



THIEL SOFTBALL 2026 GAME NOTES

Thiel Sports Information | Beeghly Gymnasium | 75 College Ave. | Greenville, PA 16125
Softball Contact: Abby Katrinak | akatrinak@thiel.edu | c: (440) 915-9424

GAME LINKS



Watch



Live Stats

SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Time / Result
Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic		
3/8	Penn State Du Bois	W 11-3 (5 inn.)
3/8	Keystone	W 11-8 (5 inn.)
3/9	Hilbert	W 3-2
3/9	King's	L 3-1
3/11	Gwynedd Mercy	W 2-1
3/11	Cairn	W 15-7 (6 inn.)
3/12	Penn	L 5-0
3/12	Bridgewater State	L 5-3
3/13	Albion	L 5-4
3/13	Immaculata	L 11-3 (5 inn.)
3/20	at Kent State Tuscarawas	L 10-6
3/20	at Kent State Tuscarawas	W 12-4
3/23	at John Carroll	Postponed
3/23	at John Carroll	Postponed
3/25	at Franciscan *	L 5-3
3/25	at Franciscan *	W 8-4
3/26	GROVE CITY * ^	L 7-2
3/28	GENEVA *	L 1-9 (6 Inn.)
3/28	GENEVA *	L 4-9
3/31	at Bethany *	L 6-10
3/31	at Bethany *	L 1-10
4/1	PENN STATE BEHREND	Postponed
4/1	PENN STATE BEHREND	Postponed
4/8	SAINT VINCENT *	L 0-10 (5 inn.)
4/8	SAINT VINCENT *	L 6-11
4/9	GROVE CITY * ^	W 5-4
4/11	HIRAM * !	L 3-5
4/11	HIRAM * !	L 4-7
4/3	at Allegheny *	W 12-8
4/3	at Allegheny *	L 0-8
4/15	at Waynesburg *	L 3-5
4/15	at Waynesburg *	L 0-8 (5 inn.)
4/18	W&J * §	L 2-5
4/18	W&J * §	L 11-16
4/20	at Pitt Greensburg	W 7-3
4/20	at Pitt Greensburg	W 7-1
4/23	WESTMINSTER *	3 p.m.
4/23	WESTMINSTER *	5 p.m.
4/26	at Chatham *	1 p.m.
4/26	at Chatham *	3 p.m.

* PAC Game | ALL CAPS - Home Game | ^ MyBella Game
! Strikeout Cancer Game | § Senior Day



Thiel Athletics @ThielAthletics
Softball @Thiel_SB



Thiel Athletics @thielathletics
Softball @thiel_soft



Thiel Athletics /ThielAthletics



Thiel Athletics @ThielAthletics

Thiel (11-21, 3-15 PAC) vs. Westminster (24-8, 16-2 PAC)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.

Softball Field at Tomcat Park | Greenville, Pa.

THIEL TOMCATS



Record (PAC)	11-21 (3-15)
Last Game	W 7-1 at Pitt Greensburg (4/20)
Head Coach	Michael Kernan
Thiel Record	11-21 (First Season)
Overall Record	Same

WESTMINSTER TITANS



Record (PAC)	24-8 (16-2)
Last Game	W 16-0 vs Carlow (4/20)
Head Coach	Jan Reddinger
W&J Record	703-431-2 (30th Season)
Overall Record	759-492-2 (35th Season)

SERIES HISTORY

First Meeting	1990	Neutral	2-5
All-Time Series	WES leads 59-14-1	First Meeting	WES W 12-2 (3/29/90)
Home	WES leads 6-24-1	Last Meeting	WES W 11-0 (7/25)
Away	WES leads 6-30	Current Streak	Thiel L13

GAME NOTES

GETTIN' BACK ON TRACK -- Thiel has dropped their past five Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) match-ups ... Their last win came against Pitt Greensburg with a 2-0 doubleheader sweep.

SERIES SUMMARY -- Thiel is 14-59 all time versus Westminster ... The Tomcats are 6-24-1 at home and 6-30 on the road in the series.

