

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 Π 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.