



Athletic Media Relations

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SOFTBALL

Weekly Release — March 31, 2004 Mountain West Conference Opening Week

Media Relations Information

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2004 Schedule/Results

Date	Opp/Event	Time/Results
Feb. 4	@ Hawai'i	L 4-7
Feb. 5	vs. Oregon State	L 7-0
Feb. 6	vs. Tennessee	L 11-6
Feb. 7	vs. UAB	W 2-1
	vs. St. Mary's	W 2-1
Feb. 19	@ UC Santa Barbara	W 6-2
Feb. 20	vs. UC Riverside	W 7-0
	vs. Loyola Marymount	W 7-6
Feb. 21	vs. Florida International	canceled
	vs. Central Florida	canceled
Feb. 26	@ Houston	W 2-0
Feb. 27	vs. Villanova	L 4-3
	vs. Virginia	L 3-1
Feb. 28	vs. Mississippi State	L 2-1
	vs. Pittsburgh	W 10-2
Mar. 12	vs. Marist	W 9-1
	vs. St. Peters	canceled
	@ New Mexico State	canceled
Mar. 13	vs. Drake	W 12-1
	vs. UTEP	W 6-4
Mar. 18	@ San Diego	L 4-3
Mar. 19	vs. Dartmouth	W 10-5
	vs. Central Connecticut State	W 8-0
Mar. 20	vs. UC Riverside	W 3-2
	vs. Indiana	W 2-0
Mar. 25	vs. Hawai'i	W 5-2
Mar. 26	vs. Illinois	L 3-2
	vs. UC Riverside	W 9-5
Mar. 27	@ Stanford (No. 12)	L 7-5
Mar. 30	@ UVSC DH	W 15-2, W 11-1
Apr. 1	UNLV* DH	3 p.m./5 p.m.
Apr. 2	SDSU* DH	4 p.m./6 p.m.
Apr. 8	Southern Utah	5 p.m.
Apr. 10	UTAH* DH	2 p.m./4 p.m.
Apr. 13	Utah State DH	3 p.m./5 p.m.
Apr. 15	@ CSU* DH	1 p.m./3 p.m.
Apr. 17	@ New Mexico* DH	1 p.m./3 p.m.
Apr. 20	UVSC DH	5 p.m./7 p.m.
Apr. 22	PACIFIC	6 p.m.
Apr. 24	@ Utah* DH	12 p.m./2 p.m.
Apr. 30	NEW MEXICO DH	4 p.m./6 p.m.
May 1	CSU* DH	2 p.m./4 p.m.
May 4	@ Utah State DH	2 p.m./4 p.m.
May 6	@ UNLV* DH	5 p.m./7 p.m.
May 8	@ SDSU* DH	1 p.m./3 p.m.
May 13-15	MWC Tournament (CSU host)	TBA
May 20-22	NCAA Regionals	TBA
May 27-31	College World Series	TBA

* MWC games
Bold BYU home games at Miller Park

Home Sweet Home

The BYU women's softball team (18-9) is home at last after a long 27 games on the road. The Cougars will host the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Thursday (3 p.m./5 p.m.) and San Diego State on Friday (4 p.m./6 p.m.) to mark the beginning of Mountain West Conference play.

UNLV is posting a 17-21 overall record heading into conference play coming off three losses to ranked teams including No. 1 Arizona and No. 20 Nebraska. SDSU, last year's regular-season conference champs, is notching a 21-16 overall record and is currently on a five-game win streak.

The first game of Friday's doubleheader against SDSU will be broadcast live on KBYU TV. Jay Monson will provide the play-by-play and Garry Sheide will be the color analyst. Live stats will be provided for both games. A link is available on the BYU softball schedule page.

BYU is coming off two wins from neighboring Utah Valley State College on Tuesday in Orem. The Cougars defeated the Wolverines 15-2 and 11-1 in five-inning games. BYU was hot at the plate with seven hitters batting .333 or better. The team recorded four doubles and two homers in the contests.

The Cougars are also coming off the Stanford Classic in Palo Alto, Calif. last weekend. BYU posted a 2-2 record against tough competition. The Cougars got a big 5-2 win over Hawai'i in California after losing to the Wahine the first game of the season in Hawai'i. In the third match up of the season against UC Riverside, BYU also got a nice 9-5 win over the Highlanders. BYU was defeated by two quality opponents including a 3-2 loss to Illinois (receiving votes in the top-25) and a close 7-5 loss to No. 12 Stanford.

