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**SOFTBALL**

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## Assistant Softball Coach Leigh Ann Ellis Earns A Spot on Team USA Roster

Former South Florida standout will be back in the circle at the 2005 Pacific Rim Sports Summit in Seattle, Wash., this June.

Jan. 12, 2005

**Chicago, Ill.** - University of Illinois at Chicago Assistant Softball Coach [Leigh Ann Ellis](#) will be back in the circle this June as she has earned a spot on the Team USA squad that will compete at the 2005 Pacific Rim Sports Summit in Seattle, Wash.

Eighteen of the top softball players in the country were selected to participate after a three-day tryout camp in Chula Vista, Calif., January 3-7. Twelve of the players are returnees from the 2004 National Team that won gold at the Athens Olympics.

Ellis, who joined the UIC coaching staff in September, is one of six new faces on the squad, joining the likes of three-time Olympic gold medalist Laura Berg and Lisa Fernandez, as well as Stacey Neveman and Jennie Finch among others.

Ellis concluded her playing career at South Florida in 2004, where she graduated as one of the program's most decorated pitchers.

She totaled a school record 43 victories in 2004 en route to NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-American honors while also being named Conference-USA Pitcher of the Year. In 2003, she set USF single-season high-water marks for innings pitched (315.2) and strikeouts (320), earning a post on the All-Conference-USA First Team.

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Assistant Softball Coach Leigh Ann Ellis has earned a spot on the Team USA roster for the 2005 Pacific

Ellis had one of her finest outings last season in an exhibition game versus the eventual gold medal winning United States softball team, holding the powerhouse squad scoreless for 5 1/3 innings, the longest stretch any American hurler has kept Team USA at bay.

The 2005 UIC softball team opens is season on February 18th, with a NCAA Regional re-match versus Tennessee.

Rim Sports Summit.

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