

2019 OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL

SEASON PREVIEW:

WESTERVILLE, Ohio – Otterbein will return to the diamond in 2019 with hopes of claiming its fourth consecutive Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) regular-season crown, as new head coach Brooke Donovan takes over at the helm.

“I am extremely excited to begin my coaching career with such a great group of girls,” said Donovan, who was hired in late July after serving as an assistant for one season under Jodi Hermanek at Ohio University. “I am finding out early that the girls and myself share the same values and drive to compete.”

Ohio won the MAC Championship, earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament and was also selected as the NFCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year during Donovan’s stretch. She now takes over for Christine Steines, who compiled a 190-142-2 mark across nine seasons at the helm before departing last summer.

The Cardinals are coming off a strong 2018 campaign by accumulating an overall record 32-10 and going 15-3 in the league. Otterbein claimed the OAC regular-season title and ended its season by losing to Ohio Northern in the OAC Tournament Championship game.

Headlining the returnees for Otterbein will be senior Alyson Shaw, who earned All-OAC second-team honors and led the conference with five triples a year ago. Shaw batted .413 on the year and finished top three in the OAC in runs, hits and stolen bases. She enters her final season needing 52 hits to become the program’s all-time leader.

Fellow senior Gabby Johnson enjoyed a solid 2018 campaign in the pitcher’s circle, as she went 16-3 with a 2.28 earned run average and set a new program record with 160 strikeouts. Already Otterbein’s career record holder in K’s and shutouts, she will also have the opportunity to set all-time marks in wins, appearances, and other categories.

“Shaw and Johnson are very talented on the field, but they are also great leaders that can push this team to be its best version,” Donovan added about the duo. “They both show great signs of leadership and challenge the younger players to get better every day.”

In their sophomore campaign, Shaw earned NFCA All-American honors and Johnson was voted the OAC Pitcher of the Year.

Sophomore Katrina Wierzbicki finished second on the team last season with 34 runs batted in and was tied for seventh in the conference with nine home runs. Classmate Courtney Hackney hit .313 across 32 starts last year while Anna Edwards, Kayla Queer, and Erin Vonderwell all saw the field regularly in different aspects.

“I know we will make mistakes early on, but I want to make sure that we are learning and getting better after each game,” Donovan added. “Once we get into late April and early May I want to be competing for an OAC Championship and make the NCAA Tournament.”

Donovan, who retained the rest of the coaching staff from last season, is also excited about the promise other returning players along with five newcomers.

Otterbein will start the season in Florida by playing 10 games in six days, as two contests come against opponents that qualified for the NCAA postseason in 2018. The Cardinals’ home opener is scheduled for March 13 against Denison, with OAC play starting on March 24 at Mount Union.

2019 OTTERBEIN SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown/High School
1	Alyson Shaw	Sr.	Util.	Blacklick / Gahanna Lincoln
2	Emma Spinner	So.	OF	Olentangy / Olentangy
3	Erin Vonderwell	So.	P/Util.	Hilliard / Bishop Watterson
4	Macy Allen	Fr.	Util.	Tiffin / Tiffin Columbian
5	Katrina Wierzbicki	So.	Util.	Powell / Bishop Watterson
7	Miranda Fearigo	Jr.	Util.	Green / Green
8	Savannah McCoppin	Fr.	Util.	Hilliard / Hilliard Bradley
9	Kayla Queer	Jr.	Util.	Mt. Pleasant, Pa. / Mt. Pleasant
11	Hannah Dobrinick	So.	IF	Trafford, Pa. / Penn Trafford
12	Alex McComb	Jr.	P	Mingo Junction / Steubenville Catholic Central
13	Mackenzie Bates	So.	Util.	Sidney / Sidney
15	Courtney Hackney	Jr.	IF	Columbus / Bishop Ready
16	Sami Ange	Fr.	IF	Chesterland / West Geauga
18	Anna Edwards	Sr.	P	Avon / Avon
19	Maria Herron	So.	Util.	Russia / Russia
20	Chase Brumfield	Jr.	Util.	Westerville / North
21	Gabby Johnson	Sr.	P	Thornville / Sheridan
22	Hannah Lewis	Fr.	OF	Hilliard / Hilliard Bradley
23	Sage Jenkins	Fr.	IF	Cuyahoga Falls / Woodridge
28	Alyson McAdams	Jr.	IF	Parma / Padua Franciscan



OPPONENTS AND GAME SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME

SUNDAY

Penn State Berks
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Nittany Lions
Hazleton, Pa
White & Navy Blue
United States Collegiate Athletic Assoc.
20-15
Mar. 3 @ 11:30 a.m.



Penn State Berks
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Nittany Lions
Spring Township, Pa
White & Navy Blue
North Eastern Athletic Conf.
25-10-1 * NCAA Qualifier in 2018
Mar. 3 @ 1:45 p.m.



MONDAY

Bates
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Bobcats
Lewiston, Maine
Black & Garnet
New England Small College Athletic Conf.
20-14
Mar. 4 @ 9 a.m.



Defiance
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Yellow Jackets
Defiance, Ohio
Purple & Gold
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conf.
23-14
Mar. 4 @ 6:15 p.m.



TUESDAY

Muhlenberg
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Victors
Allentown, Pa.
Grey & Cardinal
Centennial Conf.
12-26
Mar. 5 @ 12:15 p.m.



Misericordia
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Cougars
Dallas, Pa.
Blue & Yellow
Middle Athletic Conf.
23-18
Mar. 5 @ 2:30 p.m.



THURSDAY

Widener
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Pride
Chester, Pa.
Blue & Gold
Middle Athletic Conf.
13-15
Mar. 7 @ 10 a.m.



Thiel
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Tomcats
Greenville, Pa.
Blue & Gold
Presidents' Athletic Conf.
12-22
Mar. 7 @ 12:15 p.m.



FRIDAY

Trine
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Thunder
Angola, Ind.
Blue & White
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Assoc.
26-13 * NCAA Qualifier in 2018
Mar 8 @ 9:45 a.m.



Plymouth State
Nickname
Location
Colors
Conference
2018 Overall Record
Game vs. Otterbein

Quick Facts
Panthers
Plymouth, N.H.
White & Green
Little East Conf.
26-15
Mar. 8 @ 2:15 p.m.