HITTING MACHINE -- Sophomore **Kayley Risser** has a batting avg. of .383 and on base % of .458 and has a slugging % of .606, ... Risser has hit two home runs, four triples, seven doubles, and has brought in 24 RBIs ... She has a good eye in the box as she has 13 walks.

TRIPLE THREAT -- Senior **Kylie Heid** follows Risser with a .333 batting avg. and leads with a slugging % of .613 ... Heid has four home runs, 11 doubles, four triples and 16 RBIs in the 2026 season.

FEDDER THE FIREARM -- On the mound, junior **Alaina Fedder** is 4-10 with an ERA of 5.86 and 27 strikeouts on the season ... In the batters box, Fedder has hit seven doubles and has a BA of .272.

MACK ATTACK -- Senior **Mackenzie Herman** is a key aspect to both sides of the field ... She has a team best BA of .386 and in the circle has a record of 3-4 and has an ERA of 6.39 with 15 strikeouts ... Herman recorded her sixth home run of the year in their contest against W&J to break Thiel's Career Home Run Record.

FRESH IMPACT -- Freshman **Lily Merolillo** has become important to the Thiel starting line up ... Merolillo has a BA of .298, including one triple and a double ... On the mound, Lily has pitched 63.1 innings, has had 14 strikeouts, and a team best 3.65 ERA.

ON-BASE MACHINE -- Sophomore **Sheila Despenes** is third on the team in walks with 11 and has an OB% of .355.

G-FORCE -- Sophomore **Ava Gilmore** has risen in the lineup and has a batting average of .296 ... She recorded the first home run of her career at Franciscan and has also tallied two doubles, two triples, and 15 RBIs.

LOOKING AHEAD -- Thiel will head to Chatham on Saturday, Apr. 25 for their final doubleheader of the 2026 season.

AROUND THE PAC

PAC STANDINGS

TEAM	PAC	OVR	H	A	N
Westminster	16-2	24-8	12-2	7-1	5-5
Geneva	15-3	28-6	9-3	10-0	9-3
Bethany	13-5	25-8	8-4	8-3	9-1
Waynesburg	13-7	25-11	13-5	6-4	6-2
Hiram	10-8	11-17	5-5	5-3	1-9
Grove City	9-9	17-11	6-4	5-5	6-2
Saint Vincent	10-10	18-16	6-4	10-6	2-6
W&J	9-11	16-18	5-5	7-7	4-6
Chatham	6-12	12-24	5-9	6-6	1-9
Allegheny	6-14	9-19	2-8	4-6	3-7
Thiel	3-15	11-21	0-9	6-7	5-5
Franciscan	2-16	4-28	2-10	1-11	1-7

PAC PRESEASON POLL

No.	TEAM	PTS (1ST PLACE)	2025
1.	Westminster	117 (9)	28-13 (14-6)
2.	Geneva	108 (2)	31-15 (13-7)
3.	Grove City	102	26-13 (15-5)
4.	Allegheny	93 (1)	23-16 (13-7)
5.	Waynesburg	70	23-16 (9-11)
6.	Bethany	69	26-13-1 (12-8)
7.	Hiram	58	21-17 (9-5)
8.	W&J	51	13-18 (8-12)
9.	Saint Vincent	43	21-17 (9-11)
10.	Thiel	41	18-18 (10-10)
11.	Chatham	28	14-26 (6-14)
12.	Franciscan	12	4-26 (1-19)

THIEL VS. CURRENT PAC TEAMS

(As of 1991)

OPP	REC	GP	H	A
Allegheny	4-16	20	2-8	2-8
Bethany	13-67	80	8-25	4-41
Chatham	31-9	40	19-2	12-7
Franciscan	17-4	21	7-1	5-3
Geneva	21-30	51	10-12	10-16
Grove City	34-42	76	18-18	13-23
Hiram	14-12	26	8-6	6-6
Saint Vincent	12-31	43	5-13	6-18
W&J	26-52	78	13-29	11-22
Waynesburg	34-43	77	16-17	17-24
Westminster	14-59-1	64	6-24-1	6-30
OVERALL	220-363	571	112-154	92-198

