



**Ed Kieff**

**Dakota Wesleyan University Head Softball Coach**

**Graduate:** Doane College 1999

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The Dakota Wesleyan University softball team rewrote the history books in 2014, and head coach Ed Kieff led the program to the best season in school history.

Kieff, who enters his fourth season with the Tiger softball program in 2015, became the winningest softball coach in school history after guiding DWU to a 22-18 record. He is now 49-74 in three seasons with the team. DWU's 22 wins in 2014 is the most in school history.

The Tigers tied or broke 12 records in 2014, including the record for wins in a season. As a team, Dakota Wesleyan set records for runs (181), doubles (61) and stolen bases (61) in a season. Sophomore Lindy Snook set three individual records, including hits (53), doubles (17) and RBIs (31) in a season. Senior pitcher Jill Dickson broke the record for pitching wins (16) and pitching strikeouts (132) in a season, and junior outfielder Dani Klassen set the record for runs scored (36) and tied the record for stolen bases (27). Senior first baseman Chelsea Moody graduated with the record for fielding average in a career (.980).

Along with the records, Dakota Wesleyan also picked up its first-ever win at the Great Plains Athletic Conference postseason tournament. DWU lost its first game of the tournament, but came back to beat Dordt College 8-2. The Tigers won their second-ever GPAC tournament game when they beat Doane College 7-3 thanks to a grand slam by Snook before losing by one run to Concordia University.

The Tigers' biggest win of the season came on April 15 when, after losing in five innings to league-leading Morningside College, Dakota Wesleyan came back to defeat the Mustangs 10-1 in five innings. The loss was the first GPAC loss of the season for Morningside, which won the regular and tournament titles, and came thanks to a two-hitter from Dickson. DWU also swept Hastings College, which was ahead of the Tigers in the standings, on April 25.

Five Tigers earned All-GPAC honors at the end of the season, and three were named to the first team – another school record. Klassen, Snook and sophomore Hailey Unger earned All-GPAC First Team accolades, and Dickson and junior Bailey Gummer earned honorable mention status. Snook finished second in the GPAC in batting average (.449) and doubles, and Klassen was second in the league in stolen bases.

Ed comes to Dakota Wesleyan with 21 years of softball coaching experience under his belt. Most recently, he is a partner/coach in the **Sioux Falls Diamonds Fastpitch Softball Club**, which he helped start. The program started as one team, and has grown to more than 14 teams spanning in ages from 8-and-under to 18-and-under.

Ed also has ties to Mitchell as his wife, Mary, is a Mitchell native and his mother-in-law, Marjorie, graduated from the DWU nursing program, lives in Mitchell and is an avid Tiger fan. Ed currently lives in Sioux Falls with his wife, Mary, and they have two grown children and two granddaughters, soon to be ball players!.

Ed is also president of Nebkota Financial Services out of Sioux Falls, SD.