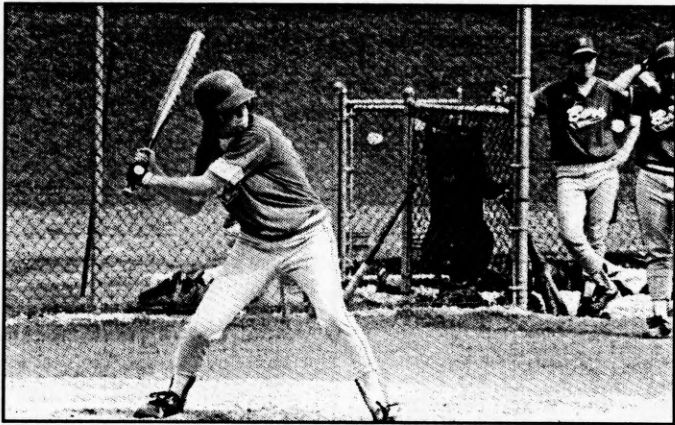
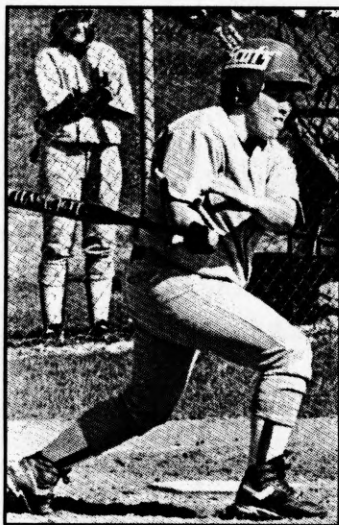


EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

1996 SOFTBALL



PSAC All-Star Diana Holder



PSAC All-Star Heather Clark

A member of the State System of Higher Education

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

History

- ❖ Founded in 1857 as a private academy
- ❖ Previously named Edinboro Academy, Edinboro Normal School, Edinboro State Teachers College, and Edinboro State College
- ❖ The second normal school established in Pennsylvania and the 12th in the U.S.
- ❖ Became Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on July 1, 1983 with the formation of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

Special Programs

- ❖ The nation's third largest educational program for the physically disabled including services for the hearing impaired, the visually impaired, and the learning disabled
- ❖ International education program for the exchange of faculty and students
- ❖ Honors program for academically gifted students
- ❖ Internships and field experiences which integrate academic pursuits with on-site "real world" work situations and personal relationships

Athletics

- ❖ Men's baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, swimming, tennis, track, and wrestling
- ❖ Women's basketball, cross country, softball, swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball
- ❖ The Fighting Scots compete in the Pennsylvania Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Division I and II

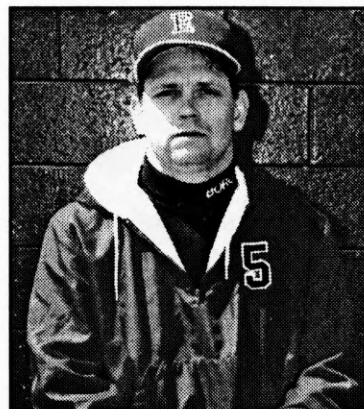
Location

- ❖ Located in the resort town of Edinboro, Pennsylvania
- ❖ Just 15 miles south of Erie and 100 miles from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Buffalo
- ❖ Easily accessible from interstates 90 and 79

Facilities

- ❖ Forty-two buildings on a 585-acre wooded campus with a five-acre lake
- ❖ Day and evening classes at the 27-acre Porreco Extension Center in nearby Erie, Pa.
- ❖ Seven-story library with more than 430,000 bound volumes, 1,200,000 microform units, on-line public access catalog, on-line and CD-ROM searching systems, public access catalog for the visually impaired, and interlibrary loan service
- ❖ Eight on-campus residence halls
- ❖ Planetarium, modern science labs, solar observatory, robotics laboratory, TV studio, radio station, and center for the performing arts
- ❖ Reading clinic, speech and hearing clinic, math clinic, parent-child development center, and computer lab for children
- ❖ Five powerful mini-computers, 725 personal computers, 300 terminals, and 13 computer labs with current hardware and software
- ❖ Recreational facilities, life skills center, and nurse's station for students with disabilities
- ❖ Campus is nearly 100% wheelchair accessible
- ❖ University Center with an indoor running track, saunas and whirlpools, weight room, racquetball and handball courts, full-service bookstore and dining areas, and an aerobics room

HEAD COACH DAN GIERLAK



After a one-year hiatus, Dan Gierlak returns as the head coach of the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania softball team. Gierlak enters his seventh season as Edinboro's head softball coach, and he also has been an assistant football coach at the 'Boro for the past nine seasons.

