## Salute: 2012 Women's College World Series Team



## When Beth Torina was introduced as LSU softball's fifth head coach in June 2012, she vowed to win in everything the program did and return to the Tigers to national prominence.

Torina accomplished just that during her inaugural campaign as LSU returned to Oklahoma City and the Women's College World Series.

Led by eight seniors, the Tigers knocked off two seeded teams and future SEC rivals in No. 8 Texas A&M and No. 9 Missouri along the way.

To get back to softball's biggest stage, LSU embraced the mantra of "Whatever It Takes". Torina gave puzzle pieces to the players ranging from academic success to key performances in practices and games throughout the season. Each piece had different people that had the 'it' factor, and the puzzle was completed leading into LSU's trip to the NCAA postseason.

The Tigers started NCAA Regional play with a dramatic 1-0 victory over Texas State. Juliana Santos capped a three-hit barrage in the seventh inning with a walkoff RRI-single

Rachele Fico fired her second straight two-hit shutout in as many days as LSU stayed in the winner's bracket with a 2-0 triumph over Texas A&M. In the NCAA College Station Regional championship, Brittany Mack put together a masterful performance in a 2-1 win over the Aggies. LSU scored its two runs on a pinch-hit sacrifice fly from Kailey McCasland and a Dylan Supak infield single that was followed by a A&M throwing error.

The Tigers opened up the NCAA Columbia Super Regional and exploded for a 6-1 victory by roughing up Missouri All-American hurler Chelsea Thomas. Allison Falcon led the way with a 2-for-3 effort and three RBIs.

After Missouri claimed a 5-1 game two win in 12 innings and overcame a career-best 17 strikeouts from Mack, LSU bounced back in the deciding contest aided by Simone Heyward's first extra base hit of the season. The timely three-run double came in the third inning and erased a 1-0 deficit.

Fico retired 12 of the final 14 Missouri hitters she faced, and Ashley Langoni squeezed the games last out with a runner on second base.

LSU carried the momentum into its opening game of the WCWS and fired out to a 2-0 lead on No. 1 California on a two-run, second inning single from Morgan Russell. The Golden Bears charged back with five unanswered runs highlighted by a three-run sixth inning.

Facing elimination in a 0-0 contest versus No. 19 South Florida, Andrews used alert base running to score the game's only run on a sacrifice popout in the sixth inning.

On a 1-0 offering, Falcon popped up to shortstop Kourtney Salvarola. Since Salvarola was playing drawn in with the bases loaded, Andrews tagged from the third base bag and scampered home. Salvarola's throw was offline which enabled Andrews to slide around the tag attempt head-first safely into home plate. Mack dealt a two-hit shutout to preserve the 1-0 win.

Defending national champion and No. 3 Arizona State ended LSU's run with a 6-0 win. The session attendance was 9,310, the largest number of fans to attend a softball game in program history.



GAME 1	• CAL	<b>IFORNIA</b>	5. LSU 3

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WP - Henderson, J. (37-2). LP - Fico (20-12). Save - None. T - 2:21. A - 8,149.								

Henderson, S. (37-2). El Trico (20-12). Save Notie: 1-22: 1. A -6,145.

E - LSU: Santos (3); Falcon (7). DP - Cal 1. LOB - LSU 7; Cal 9. 2B - LSU: Langoni (12). Cal: Henderson, D. (6); Cordes (6). HBP - Cal: Arioto, Henderson, D. SH - LSU: Wray (5). Cal: Vonk (7). SF - Cal: Echavarria (1). SB - LSU: Andrews (15); Langoni (7). Cal: Reid, J. (48); Vonk (13); Ariota (4). CS - LSU: Applegate (2)

Umpires - HP: Kevin Davis; 1B: Gerri Magwire; 3B: Steve McCown

GAM	E 2	<ul> <li>LSU</li> </ul>	1,	SOU	ТН	FLO	RID	A 0

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WP - Mack (16-12). LP - Nevins (31-8). Save - None. T - 1:57. A - 8,504.								

E - USF: Mouse (6); Richardson, J. (3); LSU: Russell 2 (2). LOB - USF 7; LSU 5. 2B - LSU: Santos (8). HBP - USF: Mouse; Salvarola; LSU: Andrews; Santos. SH - USF: Mouse (13). SF - LSU: Falcon (1). SB - USF: Goff, C. (7); Goff, A. (12). CS - USF: Jackson (1); LSU: Heyward (1)

Umpires - HP: Chad Stears; 1B: Willie Newman; 3B: Gerri Magwire.

GAME 3 • ARIZONA STATE 6, LSU 0									
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WP - Bach (22-1). LP - Fico (20-13). Save - None. T - 2:12. A - 9,310 E - LSU: Langoni (4); Falcon (8). DP - ASU 2. LOB - ASU 6; LSU 3. HR - ASU: Johnson (13). HBP - LSU: Santos. SB - ASU: Johnson (7)

Umpires - HP: Willie Newman; 1B: Gerri Magwire; 3B: Chad Stears.