

Assistant Coach Kristen Smith

Kristen Smith begins her fourth season as assistant softball coach this year. A native of Palos Heights, Illinois, Smith is also head athletic trainer at Kalamazoo College. She earned her bachelor's degree at Hope College, where she played softball and basketball. Smith was an assistant coach with the Hope women's basketball team for three seasons and an athletic trainer at Kalamazoo College two years ago. She graduated from Western Michigan University in 1992 with a master's degree in athletic training.

Kalamazoo College at a glance

Founded in 1833, Kalamazoo College is the oldest college in Michigan and is among the 100 oldest colleges and universities in the nation.

"Kalamazoo in that Michigan city is another gem that, if sited in New England, would be terribly tough to get into, but...is better than most Eastern schools. Furthermore, Kalamazoo is more attractive and more alive than any Eastern or Western city of anywhere near the same size."

Looking Beyond the Ivy League, by Loren Pope, former *New York Times* education editor

Kalamazoo was mentioned as being among a selective group of schools that "...earn high praise for their academic quality; at the same time, their costs are comparable to, or less than, colleges with similar academic strengths."

The College Finder,
by Steven Antonoff, PhD

"Kalamazoo College is 13th among all colleges and universities in the nation in the percentage of graduates who earn doctoral degrees in all fields."

1994 Higher Education Data Sharing Study

Kalamazoo College was ranked highest among the national liberal arts colleges in Michigan in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual 'America's Best Colleges' guide.

U.S. News and World Report,
September 26, 1994

"...students continually report that they are getting their money's worth in terms of faculty attention, inspiring and useful programs, and personal and professional development."

Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education

1995 Softball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
March 18-22	Spring Rebel Games Orlando, Florida	TBA
March 29	at Olivet College*	3:00 p.m.
April 1	HOPE COLLEGE*	1:00 p.m.
April 4	ALMA COLLEGE*	3:30 p.m.
April 6	ALBION COLLEGE*	3:30 p.m.
April 12	at Calvin College*	3:30 p.m.
April 18	at Adrian College*	3:30 p.m.
April 19	SPRING ARBOR COLLEGE	4:30 p.m.
April 21-22	at Manchester Tournament	TBA
April 25	ST. MARY'S COLLEGE	4:00 p.m.
April 29	CORNERSTONE COLLEGE	1:00 p.m.
May 5-6	MIAA Tournament at Bailey Park, Battle Creek	TBA

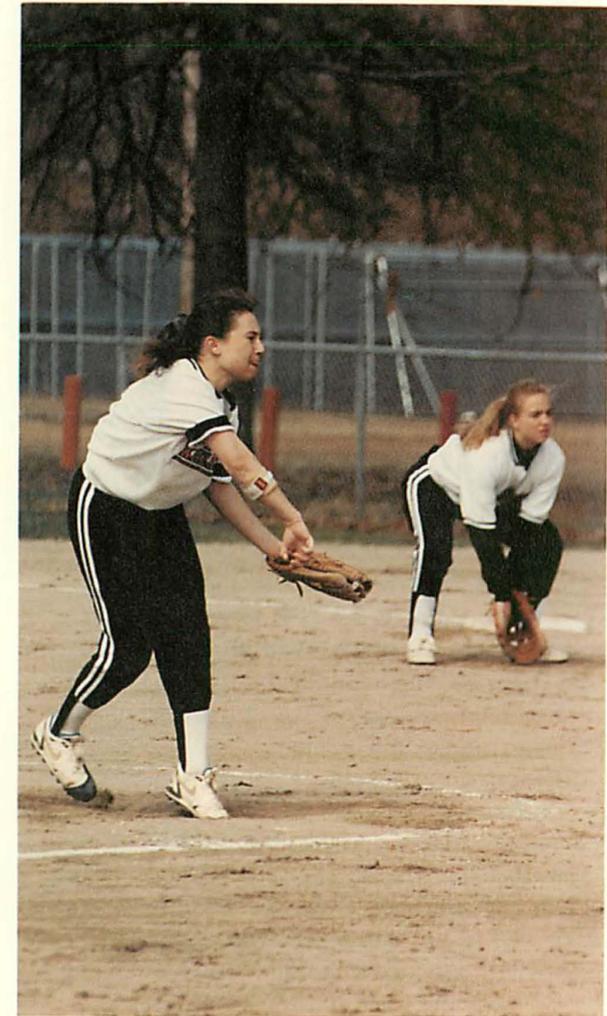
*Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Contest
HOME GAMES AT KALAMAZOO COLLEGE SOFTBALL FIELD



For more information about
athletics at Kalamazoo College:

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

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Women's
Softball
At
Kalamazoo College

1995 Softball Outlook

Plagued by too many injuries to key performers, the 1994 Kalamazoo College softball team fell on hard times. The season seemed to have an air of optimism surrounding it with the team having its first-ever preseason southern trip and with several solid first-year players joining the team. This, however, did not prepare them for the key injuries early in the season that would have a big impact on the entire campaign.

