

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Dates to Remember in December:

- **Dec. 14:** NCFA Phone Day
- **Dec. 15:** Spring Training Registration Deadline
- **Dec. 20:** Suite 301
- **Dec. 21:** NCBA Phone Day
- **Dec. 28:** NCSA Phone Day
- **Dec. 31:** Dues Early Payment Discount Deadline

### DID YOU KNOW...

**2011 will be the last year that the NCFA National Champion is determined by the results of the final NCFA Top 10 Coaches Poll. Starting next year, an NCFA National Championship Bowl Game will be played between #1 and #2 in the polls to determine who is crowned National Champion.**

### ONLY ONE GAME REMAINS FOR THE 2011 NCFA SEASON

After an action-packed few months of football, featuring numerous upsets and wild finishes, the NCFA's 2011 season has proven to be the most exciting and unpredictable season in the league's short history. The final NCFA Top 10 Coaches Poll will be released on December 7th, with the top team being declared the 2011 NCFA National Champion. In the most recent NCFA poll, the top five teams were: 1. Chattahoochee Technical College 2. Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College, 3. University of Vermont, 4. Miami University (OH) and 5. Wright State University. All five of these teams have completed their seasons and await the release of the final poll.

Now, with most teams hanging up their cleats and turning in their jerseys, there remains only one game left for the 2011 NCFA season: The Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship.

The Mid-Atlantic Conference, despite this being its first year, has already proven to be one of the most competitive conferences in the country. Regular season conference play ended with a three-way tie between George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Coppin State University; all finishing with identical 2-1 conference records. Based on NCFA tie-breaker rules, the two teams that move on to the



VS.



championship are George Mason and Virginia Commonwealth. When asked about making the championship, George Mason's Head Coach, Matt Dyson said "The guys are truly excited to be hosting a home game for the championship. VCU definitely seems to have gotten better and apparently had players missing when we played them the first time so I know we'll get their best come Saturday." In their last outing, George Mason beat VCU 41-12 putting Mason in contention for the conference championship.

Yet despite the score, it would appear that George Mason is not the only team anticipating a bigger and tougher VCU squad. "I think that the biggest difference between that game and now is the chemistry with our team," said VCU's President, James Tait. "When we first played Mason, we had only been playing together for a month, now we've been playing for three. With chemistry increased, and two conference wins under

our belt, we feel very confident."

Despite losing to Mason in their first meeting, VCU has every reason to be confident going into this game. The Rams have posted impressive number on offense, putting up 40 points against conference opponent Longwood and 28 against nationally ranked Coppin State. They have also seen an increase in their roster size as well as an increase in practice attendance. "The team's attitude is very positive," said Tait. "Every game we have gotten better and better and practice has been very productive. Last time, GMU beat us fairly, but we are all very excited now and we are a very good squad." Both teams will be going into this game with a full head of steam in what is sure to be one of the most exciting games of the year! The Patriots will take on the Rams Saturday, December 3 at George Mason's RAC field, with kickoff set for 2:30 p.m.

### CollClubSports Player To Watch



*A sophomore pitcher at Saint Louis University, Claire currently leads the NCSA with an incredible 94 strikeouts, 36 more than any other pitcher in the country. She has led the Billikens to a 7-2 conference record this fall, which currently has them in first place in the competitive Mid-America East Conference. SLU is looking to win the conference and make a run at the 2012 NCSA National Championship.*

**Name:** Claire Kranz  
**School:** St. Louis University  
**Position(s):** Pitcher  
**Scholastic Year:** Sophomore  
**Major:** Biology/Pre-Med  
**Nickname:** None  
**Favorites:**  
**Movie:** Remember the Titans  
**Food:** Gummy Worms  
**Band:** NeedtoBreathe  
**Collegiate Softball Memory:** EIU Fall Frenzy Tournament this fall. SLU finished third in just their second weekend as a team.

