

Pollard A Blue Devil, Really?

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There are reports that Appalachian State University baseball coach Chris Pollard will be named the new baseball coach at Duke. Pollard replaces Sean McNally, who resigned after seven seasons with the Blue Devils. Pollard will be introduced as the Duke's new head coach at a press conference later this afternoon. Pollard, who spent eight years at ASU, led the Mountaineers to their first Southern Conference title since 1984, and the NCAA Regionals this season---their first post-season appearance since 1986. The Mountaineers also came within one win of reaching the Super Regionals, but they were swept by Oklahoma in the Charlottesville Regional finals. The Mountaineers also won a school record 41 games this season.

In seven seasons at Duke, McNally compiled an overall record of 192-198-1 (.491), including a 63-145-1 (.301) mark in the ACC. The Blue Devils completed the 2012 season with a 21-34 ledger. Duke finished last in the ACC standings with a 9-21 conference mark and failed to make the eight-team ACC Tournament for the sixth time in seven years. It was the second straight losing season for McNally after four consecutive winning campaigns.

McNally led his alma mater to four straight winning seasons (2007-10) and his 192 career victories rank third on Duke's all-time wins list.

McNally enjoyed his best season in 2009 when the Blue Devils went 35-24 overall and 15-15 in ACC play. Duke's 15 wins in the ACC were the second most in school history and trailed only the 16 victories that the 1994 Duke team -- of which McNally was a key member -- won. The Blue Devils finished seventh in the ACC standings that year and advanced to the ACC Tournament for the first time since 2005. Duke came within one game of reaching the conference championship before falling 11-7 to eventual ACC Champion and College World Series participant Virginia.

Photo Courtesy: Chris Pollard, ASU Athletics