



1984-85 UA Softball Teams NCAA II Runner-Ups

Ken MacDonald

The 1984 and 1985 University of Akron softball teams are two of the winningest teams in the University's athletic history, winning ninety-nine out of 115 games, and both finishing national runner-up in the NCAA II Tournament Championship. Head Coach Joey Arrietta, The University of Akron's winningest softball coach (359-136-4), directed her teams towards records of 48-6 in 1984 and 51-10 in 1985. The University's 1984 team strung together thirty-three consecutive victories, surpassing the previous University of Akron all-time high of twenty-seven wins held by the men's track teams of 1961-64. In the 1984 NCAA II tournament, the Zips women

knocked off number-one nationally ranked Sacred Heart, 2-1, in fifteen innings before dropping the national championship to California-Northridge, 1-0. At the 1985 NCAA II Championship, the Zips lost in the first round to Northridge but battled back to defeat Sacred Heart, Stephen F. Austin, and Northridge, before losing the national championship, again to Northridge, 2-1. Leading the Zips were seven All-Americans led by three-time honoree shortstop Kay Piper. Joining her were pitchers Dana and Renee Vance, catcher Tina Mayreis, third baseman Traci Alcorn, first baseman Becky Bailey, and second baseman Deann Viebranz.