

Softball

George Fox University Athletics

2005

2005 Media Guide

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GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

Softball



2005 GEORGE
FOX
SOFTBALL
GUIDE



2005 SOFTBALL
COACH
MARK VERGETS

Head Coach Mark Vergets

Successful ASA fast pitch coach moves into college coaching

Mark Vergets, a long-time figure in Oregon softball, will take over the George Fox University softball program in 2005 as interim head coach.

It's a program he knows well, having served as assistant coach since 2003. He inherits a team with nine returning letter-winners and several promising newcomers.

Vergets involvement in softball began 1991 as a summer Amateur Softball Association coach. In 1998, he led his girls' 14-U Oregon ASA Fast Pitch summer team to the state championship. He was an assistant softball coach at

Newberg High School from 1999 to 2002.

Vergets moved to Newberg in 1964. Mark and his wife, Roni, own and operate Newberg Hardware.

Vergets has coached softball, football, baseball, and girls' basketball and is an avid sports enthusiast himself. In addition to typical participation sports such as softball, bowling, and golf, he also has enjoyed surfing, hockey, rodeo, field trials for hunting dogs, snow and water skiing, hunting, archery, fishing, motorcycle racing, and advanced open-water diving.

Vergets' hobbies include 4-H activities, breeding American Kennel Club

Labrador Retrievers, taxidermy, landscaping, cooking, and barbecuing. For the past five years, he and Roni have been riding Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycles for recreation.

The Vergets have been married for 28 years and have four grown children: Keri, Kory, Kindra (a member of the 2004 George Fox softball team), and Kirk. They have two grandchildren, Kodee and Kenya.

Vergets replaces coach Bob Steenson, who retired after the 2004 season.



(l to r) Assistant coaches Jami Strinz, Ed McCabe, head coach Mark Vergets, assistant coach Talle Anne Malmstrom



SOFTBALL
GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY

Coach Mark Vergets

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georgefox.edu/athletics/softball

BRUIN
SOFTBALL
WINNING
TRADITION 2005



Pitcher Becky Stewart was NAIA District 2 Player of the Year



1994

1987



Three-time First Team All-NAIA District 2 pitcher Dee Aarhus

1994



First Team All-Cascade Conference catcher Angie Jordan

1991



Heidi Rettig pitched the first perfect game in George Fox history

First Team All-Cascade Conference pitcher Brandy Price



1993

2000



Two-time First Team All-Northwest Conference pitcher-infielder Beth Davis

5661



First Team All-Cascade Conference Melanie Parker hit .301 with 20 RBI.

6661



First Team All-Northwest Conference Rachel Camp

2001



Laura Steenson won First-Team All-Northwest Conference Honors

2000



First Team All-Northwest Conference infielder Brittany Baird

2001



Cori Wulf led the Bruins with a .311 batting average and 16 RBIs

Keys to Success

by Mark Vergets

An adaptation of UNION (author unknown)

If we are united as a softball team, what can stand before us? If we divide — in our thinking, believing one job or one position is more important than another — we shall destroy ourselves.

To be unified for a successful softball team, we must:

- 1) Be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.
- 2) Speak freely to each other, not allowing any unwholesome talk, which is not helpful for building others up. Never depart without a kind word.
- 3) Take care not to be jealous of each other's positions or playing time.
- 4) Never speak lightly of one another (especially when joking around or teasing).
- 5) Defend one another's character.
- 6) Labor, in honor, each to prefer the other before oneself.

7) Respect ... life, liberty, authority, humankind, and individual personalities (strengths and weaknesses).

The first step to success begins by a deep dedication to the Bruin softball program; without commitment, frustration will result.

It is time to stop futile, self-destructive activities and find uplifting,

positive ones to contribute by reaching out with our time, thoughts, and talents. Believing in our value is discovering who each of us is and approving of that individual.

Even though one may be joking or teasing about another's faults or weaknesses, it is demeaning. As a coach, I expect each staff member and player to have the highest level of morals, ethics, and citizenship.

Although being here in this softball program is a very small piece of the big life picture, we have a great opportunity to develop a family-type relationship that can provide lasting friendships.

Take the first step ... venture out ... allow ourselves, our teammates, and the coaches to be "less than perfect" — and yet believe that everyone makes a contribution.

Each member of our softball team has the freedom and the ability to make our life, our school, and our world a better place, starting with each new day. Believing this can bring joy, peace, and fulfillment. This is the start of something big!



Excellence in Academics and Athletics

The Northwest Conference and NCAA Division III Experience

National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III

Colleges and universities in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III

place their highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion

of all students' academic programs. Division III institutions seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience.

Division III consists of more than 400 institutions, making it the largest division in the NCAA. All Division III institutions award no athletically related financial aid to any students. Division III sponsors 13 national championships in men's sports, 14 in women's, and eight national collegiate championships that are combined with other divisions.

George Fox University has been a member of the NCAA since 1995 when — along with the other institutions in the Northwest Conference — it elected to transfer its membership from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).



George Fox

left the Cascade Collegiate Conference to join the Northwest Conference in 1995, shortly before the Northwest Conference shifted national affiliation from the NAIA to the NCAA. Leaving behind years of success at the NAIA level, the conference embraced the move as one that would foster equity,

sportsmanship, and genuine concern for the student-athlete in all endeavors of competition.

