



WEST FLORIDA SOFTBALL

FEBRUARY 1-2 // GULF COAST INVITATIONAL

No. 4 Argonauts

53-9

Overall (2019)

25-4

GSC (2019)

Ashliegh McLean

Head Coach



.316	BA
357	R
541	H
95	2B
30	3B
24	HR
305	RBI
768	TB
.394	OBP
.449	SLG
180	BB
197	K
122	SB
43	E
.977	FLD
1.80	ERA
304	H
133	R
18	SHO
129	BB
309	K
.195	BA

AT THE GULF COAST INVITATIONAL

West Florida will start its season at the Gulf Coast Invitational in Gulf Shores, Alabama, for a fifth consecutive year, beginning play on Saturday against No. 9 Florida Tech.

West Florida is 14-5 over the last four years at the tournament, after going 4-0 last year and outscoring opponents 35-8 over three days.

WHAT A YEAR

The UWF softball program had a banner year in 2019, winning its fourth Gulf South Conference title, winning 54 games, and advancing to the NCAA Championship for the second time in the last three years.

Several student-athletes stood out for the Argonauts, as Teala Howard, Rhiannon Sassman, and Kelsey Sweatt were each named All-Americans, and all three etched their name into the UWF record book.

Howard's .464 batting average tied the UWF single-season record, and her on-base percentage (.498), hits (98), and steals (53) each rank in the top four in single-season UWF history.

Sweatt proved to be one of the toughest pitchers in the country, allowing just 4.1 hits per seven innings while allowing batters to hit just .170 against her.

Sassman finished off an incredible career at UWF, ranking in the top 10 in 10 different

Schedule

Home: 0-0 Away: 0-0 Neutral: 0-0

February

1	#9 Florida Tech %	11:30 am
1	Nova Southeastern %	4:30 pm
2	#25 Saint Leo %	9 am
2	Miles %	2 pm
7	New Haven #	2 pm
7	Palm Beach Atlantic #	7 pm
8	#25 Saint Leo #	2:30 pm
8	#9 Florida Tech #	5 pm
9	Florida Southern #	10 am
14	Montevallo *	6 pm
15	Montevallo (DH) *	Noon
19	Spring Hill	4 pm
21	West Alabama *	6 pm
22	West Alabama (DH) *	Noon
29	Delta State (DH) *	1 pm

March

1	Delta State *	1 pm
2	Palm Beach Atlantic (DH)	1 pm
5	Christian Brothers (DH)	2 pm
7	West Georgia (DH) *	1 pm
8	West Georgia *	1 pm
13	Lee *	2 pm ET
14	Lee (DH) *	1 pm ET
21	Shorter *	1 pm ET
22	Shorter (DH) *	1 pm ET
25	Spring Hill (DH)	1 pm
28	Union (DH) *	1 pm
29	Union *	1 pm
31	Ala. Huntsville (DH)	2 pm

April

4	Rollins (DH)	Noon ET
10	AUM *	5 pm
11	AUM (DH) *	1 pm
17	Mississippi College *	6 pm
18	Mississippi College (DH) *	1 pm
25	Valdosta State (DH) *	1 pm
26	Valdosta State *	1 pm
30-5/3	GSC Tournament	Oxford, Ala.

May

5/7-9	Regionals	Campus Sites
5/14-15	Super Regionals	Campus Sites
5/21-25	NCAA Finals	Chattanooga, Tenn.

% Gulf Coast Invitational * GSC Game
(DH) Doubleheader **BOLD** - Home Game
Florida Tech Invitational

Returning Starters

#	Name	Pos.	Notes
13	Grace Gilbert	P/OF	7-0 in postseason, with 0.85 ERA... Walkoff single in Regional Final
5	Kelsey Sweatt	P	D2CCA South Region Pitcher of the Year... GSC Tournament MOP
19	Jacquelynne Poling	C	NFCA Second Team All-South Region... Led team with 5 home runs
10	Callan Taylor	1B/DP	Made 42 starts and set career high with 19 doubles
16	Mallory Vining	2B	Made 47 starts... Hit first career home run against Christian Brothers
18	Mika Garcia	SS	Started 55 games at shortstop, batting .299 and slugging .445
9	Teala Howard	UTIL	GSC Freshman of the Year... Finalist for NFCA Top 25 Player of the Year
11	Courtney McLellan	RF	1st team All-GSC, 2nd team D2CCA All-Region... Made 50 starts

