award winners were chosen by a panel of independent judges made up of grounds maintenance professionals selected by the NFCA and Turfce. Farrington Stadium was also awarded "The Crescordia" (To Grow In Harmony) honor in 2000. The honor is for Environmental Excellent in building and structures awarded by the Valley Forward Association and Honeywell.