**SUMMER 2014** 



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2014-2015 SEASON

# READY. SET.

SANTA FE COLLEGE WELCOMES **HEAD COACH NICK CHERONIS** AND VOLLEYBALL



hese are exciting times for Santa Fe Saints Athletics! It is my pleasure to announce that our proud family of intercollegiate athletic teams is growing with the addition of women's volleyball.

Not only are our men's and women's basketball teams restocking with freshmen and transfers to challenge for Mid-Florida Conference championships, and our baseball and softball teams are getting ready for "fall ball" seasons to prepare them for successful 2014-15 campaigns, but now we have a "new kid on the block" to take to the court in August.

As I begin my 14th year as the Director of Athletics at SF, I can tell you that volleyball has been the most requested sport to add by students and members of the Gainesville, Alachua and Bradford County communities. I feel certain that the Saints volleyball team will draw great support from our student and community populations.

It's my opinion that when building a new program, one must start with a solid foundation. I'm confident that we could not have found a more suitable head coach to start a program than Nick Cheronis. His extensive experience at the Division I level with the University of Florida and recent experience at the high school level with St. Francis High School indicates his strong connections at all levels of the game.

And just as Saints volleyball will be finishing up their inaugural season, Chanda Stebbins and the Saints women's basketball team and Chris Mowry and the Saints men's team will be taking to the hardwood as November rolls around.

Chris Ahern and the SF fastpitch team will be defending their 2014 MFC championship when they take to the field for the regular season in late January - a title they have won in nine of the past 10 years!

And of course Johnny Wiggs and the SF baseball team will begin regular season play in late January as they strive to return to the state and national tournaments.

The excitement is just beginning and we invite you to be a part of it. We encourage you to take in a game, visit the SF Fitness Center or join an intramural sport team. We are proud and pleased to be here for you!

Sincerely,

Jim Keites, SF Director of Athletics

#### SAINTS PLAYBOOK

#### **PUBLISHER**

Santa Fe College

#### **DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Col. Arley McRae, Ret., Chair

Robert L. Woody, Vice Chair

Robert C. Hudson

Bessie G. Jackson

Caridad "Carrie" E. Lee

G. Thomas Mallini

Jeff Oody

Lisa M. Prevatt

#### **PRESIDENT**

Jackson N. Sasser

#### PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Bonahue

#### VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

#### Naima Brown **PRODUCED BY**

Communications & Creative Services

#### **EDITOR**

Jon-Paul Wimer

#### **WRITER**

Scott Jamison

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Aaron Dave** Scott Jamison

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Main Office 395-5535 Fax Lines 395-5547 **Baseball Press Box** 373-3657

Basketball

**Broadcast Booth** 395-5589

#### **Athletic Director**

395-5536 Jim Keites

Sports Information/Intramurals 395-5616 Scott Jamison

Fitness Center Manager

Marshall Blair 395-5540

**Athletic Trainer** 

395-5884 Faith Westdyk

**Head Coach Baseball** 

Johnny Wiggs 381-3866

**Head Coach Fastpitch** 

Christine Ahern 395-5638

**Head Coach Men's Basketball Chris Mowry** 395-5548

**Head Coach Women's Basketball** 

**Chanda Stebbins** 395-5541

**Head Coach Women's Volleyball** 

395-5537

#### **ON THE COVER**

**Nick Cheronis** 

(left to right) Paige Stockman, Ann-Lorrayne Bzoch, Farah Rajaee, Julie Fuchs

/// SAINTS PLAYBOOK www.santafesaints.com



Dr. Jackson Sasser and Santa Fe catcher Roger Gonzalez before a baseball game.

