



# 2026 Santa Clara University SOFTBALL

## 2026 Schedule (6-5, 0-0 WCC)

Date	Opponent	Location	Result
Feb 6 (Fri)	Southern Utah <sup>1</sup>	Phoenix	W, 8-3
Feb 6 (Fri)	Weber State <sup>1</sup>	Phoenix	W, 6-4
Feb 7 (Sat)	Weber State <sup>1</sup>	Phoenix	W, 8-3
Feb 7 (Sat)	Grand Canyon <sup>1</sup>	Phoenix	L, 5-4
Feb 8 (Sun)	Grand Canyon <sup>1</sup>	Phoenix	L, 1-0
Feb 12 (Thur)	Illinois State <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	W, 5-2
Feb 13 (Fri)	Utah <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	L, 3-0
Feb 13 (Fri)	California <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	L, 8-2
Feb 14 (Sat)	California <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	W, 8-4
Feb 14 (Sat)	UC Santa Barbara <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	W, 9-1 (5)
Feb 15 (Sun)	#24 Washington <sup>2</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	L, 13-0 (6)
Feb 17 (Tue)	UC Davis	Santa Clara, Calif.	Postponed
Feb 20 (Fri)	Boise State <sup>3</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	
Feb 21 (Sat)	#16 Arizona <sup>3</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	
Feb 21 (Sat)	#3 Texas <sup>3</sup>	Santa Clara, Calif.	
Feb 22 (Sun)	#10 Stanford <sup>3</sup>	Stanford, Calif.	
Feb 24 (Tue)	Cal Poly (DH1)	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	
Feb 24 (Tue)	Cal Poly (DH2)	San Luis Obispo, Calif.	
Feb 27 (Fri)	Sacramento State <sup>4</sup>	Sacramento, Calif.	
Feb 28 (Sat)	Nevada <sup>4</sup>	Davis, Calif.	
Feb 28 (Sat)	UC Davis <sup>4</sup>	Davis, Calif.	
March 1 (Sun)	Sacred Heart <sup>4</sup>	Davis, Calif.	
March 7 (Sat)	San Jose State (DH1)	San Jose, Calif.	
March 7 (Sat)	San Jose State (DH2)	San Jose, Calif.	
March 8 (Sun)	Fresno State (DH1)	Santa Clara, Calif.	
March 8 (Sun)	Fresno State (DH2)	Santa Clara, Calif.	
March 14 (Sat)	Montana (DH1)	Santa Clara, Calif.	
March 14 (Sat)	Montana (DH2)	Santa Clara, Calif.	
March 15 (Sun)	Montana	Santa Clara, Calif.	
March 22 (Sun)	Portland State (DH1)	Portland, Ore.	
March 22 (Sun)	Portland State (DH2)	Portland, Ore.	
March 23 (Mon)	Portland State	Portland, Ore.	
March 27 (Fri)	LMU*	Los Angeles	
March 28 (Sat)	LMU*	Los Angeles	
March 29 (Sun)	LMU*	Los Angeles	
April 2 (Thur)	Oregon State*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 3 (Fri)	Oregon State*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 4 (Sat)	Oregon State*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 8 (Wed)	Florida State	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 10 (Fri)	San Diego*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 11 (Sat)	San Diego*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 12 (Sun)	San Diego*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
April 17 (Fri)	Pacific*	Stockton, Calif.	
April 18 (Sat)	Pacific*	Stockton, Calif.	
April 19 (Sun)	Pacific*	Stockton, Calif.	
April 22 (Wed)	Stanford	Santa Clara, Calif.	
May 1 (Fri)	Seattle U*	Seattle	
May 2 (Sat)	Seattle U*	Seattle	
May 3 (Sun)	Seattle U*	Seattle	
May 7 (Thur)	Saint Mary's*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
May 8 (Fri)	Saint Mary's*	Santa Clara, Calif.	
May 9 (Sat)	Saint Mary's*	Santa Clara, Calif.	