Gierlak has enjoyed success as Edinboro's softball coach. He guided the 'Boro to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference playoffs in 1990 and led the Scots to a 21-10 overall record in 1994.

Gierlak did not coach the 'Boro women last season, as he concentrated solely on his duties as an assistant on Tom Hollman's football staff.

Gierlak came to Edinboro from Thiel College, where he coached defensive backs in 1984. He then moved on to semi-pro football, directing the Chicago Cowboys to a national title in 1984 and a second-place national finish in 1985.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Gierlak graduated from Edinboro with a degree in health and physical education. He was a three-year letterman for the Scots as a defensive back.

Gierlak and his wife, the former Amy Adams, reside in Edinboro with their two children, Daniel, Jr. (Joey) and Alexandria Alicia.

STUDENT ASSISTANT BOB HOLMES

Bob Holmes enters his second season as a student assistant. Holmes is pursuing a degree in health and physical education and a minor in coaching. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania's Kennard-Dale High School, where he played baseball and football.

EDINBORO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 1996 SEASON

With the return of several key veterans and the addition of some promising newcomers, the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania softball team is optimistic about the 1996 season.

And Edinboro's high hopes were only strengthened by the team's 9-5 showing on its spring trip to Fort Myers, Florida. The Fighting Scots played well in the Sunshine State, defeating NCAA Division I schools such as Seton Hall University (New Jersey) and Villanova University. With the nine wins, the 'Boro nearly equaled its victory total in 1995, when it posted a 10-38 mark.

The strength of the 1996 Scots lies in their infield, where veterans Diana Holder, Jen Mitchell, Kristin Neuburger and Michelle Weber return to anchor the 'Boro's defense.

Holder, a senior third baseman/first baseman, hit .319 last season, earning Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference all-star status. She had 10 doubles, two home runs and 16 runs batted in, as well as a .937 fielding percentage.

Mitchell, a senior first baseman who also can play the outfield, hit .246 last season. She was Edinboro's third-best run producer last season with 14 runs batted in and ranked fourth on the team with six doubles.

Senior second baseman Neuburger, a medical redshirt last season with a hand injury, looks to return to her form of 1994 when she received PSAC all-star recognition for hitting .444. Neuburger had six doubles, six triples, three home runs and 29 runs batted in that season.

Edinboro head coach Dan Gierlak feels Weber is one of the top defensive shortstops in the PSAC. A junior, Weber hit .200 last season and was fourth on the team with 21 runs scored.

The Scots' top outfielders are junior Heather Clark and sophomores Amy Burlingame and Andria Musser. Clark anchors the outfield in center, with Musser in left and Burlingame in right. Burlingame may see some action behind the plate.

Clark put up some big numbers in 1995. One of the PSAC's top hitters, she batted .423 last season, with 10 doubles, 10 triples, five home runs and 34 runs batted in. Clark, who also can catch and play first base, led the Scots in nearly every offensive category last season. Burlingame and Musser should be much improved players after a year of collegiate experience.

Freshman Leigh McMahon is expected to handle most of the catching duties for Edinboro. McMahon was a French Creek Valley Conference all-star at nearby Cambridge Springs High School, where she hit over .400 her senior season. She has a strong arm and capable bat.

Sophomores Meghan Kutz and Cheri Snyder are Edinboro's top pitchers. Kutz, who did not play last season while attending Penn State University, was a four-time FCVC all-star at Cambridge Springs. Snyder pitched in 22 games for Edinboro last season leading the team with a 2.94 earned run average.

PLAYER PROFILES



DIANA HOLDER #21

Senior, Third Base

Waterford, PA/Fort LeBoeuf High School

- ❖ Was named to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference all-star team the past two seasons.
- ❖ Led 1995 Scots in runs scored (27), tied for team lead in doubles (10) and ranked second on the squad in batting average (.319), home runs (2) and runs batted in (16).
- ❖ Had a .937 fielding percentage last season and can play third base, first base and second base.