#### **FEATURE**

Santa Fe College welcomes volleyball into the athletics lineup

Volleyball: Ready, Set, Serve! 4

#### PREVIEW

Basketball is coming and we got the insider's look

Women's Basketball 8
Men's Basketball 10

#### **POSTSEASON RECAP**

The roller coaster ride called the 2013-14 season

Fastpitch 12
Baseball 14

#### **GET INVOLVED!**

Fitness Center 6
Intramurals 7

## **SEASON OPENERS**

### VOLLEYBALL (INAUGURAL GAME) August 26

**August 26 7 p.m.**Santa Fe Collge Gym-Building V

OVETRALL MENIO AND U

#### **BASKETBALL-MEN'S AND WOMEN'S**

October 31 Santa Fe Tip-Off Classic Santa Fe College Gym-Building V

Full schedules, roster and bios can been seen at santafesaints.com







/// SAINTS PLAYBOOK VOLLEYBALL www.santafesaints.com

#### FEATURE /// WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



On December 18, 2013, the course of the Santa Fe volleyball program was set when the Saints hired former University of Florida associate head coach Nick Cheronis to lead the inaugural team. Cheronis brings 32 years of coaching experience with him to SF, including 18 years as University of Florida coach Mary Wise's right-hand man. Joining his staff as assistant coaches are former Florida Gator Benavia Jenkins and former Elon University star Nickie Halbert.

Most recently, Cheronis was the head coach at St. Francis High School in Gainesville. He accepted the job there in 2011 and led the Wolves to back-to-back region and district championships, as well as back-to-back FHSAA 3A Final Four appearances in 2012 and 2013.

In his first offseason at SF, Cheronis established the Saints as a team to be reckoned with, pulling in a recruiting class that he expects to compete for championships immediately. The class is headlined by 6-foot-3 McDonald's All-American Kaylin Powell out of Chicago, Illinois. Powell was considered one of the top recruits in the state of Illinois and brings an immediate defensive presence to the floor for the Saints.

SF has a local flavor with six players out of Gainesville. They include Julie Fuchs, Farah Rajaee, AnnLoraynne Bzoch, Paige Stockman, Mersedes Bowers and Bridgette Cook, and Chelsea Dola from nearby Williston. Outside hitters Sara Lounsbury (Longwood, Fla.), Amber Hendry (Middleburg, Fla.), Emili Jordan (Pace, Fla.), Savannah Young (Fernandina Beach, Fla.) and Ruth Harrington (Delray Beach, Fla.) give the Saints power at the net, and Jane Early (Oviedo, Fla.), and Haley Walker (Middleburg, Fla.) provide additional size in the middle for Coach Cheronis.

The SF Saints open their inaugural season on August 26 against Pasco-Hernando State College at 7 p.m. in the Santa Fe Gym. Visit santafesaints.com for player bios and more.

#### **MEET THE COACH**

**NICK CHERONIS** 

32
YEARS OF COACHING EXPERIENCE

NCAA FINAL FOURS

568-62
RECORD DURING HIS TENURE WITH UF

CONSECUTIVE SEC CHAMPIONSHIPS (1992-2008)



www.santafesaints.com WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\

#### SF FITNESS CENTER /// HAS IT ALL

ould you like access to a fully functional gym free of charge? A deal this good almost sounds too good to be true.

Now is a great time to save some money because the Santa Fe College Fitness Center is free for all currently enrolled SF students, faculty and staff. All you need is your valid Santa Fe College ID.

The Fitness Center operates from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday. It is closed on weekends and days when the college is closed. It's located in Building V (Gymnasium) on North Road on the Northwest Campus.

The Fitness Center and Santa Fe Athletics also host Zumba and Yoga classes Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both are also free of charge and held in Building V.

Mr. Marshall Blair manages the Fitness Center and oversees the state-ofthe-art facility. The facility offers three separate rooms: a cardio room, a free-weights room and a Cybex machines room.

The cardio room consists of a Stair Master, five stationary bikes, six treadmills and four elliptical machines. The treadmills offered by

the Fitness Center allow you to focus more on your lower body while the elliptical trainers give you a total body workout with dual action handlebars for your arms and foot pedals for your legs. The bikes offer a low impact way of getting the exercise you need without putting too much strain on the lower body.