ROSTER

Num	Player	Yr.	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Hometown / H.S.
1	Lily Merolillo	Fr.	P/UTIL	R/R	5-3	Mineral Ridge, Ohio / Mineral Ridge
2	Mahalia Campbell	So.	UTIL	R/R	5-2	Titusville, Pa. / Titusville Senior
6	Ava Gilmore	So.	OF/2B	R/R	5-4	West Middlesex, Pa. / West Middlesex Area
7	Alaina Fedder	Jr.	P/2B	R/R	5-2	Clearfield, Pa. / Clearfield Area
8	Julia Schimizzi	Fr.	OF/1B	L/L	5-4	Willowick, Ohio / Willoughby South
9	Makenna Oswalt	Sr.	OF/1B	R/R	5-9	Johnstown, Pa. / Westmont Hilltop
11	Kalina Moreno	Fr.	UTIL	R/R	5-1	San Antonio, Texas / Clark
12	Kayley Risser	So.	OF	R/R	5-8	Reynoldsville, Pa. / Dubois Central Catholic
13	Jensen Stehlik	Jr.	OF	L/L	5-5	Sagamore Hills, Ohio / Nordonia
14	Sheila Despenes	So.	UTIL	R/R	5-6	Townville, Pa. / Maplewood
17	Marsha Foreman	Jr.	C	R/R	5-4	Bonita Springs, Fla. / Bonita Springs
18	Kylie Heid	Sr.	SS	L/R	5-4	Monaca, Pa. / Central Valley
19	Mekiyah Stevens	Fr.	1B/3B	R/R	5-8	Edgewood, Md. / Edgewood
20	Rylie Fordyce	So.	C	R/R	5-8	Greensburg, Pa. / Hempfield Area
23	Madison Hufford	Fr.	C/3B	R/R	5-2	Cortland, Ohio / Mathews
24	Mackenzie Herman	Gr.	P/UTIL	R/R	5-9	Greenville, Pa. / Reynolds
29	Audrey Aguilar	Jr.	1B	R/R	5-9	South El Monte, Cali. / Alta Loma

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Michael Kernan (First Season)

Assistant Coaches: Destiny Goodnight | Kara Buente | Barb Balestrino

Pronunciation Guide

- 1: Lily Merolillo - Lilly MAIR-oh-lil-oh
- 2: Mahalia Campbell - MUH-hail-ee-uu Campbell
- 8: Julia Schimizzi - Julia SCUH-mitz
- 11: Kalina Moreno - KUH-lean-uh More-ee-no
- 13: Jensen Stehlik - Jensen STAY-lick
- 14: Sheila Despenes - SHE-luh Despenes
- 15: Alayzha McCray - UH-layz-uh McCray
- 19: Mekiyah Stevens - MUH-ki-uh Stevens
- 20: Rylie Fordyce - Rylie FOR-dice
- 29: Audrey Aguilar - Audrey AG-wi-lar

Coaching Staff

- Michael Kernan - Michael Ker-NAN (rhymes with man)
- Kara Buente - Car-uh Bwen-tay