"It was a good weekend for us," BYU defense and recruiting coach Mindy Hanson said. "We feel confident that we're in the right spot to start conference."

Overall in the Stanford Classic, the Cougars hit five doubles and six home runs. Freshman Jodi Norton led BYU offensively batting 6-13 (.462), nailing three home runs and bringing in seven RBI. Defensively, she posted 10 assists and two putouts.

Senior Lindsey Gerhauser also did an excellent job at second base in both games on Saturday as she filled in for an injured Kate Walker.

"Lindsey stepped up and did a great job," Hanson said. "We have a very tough bench who comes through for us."

For the pitching squad, Niki Andersen stepped up to lead the Cougars over Hawai'i 5-2. She recorded eight strikeouts and allowed no earned runs. Andersen is also coming off her first MWC Pitcher of the Week award (March 23). Against Central Connecticut State, Andersen pitched solid to record her first no-hitter of her career, which marks only the second one in BYU's history. The first was set by Maryon DeWitt-Wallentine on March 21, 2001 against Utah State.

BYU Quick Facts

Location: Provo, Utah 84602
 Enrollment: 32,122 (Daytime)
 Founded: Oct. 15, 1875, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Colors: Dark Blue, White and Tan
 Nickname: Cougars
 Mascot: Cosmo (the Cougar)
 Affiliation: NCAA Division One
 Conference: Mountain West
 Field: Gail Miller Field (2,100)
 Press box phone: 801-378-1973
 President: Cecil O. Samuelson
 Women's AD: Elaine Michaelis
 Ticket Office Phone: (801) 378-BYU1

Softball Staff

Head Coach: Gordon Eakin (Utah)
 Office Phone: (801) 422-1158
 Career Record: 36-17 (1 year, 2003)
 BYU Record: 36-17 (1 year, 2003)
 Assistant Coaches:
 Vaughn Alvey(Utah)
 Mindy Hanson (BYU '02)
 Graduate Assistants:
 Cynthia Fallowfield

Team Information

Current Record: 18-9, 0-0
 Overall record last year: 36-17
 MWC record/finish: 10-7/3rd
 Final ranking last year: N/A
 Lettermen returning/lost: 11/6
 Starters returning/lost: 7/3
 Pitchers returning/lost: 3/2
 Newcomers: 7 (five freshmen, two transfers)

History

First year of Softball: 2000
 Overall all-time record: 117-93
 No. years in CWS/last: N/A
 MWC Conference Championships: One (2001)
 Years in NCAA Regionals/last: One (2001)
 Last post-season opponent: San Diego State
 Result: BYU lost, 1-3

MWC Preseason Polls

1. San Diego State (23 points, four first-place)
2. Colorado State (21 points, two first-place)
3. BYU (18 points)
4. Utah (13 points)
5. UNLV (nine points)
6. New Mexico (six points)

All-time vs. Conference Opponents

Colorado St.	8-9
New Mexico	9-10
San Diego St.	4-11
UNLV	13-4
Utah	8-9

BYU Earns MWC Player and Pitcher of the Week Awards

Shortstop Jodi Norton and right-handed pitcher Niki Andersen were named MWC Player and Pitcher of the Week on March 30 for their performances at the Stanford Classic. This is Norton's first MWC award of her BYU career and is Andersen's back-to-back MWC pitching honor.

BYU Schedule

April 1	UNLV	3 p.m./ 5 p.m.
April 2	SDSU	4 p.m./ 6 p.m. (Televised on KBYU)

* The second time of the doubleheader may vary

BYU All-Time Records vs. MWC Opponents

UNLV: 13-4

SDSU: 4-11 (last year's regular-season champs)

Scouting the MWC Competition

- UNLV www.unlvrebels.com

UNLV is posting a 17-21 overall record and is coming off three losses to ranked teams including two to No. 1 Arizona and one to No. 20 Nebraska. In the Preseason MWC Rankings, the Rebels were picked to finish No. 5 in conference this season. As a team, the Rebels are hitting .257, fielding .950 and have turned nine double plays so far this year. The team has played a mixture of quality teams including eight top-25 ranked teams. Starting in all 38 games for the Rebels and leading the way offensively is senior outfielder Bridget Byrne. Byrne bats .455, has tallied 55 hits, scored 21 runs, stolen 9-11 bases, hit six doubles and a triple on the year. Freshman outfielder Brittany Freight is next batting .325 with 26 hits, five doubles, 11 RBI and 11 walks. Teammate senior outfielder Lisa Sampson is batting .288 with 30 hits, six doubles, one triple, 15 RBI and 14 walks on the season. Pitcher and first baseman Kacey Ellis leads the team in RBI with 20. UNLV only has two home runs so far this season, both coming from junior third baseman Pauline Glenn. For the pitching staff, Jacqueline Kerrigan leads the trio with an impressive 1.74 ERA, 32 appearances and 170 strikeouts in 172.2 innings pitched. The squad posts an overall 2.70 ERA.