The free-weights room consists of two flat benches, an incline bench and decline bench, a shoulder press bench, two cable crossovers, rubberized weights, dumbbells, a squat rack, two leg press machines and other various free-weight equipment.

The Cybex room has a total of 30 machines that can be used for every muscle group. It also offers stretching mats, medicine/exercise balls and multiple leg and abdominal machines. The Cybex equipment is the most innovative in its field and offers cardiovascular exercises as well as strength training. The machines are very user friendly and are great for both first time and experienced gym users.

The Santa Fe College Fitness Center also offers two indoor racquetball courts, basketball courts in the main gym, walking trails, and beach volleyball courts. There is also a locker room for both men and women (with lockers available to rent).

For more information on the SF Fitness Center, visit sfcollege.edu/athletics/fitnesscenter or call 352-395-5549.



/// SAINTS PLAYBOOK FITNESS CENTER www.santafesaints.com

#### SF INTRAMURALS /// COMPETITIVE YET FUN







ntramural sports are starting for the 2014-15 school year and now is the time to get involved. This particular sports program at Santa Fe College is a great way to meet new people, compete against others in a competitive but friendly environment, and a fun way to get exercise. Sign-ups take place online at imleagues.com.

From the fall through the spring term, SF offers a wide variety of intramural sports, including 7-on-7 flag football, soccer, basketball, weight lifting competitions, racquetball tournaments and more.

Recently, Santa Fe College paired up with the University of Florida to offer students a chance to compete in a number of different UF intramural sports, including beach volleyball, softball, tennis, 4-on-4 football and more.

"Intramural sports are a great way for students, faculty and staff to play sports and test their skills in a fairly competitive setting," said Intramural Coordinator Scott Jamison. "We encourage everyone to get involved and come play one or more sports with us."

Fall intramurals start in early September and include 7-on-7 flag football, soccer, weight lifting, yoga, and a racquetball tournament. Flag football takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and soccer plays Mondays and

Wednesdays. Each sport has more than 150 students competing on 10-plus teams. In addition to fall sports, soccer and basketball are offered in the spring, with games beginning in March after spring break. Soccer, the only sport to run during both the fall and spring terms, competes on Mondays and Wednesdays while basketball is played on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Finally, bench press and leg press competitions will also be held throughout the fall and spring semesters as well as a racquetball tournament, with the dates to be determined. A schedule of events will be posted on the intramural website at imleagues.com.

Intramural participants can also stay updated about Santa Fe College intramurals on Facebook by searching "Santa Fe College Athletics," or following on Twitter at twitter.com/SF\_Athletics for live weather updates and more.

To participate in intramurals, each player must be a current SF student and sign up at imleagues.com with their SF ID number and a valid email address. You can sign up as a team or a free agent. Teams will need to select a color and provide their own jerseys.

Santa Fe Intramurals...Get Involved!

www.santafesaints.com INTRAMURALS SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\

#### PREVIEW /// WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



During the 2013-14 season, the Santa Fe College women's basketball team, under the direction of head coach Chanda Stebbins, made their seventh FCSAA state tournament bid in the last eight years, finishing with a 10-19 overall record and one of the toughest schedules in the country. SF has won three Mid-Florida Conference titles in Coach Stebbins' 12-year tenure and appeared in the state tournament two-thirds of the time. Stebbins has a 169-174 overall record but is 137-98 over her last eight years at Santa Fe College, a .583 winning percentage.

Currently, 53 players have moved on to upper division schools to continue their playing careers, including four from the 2013-14 squad. Jocelyn Mousty signed with Texas Tech University, Brenique Garment signed with Shorter University, Stephanie Ball with University of South Carolina Aiken, and Jaquasha Sesler inked with Georgia Southwestern University. Areana Davis has committed to Hampton University but has yet to sign. Numerous other Saints are still taking visits as of early June and have yet to decide on an upper division school.

