

DeCesare Named Bears' New Coach

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Lenoir-Rhyne University has named Tammy DeCesare Head Women's Soccer Coach, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Neill McGeachy announced today. DeCesare becomes the sixth head coach

in program history.

DeCesare comes to L-R after spending the past three seasons (2011-13) as an Assistant Coach at Queens University of Charlotte. Last year, the Royals earned their first Top 25 national ranking in school history in their initial season in the South Atlantic Conference.

DeCesare was also Head Women's Soccer Coach at Western Carolina (2005-09) and Coastal Carolina (2010) prior to her stint at Queens.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity and want to thank Neill McGeachy for his confidence in my abilities to lead this program," said DeCesare. "Lenoir-Rhyne has a tradition of soccer excellence. I look forward to building upon the legacy that has been created and

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continuing to compete for a future national championship."

"Tammy (DeCesare) brings the experience and the coaching talent to take our women's soccer program to an elite status," said McGeachy.

As Catamount mentor, DeCesare led Western Carolina to a 58-36-13 mark including two Southern Conference Tournament Championships and two berths in the NCAA Division I Playoffs (2005 and 2008). The 2005 season was the best in school history as the Catamounts finished 18-6 overall with 13 shutouts.

In her lone season with Coastal Carolina, DeCesare led the Chanticleers to a share of the Big South Regular Season Championship and a 10-8-2 mark.

DeCesare has also been actively involved in the Olympic Development Program (ODP). DeCesare has been a North Carolina Development Program Girls Coach for the past 10 years and was a Region III Olympic Development Coach and Administrator.

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DeCesare started her collegiate coaching career at UNC Wilmington where she spent six years (1999-04) as an assistant. DeCesare was also Head Women's Soccer Coach at East Rowan High School in Salisbury, N.C., in 1997 and 1998.

DeCesare earned her undergraduate degree from Catawba in 1996 before earning her Master's of Education in Curriculum Design and Instructional Supervision in 2002 from UNC Wilmington. Currently, DeCesare is pursuing her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership at UNC Charlotte.

DeCesare was a standout dual sport athlete at Catawba, playing both women's soccer and women's basketball.

DeCesare was an all-conference honoree and team MVP for the Indians' soccer team and led Catawba to two league tournament titles (1993 and 1994) and a SAC Regular Season Championship (1993). In women's basketball, DeCesare was part of the 1993 Food Lion SAC Tournament Championship squad.

Lenoir-Rhyne is coming off its fourth consecutive South Atlantic Conference Championship and fourth straight berth to the NCAA Division II National Tournament last fall. In 2014, the Bears finished 14-4-2 overall including a 9-1-1 mark in league play. DeCesare replaces Cally Morrill, who took the head coaching position at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla.

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