

2000 Jennies Soccer Preview

Facing the strongest schedule in the program's six-year history, Coach Al Iantorno feels his 2000 Jennies' squad will be equal to the task this season. The Jennies have compiled 31 wins the past three seasons, while producing three straight winning seasons.

Their 2000 schedule will find them facing four teams that were ranked in the final NCAA Division II top 25 last season – #4 Northern Kentucky, #16 North Dakota State, #19 Northern Colorado and #22 Truman State. The Jennies will meet seven of the teams in last season's final Central Region top ten rankings, as well as Division I foe Southwest Missouri. Making the challenge even more difficult is the fact that the Jennies play only four of their 19 games at home.

Iantorno has nine starters back from last season's 10-8 squad that finished second in the MIAA behind Truman State. Senior midfielder **Sabrina Sanders** was the Jennies' top scorer last season with six goals and four assists and earned first-team All-MIAA recognition. Forwards **Amy Krumm**, a senior, and **Jessica Rausch**, a junior, each had five goals and an assist last season. Krumm was an honorable mention All-MIAA selection, while Rausch received second-team All-MIAA honors. Juniors **Shaunita Sharpe** and **Megan Heideman** are the Jennies' top defenders. Sharpe was a first-team all-conference choice and Heideman was picked for the second team. Junior **Carrie Payne** returns for her third season as the Jennies' goalkeeper. She's produced 16 complete-game shutouts in her first two seasons and has a career goals against average of 0.75. She was a second-team All-MIAA selection last season.

Six sophomores – forward **Briana Devereaux**, midfielders **Jessica Goedecker** and **Melissa Layton**, and defenders **Tiffany Meyer**, **Megan VanderTuin** and **Beth Monnig** – all logged considerable playing time last season, appearing in at least 12 of the Jennies' 18 games.

One problem Iantorno hopes to eliminate from last season is a lack of scoring. The Jennies were shut out in seven of their eight losses and four of those were by 1-0 scores. He's counting on newcomers **April Reyes**, a talented forward from Trinidad, and transfer **Katie Smith** to be major factors in the Jennies' offense this season. Reyes has been a member of the national team for Trinidad and Tobago since 1998 and played in this summer's Gold Cup competition. Smith transferred to CMSU from Division I Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis.