

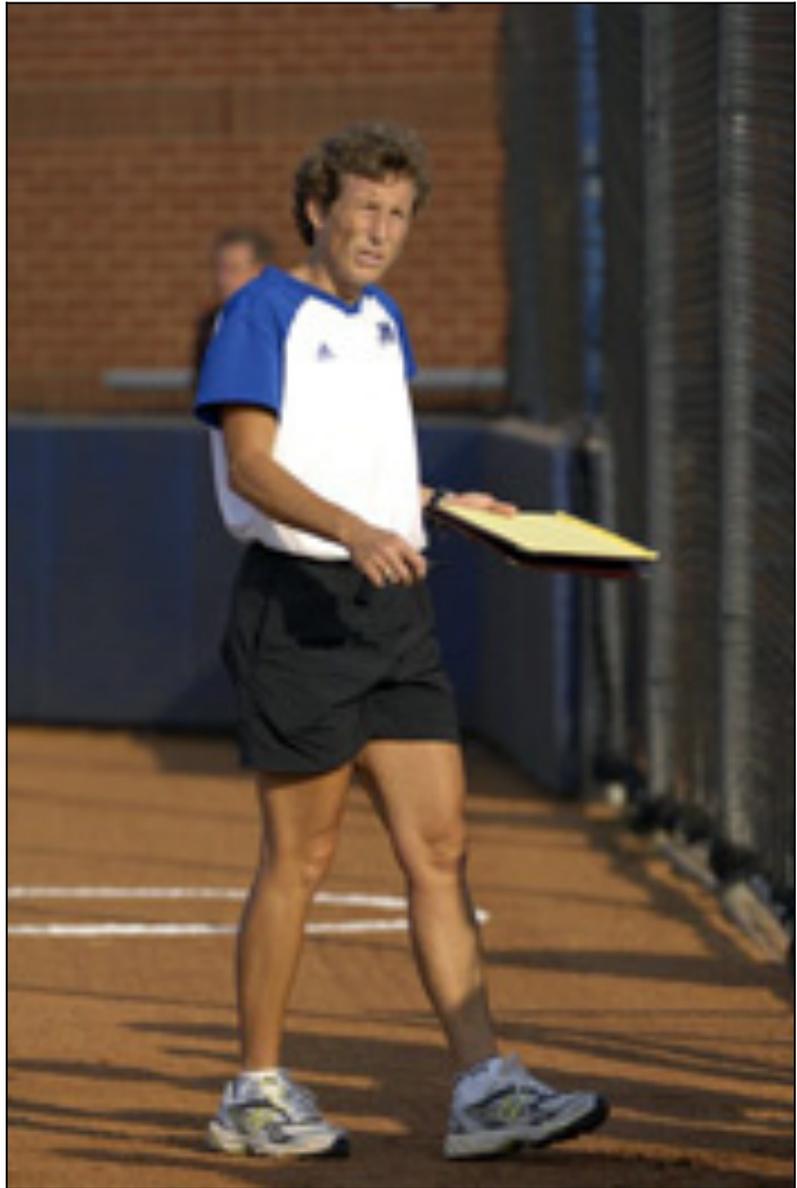
Allen, Barts Added to Softball Staff

Nevar completes staff for 2008 season

October 12, 2007 · Jo Jo Freeman

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -

Middle Tennessee softball coach Sue Nevar announced the hiring of assistant coach Lisa Allen for the 2008 season, completing the first year coach's staff. Nevar has also added Krista Barts as a graduate assistant. Allen comes to Middle Tennessee after a stellar collegiate career at Oregon State and one year as an assistant coach at Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. Linfield won the Northwest Conference title and the Division III national championship in 2007. The staff was honored as the D-III Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. While at Linfield Allen analyzed video of offensive and defensive fundamentals of future prospects, organized drills for practice, and developed specific individual drills for players. "I coached at Linfield last year through of a connection with someone I



had played softball with pretty much all my life," Allen said. "I loved it. I love giving lessons and seeing the girls improve." The Tigard, Ore., native was an Honorable Mention All-Pac-10 selection as a senior, leading the Beavers to the Women's College World Series. She was voted Pac-10 Player of the Week in 2006 and OSU won the Pac-10 championship during her junior season. She was a Second Team Academic All-Pac-10 selection her final three years in Corvallis, making the Honor Roll all four years and the Dean's List in 2003. After her playing career, she was drafted by the Professional Fastpitch X-Treme Tour and the National Professional Fastpitch League. She chose the NPFL, helping the New England Riptides to a league championship in the summer of 2006. Allen played professionally in Austria during the summer of 2007. She has previous coaching experience

as an assistant for the N.W. Extreme Gold in Canby, Ore., from 2003-05. Allen received her bachelor's in Exercise and Sports Science from Oregon State in June 2006. "Lisa has been here for about three weeks and has made some wonderful changes in our pitchers," Nevar said. "Her main purpose in being hired was to develop Lindsay Vander Lugt and to work with our freshmen, and then to help in the recruiting scene as far as bringing in very good pitchers who need a little tweaking. "We have been very successful thus far. She's doing a great job. She's also a very good hitting instructor and was a very good hitter at Oregon State. She's well-rounded and has made a tremendous impact in her short time here." Barts graduated this past May after lettering four years at Auburn for coach Tina Deese. The Tigers made three NCAA regional trips during her career, and the Alpharetta, Ga., native earned the Academic Athlete Award. Barts received her bachelor's in Sociology and also a minor in Sport Coaching.

BLUE RAIDERS RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMICS: For the second straight year, Middle Tennessee's softball team was recognized for their academic excellence by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The Blue Raiders ranked 15th nationally in team grade-point-average in 2006-07 with a 3.38 cumulative average. Middle Tennessee ranked 23rd in the country in 2005-06 with a team GPA of 3.30 **2006-07 NFCA All-Academic Teams**

1. St. Bonaventure 3.622
2. Southern Illinois 3.557
3. Eastern Michigan 3.528
4. Gardner-Webb 3.493
5. South Carolina 3.462
6. Valparaiso 3.461
7. Robert Morris 3.452
8. Detroit-Mercy 3.448
9. Loyola-Chicago 3.432
10. George Washington 3.420
11. Mississippi State 3.411
12. Florida 3.410
13. Indiana State 3.398
14. Central Michigan 3.382
- t15. North Florida 3.380
- t15. Middle Tennessee 3.380

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