#### Provide background of your career so far in college:

*This was my first semester playing with the team. My freshman year, I took a year off from softball to play Club Volleyball. I enjoyed playing on the volleyball team, but I wanted to get back on the field this year. I'm working on refining my pitches and am*

*truly enjoying the game again, playing with a solid team that loves the game and supports each other.*

#### What is your best strikeout pitch and what makes it so tough to hit?

*Different pitches are on during different games. It depends on the game and the batter. My catcher, Maddy Urban, calls smart pitches and keeps a close watch on the batters and the field. We use the fast-ball to get up in the count and then like to mix in movement pitches like the rise, curve and drop.*

#### At the EIU Fall Tournament, you were able to see NCSA teams from various different conferences. How do the teams in your conference compare to some of the other NCSA teams you've faced?

*The Fall Frenzy drew some excellent teams—many of which were from our own conference. The Frenzy was early in the season so teams were still working out kinks, but teams in our conference definitely showed their competitiveness. Some of*

*our best and most challenging games have been against teams in our conference. EIU and Arkansas State are solid competitors.*

#### At 7-2, SLU is currently in first place in the Mid-America East Conference. How has the team been so successful in just your first year in the NCSA?

*From the first practice, the team has been sharp and dedicated to improving and always playing our best. We focus on never beating ourselves and remaining positive about the game whether we are winning or losing. We have dedicated players, each who fill their own role on the team to make the team successful.*

#### What is your outlook for your team this season? What are your goals/expectations?

*We had a great fall season and we are looking to continue that success in the spring. We know that if we always bring our best game we have a good chance of clinching the conference title. We need to continue to work hard and pay as a team throughout the spring season.*

## NCSA WORLD SERIES TEAMS TO HAVE TWO LODGING OPTIONS

The National Club Softball Association has agreed to terms with Valley Hospitality Services to name two of their properties as the Official Host Hotels of the 2012 NCSA World Series. Qualifying teams will have their choice between the Marriott and the Howard Johnson, both located in the heart of Columbus, Georgia.

"After gathering feedback from all the teams in attendance, it was decided that no one hotel/motel could satisfy the needs of all our teams," explained NCSA President Sandy Sanderson. "By partnering with Valley Hospitality we were able to secure two lodging options sure to meet the needs of every single one of our teams. The Marriott provides the high-end luxury feel, a great bar/restaurant on premises, and all the privacy a player needs to get her much-needed rest after a long day at the ball park. The Howard Johnson is more budget-friendly, while still maintaining the high level of cleanliness and security our players demand."

The Marriott has a Houlihan's restaurant onsite which is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and features a 100-seat patio. The available guest services include in-room dining, a business center, a gift shop, guest laundry and package/parcel service. The leisure and recreational amenities include an outdoor pool and fully equipped fitness center. The hotel has several meeting rooms and offers onsite and offsite catering services. Not only is South Commons Softball Complex nearby, the Columbus Marriott is within walking distance of many attractions including the fabulous Columbus Riverwalk, The RiverCenter for Performing Arts, The Coca-Cola Space Science

Center and The Springer Opera House State Theater.

CollClubSports already has a positive relationship with the Marriott, as it served as the Official Host Hotel of the 2011 NCBA World Series. "The Columbus Marriott was an awesome choice for the teams during the World Series," said Joe Caracci, head coach of the defending NCBA National Champion East Carolina Pirates. "Being able to walk to the field, restaurants, and local night-life spots takes a ton of stress off team officials that are responsible for transportation. Not to mention, the hotel had a great restaurant and bar downstairs and the rooms were spacious and comfortable."

The hotel is offering a special discount rate for all qualifying teams and their fans. Please contact the hotel directly at (706) 324-1800 or 1-800-627-7468 and ask for the NCSA fan rate. Additionally, all NCSA players will receive \$5.00 off the Houlihan's breakfast buffet and Internet fees will be waived for NCSA teams as well. For more information about the hotel, visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/csgmc-columbus-marriott/>, or contact the hotel directly at (706) 324-1800.