The Northwest Conference

The nine colleges and universities in the Northwest Conference are known for their academics and athletics.

The conference is building a reputation as one of the most competitive NCAA Division III alliances in the country. In the academic arena, every Northwest Conference institution has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top-tier school in its category.

Formed in 1926, the conference is one of the oldest athletic alliances in the western United States. Its nine members are all private colleges or universities located in Oregon or Washington.



George Fox University, Newberg, Ore.
Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Ore.
Linfield College, McMinnville, Ore.
Pacific University, Forest Grove, Ore.
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash.
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash.
Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash.
Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash.
Willamette University, Salem, Ore.

George Fox University

A matter of mind and spirit

George Fox University is a Christian university of the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a "Best Value" and as a top-tier master's university in the West. More than 3,000



students—including 1,500 traditional undergraduates—attend classes at the Newberg campus and at teaching sites in Oregon and Idaho. The George Fox faculty includes a former U.S. senator, the 2000 Oregon Professor of the Year, and three Fulbright Scholars.

George Fox offers unique programs. Every incoming freshman is provided a laptop computer to use and keep upon graduation. Students also can take advantage of the university's study-abroad program. George Fox pays transportation costs for a three-week

overseas study tour led by professors. Past trips have gone to every continent but Antarctica.

George Fox University was established in 1885 by Quaker settlers as Friends Pacific Academy. Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States, attended the academy

before it became a college in 1891. The George Fox name honors the founder of the Friends (Quaker) church.

George Fox offers bachelor's degrees in more than 35 majors, degree-completion programs for working adults, a seminary, and 16 master's and doctoral degrees.



GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY



CURTIS AND MARGARET MORSE COMPLEX

George Fox University soccer, baseball, and softball teams play home games on the Curtis and Margaret Morse Athletic Complex.

Located on the northeast section of the campus, the complex was renovated in 1989 using a major donation from Curtis and Margaret Morse, avid supporters of Bruin athletics. Four generations of the Morse family have attended George Fox.

All three Morse Fields are natural-grass surfaces. The soccer field, home to both the men's and women's soccer teams, has seating for 250 spectators.

The baseball field has seating for 250 spectators. Directly behind home plate is the concession stand and press box. The field measures 340 feet down the left field line, 375 to the left field power alley, 400 to dead center, 370 to the alley in right, and 335 down the line in right.

The softball field, which has an all-dirt infield, has seating for 100 fans. The outfield wall is 205 feet down the left field line, 200 down the right field line, and 200 to straightaway center.

Fund-raising efforts are now under way for a new athletic field complex located on 24 acres of land donated to the university by Newberg business owners Ken and Joan Austin.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:

Location:Newberg, Oregon (19,530)
 Mailing address:414 N. Meridian St.
 Newberg, OR 97132
 Founded:1891
 Denomination:.....Evangelical Friends (Quaker)
 Enrollment:3,034
 President:David Brandt
 Faculty athletic rep:Kendra Irons
 Switchboard phone:.....503-538-8383
 Website:georgefox.edu

ATHLETIC INFORMATION:

Nickname:Bruins
 Colors:Navy Blue and Old Gold
 Affiliation:NCAA Division III
 Conference:Northwest Conference
 Director of athletics:Craig Taylor
 Office phone:503-554-2911
 Assoc. dir. of athletics:Pat Bailey
 Office phone:503-554-2914
 Athletics secretary:.....Patty Findley
 Office phone:503-554-2910
 Athletics fax:503-554-3864

SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE:

Sports info director:Blair Cash
 Office phone:.....503-554-2926
 Home phone:503-554-8067
 E-mail:bcash@georgefox.edu
 Sports info fax:503-554-3864
 Sports Hotline:503-554-3868
 Sports website:georgefox.edu/athletics

COACHING STAFF:

Head coach:Mark Vergets (1st yr)
 Office phone:503-554-2921
 Assistant coaches:Ed McCabe (1st yr)
 Jami Strinz (1st yr)
 Talle Anne Talstrom (1st yr)



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

are an important part of George Fox University, home to one of the Northwest's most successful small-college sports programs. Winning programs, of course, are accompanied by a proper balance between academics and athletics. At George Fox University, student-athletes compete for conference and national titles at a Christ-centered university where professors and coaches help them grow in mind, body, and spirit. Intercollegiate athletics competition provides for practical application of what is learned in the classroom and at practice.



THE UNIVERSITY fields teams in 13 varsity sports, seven for women (volleyball, soccer, cross country, basketball, softball, tennis, and track and field) and six for men (soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball, tennis, and track and field). More than 15 percent of George Fox's traditional undergraduate students participate in these sports. Their records over the years serve as shining testimonies to the administration's conviction that an institution can play for the glory of God, follow the rules and ethics of its governing organizations, and be successful on the fields and courts of competition at the same time.

At George Fox, the values of athletics are integrated with the goals of Christian higher education in a process that includes:

- Physical conditioning
- Managing emotions
- Courage
- Teamwork
- Cooperation
- Graciousness in winning and losing



Consider the growing legacy:

- George Fox has earned national, district or conference team titles 16 times during the last decade.
- George Fox athletes have earned more than 300 All-America and All-America Scholar-Athlete honors.
- Seven of the 11 coaches on staff have been named Coach of the Year at various levels a total of 35 times.
- George Fox coaches have held their positions for an average of nine years, and together have accumulated more than 1,300 collegiate wins.