The 2013-14 Saints turned in the highest team GPA in the Stebbins era, earning an impressive 3.1 GPA, proving that they truly were "student-athletes."

Six players return for the 2014-15 season, including 6-foot-2 center Tatiana Manuel, a defensive stalwart who led the Saints with 2.2 blocks per game as a freshman. Leading a balanced recruiting class is local product Deja McPhee out of Gainesville High School. She played her freshman year at Jacksonville University before transferring to SF. Another local product is also returning after a year in the NCAA, as Kayla Lovett (Gainesville High School) comes back to Gainesville from Alabama A&M.

The Saints will open their season October 31 at home in the Santa Fe Tip-off Classic. A full schedule, roster, player bios and more will be available on santafesaints.com.

#### **MEET THE COACH**

#### **CHANDA STEBBINS**

12 YEARS AS HEAD COACH **53**PLAYERS MOVED ON TO UPPER DIVISION SCHOOLS

MFC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE LAST 8 YEARS

169-174
OVERALL REGORD



/// SAINTS PLAYBOOK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL www.santafesaints.com







www.santafesaints.com WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\







0 /// SAINTS PLAYBOOK MEN'S BASKETBALL www.santafesaints.com

#### PREVIEW /// MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Santa Fe Saints men's basketball team came up just short of an FCSAA state tournament bid in 2013-14, but still managed to finish the season 22-9 in the tough Mid-Florida Conference. The 20-win season was the seventh for coach Chris Mowry in his 11 years at SF. He holds a 226-105 overall record and has won four Mid-Florida Conference titles and two MFC tournaments.

Four players have signed with upper division schools, including guard Shea Jones with Jacksonville University, Jordan Banks and Takija Knight with Paine College, and Jon Hood with Eastern Kentucky University. Hood led the Saints with 14 points per game, and Jones was the leading assist man with 3.2 per contest. Under the direction of Coach Mowry, 71 players have now locked on to four-year schools to continue their playing and academic careers.

Three players return for the 2014-15 season, including 6-foot-2 guard Morris Marshall and 6-foot-7 forward Andre Horne. Both were big contributors, especially down the stretch where they showed vast improvement as the season went on. Marshall capped his freshman season with a 33-point effort off the bench against the defending National Champion College of Central Florida Patriots. He had a team high 13.2 points per game in Mid-Florida Conference play and will look to build off his impressive freshman season in 2014-15.

The program garnered their first ever NJCAA First Team All-American in 2012-13 when sophomore guard Bobby Hunter earned the honor after averaging 25.2 points per game. Hunter now plays for Illinois State University where he averaged 10.5 points per game as a junior.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF COACH MOWRY, 71
PLAYERS HAVE NOW LOCKED ON TO FOUR-YEAR
SCHOOLS TO CONTINUE THEIR PLAYING AND
ACADEMIC CAREERS.

The Saints will open the 2014-15 season on October 31 at home in the Santa Fe Tip-off Classic. A full schedule, roster, player bios and more can be seen at santafesaints.com.

**MEET THE COACH** 

**CHRIS MOWRY** 

YEARS AS SF HEAD COACH

4

**MID-FLORIDA CONFERENCE TITLES** 

2
MFC TOURNAMENT TITLES

226-105
OVERALL RECORD



www.santafesaints.com MEN'S BASKETBALL SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\







12 /// SAINTS PLAYBOOK FASTPITCH www.santafesaints.com

#### **SEASON RECAP /// FASTPITCH**

The Santa Fe Saints fastpitch program has enjoyed enormous amounts of success under the direction of head coach Chris Ahern, winning nine Mid-Florida Conference (MFC) championships, two NJCAA Atlantic District championships, and one FCSAA state championship in her 12 years at the helm.

In 2014, the Saints finished the year with a 36-23 record and won their ninth MFC title in the last 10 years. Maddy Peres earned MFC Pitcher of the Year and FCSAA First Team honors. Third baseman Sid Masso was named to the FCSAA Second Team, and 12 total players were a part of the All Mid-Florida Conference team.