The Howard Johnson Inn and Suites of Columbus is located in the Uptown Columbus Historic District, just ten blocks from the South Commons Softball Complex. Additionally, the hotel is just two blocks from the newly restored Springer Opera House, four blocks from the Broadway Entertainment District and the new RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, and a short walk from the beautiful 18-mile long Columbus Riverwalk. Other benefits offered by the



Howard Johnson include complimentary high-speed Internet access in all public areas and guest rooms, a salt-water outdoor pool with a sundeck, and complimentary continental breakfast daily. In-room amenities include a microfridge, coffeemaker, hairdryer, iron and ironing board, and cable TV with HBO in all rooms.

NCSA teams can call the Howard Johnson at (706) 322-6641 to book their rooms at an NCSA exclusive discounted rate. More information on the Howard Johnson can be found by clicking on the Howard Johnson link at the Valley Hospitality website, <http://www.valleyhospitality.com/>.

The 2012 NCSA World Series is scheduled for April 19-21, 2012 at Columbus's beautiful South Commons Softball Complex for the third consecutive year. More information on this championship tournament will be released at [www.clubsoftball.org](http://www.clubsoftball.org) as the event draws closer. Any questions regarding the 2012 NCSA World Series can be directed to NCSA President Sandy Sanderson at [Sandy.Sanderson@CollClubSports.com](mailto:Sandy.Sanderson@CollClubSports.com) or (412) 321-8440 x100.

### NCSA November Top 15 Poll:

1. Florida State University (12)
2. University of Florida
3. University of Antelope Valley
4. Virginia Tech (1)
5. Kennesaw State University (1)
6. University of Illinois
7. Miami University (OH)
8. East Carolina University
9. James Madison University
10. Penn State University
11. Naval Academy
12. Grand Valley State University
13. University of Connecticut
14. University of Kansas
15. University of Georgia



### POLLS RELEASED

There are no changes to the NCFA Week 12 Top 10 Coaches' Poll from the previous week. Stay tuned as the 2011 NCFA National Champion will be crowned on December 7, 2011 in the Final Coaches Poll of the season. The only remaining NCFA game is the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championship between Virginia Commonwealth and George Mason, to be played Saturday, December 3 at George Mason.

There are some new faces in the NCSA Top 15 poll, as UConn and Kansas have climbed into the rankings at #13 and #14 respectively. The biggest mover this month was Kennesaw State, jumping four spots from #9 to #5. The biggest faller was James Madison, dropping from #6 down to #9. The next NCSA Top 15 Poll will be released on December 8, 2011 at [www.clubsoftball.org](http://www.clubsoftball.org).

### NCFA Week 12 Top 10 Coaches Poll:

1. Chattahoochee Technical College (8)
2. Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College (3)
3. University of Vermont (4)
4. Miami University (OH) (1)
5. Wright State University
6. University of North Carolina
7. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (1)
8. Coppin State University
9. Radford University
10. University of New Orleans



## OTHER NEWS AROUND CCS

-The second annual NCFA League Meeting will be held Saturday, January 28th, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the NCFA Headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. Representatives from all current and future NCFA member teams are invited to attend this meeting and

speaking on your teams' behalf. The meeting will provide an opportunity for everyone in attendance to network with the leaders of other club football organizations, learn more about the history of CollClubSports and future of the NCFA, ask ques-

tions, and voice your opinions on the operation of the league.

-The Texas A & M Aggies won the Wood Wars tournament last month, claiming their third consecutive Gulf Coast Fall Tournament title. The Aggies defeated the Texas Longhorns 11-0 in the championship game to take home the trophy.

Texas A&M catcher Cody Stump took home tournament MVP honors. Stump finished with 7 hits in 4 games played, including 2 home runs and 7 RBI's. For information about registering for next Fall's event contact Ryan Norris at [Ryan.Norris@CollClubSports.com](mailto:Ryan.Norris@CollClubSports.com).