



Shortstop Tiffany Burt, a senior Physical Education major from Brigham City, Utah, was named MVP of the Mid-Continent Tournament. See details about the Utah County Alumni Chapter event surrounding the Softball Championships on page 32.

Lady T-Birds end dream season at second bid in NCAA tournament

SUU's softball team defended its top seed at the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, at home, the weekend of May 12 last spring, taking a 4-1 win over fourth-seed Oakland and a 9-0 mercy-rule win over third-seed Western Illinois. At the NCAA Tournament in Provo the next week, the Washington Huskies took advantage of six hits and an error to score seven runs in the fifth inning and took an 8-0 mercy-rule win. Then the next day, the Thunderbirds succumbed to the BYU Cougars, but not without a good challenge. The two teams were scoreless through the first three-and-a-half innings but Southern Utah put together six hits in the fourth. Still, the Cougars were victorious with a 5-4 score. "We made them hit the ball to beat us. That's the way the game is played. . ." SUU Coach Jodi Hermanek, said. "We had a great opportunity, we put together a nice rally and we had all the momentum but BYU had an answer and beat us in a great softball game." Lady Thunderbirds, congratulations on and thank you for an exciting, fun, great season!



THUNDERBIRD ATHLETICS

SUU has New Women's Basketball Head Coach



Steve Hodson

A three-time Utah high school coach of the year, **Steve Hodson** is the eighth head women's basketball coach of SUU. Steve replaced his predecessor, Joe Hillock, after the latter's 10-year stint on the Thunderbird bench. A winning coach of four state 3A titles, Steve joins the Thunderbird program following five years as the athletic director and head girls basketball coach at Canyon View High School in north Cedar City. Prior to that, Steve was Canyon View's boys basketball head coach from 1998-2000, guiding the Falcons to a 22-2 season and a 3A championship (after which he was named coach of the year). Recent SUU men's players **Rand Janes** and **Nate Janes**, as well as current T-Bird guard **Steve Barnes** played for Steve in high school. Additionally, Steve coached boys basketball at Cedar High School earlier in his career, and took his team to back-to-back 3A championships. At another point in time, Steve served as assistant men's basketball coach at SUU under former T-Bird head coach **Neil Roberts** from 1987-91. Already a Thunderbird, Steve earned his bachelor's degree in Physical Education from SUU in 1978 where he was also a two-year letterwinner on the men's basketball team. Nearly 20 years later, he was inducted into the SUU Coaching Hall of Fame, and was the 2006 recipient of the SUU Alumni Carmen Rose Hepworth Award. Other career accolades include his receiving the 2002 Utah High School Men's Basketball Coaches Association Distinguished Coaches Award and the 1998 UHSAA Distinguished Service 3A Coach of the Year Award. Steve is the only Utah high school coach to win state boys and girls titles with three different programs and is one of three Utah prep mentors to have won both boys and girls state basketball titles. "I am excited for this excellent opportunity to go back to and coach at my alma mater," Steve says. "This will be an exciting challenge to be a part of the great athletic department here at Southern Utah and hopefully be an important cog in the future of this program."