The Millsaps College softball team had a very exciting 2017 season. Our theme for the year was process over prize, challenging us to focus on the everyday grind in the weight room and on the practice field rather than looking ahead to big games against conference rivals.

We opened the season in February at Louisiana College, dropping two games to the Wildcats before heading back home. Despite the disappointing season opener, we were excited to get back to work and refocus on the process and what it takes to be successful.

Our first win followed shortly thereafter as the next weekend we travelled to Austin, Texas to play Southwestern University in the blazing Texas heat. We battled the Pirates for two scoreless innings before taking a two run lead in the top of the third. The Pirates would not go down without a fight, tying the game in the bottom of the fourth. However, we would have the final say, scoring another run in the top of the sixth to take the lead and secure our first win of the season. We finished off the weekend in Texas going 3-1 before heading back to Mississippi to prepare to face urban rival Belhaven.

This game was about pride and we went in excited and driven to compete against our neighbors. Pitchers Cassidy DeNoon and Kayla Davidson split time on the mound and gave us an excellent opportunity to win by shutting out the Blazers and holding them to only three hits. We profited from clutch hitting and won the game 2-0.

The next weekend, we traveled to Piedmont, Georgia where we learned the art of the comeback against Greensboro College. We found ourselves down 9-2 in the fourth inning before both our offense and defense clicked, and we came roaring back to win the game 12-9. From here on out, we knew that even if we were down, we were never out.

In our first conference series, we dominated the Tigers, outscoring Sewanee by a combined score of 38-0 before preparing for our spring break trip to Clermont, Florida. Here, we enjoyed a week together as a team, both on and off the field. The highlight of the week came when we pulled out a win against then 21st nationally-ranked Manhattanville by a score of 4-2.
Season Recap Continued...

After making it back from Florida, we spent one day in Mississippi before leaving once again to face conference opponent Birmingham Southern. We fell to the Panthers in the first game, but came back in the next two behind the stellar pitching of Cassidy DeNoon and the hot bat of Rayne Gravat, winning the second game 4-2 and the third game 5-2. This was a ground breaking weekend for us as it marked the first time in the history of Millsaps softball that the Majors were able to capture a series from Birmingham Southern.

We finished the regular season with a record of 23-13 and entered the SAA tournament as the number two seed. We had finally made it to the postseason, but we still could not lose focus on the process by overlooking any of our opponents. Our first game was against Sewanee, and we handled the Tigers, beating them 9-1. Next up was Rhodes. We battled with the Lynx, eventually coming out on top, beating them by a score of 2-1. Now, all that stood between us and the championship was number 3, nationally-ranked, Berry College. Pitcher Kayla Davidson held the Vikings to only two runs, but we were unable to catch up to Berry’s fast start and fell to the Vikings by a score of 2-1. After handling Hendrix 7-0, we were set for a rematch with Berry in the championship game. Unfortunately, the rains began to fall and would not relinquish, forcing us to wait a week for our rematch.

After a week of preparing for Berry, we finally boarded the bus and traveled to Rome, Georgia to fight for the SAA crown. We jumped out to a quick start scoring a run in the first inning, but the Viking bats proved to be too much, and we fell 4-2. Sadly, this loss ended our season.

We graduated seven wonderful seniors in 2017, but their leadership set the foundation for the program that the rest of the team looks to carry into 2018. By focusing on the process both in the weight room and on the field this fall, we look forward to both building on last year’s championship appearance and continuing to define the legacy of Millsaps softball.
Meet Our Freshmen

Name: Leslie Norris
Hometown: Hoover, AL
Position: Outfield
Favorite Food: Salmon
Favorite Softball Memory to Date: I was starting the first game of my first year on varsity as a sophomore, I made a sliding catch on a blooper in the outfield and threw a girl out at home to earn the “Animal D” award the coaches gave out to one player each game.
Why Millsaps? All the admissions workers, coaches, administrators, players, and students seemed to genuinely care about me by checking in with me frequently. It seemed like a place where everyone you pass smiles at you and says hey. It is prestigious academically but manageable due to small size and beneficial relationships.

Name: Jordan Lipari
Hometown: Patterson, LA
Position: Middle infield/3rd base
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Softball Memory to Date: Making honorable mention All-State
Why Millsaps? A great community with great academics!

Name: Karley Williams
Hometown: Saltillo, MS
Position: Pitcher
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Softball Memory to Date: I bought new white cleats and the first time I wore them, I hit two homeruns in one game. It was obviously because my cleats are lucky, but it still felt great.
Why Millsaps? I chose Millsaps because it’s a smaller school so everyone knows each other and everyone is always hospitable. I love the environment as well as the coaches. When I came to a camp I loved the way the coaches acted towards the players and the way they explained things.

Name: Mackenzie Johnson
Hometown: Panama City, FL
Position: Outfield/middle infield
Favorite Food: Grapes
Favorite Softball Memory to Date: Finishing fifth in state freshmen year and winning the USFA World Series
Why Millsaps? Everybody was so welcoming with academics and softball. I immediately felt at home. I believe Millsaps will open many doors for my future.
Meet our Freshmen

**Name:** Lindsey Osbon  
**Hometown:** Covington, LA  
**Position:** 3rd/SS/U  
**Favorite Food:** Sushi  
**Favorite Softball Memory to Date:** Playing in the high school state tournament for four years and getting a chance at the title starting as an eighth grader.  
**Why Millsaps?** Millsaps offers a great education with amazing opportunities inside the classroom and on the softball field.