... the Saints finished the year with a 36-23 record and won their ninth MFC title in the last 10 years.

The Santa Fe Saints won the FCSAA State Championship in 2008 and advanced to the national championship game, where they fell in a tight contest to Wallace-Hanceville Community College to finish as NJCAA runners-up. In 2013, the Saints repeated the magic,

returning to the national tournament in St. George, Utah after an Atlantic District title over the College of Central Florida.

# ... 57 players have moved on to upper division schools to continue their fastpitch careers.

Nine players have earned NJCAA All-American honors during Ahern's stint as head coach, and 57 players have moved on to upper division schools to continue their fastpitch careers. Four from the 2014 team moved on to continue their playing careers.

The assistant coaches for the Saints are Norma Diaz, Brittany Davis, and Art Bautista.

**MEET THE COACH** 

**CHRIS AHERN** 

YEARS AS HEAD COACH

524-156-2

9 MFC CHAMPIONSHIPS FCSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

7

NJCAA ATLANTIC DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS



www.santafesaints.com FASTPITCH SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\ 13

#### **SEASON RECAP /// BASEBALL**

Coach Johnny Wiggs and the Santa Fe Saints had an uncharacteristically down year in 2014, finishing fourth in the Mid-Florida Conference with a 23-19 overall record and an 11-12 mark in conference play. Despite not finishing how the Saints would have liked, sophomore pitcher Kevin Martin put a positive spin on the season by tossing the program's first no hitter on April 21 at home against Florida State College-Jacksonville.

Eighty-one players have signed scholarships with upper division schools since Coach Wiggs took over in 2007, and six have signed professional contracts with Major League Baseball. Eleven players inked with upper division schools this year. Derek Vail signed with Clemson University, Casey Scoggins with the University of Tampa, Brady Price with the University of North Florida, Kevin Martin with the University of Tampa, Brady Roberson with Florida International University, Jonathan Camp with Lander University, Payson Smith with Valdosta State University, Nick DiBartolomeo with Rollins College, Roger Gonzalez with Winthrop University, Colby Lusignan with Lander University, and George Ragsdale with Shorter University. As of June 2, several Saints are still taking visits and currently deciding where to continue their college careers.

Santa Fe Saints baseball will look to rebound in 2015 with the help of seven returning players and a solid recruiting class led by right-handed pitcher Trent Johnson out of Williston High School and catcher Matty Allen from Creekside High School. Johnson finished

his senior year with a 10-2 record, 0.57 ERA, and 91 strikeouts in 67 innings pitched. Allen was impressive behind the plate and hit .371 with 12 doubles, 3 triples, 1 homerun, and 23 RBI. Both were selected for the prestigious FACA All-Star game.

# KEVIN MARTIN PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON THE SEASON BY TOSSING THE PROGRAM'S FIRST NO HITTER ON APRIL 21, 2014 AT HOME AGAINST FSC-JACKSONVILLE.

The Saints will begin their fall scrimmage season in September, followed by the regular season starting at the end of January 2015.



**JOHNNY WIGGS** 

YEARS AS HEAD COACH

81
PLAYERS HAVE SIGNED WITH UPPER DIVISION SCHOOLS

**5**MFC CHAMPIONSHIPS

6
SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH MLB

FCSAA CHAMPIONSHIP



4 /// SAINTS PLAYBOOK BASEBALL www.santafesaints.com



www.santafesaints.com

BASEBALL SAINTS PLAYBOOK \\\ 15

# CATCH ALL IHE SANTA FE SPURTS

Watch live Santa Fe Saints basketball and volleyball games on **NJCAA TV** at **www.ihigh.com/santafesaints** 

Stay up to date with the Santa Fe Saints via social media:



www.facebook.com/SFathletics



www.twitter.com/SF athletics



www.youtube.com/santafesaints



www.instagram.com/santafesaints

