

## Schmidlin Named New Volleyball Coach At LMC

Written by Whitney Noble

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Dave Schmidlin has been named the new head men's and women's volleyball coach at Lees-McRae College, announced Director of Athletics Craig McPhail Monday. Schmidlin brings a wealth of coaching experience to Lees-McRae, previously serving as the head coach of the men's volleyball program at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as the women's volleyball coach at Oakland University (Rochester, Michigan) and the University of Saint Francis (Fort Wayne, Indiana).

"We are excited to add a coach with experience and success in developing young talent with [Dave] Schmidlin coming to be a part of our team. His knowledge of the game of volleyball, vast connections, record of success, and teaching abilities will allow us to continue the great tradition of volleyball at Lees-McRae," praised McPhail.

Schmidlin led Cardinal Stritch to a 56-37 record in his three seasons at the helm, including a 26-13 mark during the 2010 campaign while leading the Wolves to the national semifinals. While at Cardinal Stritch, Schmidlin mentored three all-Americans, seven all-conference performers, and one conference player of the year.

"I am truly excited to be named the men's and women's volleyball coach at Lees-McRae College," said Schmidlin. "As I did my research and went through the interview process, it became apparent that this is a place that cares about its students and wants to see them succeed. And, you can't beat the scenery."

A native of Birmingham, Michigan, Schmidlin has a history of leading programs to success in the classroom as well, guiding his Cardinal Stritch team to a 3.3 grade point average over two seasons, with nine Wolves earning all-conference academic honors. His squad at Oakland also performed well in the classroom, maintaining a 3.3 GPA over the course of four seasons, as 25 Golden Grizzlies garnered all-conference academic recognition.

Schmidlin began his coaching career as the assistant men's volleyball coach at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne, where he served as the recruiting coordinator, as well as the strength and conditioning coordinator for 10 years, four of which while pursuing his undergraduate degree. The Mastodons posted a 153-100 record during Schmidlin's tenure at the Fort Wayne, Indiana school, earning three conference titles while advancing to the NCAA Tournament in 1994 and 1999.

"To attract a person of Dave's ability is a testament to the young people who have played volleyball for us in the past and present, but also the coaching staff, college and community," said McPhail. "We are looking forward to watching him teach, guide and lead our volleyball teams."

The Birmingham, Mich. native graduated from IPFW with a Bachelor of Arts in general studies. He is a member of the American Volleyball Coaches' Association, and has worked with the USA Volleyball High Performance Program as a talent evaluator for various national team programs for over 15 years.

"I want to thank President Buxton and [Director of Athletics] Craig McPhail for giving me the opportunity to lead both programs," expressed Schmidlin. "We will continue to build on the tradition of success that they have experienced in the past, both on and off the court."

Lees-McRae College, a four-year, co-educational liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, USA, is located in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina. Being a year-round tourist destination, the area provides the best of a vibrant college community coupled with natural beauty and a rich history. Please see [www.lmc.edu](http://www.lmc.edu) for more

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**Photo Courtesy: David Schmidlin, LMC Athletics**