Coach Gierlak on Diana Holder: "Diana works hard and does everything you ask of her. She is very versatile and is a great leader by example."



JEN MITCHELL #6

Senior, First Base/Outfield

Greensburg, PA/Hempfield Area High School

- ❖ Was Edinboro's third-best run producer last season with 14 runs batted in.
- ❖ Hit .246 last season and was fourth on the team with six doubles.

Coach Gierlak on Jen Mitchell: "Jen has come a long way. Her bat is coming around and she has become more consistent. She also is a very good defensive player at first base."



KRISTIN NEUBURGER #24

Senior, Second Base

Fairview, PA/General McLane High School

- ❖ Was redshirted last season with a hand injury and looks to return to her form of 1994, when she was named a PSAC all-star.
- ❖ Hit .444 in 1994, with six doubles, six triples, three home runs and 29 runs batted in.
- ❖ Solid all-around player who also serves as a team leader.

Coach Gierlak on Kristin Neuburger: "Neubie really was missed last year. She has a good glove and is one of the best hitters I've seen. She's a gamer."

PLAYER PROFILES



HEATHER CLARK #41
Junior, Outfield/First Base
Elgin, PA/Corry Area High School

- ❖ Was a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference all-star the past two seasons.
- ❖ Led Edinboro in nearly every offensive category last season.
- ❖ Hit .423 last season, with 10 doubles, 10 triples, five home runs and 34 runs batted in.

Coach Gierlak on Heather Clark: "Heather is a true cleanup hitter, one of the best hitters I've seen. She crunches the ball every time she hits it."



MICHELLE WEBER #20
Junior, Shortstop
Springboro, PA/Conneaut Valley High School

- ❖ Considered by Coach Gierlak to be one of the top defensive shortstops in the PSAC.
- ❖ Last season, led Scots in sacrifices (9) and was second in walks (14) and fourth in runs scored (21).
- ❖ Hit .200 last season, collecting 21 hits in 105 at-bats.

Coach Gierlak on Michelle Weber: "Michelle is one of the premier shortstops in the conference. She's a heady player who is exceptional with the glove. She also has come a long way with the bat."



AMY ATWOOD #8
Sophomore, Outfield
Sheffield, PA/Sheffield High School

- ❖ Is a first-year player for the Scots.
- ❖ Was a three-sport standout at Sheffield High School, earning three letters in basketball and two letters each in softball and volleyball.
- ❖ Provides depth to Edinboro's young outfield.

Coach Gierlak on Amy Atwood: "Amy is coming along well. She has quick hands and a good eye at the plate, as well as a good sense of the game. She just needs game experience."

PLAYER PROFILES



AMY BURLINGAME #1
Sophomore, Outfield/Catcher
Franklinville, NY/Franklinville Central High School

- ❖ Expected to receive most of her playing time in the outfield this season, but also can play behind the plate.
- ❖ Played in 22 games last season.
- ❖ In high school, earned four letters each in basketball, soccer and softball.

Coach Gierlak on Amy Burlingame: "Amy is a heady ballplayer. She also has come a long way with her bat since last season."



MEGHAN KUTZ #22
Sophomore, Pitcher
Cambridge Springs, PA/Cambridge Springs High School

- ❖ Is a first-year Scot who did not play last season while attending Penn State University.
- ❖ Was a four-time French Creek Valley Conference all-star at nearby Cambridge Springs High School.
- ❖ Posted a 3.91 grade point average in her first semester at Edinboro, studying secondary education (biology and English).

Coach Gierlak on Meghan Kutz: "Meghan has the potential to be as good as any pitcher at Edinboro. She's smart, she throws hard and she has a lot of pitches. She also has a good work ethic."



KELLY MANKOWSKI #14
Sophomore, Pitcher
North East, PA/North East High School

- ❖ Is a first-year player for the Scots who transferred from Mercyhurst College in Erie.
- ❖ Also a member of the Edinboro women's basketball team.
- ❖ While at North East High School, earned eight letters in basketball, soccer, softball and track.

Coach Gierlak on Kelly Mankowski: "Kelly is going to pitch for us. It's been a couple years since she's thrown, but she's a good athlete."