General

Thiel Tomcats: Teal (like the color) Tomcats

MEDIA ROSTER



#1 LILY MEROLILLO
Fr. | P/UTIL | R/R | 5-3



#2 MAHALIA CAMPBELL
So. | UTIL | R/R | 5-2



#6 AVA GILMORE
So. | OF/2B | R/R | 5-4



#7 ALAINA FEDDER
Jr. | P/2B | R/R | 5-2



#8 JULIA SCHIMIZZI
Fr. | OF/1B | L/L | 5-4



#9 MAKENNA OSWALT
Sr. | OF/1B | R/R | 5-9



#11 KALINA MORENO
Fr. | UTIL | R/R | 5-1



#12 KAYLEY RISSER
So. | OF | R/R | 5-8



#13 JENSEN STEHLIK
Jr. | OF | L/L | 5-5



#14 SHEILA DESPENES
So. | UTIL | R/R | 5-6



#15 ALAYZHA MCCRAY
Jr. | 3B | R/R | 5-2



#16 MADISON HUFFORD
Fr. | C/3B | R/R | 5-2



#17 MARSHA FOREMAN
Jr. | C | R/R | 5-4



#18 KYLIE HEID
Sr. | SS | L/R | 5-4



#19 MEKIYAH STEVENS
Fr. | 1B/3B | R/R | 5-8



#20 RYLIE FORDYCE
So. | C | R/R | 5-8



#24 MACKENZIE HERMAN
Gr. | P/UTIL | R/R | 5-9



#29 AUDREY AGUILAR
Jr. | 1B | R/R | 5-9



HC MICHAEL KERNAN
First Season



AC DESTINY GOODNIGHT
First Season



AC KARA BUENTE
First Season



AC BARB BALESTRINO
First Season

PLAYER STATISTICS

2026 Thiel College Softball Overall Statistics (as of Apr 20, 2026)

Overall Record: 11-21 Conf: 3-15 Home: 1-9 Away: 5-7 Neutral: 5-5

All games Sorted by Batting Avg

#	Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT	PO	A	E	FLD%
24	Herman, Mackenzie	.386	32-32	101	20	39	7	3	6	23	70	.693	7	1	13	0	.427	1	0	2-2	28	50	11	.876
12	Risser, Kayley	.383	31-30	94	26	36	7	4	2	24	57	.606	13	0	5	0	.458	0	2	5-6	71	3	3	.961
18	Heid, Kylie	.333	32-32	111	28	37	11	4	4	16	68	.613	12	0	16	0	.395	1	0	8-10	59	84	15	.905
23	Hufford, Madison	.312	30-29	93	7	29	7	1	0	11	38	.409	2	2	6	0	.337	1	1	0-0	60	12	7	.911
1	Merolillo, Lily	.305	32-28	59	10	18	1	1	0	5	21	.356	5	3	10	0	.388	0	4	3-3	34	44	5	.940
6	Gilmore, Ava	.296	31-29	81	14	24	2	2	1	15	33	.407	5	2	8	0	.341	3	1	10-10	35	2	3	.925
7	Fedder, Alaina	.272	32-32	92	9	25	7	0	0	15	32	.348	4	0	4	0	.302	0	2	0-0	39	66	10	.913
9	Oswalt, Makenna	.231	29-27	52	9	12	2	0	2	8	20	.385	2	2	6	0	.286	0	7	0-0	200	3	2	.990
14	Despenes, Sheila	.230	30-26	61	16	14	3	1	0	4	19	.311	11	2	15	0	.355	2	1	0-0	14	1	3	.833
15	McCray, Alayzha	.500	1-0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.500	0	0	0	0	.500	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
8	Schimizzi, Julia	.235	23-14	34	6	8	1	0	0	3	9	.265	3	0	7	1	.297	0	1	0-0	12	0	2	.857
29	Aguilar, Audrey	.235	10-7	17	1	4	0	0	0	4	4	.235	2	1	1	1	.333	1	0	0-0	30	0	2	.938
20	Fordyce, Rylie	.233	14-10	30	2	7	1	0	0	2	8	.267	3	0	3	0	.303	0	0	2-3	7	0	1	.875
19	Stevens, Mekiyah	.100	6-2	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.100	0	0	3	0	.100	0	0	1-1	0	0	0	.000
11	Moreno, Kalina	.000	11-6	14	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	2	0	4	0	.125	0	0	1-1	2	4	0	1.000
17	Foreman, Marsha	.000	5-4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	0	1	0	.222	0	0	1-1	8	0	0	1.000
2	Campbell, Mahalia	.000	17-3	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0	.000	0	0	0-0	2	0	0	1.000
Totals		.295	32-32	865	156	255	49	16	15	131	381	.440	73	13	105	2	.355	9	19	33-37	601	269	64	.931
Opponents		.345	32-32	942	209	325	48	12	9	178	424	.450	66	5	59	1	.389	6	8	36-44	618	235	50	.945

LOB: Team (203), Opp (210) DPs Turned: Team (8), Opp (14) IBB: Team (0), Opp (0) Picked Off: Merolillo (1)