**Name:** Micah Danos  
**Hometown:** Baton Rouge, LA  
**Position:** Utility  
**Favorite Food:** Spaghetti  
**Favorite Softball Memory to Date:** Winning districts my senior year after coming in second the year before.  
**Why Millsaps?** The school is a great size. I wanted to go to a college where I was a name to my professors and not just a number in a crowd. Everyone is also very nice and welcoming. They really make you feel at home. I walked onto campus and I could just imagine myself being there for the next four years.

**Name:** Hailey Pearson  
**Hometown:** Covington, LA  
**Position:** Catcher  
**Favorite Food:** Mac and cheese  
**Favorite Softball Memory to Date:** The last game I won with my travel team. There were two outs in a tie game, with my best friend on second. I had an 2-0 count and hit the next pitch up the middle  
**Why Millsaps?** The school is greatly known for academics. I loved the family feeling when I came to visit. The girls really treated me as if I was already here and playing with them. I love how small everything is and how everyone is willing to help.
A Day in the Life of A Millsaps Senior  
By: Cassidy DeNoon #4

A day in the life of a Millsaps senior seems to be nothing like that of a senior at any other college. Going into my senior year, my life is full of so many questions and unknowns. Will I be able to pull my GPA up any more before grad schools start looking at it? Should I take the GRE again and try to pull up my score? Will I pass comprehensive exams, and why didn’t they tell us about these when we enrolled here? Will I spill coffee on my shirt for the third day in a row tomorrow? Will I even wake up in time to make coffee? All of these questions and many more come to surface on a typical day. My Monday morning starts bright (actually still dark) and early with 6:00 AM workouts. I know how much I’ve changed in three years because freshman year, I really thought 6:00 AM workouts would be the death of me. Now I actually wake up excited to get my day started with fifteen other goal-oriented women. After workouts, we go for a team breakfast in the caf (the egg guy really comes in clutch at times like these).

I then rush home for a quick a shower and come back for 8:00 AM Physics because who doesn’t love Physics at 8 in the morning? Tomorrow, I will get out of class around 2:30 and then head to the field for a pitching workout followed by a team nutrition meeting. After the nutrition meeting, I will get some supper and then go to the Kappa Delta lodge for another meeting. Lastly, with what energy I dig deep and find, I’ll try to stay caught up on my school work and work on grad school applications before laying my head down for a good night’s sleep. I realize that to many people, this day sounds grueling and extreme; however, being able to be a student athlete at such a prestigious school is what makes me look forward to each and every day. These past three years have been full of trying times. There have been nights where I didn’t think I would be able to hold my eyes open before being halfway through with the work I needed to complete. There have been days where I wanted to quit and also days where I celebrated (a little too excessively) for getting a good grade back on a test. There have been many tears, lots of laughs, but most importantly lots of memories, and I can’t wait to be able to do all of this again one last year.
Celebrating Success in the Classroom

Eight members of the Millsaps Softball team have earn 2017 NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors.

Kathryn Romero
Megan Murray
Cassidy DeNoon
MK Bozeman
Hannah Dee Smith
Shauna Blady
Cameron Lee Trussell
Kendall Carder

Continued Facility Updates

As we begin the 2017 school year we are eager to get back on the field as a team. While we are enjoying recent renovations and updates to our field, we are always looking to improve. Our next project is to completely update our batting cage. This update will include expanding the hitting and bullpen space as well as covering the area. This is just one more way in which we feel like we can improve and continue to be a competitive force in the SAA Conference. If you are interested in donating to this project please reach out to us. We hope to have this installed for our team in the near future.
Alumnae Corner

Name: Missy Romero  
Graduation Year: 2016  
Position: SS  
Current Occupation: Physical Therapist Technician --- trying to get into PT school :)  
Favorite Millsaps Softball Memory: My favorite Millsaps softball memory was when the Marine Corps came to campus and put the whole team through a teamwork boot camp. It made all of us step out of comfort zones and adjust to the tasks that were given to us. Never have I ever had to baby crawl 50 yards, throw a fake grenade, and carry one of my teammates on a stretcher. But since none of us have never done any of that before, it gave us another reason to bond together. That’s is what your team is for. To succeed, struggle, and grow together.  
Words of Wisdom for current players? Dear current Millsaps softball players,  
I only played two years at Millsaps because I was a transfer, but I’d have to say it was the best years yet of my college experience. I learned more about myself as a player, student, and individual for the real world. Being a Millsaps softball player is not only concentrated on winning games. What Millsaps softball taught me was to apply everything I know to the game of softball, to the classroom, and for my growth as a person. So what I have to pass down to you guys is to enjoy the times that you have to wear Millsaps across your chest. Be prideful in what you stand for and represent your program as well as yourself. Never give up on yourself even if you come across something that is out of your comfort zone. Times like that are going to happen but that’s why you have your teammates. To go through all the good, bad, and ugly times together as one. Take care of your business on the field, in the classroom, and just have fun! Good luck this season. GO MAJORS!!!

Name: Tiffany Havard  
Graduation Year: 2014  
Position: 1B/DH/ outfield  
Current Occupation: High School English Teacher/ Assistant Softball Coach/ Assistant Volleyball Coach  
Favorite Millsaps Softball Memory: Winning Conference Junior Year, Halloween Scavenger Hunt, and Beating BSC  
Words of Wisdom for current players? Enjoy these 4 years because they will fly by faster than you think. Know that softball is just a game and your performance doesn’t define you as a person. And last but not least the friends you have on the team will be your best friends for life….even with distance between us all my little circle is still super close!!
Thank you for reading. Stay tuned for the latest updates on everything Millsaps Softball!