

ASU History

Arizona State University's women's volleyball program enters its 27th campaign in 1999 with the accomplishments that have taken other programs many decades to achieve — success and respect on the national level.

The Sun Devils initiated the program in fine style in 1973, when they captured the first-ever Intermountain Conference championship. ASU finished the season ranked 15th nationally under the guidance of head coach Mary Littlewood. At that time, Littlewood also handled head softball and basketball coaching duties. The following season saw the Sun Devils finish second in the conference en route to another top 20 national ranking (19th) in the final AIAW poll.

Throughout the 1970s, Arizona State played solid, fundamental volleyball and finished among the upper division in the Intermountain Conference on a regular basis.

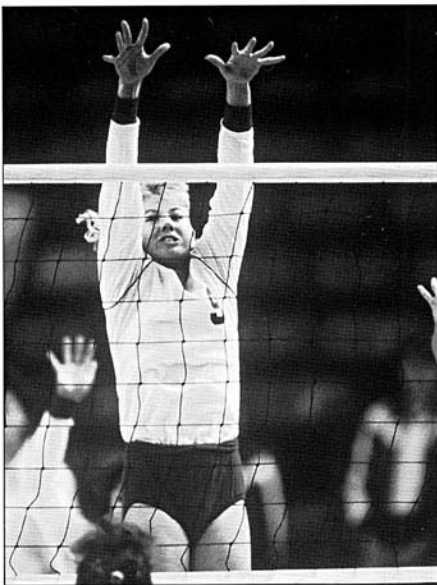
Joanie Smith was ASU's first volleyball star, as she garnered all-conference honors in 1976. The likes of Nancy Corea, Sheri Lobb and Donna Stuhr further helped ASU establish itself on the national scene during the '70s.

Dale Flickinger, ASU's second volleyball coach (1979-82), elevated the program and developed it into one of the nation's up-and-coming programs. The 1979 season also marked the debut of a new conference for the Sun Devils — the Western Collegiate Athletic Association (WCAA).

The 1980 campaign saw the entrance of Lisa Stuck and Terri Edison, and the tandem helped ASU to its initial 20-win season (24-17). Stuck became Arizona State's first all-America performer due to her explosive and powerful offensive skills. She ranks among the career kill and service ace leaders, and still owns the school mark for most kills in a match (35).

Edison proved key towards ASU's blocking success, as her 6-3 frame allowed her to alter opponents' shots, and led the team in blocks during three different seasons.

The Debbie Brown Era (1983-88) allowed the Sun Devils to move into the nation's top 10 and



Former Sun Devil all-american Christy Nore (1985-88) led the country in digs and ranked among the top 20 in kills in 1988.

produce such All-Americans as Tammy Webb, Regina Stahl and Christy Nore.

Brown, a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team and assistant coach on the '88 U.S. Olympic squad, made stellar defensive skills commonplace in the Sun Devil program.

Excellence in the setter position has been synonymous with ASU volleyball for most of the program's life. Joan Oakley began the trend of solid passing technique and earned all-conference accolades as a freshman in 1978. Heather Forbes then followed Oakley as the Sun Devils' playmaker.

Regina Stahl ranks among the nation's career assist leaders (5,180) and guided the Sun Devils to three NCAA berths and eventually received All-America honors in 1986. Stahl's replacement, Noelle Fridrich, continued the strong setting tradition at Arizona State to close out the 1980s. Jennifer Helfrich continued the tradition into the 90s. Sun Devil Tiffannie Johnson-Gates closed out her career

by entering the ASU record books ranked fourth in career assists (2,698).

Current setter Becky Sidoti should keep the list of great Sun Devil setters going for years to come.

Offensively, the names of Christine Garner, Webb, Nore, Valentina Vega, Tracey Barberie and Mindy Gowell (now Mindy Rich) are found throughout the record section. A valuable member on the '88, '92 and '96 U.S. Olympic teams, Webb, now Tammy Liley, was one of the most dominating figures on the collegiate scene. Her strength, leaping ability and general knowledge of the game allows her to remain a vital cog of the U.S. National team.

Nore was perhaps the top 'athlete' to play volleyball at ASU, as quickness, power and precise passing made her a feared opponent. She led the country in digs and ranked among the top 20 in kills in 1988, while tallying nearly 1,600 kills and digs during her tenure.

Labeled as one of Arizona State's first prized recruits, Vega finished her career with more than 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs, while playing in three NCAAs. Like Vega, Barberie provided the Sun Devils with a solid offensive and defensive threat throughout her four-year career. The outside hitter/middle blocker registered 1,032 kills and 1,104 digs, one of only seven players to surpass the 1,000 mark in both categories.

Players like Sue Nord, Tammy Motyka and Suzy Duggess also proved instrumental towards Arizona State's success during the 1980s. During that decade, the Sun Devils averaged better than 20 victories per season and qualified for the NCAAs seven times in nine tries.

During the 1990's, Christine Garner set herself apart by becoming ASU's all-time kills leader, pounding out an incredible 1,871 kills in her four years. Garner also notched over 1,000 digs and 100 service aces during her career. For her accomplishments, she was named a second-team AVCA All-America in '95. Garner also won a silver medal at the 1994 Goodwill Games.

Patti Snyder-Park inherited a quality program in 1989, and has taken the Sun Devils even higher in her first 10 seasons at the helm. Snyder-Park, the Pac-10 Co-Coach of the Year in 1990 and Coach of the Year in '92, has been instrumental in elevating Arizona State volleyball to an elite level, thanks in large part to her great recruiting classes, all of which ranked among the best in the country. She is confident that appearances at the NCAA Championships will continue to be commonplace as this talented group of student-athletes grows and matures together.

ASU All-Time Coaches

Coach	Years	Record
Patti Snyder-Park	1989-present	158-128
Debbie Brown	1983-88	117-83
Dale Flickinger	1979-82	81-57
Mary Littlewood	1973-78	81-32