1 Grand Canyon Kickoff Classic  
2 Silicon Valley Classic  
3 DeMarini Invitational Tournament  
4 Capital City Classic  
\*WCC Game

## DeMarini Invitational Tournament

Stanford and Santa Clara, Calif. •  
Stanford and Santa Clara Softball Stadium •  
Thursday, Feb. 19 - Sunday, Feb. 22

[Live Stats & Live Stream Links on Softball Schedule Page](#)

## Game/Season Notes

### Coming Up:

• Santa Clara will next play in the DeMarini Invitational Tournament, hosted by Stanford. The tournament was scheduled to be held at Stanford University from Feb. 19 - 22, instead [three of the remaining games will be moved to Santa Clara Softball Stadium](#) as Stanford worked with the County of Santa Clara planning department to address work at their new softball stadium.

The games that will be played at Santa Clara include one contest on Friday between Boise State vs. Santa Clara at 11 a.m. PT and two on Saturday, Arizona vs. Santa Clara at 2 p.m. and Texas vs. Santa Clara at 4:30 p.m.

There are no live stream for the three games played at Santa Clara.

All three games at Santa Clara are sold out and single game tickets are not available for sale/walk-up.

In the final game of the tournament on Sunday, Santa Clara will face Stanford at the new Stanford Softball Stadium at 2:30 p.m.

### Last Time Out:

- The Broncos hosted the Silicon Valley Classic last weekend and went 3-3, including their first win over Cal in program history on Saturday. The Broncos were 0-83 all-time against the Bears including a loss to them a day prior before beating them 8-4.
- Cari Ferguson went 2-1 with a pair of complete game victories at the SVC Tournament throwing a total of 338 pitches.
- Rebecca Rubio batted .545 (6-for-11) with a .688 on-base% in the tournament. Elle Merlino went 5-for-10 and scored five runs while Cairah Curran had a slashline of .471/.550/.765 over the six-game tournament including her first career home run.

### 2025 NCAA Tournament:

- Santa Clara made an appearance at the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history last May. They played in the Tucson Regionals, where they fell to Arizona and Grand Canyon.
- The Broncos qualified for the NCAA Tournament by winning the West Coast Conference Championship with a 15-4 run-rule victory over Oregon State in the regular season finale.
- Santa Clara began the day of the regular season finale, a half game behind Saint Mary's in the conference standings needing help from LMU to regain control of their own destiny after losing it a day earlier. In game one of their doubleheader, Saint Mary's led LMU 5-1 heading to the bottom of the sixth but LMU put up eight runs in the frame to win 9-6, just as the first inning got underway in Santa Clara's game. The loss by Saint Mary's opened the door for Santa Clara that they took advantage of.
- Saint Mary's won the second game against LMU to finish with an identical 11-4 record in league play as Santa Clara to earn a share of the WCC championship but the Broncos got the conference's automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament with a 2-1 record against Saint Mary's in their head-to-head series.
- The WCC does not hold a conference tournament as each of the \*six schools played five, three-game series to determine a conference champion. \*For the 2026 season, the WCC is comprised of seven schools with the addition of Seattle U.

### 2026 Team

- The 23 player roster has 16 returners including six all-conference honorees from 2025: first team selections include second baseman Cairah Curran, catcher Taryn Clements, pitcher Cari Ferguson, and two-way player (pitcher/outfielder) Hazyl Gray; second teamer Rebecca Rubio (shortstop) and honorable mention Kyla Acres (outfielder).
- All seven newcomers are freshmen.



