



2006 ETSU BUCCANEER WOMEN'S SOCCER

2005 Season Review

The East Tennessee State University women's soccer team finished up its inaugural season in the Atlantic Sun Conference with an 8-11-1 overall record, and a 4-7-0 conference record, while earning a fifth-place seed in a very competitive conference tournament.

Despite an 8-11-1 record the Bucs felt they had a lot of success in the season. The team felt its play should have produced more wins; the best example of this was the stat that the Bucs out shot and out cornered their opponents on six occasions that resulted in losses. They also saw several records fall, including netting 39 goals and 101 points on the season. As a team the Bucs felt there were more positives than negatives.

Individually, 10 players contributed to the offensive effort that was led by the New Bern connection, senior Erin Ashton and junior Emily Fulcher. Ashton led the team with 30 points, 11 goals and eight assists moving her to number one on the ETSU All-Time goal scorer and most points. Fulcher put together a great season tallying 20 points with 10 goals moving herself into third on the ETSU All-Time scoring list. The Bucs garnered several A-Sun Conference awards with Erin Ashton being named the A-Sun Conference Offensive player of the week twice and Meghan Morris receiving it once. Both players were named to the A-Sun All-Conference teams. Ashton went on to be named the Atlantic Sun Female Athlete of the Year, ESPN Academic All-America Team and received a coveted NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

At the end of the season, the team had to say farewell to the winningest class in ETSU history: Erin Ashton, Kerri Burke, Lauren Kulish, and Meghan Morris. Ashton leaves as the most prolific attacking player to don a Bucs uniform, but her biggest legacy will be her overall success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Burke, who appeared in 71 matches during her career was one of the most versatile players to wear the blue as she played almost every position on the field. Her dedication and loyalty will set the standard for future Bucs. Kulish's creativity and technical ability have entertained the fans for four years and have made her the career leader in matches played with 73. Morris, a four-year starter as the Bucs centerback saved her best for last as she had her highest scoring season while leading the team to its four lowest seasons in goals against average in Buc history. This class had definitely helped grow the program and their leadership will be missed.

Head Coach Heather Henson commented, "We are making strides every year toward winning a championship. We out-shot our opponents and battled through a lot of close games. We look to get better every time we step on the field."

2006 Season Outlook

Forwards -

The Bucs return an experienced lineup in the attacking third. This group boasts a lot of minutes and experience, and will be led by senior Rebecca Murray and joined by junior Adrian Mobley and sophomore Rachel Layer.

Murray is expected to be a major contributor for the Bucs. She posted two goals last season including one game winner. She currently ranks seventh on the Bucs all-time goals, points and shots list. "Becca is a scrappy forward who is very good with the ball at her feet. She has the ability to create scoring opportunities," commented Henson. "I look for Becca to have fun this season."



Mobley enters this season after scoring two goals in 2005 with one game winner. "Adrian has matured as a player and is showing everyone her potential and her creativity," said Henson.

As a freshman, Rachel Layer played in all 20 of the Bucs' games, starting in 12. Layer got her career started with three goals, but expectations are for more in 2006. "Rachel's strong athletic presence is an asset in the attacking third. She worked diligently on a few new aspects of her game in the spring and it will pay off," said Henson.

The newcomers will add a great deal of versatility and should compete for time immediately. "Danielle Bayles has a great first step including breakaway speed. She is very effective at going end-line to service the box," commented Henson. "Jordan Monty is very athletic and her vision of the field will put her in a position to finish."

Midfielders -

The Bucs midfield should be a strength in the 2006 campaign. "Having six returning players will definitely make us deep," said Henson. The midfield should be led by seniors Emily Fulcher and Alex Schwark and joined by juniors Hannah Johnson, Katie O'Bryan, Aubree Snyder and sophomore Meredith Goldman.

Fulcher starts the season ranked third on the Bucs' career leaders list in goals, shots and points. She has seen minutes in every game of her career and started every game for the last two seasons. "Emily's play in the center of the park and her finishing ability make her one of our most dangerous players. She reads the game as well as any player we have," said Henson.

Schwark, who saw action in 19 matches and started in 10, is expected to be a major contributor this season. "Alex will be expected to do a lot this season; she brings a great work rate to every game she plays. She works hard on both sides of the ball. She picks her opportunities to go forward but is a constant defensive presence," Henson stated. Schwark will look to build on last season's one goal and assist.