- SDSU www.goaztecs.com

SDSU is posting a 21-16 overall record and is currently on a five-game win streak. The Aztecs return as a strong conference opponent after winning the regular-season title last year and were picked to finish No. 1 in the 2004 MWC Preseason Rankings. As a team, the Aztecs are hitting .245, fielding .963 and have turned 11 double plays so far this season. Leading the team for the SDSU is sophomore infielder Meagan Hartung batting .368. She is followed by teammates Janna Kovensky .343, Kelcy Murphy .289, Bree Boyer .286 and Joann Figueroa .250. Hartung leads the team in hits (39), doubles (6) and triples (2). Senior outfielder Kovensky has four doubles, two triples, two home runs, 14 RBI, 19 walks and is an impressive 10-10 in stolen bases this year. Senior infielder/outfielder Murphy leads the team in RBI with 20 and has three doubles, one triple and two home runs on the season. For the pitching staff, sophomore Celena Velasquez leads the squad in wins with nine and strikeouts with 61. Teammates Cori Janelli and Deanna Richards also post six wins each and have a 0.89 and 1.44 ERA, respectively. The trio posts a strong 1.34 overall ERA.

All-time Opponents

Arizona	0-2
Arizona State	1-0
Boston College	0-1
California -Berkeley	0-3
Cal Poly	2-1
Cal St. Northridge	1-0
Central Connect. St.	1-0
Central Michigan	1-0
Connecticut	1-0
Dartmouth	1-0
DePaul	0-1
Drake	1-0
Florida International	0-1
Fresno State	1-3
Georgia State	1-0
Hawai`i	0-1
Hofstra	0-1
Houston	1-1
Illinois State	1-0
Iowa	0-3
Indiana	1-0
Kansas	0-1
Louisiana Tech	2-0
Louisville	1-0
Loyola-Marymount	2-1
Marist	1-0
Maryland	1-0
McNeese St.	2-0
Miami (OH)	1-0
Michigan State	2-0
Mississippi	1-0
Mississippi State	0-1
Missouri-Kansas City	1-0
Nebraska	1-4
New Mexico St.	1-0
Northern Iowa	1-0
Northwestern State	0-1
Oklahoma	0-1
Oklahoma State	1-1
Oregon	1-0
Oregon State	1-5
Pittsburgh	1-0
Portland State	1-0
Providence	1-0
Tennessee	0-1
Sacramento St.ate	1-1
San Antonio	0-1
San Diego	4-3
San Jose State	2-1
Santa Clara	2-1
Southern Utah	11-3
Stanford	1-2
St. John's	1-0
St. Mary's	4-0
Texas	0-1
Texas A&M	1-1
Texas at San Antonio	1-0
Texas Tech	0-1
Tulsa	1-1
UAB	1-0
UC Riverside	2-0
UC Santa Barbara	3-1
UCLA	0-2
Utah State	15-0
UTEP	1-0
UVSC	2-0
Villanova	0-1
Virginia	0-1
Washington	2-1

A look at the 2004 Cougar Softball Roster

Letterwinners returning/lost: 11/6

Starters returning/lost: 7/3

Pitchers returning/lost: 3/2

Newcomers: 7 (five freshmen and two transfers)

