

## COACHING (TEACHING) PHILOSOPHY

My coaching philosophy, and therefore our coaching staff's philosophy is based on "**THREE C's**": **CARING, COMMUNICATION and CLASS**

Every major decision that our staff makes affects our student-athletes. We make each decision with the best interest of the entire team in mind. We believe if athletes feel they are considered in a decision they are likely to give more effort and take ownership of the decision and the outcome. Our student-athletes will respond in a more positive manner if they can see that our staff truly **CARES** about helping them become a better student, athlete and person.

Coaching softball is much more than working on hitting and a bunt defense. Athletics provide a wonderful arena for learning and practicing life skills. Our student-athletes may not remember each drill or directive given to them during practice after graduation. However, they will benefit from learning how to interact with others, working as a team, respecting others with ideals different than their own and establishing a demanding work ethic. The dedication they give and the commitment they make to softball will help them learn that the more they give, the more they will receive. We will also assist them in learning leadership techniques, communication, time and stress management, goal setting and the benefits of leading a healthy and physically active life.

Player - coach **COMMUNICATION** is the most critical element in any successful program. We are very straight forward with what is expected of each student-athlete and update each athlete on a regular basis as to how she is progressing toward our expectations. We also prepare each practice session carefully, keeping in mind that the only way the athletes can perform a skill successfully is if we can explain and teach the components of the skill clearly. Successful coaches are great teachers. Great teachers are great communicators. Knowing this, we consider ourselves teachers first who base all success on strong lines of communication.

I expect each member of the team and coaching staff to act with **CLASS** at all times. We regularly remind our student-athletes that they are representatives of our university on and off the field. We expect them to act responsibly and respectfully in all of their encounters and we expect that they take pride in themselves, their team and the university.

Through the "**THREE C's**", we are attempting to build and maintain a program that will bring great pride to the University and the student-athletes involved while building smarter students, stronger athletes and better people. We will provide direction and guidance on and off the field, an environment that will allow our players to enjoy softball, and a positive experience that will create life long memories for each student-athlete in our program.

**SMARTER STUDENTS   STRONGER ATHLETES   BETTER PEOPLE**