

Troy University Spring Sports Fan Appreciation Day

Trojan Baseball and Softball Teams Featured

The Troy University Warrior Booster Club will be serving free hot dogs and soft drinks to all attendees at the Spring Sports Fan Appreciation Day event on Sunday, February 5th at Riddle-Pace Field on the Troy University Campus. Baseball Coach Bobby Pierce and Softball Coach Melanie Davis will introduce their 2012 teams starting at 2pm and discuss prospects for the upcoming season. Attendees can meet this year's teams and have available team posters personally autographed. Hot dogs and cold drinks are free as supplies are available.

The Lady Trojans softball coach Melanie Davis enters her 20th season at the helm. Coach Davis' accomplishments during her tenure include over 800 career victories, a winning record every single season, eight 40-win seasons, and multiple conference championships. You name it, chances are that Davis has led a team to that award or standard of success. Davis recently entered the Alabama Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Hall of Fame, the third hall of fame that Davis is a member of and perhaps the sweetest of them all, given that the ASA opened the door for Davis to begin her career as Coach and mentor for many young women-athletes at Troy University.

Among those returning for the 2012 season include Trojans senior shortstop Nikki Hollett and sophomore catcher Taylor Smartt. For the Spring 2011 season, Hollett finished third in the Sun Belt Conference in home runs with 20, becoming the third Sun Belt Conference player to achieve the feat this season and the sixth different player to achieve the feat in the conference. She also led the team in hitting at .354 and runs batted in with 56. The junior scored 43 runs, recorded 18 doubles and four triples on the season. Smartt played five different positions last year for the Trojans including 31 games at catcher. The true freshman also saw action at first base, second base, shortstop and designated player. The freshman led all freshmen at TROY in hitting at .277, starting all 59 games. She scored 23 runs, connected for eight doubles, one triple and one home run. She also drove in 17 runs and walked 19 times; while ranking among the nation's leaders in sacrifice flies and hits.

The 2011 softball team was awarded a very special honor as they were named a part of the 2011 NFCA Top 10 All-Academic team rankings. The Trojans 3.512 team GPA for the 2010-11 year was the seventh best mark in the nation. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association annual Top 10 All-Academic Team recognizes the 10 best team GPAs in the country. The program recognizes colleges from all divisions as well as high schools.

The Lady Trojans open the year at the Southeastern Louisiana Lion Classic on Friday, February 10, then return home the following weekend to host the Quality Inn Classic. The tournament will pit the Trojans against Missouri, a Women's College World Series participant a year ago. The Trojans will also host Ball State, Eastern Kentucky, East Tennessee State and Nicholls State in the three-day event that runs from Friday, February 17 to Sunday, February 19.

The 2011 56-game slate features 22 games at the confines of the Trojan Softball Complex, including an early season tournament. The 2012 Sun Belt Conference Softball

Championships will be held in Boca Raton, Fla., and hosted by Florida Atlantic beginning on Wednesday, May 9. Admission to all home softball games is FREE

The 2011 Trojan Men's Baseball Team won the Sunbelt Conference Championship and fell 5-2 to Belmont in the NCAA Nashville Regional Tournament to cap an overall 43-19 record.

Senior Troy Pre-Season All-America candidates Tyler Ray (pitcher) and Tyler Hannah (shortstop) return to lead the Trojans 2012 campaign. Ray completed the 2011 season with a 12-0 record and was named Sunbelt Pitcher of the Year and a finalist for NCAA Pitcher of the Year. Hannah, a senior from Gardendale, Ala., was recently named to the College Sports Madness 2012 Preseason All-American first team, after being selected to the All-Sun Belt first team last season. Hannah started all 62 games last season, hitting .370 with seven home runs and 53 RBIs. His 27 doubles and .591 slugging percentage led Troy in 2011.

In 2011, tenth-year head baseball coach Bobby Pierce was named American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) South Central Region Coach of the Year for the first time after leading the Troy Trojans to the Sunbelt Conference Championship and earning Pierce Sunbelt conference Coach of the Year.

The Trojans open the 2012 season with a four-game series against Central Michigan at Riddle-Pace Field on Feb. 17-19. Season tickets for Troy's 29-game home schedule are available for purchase by contacting the Troy ticket office at 1-877-878-WINS or by visiting the ticket office in person at Tine Davis Fieldhouse.