PLAYER PROFILES



ANDRIA MUSSER #11
Sophomore, Outfield
Denver, PA/Cocalico High School

- ❖ Received limited playing time last season, but could be a starter in the Scots' outfield this season.
- ❖ Member of the Dean's List, studying elementary and special education.
- ❖ In high school, first-team all-conference selection in softball; earned three letters in softball and two letters each in basketball and field hockey.

Coach Gierlak on Andria Musser: "Andria's a solid left fielder. She's a good defensive player and is coming along with the bat."



BECKY POWIERZA #25
Sophomore, Outfield/First Base
Erie, PA/Strong Vincent High School

- ❖ Is a first-year player for the Scots.
- ❖ While attending nearby Strong Vincent High School, earned four letters each in basketball, softball and volleyball.
- ❖ Metro League all-star in high school; also was a member of the National Honor Society.

Coach Gierlak on Becky Powierza: "Becky is one of the hardest workers I've seen, and she has the ability to hit the longball."



CHERI SNYDER #5
Sophomore, Pitcher
Meadville, PA/Meadville Area High School

- ❖ Pitched in 22 games for Edinboro last season, posting a team leading 2.94 earned run average.
- ❖ While in high school, earned four letters in softball, three letters in soccer and two letters in basketball.
- ❖ Honor student in high school who is majoring in secondary education (social studies).

Coach Gierlak on Cheri Snyder: "Cheri has come a long way. With our strong infield, she can be very effective if she keeps the ball down. She's very smart and she keeps people off balance with her pitches."

PLAYER PROFILES



MELISSA WILSMAN #18
Sophomore, Third Base/Catcher
Williamsville, NY/Williamsville South High School

- ❖ Is a first-year player for the 'Boro.
- ❖ In high school, earned four letters in soccer and three in softball; was an all-conference selection in softball.
- ❖ Helped lead Williamsville South High School to divisional and sectional titles.

Coach Gierlak on Melissa Wilsman: "Melissa is a catcher who is now playing the infield. She has a good eye and can hit the ball well. Defensively, it's just going to take some time."



KERI CRISCIONE #7
Freshman, Middle Infield/Outfield
Fredonia, NY/Fredonia High School

- ❖ Versatile athlete who can play second base, shortstop and the outfield; could see some action on the mound as well.
- ❖ In high school, earned eight letters in diving and softball.
- ❖ Was selected as Fredonia High School's outstanding female athlete her senior year; also received honorable mention western New York status in softball.

Coach Gierlak on Keri Criscione: "I'm real pleased with Keri. She is very versatile and has the potential to be a heck of a player. She plays very intense and is going to play a lot of positions for us."



BRANDI LAURIA #9
Freshman, Second Base/Outfield
Oakdale, PA/West Allegheny High School

- ❖ Was a three-sport standout at West Allegheny High School, earning 12 letters in basketball, softball and volleyball.
- ❖ In high school, hit .491 as a sophomore, .502 as a junior and .581 as a senior.
- ❖ Honor student in high school who is studying criminal justice.

Coach Gierlak on Brandi Lauria: "Brandi played the infield in high school, but she was behind Neubie (Kristin Neuburger) at second, so we moved her to the outfield. She's a good hitter."

PLAYER PROFILES



JENNIFER McCLAIN #13

Freshman, Outfield/Pitcher

North Versailles, PA/East Allegheny High School

- ❖ Was a standout at East Allegheny where she earned all-section honors.
- ❖ Solid left-handed hitter who will compete for playing time in Edinboro's outfield.

Coach Gierlak on Jennifer McClain: "Jennifer has a good swing, and she can help us with her bat. Defensively, she gets a great jump on the ball. She's a very smart ballplayer."



