

Features

Reichert leads GWU softball on the mound

John Olson
Pilot sports editor

Stacie Reichert and the GWU softball team set one main goal for this season. The chance to make it to the Atlantic Sun Tournament. Reichert, a junior from Mosinee, WI is the one of the keys to the team (23-25-1) making the 2004 tournament.

"Our goal the whole year has been to make the conference tournament," said Reichert.

Head Coach Tom Cole said that Reichert was a good pitcher with a lot of potential before she started to play softball at GWU. Reichert started to play softball in fifth grade.

"She has become one of the best pitchers in the conference," said Cole.

The softball team's schedule has added extra work for Reichert and pitchers Andrea Lewis and Stephanie Taylor.

"We played a lot of big schools this year," said Reichert.

Reichert mentioned how the three pitchers have been tired due to the schedule, however she also mentioned how most softball teams have three to four pitchers.

Since GWU made the move to the D-I level of athletics in 2000-2001 Reichert has the teams most wins, appearances, complete games, game started, shutouts, saves (tied), innings pitched, strikeouts and opponents/average in school history.

Reichert looks to Annie Lewis for help with the mental part of the game. "She is very good with the mental part of the game," said Reichert. Lewis joined the softball staff as an assistant in 2002 to help the pitchers.

"We all know each other pretty well," said Reichert. "Some of our best friends are on the team."

Reichert has a 28-41-career record on the mound and has started 69 games, completing 34 of the games. This year Reichert doubled her strikeout count from the

past two seasons with 324 career strikeouts.

Giving Reichert the encouragement she needs is her mother Cathy, who now plays slow pitch softball.

"My mom has done everything for me," said Reichert.

Reichert is studying Biology at GWU with a minor in Chemistry. In the future Reichert has thought about holding pitching lessons, maybe coaching a summer team and having fun with softball.

Reichert chose to attend GWU for its D-I program and also the small country atmosphere of Boiling Springs.

"We're very excited

about what she has accomplished," said Cole.

The Bulldogs resume competition on April 14 with a home contest against A-Sun opponent Campbell.

The Bulldogs also take on Stetson on April 17 at home. FAU hosts the A-Sun Championships from May 13-15.

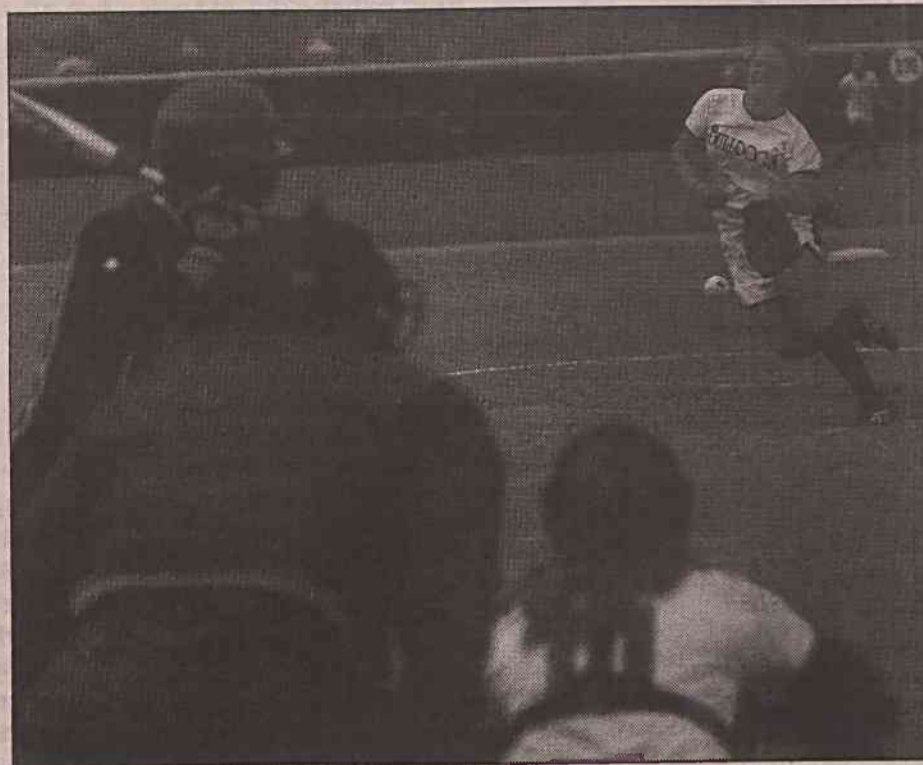


Photo by Scott Holstein

Junior Stacie Reichert pitches during the Lady Bulldogs game against Furman on March 18 at home.

Students remember Easter traditions Easter symbols and traditions date back to ancient times

Sarah Olimb
Pilot Editor

While many students count Easter break as a chance to have a day off from classes, others view the holiday as a celebration of their religious faith.

Still others simply associate Easter with bunnies, colorful eggs, jellybeans and the beginning of spring.

Even before Easter was designated the modern holiday, people around the world celebrated the coming of spring. Derived from the Saxon Eostre, the name Easter comes from the name of the Germanic goddess for spring and the god who measured time.

"Eostre" is derived from

the ancient word for spring and was represented by the rabbit.

This holiday has other biblical connections besides the celebration of Christ's resurrection—Easter is also associated with a Jewish festival called Purim, which revolved around its heroine, Esther.

The history of the Easter Bunny as a symbol for this holiday dates back to Germany and the 1500s. The Dutch brought the symbol to the United States in the 1700s as children received gifts from Oschter Haws.

However, most Americans did not adopt the Easter Bunny as a symbol for the holiday until after the

Civil War.

Although the egg, a traditional symbol for fertility, was long associated with spring, it was not until



European candymakers decided to pair a decorated candy egg with the Easter Bunny in an advertisement that the egg became part of Easter celebrations.

Pennsylvania Dutch children believed that the Oschter Haws would bring them colorfully decorated

eggs. Also, decorated eggs have been long-given as gifts during this season.

Modern-day Easter is associated with mall photos with the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts, new Easter dresses, sunrise services and chocolate bunnies.

Some GWU students have fond memories of Easter and its traditions from their childhoods.

Junior Trae Vickers fondly remembers his sixth Easter when his parents hid his Easter basket in the dryer.

"I had to look all over the house for it," said Vickers. "It was fun, and my reward was a Cadbury egg, which was my favorite Easter candy."

Freshman Wes Rice remembers having to dress up for the Easter morning service.

"I remember my Carolina blue Easter suit from my childhood," said Rice. "I looked like I belonged in the Sound of Music."

Despite the commercialized aspects of this season, many GWU students focus on the religious meaning behind the holiday.

Junior Bruce Wham reflects on what Easter means to him.

"Its symbolic of a new start," said Wham.

Many GWU students will be attending services Easter morning to celebrate their religious beliefs.