

Two Mountaineers Named All-Conference

Written by Ryan Bower

Wednesday, 16 November 2011 20:05

Appalachian State volleyball placed two players on the Southern Conference's all-conference team, as voted on by the league's coaches and announced by the league office on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Senior middle blocker Alison Blasingame received a nod for first team all-SoCon honors after leading

the Mountaineers in hitting percentage (.342), blocks (109) and block assists (104) while recording 236 kills on the season.

Blasingame currently ranks fifth in the Southern Conference and ranks 65th nationally in hitting percentage and is poised to finish in the top five in both single season and career-hitting percentage in ASU history.

Blasingame's all-conference honors are the first of her career and make her the Apps first, first-team selection since Brittany Zahn earned the same honor in 2007.

Senior outside hitter Anna Wagner was named as a second team all-SoCon selection after leading the Apps in kills (371). She recorded a career-high 31 kills in an upset of NC State in the 2011 season opener and has recorded 25 or more kills in eight matches this season.

Wagner ranks fourth in the SoCon and 174th nationally in kills per set (3.31) and has posted 13 double-doubles this season while picking up 329 digs, the second-highest total on the team.

With the selections of Blasingame and Wagner to the all-conference team, Appalachian State has now had 29 different players selected to all-SoCon teams a total of 37 times, the most of any school in conference history.

SoCon South Division champion College of Charleston earned six all-conference selections while North Division champion Samford tallied four. Samford's Elizabeth Neisler earned Player of the Year honors while UNCG's Kelly Orewiler was named as the league's Libero of the Year. Western Carolina head coach Karen Glover earned SoCon Coach of the Year honors after leading the Catamounts to a tournament appearance in her first season, their first appearance since 2006.

Appalachian State faces Georgia Southern in the quarterfinals of the 2011 Southern Conference Volleyball Championships at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19.

2011 SoCon Volleyball All-Conference Team

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First Team

Alison Blasingame, Appalachian State

Elyse Chubb, College of Charleston

Sarah Havel, College of Charleston

Kelly Kirby, Furman

Kate Van Dyke, Georgia Southern

Elizabeth Neisler, Samford

Lauren Hutchinson, Samford

Second Team

Anna Wagner, Appalachian State

Sloane White, College of Charleston

Caroline Brown, Davidson

Natalie Braun, Furman

Caroline Adams, Furman

Bethany Sanford, Georgia Southern

Katie Murphy, Samford

All-Freshman Team

Lizzie Theesfeld, College of Charleston

Sloane White, College of Charleston

Kris Harris, Elon

Chanelle Smith, Elon

Michaela Reesor, Samford

Caitlin Piechota, Western Carolina

Jordan Timmermann, Western Carolina

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Player of the Year

Elizabeth Neisler, Samford

Rayna Matea Taylor Award (Freshman of the Year)

Sloane White, College of Charleston

Libero of the Year

Kellie Orewiler, UNCG

Coach of the Year

Karen Glover, Western Carolina

Photo Courtesy: Anna Wagner (left), By Dave Mayo; Alison Blasingame (right) by Meghan Gay, ASU Athletics