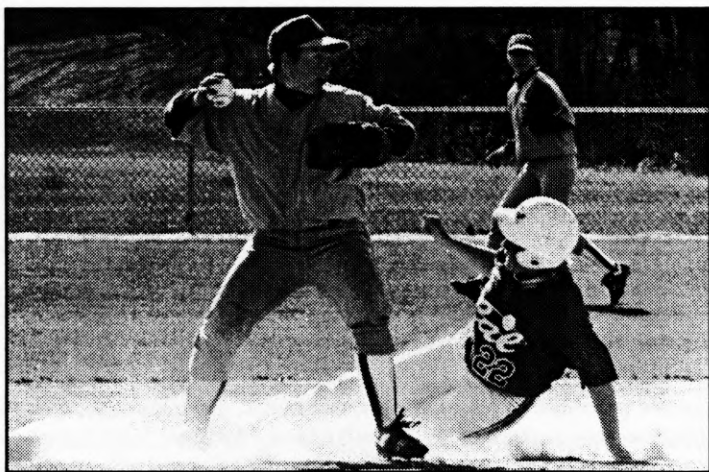
LEIGH McMAHON #19

Freshman, Catcher

Cambridge Springs, PA/Cambridge Springs High School

- ❖ Could handle most of the catching duties for Edinboro as a freshman.
- ❖ Was a French Creek Valley Conference all-star at nearby Cambridge Springs where she caught for Edinboro teammate Meghan Kutz; hit over .400 her senior year.
- ❖ Earned nine letters in basketball, softball and volleyball.

Coach Gierlak on Leigh McMahon: "Leigh has the strongest arm of any catcher I've had, so I don't see people stealing a lot of bases against us. She also has a good bat."



Kristin Neuburger, Senior, Second Base

1996 SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Hometown/High School
1	Amy Burlingame	OF/C	So.	Franklinville, NY/Franklinville Central
5	Cheri Snyder	P	So.	Meadville, PA/Meadville Area
6	Jen Mitchell	1B/OF	Sr.	Greensburg, PA/Hempfield Area
7	Keri Criscione	IF/OF	Fr.	Fredonia, NY/Fredonia
8	Amy Atwood	OF	So.	Sheffield, PA/Sheffield
9	Brandi Lauria	2B/OF	Fr.	Oakdale, PA/West Allegheny
11	Andria Musser	OF	So.	Denver, PA/Cocalico
13	Jennifer McClain	OF/P	Fr.	North Versailles, PA/East Allegheny
14	Kelly Mankowski	P	So.	North East, PA/North East
18	Melissa Wilsman	3B/C	So.	Williamsville, NY/Williamsville South
19	Leigh McMahon	C	Fr.	Cambridge Springs, PA/Camb. Spgs.
20	Michelle Weber	SS	Jr.	Springboro, PA/Conneaut Valley
21	Diana Holder	3B	Sr.	Waterford, PA/Fort LeBoeuf
22	Meghan Kutz	P	So.	Cambridge Springs, PA/Camb. Spgs.
24	Kristin Neuburger	2B	Sr.	Fairview, PA/General McLane
25	Becky Powierza	OF/1B	So.	Erie, PA/Strong Vincent
41	Heather Clark	OF/1B	Jr.	Elgin, PA/Corry Area

1996 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

March 7	# Keene State College (NH)		9:00 a.m.
March 7	# St. Anselm College (NH)		11:00 a.m.
March 8	# Monmouth University (NJ)		2:00 p.m.
March 8	# Grand Valley State University (MI)		4:00 p.m.
March 9	# Villanova University		11:00 a.m.
March 11	# Villanova University		2:00 p.m.
March 11	# University of North Dakota		6:00 p.m.
March 12	# Seton Hall University (NJ)		11:00 a.m.
March 12	# University of North Dakota		2:00 p.m.
March 13	# University of New Haven (CT)		11:00 a.m.
March 13	# Tennessee Tech University		2:00 p.m.
March 15	# College of Holy Cross (MA)		11:00 a.m.
March 15	# Seton Hall University (NJ)		2:00 p.m.
March 16	# LeMoyne College (NY)		9:00 a.m.
March 16	# West Chester University of Pa.		11:00 a.m.
March 27	at Allegheny College	DH	3:30 p.m.
April 3	* CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PA	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 6	* SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY OF PA	DH	1:00 p.m.
April 9	* at Lock Haven University of Pa.	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 13	* at Indiana University of Pa.	DH	1:00 p.m.
April 14	* CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PA	DH	1:00 p.m.
April 17	* at California University of Pa.	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 20	* at Clarion University of Pa.	DH	1:00 p.m.
April 23	* at Slippery Rock University of Pa.	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 24	GANNON UNIVERSITY	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 25	* LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY OF PA	DH	3:00 p.m.
April 27	* INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PA	DH	1:00 p.m.
April 30	at Ashland University (OH)	DH	3:30 p.m.
May 1	at Mercyhurst College	DH	3:00 p.m.

#Denotes games played in Fort Myers, FL

*Denotes Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Western Division games