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- All but four players hail from California. Kyla Acres is from Nevada, Lillie Brooks from Oregon, Cairah Curran from Hawaii, and Elle Merlino from Washington.
- Four of the six pitchers who pitched last season return.
- The four returning pitchers (Cari Ferguson, Hazyl Gray, Avery Seva and Kendal Manley) account for 23 of the 32 wins (72 percent) and 63 percent of innings pitched in 2025.
- Eight returners had 22 or more starts on the field. The Broncos return 73 percent of at-bats, 74 percent of hits and 67 percent of RBIs from 2025.
- SCU lost third baseman Hope Alley, first baseman Lauren Bryson, utility player Abbey Charpentier, pitcher Hannah Edwards, infielder Bethany Shih and pitcher Alaina Valdez from last year's team. Alley and Edwards were All-WCC first team selections in 2025 while Edwards garnered second team accolades in 2022 and 2024. Edwards finished the top 10 in the Bronco career records (since at least 2000) in: wins (third, 40), ERA (ninth, 3.01), saves (tied for first, four), innings (fifth, 477.0), appearances (fifth, 120), starts (tied for eighth, 72), shutouts (seventh, seven) and strikeouts (fifth, 229)

### 2026 Schedule:

- The 2026 schedule was originally comprised of 52 regular season games with 23 home games and against nine 2025 NCAA Tournament teams including rematches against Grand Canyon and Arizona from last season's Tucson Regionals as well as against the defending national champion, Texas.
- Three additional home games were added to the slate on Feb. 19 when a select number of DeMarini Invitational Tournament games had to be moved from Stanford to Santa Clara.
- This is the third straight season the WCC schedule will have a different number of games played. This season, it's an 18-game WCC schedule made up of six three-game series with the addition of league newcomer Seattle U. In 2025, the WCC returned to the traditional 15-game league slate with the addition of Oregon State to make it a six team league, a year after the departure of BYU from the conference. In 2024, with the league down to five members, each team played a 16-game schedule.
- The Feb. 17 home game against UC Davis was postponed due to rain. A makeup date has yet to be determined.

### ESPNU:

- The penultimate regular season game on May 8 against Saint Mary's will be televised on ESPNU.

### 2026 Preseason Honors:

- Santa Clara was [picked to finish first in the WCC preseason poll](#) as voted by the league's seven coaches.
- Four players were selected to the preseason All-WCC team - Taryn Clements, Cairah Curran, Cari Ferguson and Hazyl Gray.

### 2025 All-WCC Selections:

- Last season, Santa Clara swept the five major conference awards and had eight players named All-WCC. Cairah Curran won the Player of the Year, Taryn Clements was the Defensive Player of the Year, Cari Ferguson took home two awards, the Pitcher and the Freshman of the Year honors while Gina Carbonatto was named Coach of the Year.
- Curran, Clements, Ferguson were joined on the first team by Hope Alley, Hannah Edwards, and Hazyl Gray. On the second team was Rebecca Rubio. Kyla Acres got an honorable mention nod while Ferguson was also named to the All-Freshman Team.
- The eight honorees were the most in Bronco history, topping the seven from 2024.

### 2025 WCC All-Academic:

- Seven Broncos were [named WCC All-Academic](#) in 2025.
- Taryn Clements & Hannah Edwards were named to the All-Academic Team.
- Kyla Acres, Robynn Balmediano, Lauren Bryson, Leiora Davidson and Avery Seva were named All-Academic Honorable Mentions.

## Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** Gina Carbonatto (7th season, Pacific '07)

**Assistant Coach:** Kat Guevara (2nd season, Lyon College '19)

**Assistant Coach:** Maddi Hackbarth (2nd season, Arizona State '20)

**Grad Assistant:** Makena Brocki (2nd season, San Diego State '24)

### About the Coaching Staff:

- Gina Carbonatto enters her seventh season as the head coach of the Broncos.
- Carbonatto served as the assistant coach for Great Britain's Under-22 women's softball team from 2018 - 23.
- Pitching coach Kat Guevara, hitting coach Maddi Hackbarth and graduate assistant Makena Brocki, are all starting their second seasons at Santa Clara.
- Along with the hitters, Hackbarth also works with the catchers, the position she played during her All-American playing career at Arizona State.
- Carbonatto works with the 'short gamers' - the slap hitters - as well as with the defense.
- Brocki is currently playing in a Professional Softball League in Mexico with the Bravas de Leon for the second straight spring. She will return to Santa Clara in late-March after her season is over.
- Carbonatto will be the third base coach and Guevara the first base coach.
- Hackbarth will be the bench coach.

