

Honorary Alumnus William W. Edwards, Jr.

Bill Edwards has completed 19 seasons as Hofstra University's head softball coach and is the architect of a program that has grown to national prominence. He led Hofstra to the regional finals of the NCAA Tournament three times in the last five years, and helped the Pride capture 11 straight conference tournament titles from 1998 to 2008, which is the longest streak in NCAA Division I softball history. His career record stands at 695-330-3 in 19 seasons.



Most recently, Coach Edwards guided Hofstra to a school-record 45 wins in 2008, including two at the NCAA Regionals in Hempstead, as the team advanced to the regional finals for the third time. The Pride finished with a 45-13 record, won the Colonial Athletic Association regular season and postseason championships, and ended the year ranked #19 in the final National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) RPI rankings. Hofstra also reached the regional finals at Alabama in 2005 and Stanford in 2004, when the Pride won four games and fell just one win shy of reaching the Women's College World Series.

In the last six years, Hofstra has won 12 NCAA Tournament games, including victories over Nebraska, Auburn, Stanford, Arizona State and Penn State, while defeating five pitchers who earned All-America honors during their careers. The Pride also has 15 NCAA Tournament wins since 2000, the highest total in the Northeast region.

The Hofstra Softball program has displayed consistent excellence over Coach Edwards' 19-year career. The Pride has garnered 11 NCAA Tournament appearances and has won either a regular season or a postseason conference title in each of the last 17 seasons. Bill Edwards is one of four active coaches with more than 600 wins and less than 20 years of experience, and he ranks among the top 25 in NCAA history in career winning percentage. Hofstra has had 19

straight winning seasons under Coach Edwards, and he has coached a total of 91 All-Conference players, 66 regional All-Americans, five All-Americans, five Academic All-Americans, five professional players, and one Olympian.

Bill Edwards has been named the NFCA Regional Coach of the Year nine times in his career (1993, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008), including five of the last six years. His influence has spread far beyond the Hofstra campus, and he has been the featured speaker at softball clinics and conventions throughout the United States. Coach Edwards serves as the chairman for the NCAA Division I All-American committee and is the Colonial Athletic Association representative on the NCAA Legislative Committee. He is currently an instructor for the prestigious NFCA Coaches College and has taught softball around the world as an instructor for the International Softball Federation. He has also been featured in numerous magazines, periodicals, newspapers and books.