All games Sorted by Earned Run Avg

#	Player	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	B/AVG	WP	HP	BK	SFA	SHA
1	Merolillo, Lily	3.65	4-6	22	6	1	0-0	1	63.1	87	52	33	16	14	9	2	2	.304	5	1	0	1	3
6	Gilmore, Ava	5.09	0-1	4	1	0	0-0	0	11.0	24	13	8	2	3	2	2	0	.421	0	1	0	0	0
7	Fedder, Alaina	5.86	4-10	18	15	4	0-0	0	80.0	142	89	67	17	27	21	7	5	.366	5	1	0	3	3
24	Herman, Mackenzie	6.39	3-4	15	10	2	0-0	1	46.0	72	55	42	31	15	16	1	2	.341	25	2	0	2	2
Totals		5.24	11-21	59	32	7	0	2	200.1	325	209	150	66	59	48	12	9	.345	35	5	0	6	8
Opponents		4.04	21-11	54	32	15	4	0	206.0	255	156	119	73	105	49	16	15	.295	22	13	0	9	19

PB: Team (10), Totals (10), Hufford (7), Fordyce (3), Opp (8) Pickoffs: Team (0), Totals , Opp (1) SBA/ATT: Totals (72-88), Hufford (30-38), Merolillo (17-19), Fedder (9-12), Herman (9-10), Fordyce (4-4), Foreman (2-2), Gilmore (1-3)

TEAM STATISTICS

GAMES	RUNS	BATTING AVERAGE	ON BASE PERCENTAGE	SLUGGING PERCENTAGE	HOME RUNS
32	156	.295	.355	.440	15

SCHEDULE SUMMARY		
Overall (Pct.)	11-21 (.344)	
Conference (Pct.)	3-15 (.167)	
Streak	Won 2	
Home	1-9	
Away	5-7	
Neutral	5-5	
RECENT GAMES		
Apr 15	at Waynesburg	L, 5-3
Apr 15	at Waynesburg	L, 8-0
Apr 18	Wash. & Jeff.	L, 5-2
Apr 18	Wash. & Jeff.	L, 16-11
Apr 20	at Pitt.-Greensburg	W, 7-3
Apr 20	at Pitt.-Greensburg	W, 7-1

STATISTICS CATEGORY	OVERALL	CONF
Games	32	18
At Bats	865	479
Runs	156	71
Hits	255	136
Doubles	49	22
Triples	16	7
Home Runs	15	10
Runs Batted In	131	59
Extra Base Hits	80	39
Total Bases	381	202
Walks	73	33
Hit by pitch	13	5
Strikeouts	105	49
Sacrifice Flies	9	3
Sacrifice Hits	19	9
Hit into double play	14	10
Stolen Bases	33	12
Caught Stealing	4	2
Batting Average	.295	.284
On Base Percentage	.355	.335
Slugging Percentage	.440	.422
Earned Run Average	5.24	6.77
WHIP	1.95	2.24
Shutouts	0	0
At Bats Against	942	547
Batting Average Against	.345	.377
Home Games Played	10.0	10.0
Home Attendance	812	812
Home Attendance average	82	82