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	B/T	Hometown	Previous School
1	Kayla Mayo	MI	5-3	Fr.	R/R	Minneola, Fla.	Lake Minneola HS
2	Madison Lanier	1B	5-9	R-So.	R/R	Uniontown, Ohio	Green HS
3	Ashley McNally	C	5-4	R-Sr.	R/R	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Jacksonville University
4	Angela Agurkis	C	5-6	So.	R/R	Green Cove Springs, Fla.	Florida Atlantic
5	Kelsey Sweatt	P	5-6	Jr.	R/R	Jacksonville, Fla.	USC Upstate
7	Morgan Zettle	OF	5-8	So.	L/R	Tallahassee, Fla.	Lincoln HS
8	Kara Wilson	OF	5-7	Sr.	R/R	Odessa, Fla.	Gaither HS
9	Teala Howard	3B/OF	5-5	So.	L/R	Lake Butler, Fla.	Union County HS
10	Callan Taylor	1B	5-6	Sr.	R/R	Navarre, Fla.	Navarre HS
11	Courtney McLellan	OF	5-8	Jr.	L/L	Bradenton, Fla.	Lakewood Ranch HS
12	Jibrasha Moore	OF	5-5	Sr.	L/L	Pensacola, Fla.	West Florida HS
13	Grace Gilbert	P/OF	5-5	Jr.	R/R	Chipley, Fla.	Chipley HS
16	Mallory Vining	IF	5-8	So.	R/R	Ponchatoula, La.	Ponchatoula HS
17	Ally Merrill	1B	5-9	Jr.	R/R	Sarasota, Fla.	Riverview HS
18	Mika Garcia	SS	5-4	Jr.	R/R	Orange Park, Fla.	Oakleaf HS
19	Jacquelynne Poling	C/1B	5-8	Sr.	R/R	Chino Hills, Calif.	Ontario Christian HS
20	Megan Warhurst	P	5-7	Fr.	L/L	Russellville, Ala.	Russellville HS
21	Brett Leiva	C	5-9	Fr.	R/R	Denham Springs, La.	Live Oak HS
22	Hanna Stapleton	P	5-4	Jr.	R/R	Navarre, Fla.	Tallahassee CC
25	Laurynn Boggs	OF	5-7	Fr.	R/R	Longwood, Fla.	Lyman HS

Head Coach: Ashliegh McLean

Assistant Coach: Emma Johansen

Graduate Assistant: Tori Perkins

Student Assistant: Taylor Baynes

By Position

Pitchers (4)

Grace Gilbert
Hanna Stapleton
Kelsey Sweatt
Megan Warhurst

Catchers (4)

Angela Agurkis
Brett Leiva
Ashley McNally
Jacquelynne Poling

Utility (1)

Teala Howard

Infielders (6)

Mika Garcia
Madison Lanier
Kayla Mayo
Ally Merrill
Callan Taylor
Mallory Vining

Outfielders (5)

Laurynn Boggs
Courtney McLellan
Jibrasha Moore
Kara Wilson
Morgan Zettle

By Hometown

Alabama (1)

Megan Warhurst

California (1)

Jacquelynne Poling
CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

Louisiana (2)

Brett Leiva
Mallory Vining

Florida (15)

Angela Agurkis	Ally Merrill
Laurynn Boggs	Jibrasha Moore
Mika Garcia	Hanna Stapleton
Grace Gilbert	Kelsey Sweatt
Teala Howard	Callan Taylor
Kayla Mayo	Kara Wilson
Courtney McLellan	Morgan Zettle
Ashley McNally	

Ohio (1)

Madison Lanier

QUICK FACTS

UNIVERSITY

Name	University of West Florida
Location	Pensacola, Fla. 32514
Founded	1967
Enrollment	13,000
Nickname	Argonauts
Primary Colors	Royal Blue (PMS 285) Kelly Green (PMS 3405 / 06B085)
Affiliation	NCAA Division II
Conference	Gulf South
President	Dr. Martha Saunders
Athletic Director	Dave Scott
Athletics Phone	(850) 474-3003
Athletics Fax	(850) 474-3342
Athletics Web Site	GoArgos.com

SEASON IN REVIEW

2019 Record	54-11
GSC Finish	1st
Highest 2019 National Ranking	1st
Final 2019 National Ranking	5th
Starters Returning/Lost	9/3
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	15/6
Home Facility	UWF Softball Complex
Capacity	200

PROGRAM HISTORY

First Year of Softball	1986
All-Time Record	1,539-637-1 (.707)
NCAA Tournament Appearances	13
Last NCAA Tournament Appearance	2019
Record	7-3
GSC Tournament Appearances	23
Last GSC Tournament Appearance	2019
Record	4-0
GSC East Championships	7
Last GSC East Championship	2006
GSC Tournament Championships	4
Last GSC Championship	2019

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Primary Softball Contact	Murphy Powell
Email:	mpowell@uwf.edu
Office	(850) 474-2428

NEWS AND NOTES

career categories.

