

Ginipro Adds Four to 2013 ASU Squad

Written by Ryan Bower
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Appalachian State University volleyball head coach Matt Ginipro announced the addition of four players to his squad for the 2013 campaign on Thursday. "Like our first batch of incoming players, this group of incoming Mountaineers consists of talented players who are also outstanding people with great families," said Ginipro. "All four fill in spaces that will greatly improve our program and make our gym significantly more competitive."

The latest group of incoming players consists of four high-school standouts in Taneisha Crockett (Knoxville, Tenn./Hardin Valley Academy), Leah Hawkins (Weaverville, N.C./A.C. Reynolds), Olivia Reed (Gainesville, Fla./Buchholz) and Katie Stammen (Raleigh, N.C./Leesville Road).

"After having a small roster this past season, I'm looking forward to having a large group of talented players in the gym pushing each other to get better every day," said Ginipro.

Taneisha Crockett

5-10 • Outside Hitter

Knoxville, Tenn.

Hardin Valley Academy

Crockett will join the Mountaineers after helping lead Hardin Valley Academy to a 44-13 record during her senior campaign and a top-15 ranking in the state of Tennessee. A multiple-time all-state selection, Crockett ended her senior campaign with 471 kills (3.2 k/s) while recording 97 blocks (45 solo) and 20 service aces along with a .293 attack percentage. She played club volleyball for K2 Volleyball in Knoxville along with future teammate Leah Hawkins.

Ginipro's Comments: "Taneisha will be used to hitting off of Leah as they're playing club ball together right now. Taneisha is a great athlete who is currently a middle hitter where we will probably move her to an outside hitting position. I have no doubt she'll pick that up quickly and being to produce for us."

Leah Hawkins

5-9 • Setter

Weaverville, N.C.

A.C. Reynolds High School

Hawkins comes to Boone after an outstanding high school career in which she earned all-conference honors three times and served as a team captain at A.C. Reynolds in each of her final three seasons. She also played club volleyball for K2 Volleyball in Knoxville along with future Mountaineer Taneisha Crockett. She finished her senior campaign with 309 assists, 256 digs, 139 kills and 33 service aces in 82 sets played.

Ginipro's Comments: "Leah will bolster our setting group and create more competition in that position. She delivers a very consistent set that our hitters will enjoy. I'm sure once she adjusts to the speed of the collegiate game, Leah will be a very good setter for us."

Olivia Reed

5-7 • Libero/Defensive Specialist

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Gainesville, Fla.

Buchholz High School

Reed comes to the High Country after earning all-area honors as a senior. She finished her final high school season with 201 kills, 209 digs and a team-best 45 aces. Reed competed in club volleyball for Ocala Power, where she helped lead her team to a third-place finish at AAU Nationals.

Ginipro's Comments: "Olivia impressed us greatly during camp last summer. While she will come in and challenge for the libero position right away, Olivia has the ability to play a hitting position for us as well. She's an exceptional athlete and someone who will run through a wall for her team."

Kati Stammen

5-5 • Libero/Defensive Specialist

Raleigh, N.C.

Leesville Road High School

Stammen will join the App State volleyball program after earning all-conference and conference Player of the Year honors as a senior. In addition, she played club volleyball for Triangle Volleyball where she earned all-tournament honors four times, MVP honors twice and was named Best Libero in 2010. As a senior, Stammen helped Leesville Road to a 27-1 record and a No. 2 ranking in the state of North Carolina. She ended her final season with 5.1 digs per set to go along with 445 digs and 57 service aces.

Ginipro's Comments: "Kati is another player who will come in and push for playing time at the libero position. Kati is a well-trained defensive player who also had a great camp this past summer. She is also a big competitor who wants to do what she can to help her team win."

Photo Courtesy: Matt Ginipro, ASU Athletics