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Terrier Softball Knocks Season Opener Out of the Park
By: Tori Torres

BOSTON – On Sunday, Boston University’s Women’s Softball Team defeated Merrimack College 2-0 in the opening game of the season. Coming off a historic 52-10 record season, the Terriers return to the field with a reputation to uphold.

“Last year was historical and incredible and we will certainly reference moments from it,” said head coach Ashley Waters. “However, we are looking forward to a new year with new faces. You can never repeat a year like last year, you can just continue to chase that winning feeling that is so special.”

In the debut of her collegiate career, freshman outfielder Kylie Doherty scored the opening run of the game in the first inning – putting the Terriers in an early lead. During the third inning, Doherty hit a triple and scored the final run of the game, showcasing aggressive base running and potential at the start of her rookie season.

The Terriers saw four pitchers in the circle throughout the game: Kelly Colleran, Allison Boaz, Lizzy Avery and Kasey Richard. “I was impressed with the pitching staff. I thought they were excellent and competed at a high level,” said Waters.

Throughout the game the Terriers put up impressive defense, keeping Merrimack from scoring with runners on second and third bases in the fourth inning.

Reflecting on their first victory, Waters said, “I love winning, so I was happy with that. It’s fun to see the freshman get acclimated with their teammates and find their place on the team. I thought we competed hard and played aggressive.”

In their first game since falling to Virginia Tech 9-0 during the first round of the 2023 NCAA Division I Tournament, the previously ranked No. 25 Terriers have a lot of familiar faces back on the field.

Waters, who is entering her ninth year at the head of the BU softball program, [recently signed a multi-year contract extension](#), announced by Boston University Athletics in August. Under Waters, the Terriers have won five consecutive conference regular season titles and saw five NCAA regional appearances.

In addition to Waters, the Terriers have four fifth-year graduate students returning to play another season at BU. Among these fifth-year athletes is Caitlin Coker: 2023 Patriot League Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Coker, an infielder, had a .389 batting average in the 2023 season.

“I returned for a fifth year because of how much I love this team. I absolutely love playing side by side with this group of amazing women and could not pass up this opportunity to play with Boston across my chest for one more year,” said Coker.

The Terriers are an experienced team with nearly half of their roster consisting of graduate students and seniors.

“I am looking forward to watching our upperclassman lead. They have a vision of who they want to be, I’m excited to watch that unfold,” said Waters.

Besides the returners, the Terriers added assistant coach Allie Brewster to the BU coaching staff. [Brewster brings forward five years of coaching experience at Cornell University and the title of former Stony Brook Hall of Fame pitcher](#), according to Boston University Athletics.

With home field advantage, the BU stands were filled with parents, students and potential recruits. Constant cheers from both dugouts and insulting chirps being shouted from the crowd solidified that softball season was back. Spectators and parents alike at the event exhibited great excitement about the prospects of the season.

“I thought it was a really good first showing for the team. Everyone just needs to work out their nerves and get used to being back on the dirt,” said Sofia Roman, spectator and long-time follower of BU softball.

Despite victory, Waters doesn't plan to rely on last year's achievements to bring her team confidence. Her expectations are high for the upcoming season.

“We are a program that is never satisfied, we will always want more. Momentum won't come from last year – it will come from what we create this year.”

Tori Torres is a journalism student at Boston University. You can contact her at ttorres@bu.edu.

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