This year's team set the program record for fielding percentage (.977) and improved its record by 16.5 games. West Florida set several high-water marks this year, in many respects having the program's best season in over a decade. The team's 54 wins are the most for the program since 2005, their 1.80 ERA is the best since 2006, and their 5.6 runs per game are the most since 2010.

HIGH RANKINGS TO START THE YEAR

West Florida will enter the 2020 campaign ranked No. 4 in Division II, according to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association preseason poll. The Argonauts were also picked to win the Gulf South Conference by league coaches, and had four preseason All-GSC selections.

UWF returns 9 starters and 15 letterwinners from last year's South Region Championship team, including All-Americans Teala Howard and Kelsey Sweatt, and NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team member Grace Gilbert. Those three, along with Jacquelynne Poling, were preseason all-conference picks.

The Gulf South Conference and South Region were well-represented in the national poll. GSC members Alabama Huntsville and Valdosta State were ranked Nos. 18 and 24, respectively, while South Region foe Florida Tech was ranked No. 9 and Saint Leo came in at No. 25. Additionally, Mississippi College was the fourth team receiving votes.

West Florida will play nine games against currently ranked opponents in 2020.

YEAR TWO FOR MCLEAN

Ashliegh McLean enters her second year at the helm for West Florida, and it's tough to imagine a better possible start for the Argonauts during McLean's first year. The McKinney, Texas, native led the team to a Gulf South Conference Championship, a South Region Title, and a trip to the NCAA Championship in Denver.

The team also spent four weeks as the No. 1-ranked team in the country, on the way to earning the 1-seed in the South Region. She was also named the GSC Coach of the Year and UWF earned Regional Staff of the Year honors from the NFCA.

IT'S ANOTHER TOUGH SCHEDULE

As always, West Florida will start the season with some stiff competition. The year starts with a familiar foe, in No. 9 Florida Tech at the Gulf Coast Invitational in Gulf Shores, Alabama, before the Argonauts face fellow South Region opponents Nova Southeastern and No. 25 Saint Leo.

"Our first two weekends will be tough," McLean said. "We start the season

NFCA TOP 25

Rk.	School	Record
1	Augustana (S.D.) (15)	61-11
2	TAMU-Kingsville (1)	52-10
3	Grand Valley State	51-10
4	West Florida	54-11
5	Young Harris	44-20
6	UC San Diego	37-17
7	Central Oklahoma	48-8
8	West Chester	40-22
9	Florida Tech	42-12
t-10	Concordia Irvine	47-8
t-10	Texas A&M-Commerce	40-14
12	Indianapolis	49-17
13	Lincoln Memorial	38-15
14	Southern Arkansas	46-13
15	Cameron	37-18
16	North Georgia	45-13
17	Saint Anselm	41-10
t-18	UAH	39-17
t-18	Winona State	53-9
20	Chico State	31-17
t-21	Southern Indiana	35-21
t-21	Tarleton State	40-15
23	Arkansas Tech	47-15
24	Valdosta State	36-18
25	Saint Leo	31-18

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:

Southern New Hampshire (25), West Liberty (13), Oklahoma Christian (13), Mississippi College (9), Dixie State (8), Western Oregon (6), St. Cloud State (3), Anderson (2), UMSL (1).

NEWS AND NOTES

with Florida Tech, who we beat to go to the World Series last year, and then we'll be back in their territory the following weekend for more tough South Region teams.

"The GSC will be just as tough, if not tougher than last year. The target will be on our back, but as long as we take it one day at a time, one pitch at a time, we'll be fine."

UWF will visit Melbourne, Florida, for the Florida Tech Invitational the following weekend. The Argonauts will see Saint Leo and Florida Tech again, while also matching up with New Haven, Palm Beach Atlantic, and Florida Southern.

It's then on to Gulf South Conference play, starting with road swings at Montevallo and West Alabama. West Florida wraps up the regular season with another tough stretch -- the team will host Rollins in a nonconference doubleheader, play host to Auburn Montgomery in a weekend series, visit Mississippi College, and host Valdosta State for the final series of the regular season.

WHO'S BACK?

West Florida returns the majority of last year's team, including All-Americans Teala Howard and Kelsey Sweatt, All-South Region selections Jacquelynne Poling and Courtney McLellan, and NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team member Grace Gilbert.