#	Name	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown (Previous School)
24	Niki Andersen	P	R/R	5-10	Jr.	2L	Sandy, Utah (Alta HS)
9	Brooke Boyce	P	R/R	5-9	So.	1L	Rocklin, Calif. (Del Campo)
2	Ariel Capra	P	L/L	5-9	Jr.	2L	Kingwood, Texas (Kingwood HS)
1	Krystle Chamberlain	OF	L/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Camarillo, Calif. (Camarillo HS)
7	Kim Dabo	OF	R/R	5-10	Fr.	HS	Hollister, Calif. (San Benito HS)
20	Debbie Dodds	OF	R/R	5-5	Jr.	2L	Twin Falls, Idaho (Twin Falls HS)
4	Lindsey Gerhauser	2B	R/R	5-4	Sr.	1L	Springville, Utah (Snow College)
6	Carli Jones	UTL	R/R	5-3	Fr.	HS	Mesa, Ariz. (Mountain View HS)
10	Milli Jones	OF/IF	R/R	5-7	Jr.	2L	Draper, Utah (Alta HS)
66	Ianeta Le`i	3B/1B	R/R	5-7	So.	1L	Oahu, Hawai`i (Iolani HS)
8	Jodi Norton	SS	R/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Mesa, Ariz. (Mesa HS)
18	Belinda Osborn	OF	L/R	5-7	Sr.	1L	Payson, Utah (Utah Valley)
19	Paige Paramore	C/OF	R/R	5-9	So.	TR	Allen, Texas (Texas at San Antonio)
25	Ashlyn Russell	1B/3B	R/R	5-6	So.	1L	Maui, Hawai`i (Baldwin HS)
5	Kate Walker	2B/SS	R/R	5-7	Sr.	3L	Sandy, Utah (University of Oregon)
11	Lauren Watson	C	L/R	5-3	Jr.	2L	Castaic, Calif. (Valencia HS)
3	Jennifer Whiteley	OF	L/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Houston, Texas (Lamar HS)
23	Crystal Young	1B/3B	R/R	5-11	Jr.	TR	Bluffdale, Utah (Utah Valley)

Probable Starting Lineup

24	Niki Andersen	P	R/R	5-10	Jr.	2L	Sandy, Utah (Alta HS)
11	Lauren Watson	C	L/R	5-3	Jr.	2L	Castaic, Calif. (Valencia HS)
25	Ashlyn Russell	3B	R/R	5-6	So.	1L	Maui, Hawai`i (Baldwin HS)
5	Kate Walker	2B	R/R	5-7	Sr.	3L	Sandy, Utah (University of Oregon)
8	Jodi Norton	SS	R/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Mesa, Ariz. (Mesa HS)
66	Ianeta Le`i	1B	R/R	5-7	So.	1L	Oahu, Hawai`i (Iolani HS)
1	Krystle Chamberlain	DH	L/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Camarillo, Calif. (Camarillo HS)
20	Debbie Dodds	OF	R/R	5-5	Jr.	2L	Twin Falls, Idaho (Twin Falls HS)
19	Paige Paramore	OF	R/R	5-9	So.	TR	Allen, Texas (Texas at San Antonio)
18	Belinda Osborn	OF	L/R	5-7	Sr.	1L	Payson, Utah (Utah Valley)
3	Jennifer Whiteley	OF	L/R	5-4	Fr.	HS	Houston, Texas (Lamar HS)

Long-ball Offense

The Cougars continue their long-ball offense launching 28 home runs on the year in 27 games, averaging about one a game. Jodi Norton, Kate Walker, Ashlyn Russell and Paige Paramore all have five homers so far this season.

Cougars Strong up the Middle

With freshman Jodi Norton as shortstop and senior defensive specialist Kate Walker at second base, the duo makes a great middle combination turning an amazing 13 double plays before the start of conference play. In 2003 BYU turned 13 for the year, in 2002 (14), 2001 (11) and 2000 (4).

New Mexico State Invitational, Las Cruces, N.M. (March 12-13)

At the NMSU Invitational, BYU was named the Tournament Champs after posting a 3-0 record with wins over Marist 9-1, Drake 12-1 and UTEP 6-4. Junior catcher Lauren Watson was named to the 2004 NMSU Softball Invitational All-Tournament Team and was the Tournament MVP after her strong performance. In three games, Watson hit 6-9 (.667), scored five runs, knocked in two RBI and defensively recorded eight putouts and two assists.

CLASS BREAKDOWN

Senior (3)

Lindsey Gerhauser
Belinda Osborn
Kate Walker

Junior (6)

Niki Andersen
Ariel Capra
Debbie Dodds
Milli Jones
Lauren Watson
Crystal Young*

Sophomore (4)

Brooke Boyce
Ianeta Le`i
Paige Paramore*
Ashlyn Russell

Freshman (5)

Krystle Chamberlain*
Kim Dabo*
Carli Jones*
Jodi Norton*
Jennifer Whiteley*

* Newcomer

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

Arizona (2)

Carly Jones
Jodi Norton

California (4)

Brooke Boyce
Krystle Chamberlain
Kim Dabo
Lauren Watson

Hawai`i (2)

Ianeta Le`i
Ashlyn Russell

Idaho (1)

Debbie Dodds

Texas (3)

Ariel Capra
Paige Paramore
Jennifer Whiteley

Utah (6)

