

KELLY JOINS ASU VOLLEYBALL STAFF

Written by Courtney Burchett
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Appalachian State University head volleyball coach Matt Ginipro announced the hiring of assistant coach Alex Kelly on Monday. Kelly joins the Mountaineers following a successful playing career at Lipscomb.

“I’m very happy to have Alex join our staff, Ginipro said. “ Losing Sam to Cincinnati, while a great move for her, was a big loss for us because of what she brought to the gym from her playing and competitive experience, so we knew we wanted to stick with the same formula in this hire. Alex’s resume speaks for itself. She’s won three conference championships in the four years she played at Lipscomb and was named Atlantic Sun Player of the Year twice in her career. She is a very driven, confident person who our players are going to love to be in the gym with. She hasn’t even gotten to Boone yet and she has already been asking me for film to watch so she can figure out ways to improve our team. Kolby (O’Donnell) and I are looking forward to having her personality and passion for the game mesh with ours as we drive towards SoCon championships.”

The Kansas City, Mo. native posted a stellar career while at Lipscomb. During her four-year tenure, she was a member of three Atlantic Sun conference championship squads, including helping the Lady Bison’s earn their first ever championship in school history in 2007.

The middle blocker earned A-Sun Player of the Year honors, twice during her illustrious career, in 2008 and 2009. She was named to the A-Sun all-freshman team in 2007, and then tabbed with A-Sun first team all-conference honors in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In addition to these impressive accomplishments, she also earned A-Sun all-tournament honors all four years of her career at Lipscomb and was named to the A-Sun all-academic team all four years as well. As a freshman she tied for first in the A-Sun in blocks per game. At the conclusion of her sophomore season she ranked 31st in the NCAA in kills per set. At the end of her junior season she ranked 21st in the NCAA in kills per set and 38th in the country in hitting percentage. She closed out her career ranked 27th in the NCAA in kills per set.

Kelly was also recognized for her playing performances on a national level. In 2009 she was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association, NCAA Division I South Region Team. In 2010, she was named to the AVCA South Region team and the AVCA all-America team. Kelly is very excited about getting her collegiate coaching career underway at ASU.

“I am incredibly excited about starting my coaching career here at Appalachian State University,” Kelly said. “I have spent many years playing a game that I love and feel fortunate to be able to continue being a part of something bigger than myself. I cannot wait to bring my passion and experience to ASU and the volleyball program.”

The Black and Gold kick off their grueling 2011 slate, Friday, August 26 against NC State, as the Apps host the Appalachian Invitational. The match between the Mountaineers and Wolfpack is set to start at 7 p.m. in the Holmes Center.

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