UWF will also bring back starters Ally Merrill, Mika Garcia, Mallory Vining, and Callan Taylor, who each started at least 20 games for the Argonauts.

Gilbert and Sweatt combined for a 1.68 ERA across 337.2 innings last season, and Sweatt's 4.1 hits allowed per seven innings last season rank fourth in UWF history.

Offensively, West Florida returners hit .314 a year ago, with 14 of the team's 24 home runs.

TOP NEWCOMERS

Kayla Mayo and Megan Warhurst have been tabbed as top newcomers for West Florida in the Gulf South Conference preseason release.

Warhurst, a native of Russellville, Alabama, was named the Franklin County Player of the Year, the Pitcher of the Year in northwest Alabama, was a first team All-Area selection by the Times Dailey and a second team All-State pick by the ASWA. A middle infielder, Kayla Mayo was named the team MVP at Lake Minneola HS as a sophomore in 2017, while being named the team's defensive player of the year in 2018, and the team's offensive player of the year in 2019.

THE ASHLIEGH MCLEAN FILE



Ashliegh McLean was named head coach of the UWF softball program in May 2018, after four years as an assistant at UWF, and her first season has been nothing short of incredible.

It's tough to imagine a better possible start for the Argonauts during McLean's first year as head coach, as she led the team to a Gulf South Conference Championship, a South Region Title, and a trip to the NCAA Championship in Denver. The team also spent four weeks as the No. 1-ranked team in the country, on the way to earning the 1-seed in the South Region.

Awards flowed in for McLean and UWF, as Rhiannon Sassman, Teala Howard, and Kelsey Sweatt were each named All-Americans. Sassman was also the D2CCA South Region Player of the Year and the GSC Player of the Year, Howard was named the GSC Freshman of the Year, and Sweatt earned D2CCA South Region Pitcher of the Year honors, while McLean was named the GSC Coach of the Year.

West Florida finished the year at 54-11, and the team set the program record for fielding percentage (.977) and improved its record by 16.5 games. West Florida set several high-water marks this year, in many respects having the program's best season in over a decade. The team's 54 wins were the most for the program since 2005, their 1.80 ERA was the best since 2006, and their 5.6 runs per game were the most since 2010.

In her final three years as an assistant from 2016-18, the UWF pitching staff ranked in the top three in the Gulf South Conference in ERA (2.72), shutouts (32), opponent batting average (.241), strikeouts (822) and wins (119), and Argonaut pitchers have earned nine All-GSC or All-South Region awards.

In McLean's first season as a full-time assistant coach in 2016, her efforts led the UWF pitching staff to a 2.50 ERA and a .238 batting average against -- a major improvement from the team's 3.57 ERA and .264 batting average in 2015.

The staff improved even more on the way to the program's 2017 trip to the NCAA Championships in Salem, Virginia, posting a 2.49 ERA and .231 batting average against while recording a Gulf South Conference-best 15 shutouts.

McLean first joined the UWF coaching staff after spending two-years as a pitcher for the Argonauts softball program in 2011 and 2012. She started 39 games for the Argos in the circle and over 30 games in right field being a key utility player for West Florida and was listed as one of the GSC's top newcomers in 2011.

Originally from McKinney, Texas, McLean is the daughter of Kevin McLean and Sandy Ring and earned her masters degree in Physical Education from UWF.

ASSISTANT COACH EMMA JOHANSEN

Emma Johansen joined the West Florida softball staff in July 2018, after spending four years on staff at Alabama State in Montgomery.

In 2016, Johansen helped lead ASU to 28 wins, which was the third-highest single-season win total in program history, and the Lady Hornets led the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in team batting average (.321), runs scored (296), hits (482), doubles (92), and home runs (38).

Johansen also helped coach ASU to its first SWAC championship, which helped clinch an NCAA Tournament berth. Before ASU, Johansen served as the assistant softball coach for Auburn University at Montgomery and played a role in leading the team to the 2014 NAIA National Championship. In the summer of 2017, Johansen also coached the Swedish National Team in the European National Championships.