Niki Andersen
Lindsey Gerhauser
Milli Jones
Belinda Osborn
Kate Walker
Crystal Young

BYU's Current Stat Leaders for 2004 (as of 27 games)

Batting Average

.359 Jodi Norton

Home Runs

5, Kate Walker
5, Ashlyn Russell
5, Paige Paramore
5, Jodi Norton

RBI

21, Jodi Norton

Hits

24, Krystle Chamberlain
24, Paige Paramore
24, Lauren Watson

Doubles

7, Jodi Norton

Base on Balls

16, Ianeta Le`i

Runs Scored

19, Krystle Chamberlain

Slugging %

.703, Jodi Norton

Hitting Streaks

4, Paige Paramore (four-game hitting streak)
4, Ashlyn Russell (four-game hitting streak)

Stolen Bases

7-7, Krystle Chamberlain

Wins

9, Niki Andersen

Strikeouts

71, Niki Andersen

ERA

1.85, Niki Andersen

Innings Pitched

71.2, Brooke Boyce

No-hitter

Niki Andersen (Against Central Connecticut State on 3-19-04, 2nd in BYU history, first of her career)

2004 MWC Awards

Player/Pitcher of the Week

March 23, 2004	Niki Andersen	Pitcher of the Week
March 30, 2004	Niki Andersen	Pitcher of the Week
March 30, 2004	Jodi Norton	Player of the Week

2003 Final MWC Standings

Team	Conference				Overall				
	W	L	T	Pct.	GB	W	L	T	Pct.
San Diego State.....	12	3	0	.800	--	39	21	0	.650
Colorado State.....	13	7	0	.650	2.5	37	15	0	.712
BYU.....	10	7	0	.588	3	36	17	0	.679
Utah.....	7	9	0	.438	5.5	20	27	0	.426
New Mexico.....	7	13	0	.250	7.5	25	37	1	.405
UNLV.....	4	14	0	.222	9.5	21	39	0	.350

Eakin's Coaching Record

	Yr.	Overall	Conf.
Gordon Eakin	2003	36-17	10-7 (3rd)
Totals	1 Year	36-17 (.679)	10-7 (.558)

Eakin vs. Mountain West

vs. Colorado State	3-2-0
vs. New Mexico	3-2-0
vs. San Diego State	1-2-0
vs. UNLV	4-1-0
vs. Utah	3-2-0

2004 BYU Softball Schedule

From the looks of the 2004 BYU schedule, the Cougars will be put to the test early and face many quality teams before hitting conference play.

"I think we have a well-rounded schedule that's going to give us a combination of potential top-25 teams as well as exposure with teams we haven't played before," BYU head coach Gordon Eakin said. "Our well-rounded schedule will provide us an opportunity to be ready for championship play when we get to that point."

- Gordon Eakin

2004 Preview

The Cougars enter the 2004 season to battle for their second Mountain West Conference title in four seasons and a shot at the World Series after posting the best record (36-17) in the program's history last season.

Last season's success earned BYU four offensive top-10 national rankings in team batting average (7th), scoring (8th), slugging percentage (4th) and home runs pergame (6th).

"I think we'll compete at a high level this year," BYU head coach Gordon Eakin said. "We have great team chemistry and we have players stepping up from all areas."

The team chemistry and depth of this year's team will help mitigate the loss of those quality players lost, some of which were impact players. After a successful fall softball season, the team looks to be stepping up to the challenge of filling the shoes of those who have gone on before them.

BYU's Returning Stat Leaders (2003)

Batting Average
.379, Lauren Watson

Home Runs
10, Lauren Watson

RBI
40, Ianeta Le'i

Base on Balls
21, Lauren Watson

Hits
66, Lauren Watson

Stolen Bases
5, Lauren Watson

Doubles
8, Ianeta Le'i
8, Kate Walker
8, Lauren Watson

Triples
3, Lauren Watson

Wins
12, Brooke Boyce

ERA
2.31, Brooke Boyce

Strikeouts
62, Brooke Boyce

BYU's Returning MWC Award Winners

Academic All-Conference

Brooke Boyce
Lindsey Gerhauser
Belinda Osborn
Kate Walker

All-Tournament
Lauren Watson

All-Conference
Ianeta Le'i

All-Region
Ianeta Le'i (Second Team)
Lauren Watson (Second Team)

All-Americans
Lauren Watson (Easton Second Team)

Returning MWC Player of the Week

Brooke Boyce (April 8, 2003)
Lauren Watson (March 25, 2003)