STARTING LINEUPS BY POSITION

Date	OPP	RES	SP	C	1B	2B	3B	SS	LF	CF	RF	DP
3/8	Penn State DuBois	W 11-3 (5 Inn.)	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/8	Keystone	W 11-8 (5 Inn.)	Herman	Fordyce	Schimizzi	Fedder	Hufford	Heid	Moreno	Risser	Despenes	Aguilar
3/9	Hilbert	W 3-2	Herman	Foreman	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Hufford
3/9	King's	L 3-1	Fedder	Foreman	Aguilar	Moreno	Herman	Heid	Fordyce	Schimizzi	Campbell	Stevens
3/11	Gwynedd Mercy	W 2-1	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/11	Cairn	W 15-7 (6 Inn.)	Herman	Fordyce	Aguilar	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/12	Penn	L 5-0	Merolillo	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Aguilar
3/12	Bridgewater State	L 5-3	Gilmore	Hufford	Oswalt	Moreno	Herman	Heid	Schimizzi	Risser	Fordyce	Fedder
3/13	Albion	L 5-4	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Campbell	Despenes
3/13	Immaculata	L 11-3 (5 Inn.)	Merolillo	Hufford	Aguilar	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Schimizzi	Gilmore	Fordyce	Stevens
3/19	Kent St. Tuscarawas	L 10-6	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/19	Kent St. Tuscarawas	W 12-4	Merolillo	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/23	John Carroll	Postponed										
3/23	John Carroll	Postponed										
3/25	Franciscan	L 5-3	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/25	Franciscan	W 8-4	Herman	Fordyce	Aguilar	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Hufford
3/26	Grove City	L 7-2	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Horeman
3/26	Grove City	W 5-4	Herman	Foreman	Oswalt	Fedder	Merlillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Schimizzi	Hufford
3/28	Geneva	L 9-1	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/28	Geneva	L 9-4	Herman	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
3/31	Bethany	L 10-6	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Schimizzi	Despenes
3/31	Bethany	L 10-1	Merolillo	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
4/1	Penn State Behrend	Postponed										
4/1	Penn State Behrend	Postponed										
4/8	Saint Vincent	L 10-0 (5 inn.)	Herman	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Fordyce
4/8	Saint Vincent	L 11-6	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Schimizzi	Moreno
4/11	Hiram	L 5-3	Herman	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
4/11	Hiram	L 7-4	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Schimizzi
4/13	Allegheny	W 12-8	Herman	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
4/13	Allegheny	L 8-0	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Schimizzi
4/15	Waynesburg	L 5-3	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Merolillo	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	-
4/15	Waynesburg	L 8-0 (5 inn.)	Merolillo	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Schimizzi
4/18	W&J	L 5-2	Herman	Hufford	Oswalt	Fedder	Merolillo	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Schimizzi
4/18	W&J	L 16-11	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Moreno	Herman	Heid	Schimizzi	Risser	Despenes	Merolillo
4/20	Pitt Greensburg	W 7-3	Fedder	Hufford	Oswalt	Moreno	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Campbell	-
4/20	Pitt Greensburg	W 7-1	Merolillo	Fordyce	Oswalt	Fedder	Herman	Heid	Gilmore	Risser	Despenes	Schimizzi
4/23	Westminster											
4/23	Westminster											
4/26	Chatham											
4/26	Chatham											

THE
INVINCIBLE
FOUNDATION

HEAD COACH MICHAEL KERNAN



Michael Kernan enters his first season at Thiel in 2026 after being hired in Nov. 2025.

Kernan collected his first victory as leader of the Tomcats on opening day with an 11-3 run-rule trouncing of Penn State DuBois in five innings.

Kernan joined Thiel with more than two decades of successful coaching experience at both the high school and colle-

giate levels. Most recently, he led Canfield High School to back-to-back Ohio Division II State Championship appearances, winning the crown in 2024 and finishing as runners-up in 2023. During his tenure, Canfield compiled an impressive 72-11-3 record, produced multiple All-State selections and earned consecutive conference titles.

Before his success at Canfield, Kernan served as an assistant coach at fellow Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) school Hiram College. During the 2022 season, he helped guide Hiram to the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament Championship and a runner-up finish at the NCAA DePauw Regional, marking one of the most successful campaigns in program history.

Kernan started his coaching journey at Ursuline High School in Ohio. He compiled 373 wins in his nearly 20 years with the program. Under his leadership, Ursuline won eight district championships, was a state

championship finalist and claimed 17 sectional championships.

In addition to his collegiate and high school coaching accomplishments, Kernan has extensive experience in player instruction and program development. He previously founded and operated Softball U Academy in Youngstown, Ohio, training hundreds of athletes who went on to collegiate careers.

His career accolades include inductions into four different hall of fame's, including the Hiram Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005 and Ohio High School Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

A Hiram alumnus, Kernan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management with a minor in Computer Science. A decorated multi-sport athlete during his collegiate career, he was a Pizza Hut All-American and three-time All-PAC honoree in football.