The first of these occurred when a line drive broke the jaw of Val Keeney, a highly-touted first-year pitcher, in the third game of the season. The injury put her on a six-week liquid diet and limited her effectiveness because of a lack of strength. The second occurred when senior second baseman Kelly Roberts, the team's best defensive player, injured her thumb while attempting a tag. Said coach Laura Kuhlman of this injury, "That may have been the the biggest loss of the season. Kelly was having an excellent year."

Despite the disappointments of last season and the graduation losses of six seniors, the Hornets are looking forward to moving up in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association standings this season. Pitching should be a team strength as the squad will be led by Keeney and three other experienced pitchers in seniors Amy Nosich and Sarah Foster and junior Heather Mernitz.

Despite her injury, Keeney led the team in games pitched as well as earned run average. Pitching will definitely be important again in 1995 with the introduction last season of a new, livelier ball that has seen batting and earned run averages driving upward.

Other returning players who will make important contributions are junior shortstop Julia Haarer, who was second on the team with 15 runs batted in, and junior outfielder Toby Budd. Budd missed last season while participating in a career development internship, but led the 1993 squad with eight extra-base hits and 30 total bases.

Also returning will be a pair of experienced sophomore infielders in Beth Burgess and Julie Dicks. Burgess was third on the team with 31 total

1995 Kalamazoo College Softball Roster

Name	Year	Position	Hometown/High School
Amy Anderson	Sophomore	Outfield	Pierson/Tri-County
Beth Burgess	Sophomore	Outfield/Pitcher	Potterville/Potterville
Christina Brown	Freshman	Catcher	Union City/Union City
Anne Brueck	Freshman	Outfield	Clarkston/Clarkston
Toby Budd	Junior	Outfield	Jackson/Michigan Center
Amy Dey	Freshman	Outfield	Fowlerville/Fowlerville
Julie Dicks	Sophomore	Outfield/First Base	Fenton/Fenton
Christina Dudek	Freshman	Outfield	Rochester Hills/Marian
Sara Foster	Senior	Pitcher/Second Base	Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo Central
Julia Haarer	Junior	Shortstop/Outfield	Big Rapids/Big Rapids
Elizabeth Haas	Freshman	Catcher/First Base	Lawton/Lawton
Heather Holshoe	Freshman	First Base/Third Base	Ypsilanti/Belleville
Valarie Keeney	Sophomore	Pitcher	Plainwell/Plainwell
Heather Mernitz	Junior	Pitcher/Outfield	Haslett/Haslett
Amy Nosich	Senior	Pitcher/Outfield	Dowagiac/Dowagiac Union
Meagan Readler	Freshman	Pitcher	Milford/Milford
Carrie Sheets	Freshman	Shortstop/Second Base	Grand Rapids/Creston
Amy Thiede	Freshman	Catcher	Marengo, IL/Community
Alyssa Thomas	Freshman	Outfield	Sugar Grove, IL/Kaneland
Carrie Ziehl	Sophomore	Outfield	Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo Central

bases and led the team with three triples; Dicks was third on the team with 12 runs batted in. Both will be expected to contribute even more this season.

This season's incoming class should add much strength to the squad. Amy Thiede will be needed to fill in the gap left by the graduation of catcher Kim Korson, who started every game in her four-year career. Heather Holshoe, a *Detroit Free Press* Scholar-Athlete Award recipient; Meagan Readler; and Elizabeth Haas should also make positive impacts on the team.

After some tough MIAA losses, including losing four one-run games in the last few weeks of the 1994 season, the Kalamazoo College softball team is looking to put their experience to work as they strive to improve upon last season's performance. The season will begin with the team's southern trip, where they will prepare for MIAA competition.

Coach Laura Kuhlman

Laura Kuhlman begins her fifth season as Kalamazoo College's head softball coach this year. She has guided the Hornets through steady improvements during her previous four seasons at Kalamazoo.

The softball post is Kuhlman's second coaching stint at Kalamazoo. In her first Hornet coaching assignment, Kuhlman directed the Kalamazoo College women's basketball team during the 1987-88 season.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Kuhlman was an Academic All-American and a four-year starter in basketball at Central Missouri State University, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She also played varsity softball for two years at Central Missouri State.

Kuhlman was assistant basketball coach at Central Missouri State from 1981-83. From 1983-87, she worked and coached in Illinois.

In addition to her coaching duties, Kuhlman serves as an instructor in the Kalamazoo College physical education department.