## Team Breakdown by Class

**Seniors (7):** Robynn Balmediano, Leiora Davidson, Hazyl Gray, Jacqueline Lemus, Kendal Manley, Marie Martorella, Mariah Montalvo

**Juniors (6):** Kyla Acres, Taryn Clements, Cairah Curran, Caitlyn "Red" Golob, Rebecca Rubio, Avery Seva

**Sophomores (3):** Cari Ferguson, Audrey Graham, Elle Merlino

**Freshmen (7):** Lillie Brooks, Sophia Cardinale, Cienna Kowaleski, Claire Krotine, Mackenzie Olshenske, Ellison Schroeder, Sofia Zavarella

## Connect with the Broncos

**Twitter:** \_\_\_\_\_ @SCUBroncos, @SCUSoftball

**Instagram:** \_\_\_\_\_ SCUBroncos, scusoftball

**Facebook:** \_\_\_\_\_ SantaClaraBroncos,

\_\_\_\_\_ Santa Clara University Softball

**YouTube:** \_\_\_\_\_ SantaClaraBroncos



# 2026 Santa Clara University SOFTBALL

## 2025 Season Highlights:

- Made the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the 46 year history of the program.
- Won the WCC Championship for the first time (the WCC has sponsored softball since 2014). It was the second conference championship having won the Pacific Coast Softball Conference crown in 2004.
- 32 wins - the most program history. The previous high was 30 wins having done it three times in 2003, 2004 and 2024.
- 62 win total from the 2024 and 2025 seasons are the highest two year total in program history, topping the previous high of 60 wins in 2003 and 2004 when they combined for back-to-back 30 win seasons.
- Swept the WCC series opener (vs. Pacific) for the first time in program history since the WCC began sponsoring softball in 2014.
- First time in program history winning more than three WCC series in a season, as they won all five conference series.
- The 11 WCC wins set a program record eclipsing 2024's mark of nine.
- Three walk-off wins: 1. Abbey Charpentier hit a walk-off single in the eighth against CSU Bakersfield (DH2, Feb. 24); 2. Princeton committed an error to allow the winning run to score in the ninth (DH1, March 10); 3. Hope Alley hit a walk-off double in the seventh against SJSU (April 23).

## Single Season Hit Leader:

- Cairah Curran broke the WCC single season hit record with 78 last season, topping the mark set by Gordy Bravo of BYU who had 76 in 2015.

## Atop the Career Win List:

- Broncos head coach Gina Carbonatto became the winningest coach in program history with her 114th victory on April 12, 2025 against her alma mater, Pacific. She surpassed Marcy Crouch who compiled a 113-166 record from 2000-04.
- Entering the 2026 season, Carbonatto's record stands at 122-137 in six seasons. Her first two seasons in 2020 and 2021 were Covid shortened seasons.
- On March 1, 2025 Carbonatto picked up her 100th career victory with a win over UC Davis at the Capital City Classic Tournament becoming just the second SCU coach to reach that career milestone.

## Topping the League in 2025 (Regular Season):

- In the 2025 regular season, Santa Clara led the WCC in: batting average (.311), runs (303, 5.8 runs/game), hits (443, 8.5 hits/game), doubles (80), RBIs (262), bases on balls (169), OBP (.396), stolen bases (80), sacrifice flies (23), sacrifice bunts (43), ERA (3.12) and shutouts (8).
- Bronco players led the league in: batting average (Curran .429), runs (Curran 49), hits (Curran 78), RBIs (Alley, T-1, 41), triples (Curran 5), hit by pitch (Alley 19), sacrifice bunts (Rubio 10), sacrifice flies (Gray 6), stolen bases (Curran 26), and ERA (Ferguson, 1.92).