Overall Statistics for West Florida (as of Jan 14, 2020) (All games Sorted by Batting avg)

Record: 54-11 Home: 30-2 Away: 12-5 Neutral: 12-4 GSC: 25-4

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi	tb	slg%	bb	hp	so	gdp	ob%	sf	sh	sb-att	po	a	e	fld%
9 Teala Howard	.464	64-64	211	66	98	3	5	1	30	114	.540	8	7	18	0	.498	1	6	53-57	87	27	1	.991
24 Rhiannon Sassman	.383	65-65	188	48	72	16	8	3	52	113	.601	30	11	19	1	.485	4	3	19-23	59	128	8	.959
13 Grace Gilbert	.325	58-45	123	21	40	5	1	1	15	50	.407	14	2	9	0	.397	2	7	4-4	48	83	8	.942
19 Jacquelynne Poling	.324	46-43	136	15	44	11	1	5	30	72	.529	8	2	8	0	.370	0	2	0-1	203	17	0	1.000
22 Kathleen Smiley	.300	64-64	170	21	51	11	0	5	44	77	.453	35	2	23	2	.419	3	1	1-1	26	3	0	1.000
18 Mika Garcia	.299	55-55	137	22	41	4	5	2	24	61	.445	15	1	9	1	.368	2	7	6-8	77	109	12	.939
14 Rachel Wright	.292	60-60	185	44	54	10	5	2	29	80	.432	15	7	33	0	.365	1	4	14-16	75	2	1	.987
11 Courtney McLellan	.291	57-50	141	22	41	11	1	3	19	63	.447	11	2	7	0	.346	2	5	3-3	38	1	0	1.000
10 Callan Taylor	.227	50-42	119	15	27	10	0	0	21	37	.311	11	4	17	0	.304	4	2	0-1	274	7	5	.983

1 Harley Tagert	.667	7-0	3	3	2	1	0	0	2	3	1.000	0	0	0	0	.667	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
17 Ally Merrill	.324	35-23	71	11	23	5	1	0	7	30	.423	12	3	7	0	.442	0	3	1-1	147	5	1	.993
12 Jibrasha Moore	.321	23-21	53	13	17	0	0	0	1	17	.321	3	0	9	0	.357	0	2	7-11	25	1	0	1.000
25 Sara Spears	.300	41-4	10	21	3	0	0	0	2	3	.300	2	1	6	0	.462	0	1	6-8	3	0	0	1.000
20 Tori Perkins	.227	30-12	44	5	10	2	2	1	10	19	.432	3	1	12	0	.292	0	0	1-1	4	22	2	.929
7 Morgan Zettle	.200	3-0	5	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	.400	1	0	2	0	.333	0	0	0-0	1	1	0	1.000
2 Madison Lanier	.188	23-0	16	1	3	0	1	0	2	5	.313	4	1	3	0	.381	0	0	0-0	3	0	0	1.000
16 Mallory Vining	.167	50-47	18	9	3	0	0	1	3	6	.333	2	0	1	0	.250	0	1	4-5	89	85	3	.983
3 Ashley McNally	.140	27-23	57	9	8	4	0	0	8	12	.211	4	6	8	2	.269	0	7	0-1	126	10	1	.993
8 Kara Wilson	.125	28-8	24	8	3	2	0	0	4	5	.208	1	2	5	0	.214	1	2	3-4	8	0	0	1.000
27 Hanna Stapleton	.000	1-0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000	1	0	1	0	.500	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000
5 Kelsey Sweatt	.000	30-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	5	27	1	.970
Totals	.316	65	1712	357	541	96	30	24	305	769	.449	180	52	197	6	.394	20	53	122-145	1298	528	43	.977
Opponents	.195	65	1560	133	304	30	5	25	122	419	.269	129	31	309	11	.269	7	36	51-64	1235	479	89	.951

LOB - Team (424), Opp (332). DPs turned - Team (19), Opp (15). TPs turned - Team (1). Picked off - G. Gilbert 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
5 Kelsey Sweatt	1.64	19-4	30	24	16	5/3	2	162.2	97	46	38	45	145	10	3	12	.170	3	10	0	2	15
13 Grace Gilbert	1.72	25-5	36	29	18	6/3	0	175.0	133	52	43	36	93	12	2	9	.209	3	13	0	2	13
20 Tori Perkins	2.21	10-2	23	12	9	2/5	2	95.0	74	35	30	48	71	8	0	4	.210	12	8	0	3	8
Totals	1.80	54-11	65	65	43	18/5	4	432.2	304	133	111	129	309	30	5	25	.195	18	31	0	7	36
Opponents	4.88	11-54	65	65	22	3/2	3	412.0	541	356	287	180	197	96	30	24	.316	31	52	0	20	53

PB - Team (6), J. Poling 6, Opp (8). Pickoffs - Team (1), A. McNally 1, Opp (1). SBA/ATT - J. Poling (36-44), T. Perkins (17-22), K. Sweatt (19-22), G. Gilbert (15-20), A. McNally (15-20).