

Gomez rewrites Cajuns' record book

IT WAS THE 2003 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD Series in Oklahoma City.

On the pitcher's mound: the University of Texas' Cat Osterman. The 6-foot, 2-inch hurler was cool and confident. It's no wonder. She hadn't given up a hit in nearly 65 innings.

Ragin' Cajun freshman Danyele Gomez stepped up to the plate. Anyone unfamiliar with Gomez probably considered it a classic David vs. Goliath matchup. But fans who had followed Gomez' career all season knew that it was more like two Goliaths.

Gomez had earned a reputation for successful "firsts." She hit a grand slam, for instance, in her collegiate debut, the season opener against Louisiana Tech. In her first NCAA regional competition, she claimed a solo against San Diego State.

Now it was her first at bat in a World Series.

Osterman pitched the bright yellow ball. Gomez sent it sailing more than 300 feet, where it landed beyond the left field fence for a home run.

UCLA won the World Series that year. But Gomez and Osterman continued to play like champions.



Danyele Gomez

This year, both were named to the First Team of the Louisville Slugger/NFCA NCAA Division 1 All-America Team.

Gomez wrapped up her career with 83 career home runs. That's the fourth highest number of home runs in NCAA history.

As a senior, she had 30 home runs, leading NCAA Division 1 with that season total. Only two other players in NCAA history have hit that many home runs in one year.

Gomez led the nation in home runs per game, runs per game and slugging percentage (.957).

By racking up a career high of 83 home runs, she set a UL Lafayette record. That's 26 more than the previous record. She also set school records for home runs, runs and total bases.

Gomez was one of 10 finalists for USA Softball's Player of the Year in 2006. She was featured in the "Faces in the Crowd" section of *Sports Illustrated* this spring and was named to the 2006 All-Louisiana Softball Squad by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Gomez joined former Ragin' Cajun pitcher Krystal Lewallen on the Texas Thunder pro fastpitch team.



LOTIEF'S WINNING WAYS TAKE HER TO NO. 3

UL Lafayette's Stefni Lotief has the third highest winning percentage of active NCAA Division 1 softball coaches in the nation.

To be ranked by the NCAA in that category, a coach must have a minimum of five years experience as a Division 1 head coach. The ranking is for spring varsity fast-pitch at four-year universities only.

Here are the latest NCAA statistics.

COACH, TEAM	YEARS	WON	LOST	TIED	PERCENTAGE
1. Mike Candrea, Arizona	19	1,027	203	0	.835
2. Sue Enquist, UCLA	17	837	166	1	.834
3. Stefni Lotief, La.-Lafayette	5	259	52	0	.833
4. JoAnne Graf, Florida St.	22	1,092	342	6	.760
5. Yvette Girouard, LSU	25	1,012	325	0	.757

Source: NCAA