Johnson will look to build on last season's momentum and a great spring. "Hannah has added many elements to her individual game including taking more shots. She improves every time she steps on the pitch," stated Henson.



2006 SEASON OUTLOOK





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Junior Katie O'Bryan returns to the Bucs lineup after starting all 20 matches last season and contributing two goals, but looks to improve on those numbers. "Katie has a great ability to service balls in the attacking third; she has the ability to make us dangerous within two touches. We need to put her in a position this year to give our forwards the ball in good positions to finish," said Henson.

As a sophomore Snyder saw time in all 20 matches last season and is coming off a great season. She is expected to be a key to the Bucs midfield this spring. "Aubree is a work-horse," stated Henson. "This past spring Aubree really focused on her game; it showed in our play. She is a very simple player who maintains possession and is a defensive asset."

Goldman, whose freshman season was cut short by injury, has fully recovered and has put in a lot of time into preparing this season.



Meredith's versatility and her willingness to play any position gives us the ability to play different systems. Her flank play is truly her strength, especially when she is taking on 1 v 1," commented Henson.

Newcomer Krista Toliver should be able to compete immediately for the Bucs. "Her vision of the game and ability to use different services to get into the attacking third will be key for our future," stated Henson.

Defenders –

The Bucs are returning the core of the defense including two three-year starters in Blair DeGraw and Trista

Haupt as well as sophomores Ashley Craig and Amanda Elieff.

DeGraw brings a great deal of minutes and experience to the defense. She will likely move to a center back position from the left back position. "Blair is very vocal and will be a key to our organization in the back," said Henson. "She is a patient back, who understands different types of opponents and systems."

Haupt who started all 20 matches last season returns for her senior campaign to anchor the defense. "Trista is a solid defender; she is the best man marking back we have. She will lead by example both on and off the field," commented Henson.

As a freshman, Craig saw action in 18 games and contributed two goals and five assists. In 2006, she will be expected to increase her productivity. "Ashley is a gamer. She can read the game and can create attacking opportunities coming out of the back. She really forces the opponents to respect her," said Henson.

Elieff enters the 2006 season much more prepared to make an impact. "Mandie was working back from an injury last season and is ready to play. In the spring she began to come out of her shell and looked much more confident on the ball. She has the ability to dominate the air both offensively and defensively," said Henson.

This group of backs will be strengthened by the addition of freshmen Kim Jones and Kia Kindall. "Kim is an exceptional 1 v 1 defender and loves to get into the attack," commented Henson. "Kia's physical presence in the back will limit the opponent's ability to service balls into the box and her ability to service the ball can change a game."

Goalkeeper –

Defensively, this will be the youngest position of the pitch. With returning sophomore Erin Bilyeu and newcomer Megan Masch the Bucs expect a strong battle to compete for the starting job. Both ladies can compete at a high level with the veterans.

Bilyeu who started 15 games last season garnered 80 saves for the Bucs and one shutout. "Coming back for her second year, Erin had made improvements in every aspect of her game," commented Henson. "She had a very solid freshman season and is looking forward to another good year. She has the ability to make routine saves consistently and game winners when needed."

Newcomer Megan Masch will look to compete immediately for the Bucs. "Megan is fearless on the field. Her willingness to vocalize and organize the defensive aspects is an asset for us," said Henson.

2006 Schedule –

In their second year in the Atlantic Sun Conference, the Bucs look to improve on their conference record while adding to their non-conference slate of teams with opponents from national power conferences; the ACC and SEC. The Bucs will again hit the road early in the season opening against SEC power Ole Miss and several other tournaments. The Bucs will tune up for the A-Sun tournament with Virginia Tech

The Bucs will again have a challenging road schedule for the 2006 season with 13 of 20 games on the road. "This year's team will have to learn to win on the road with the number of away matches we have scheduled. Our staff feels this traveling should prepare us for the tough A-Sun conference," commented Henson.



"We are looking forward to this year's schedule; it will challenge our team with the time on the road and the level of competition. This year's team should have the experience and athleticism to compete with everyone on our schedule," said Henson.

ETSU will open on the road in an exhibition match against Furman on Friday, August 18 before officially opening its season on Friday, August 25 when they travel to Oxford to take on the Ole Miss Rebels. The Bucs will face non-conference rival Austin Peay in their first home contest set for September 1.

