Beach volleyball recognized

Photo courtesy of SFA Athletics

The SFA Beach Volleyball team recently earned the U.S. Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award. The United States Marine Corps and the American Volleyball Coaches Association announced July 18 that more than 1,200 collegiate and high school volleyball teams have earned the USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award this season. The award, initiated in the 1992–93 academic year, honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale.

Assistant soccer coach named

The SFA soccer program is excited to announce the hiring of Christina Wakefield as the new assistant coach.

"We are very excited to add Christina to our staff! She had a stellar career playing under a legend in women's soccer at Boston University, where she was a first-team all conference athlete that won championships and had two NCAA tournament appearances," said SFA soccer head coach, Tony Minatta.

"Christina has spent that past two years learning from one of the best in the business at Auburn University, so she brings an understanding of what it takes to compete at the highest levels. We look forward to her enhancing our championship standard and helping us to represent the program the SFA Way."

Wakefield said she is excited and ready to get started.

"I would like to thank Coach Tony Minatta, and the Stephen F. Austin State University Athletic Department for this incredible opportunity," she said. "I am thrilled to begin this journey as part of the Lumberjack family! I want to help build upon the success and continue to elevate it to the national level.

"Most of all, I am excited to work with these driven and committed student athletes to achieve their individual and team goals both in the classroom and on the field. I wouldn't be where I am today without the guidance, friendship and mentorship from the Auburn University soccer staff (Coach Hoppa, Coach Madsen, Coach Flohre, and DO Amy Reif) and my former collegiate coach at Boston, Nancy Feldman. Thank you all for everything! I cannot wait to see y'all at The Chopping Block this fall! Axe 'em!"

Wakefield joins SFA after two years as a Graduate Assistant at Auburn University where she worked under Karen Hoppa. Prior to Auburn, she worked as an assistant coach for women's soccer and tennis as well as a strength and conditioning coach at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Wakefield played at Boston University where she led her team to Patriot League Conference Championships and NCAA Tournament appearances in 2014 and 2015. She was also named to the All-Patriot League First Team in 2017 and Third Team in 2015. In 2017, Wakefield earned the Turnpike Trophy MVP and the Team Offensive MVP award.

"SFA is getting a great new assistant coach," said Karen Hoppa, women's soccer head coach at Auburn University. "Christina is a ready for this new opportunity and is going to bring character, energy and a great soccer mind to the staff."

Nancy Feldman, former women's soccer head coach at Boston University, added, "Christina was a superior competitor and student athlete while playing at Boston University. Her commitment to do the work to be the best she be was impressive. She also demonstrated resilience on and off the field, her mentality and fortitude being special qualities.

"She is passionate about sharing her love of the game and she will be a positive and supportive mentor to her SFA student athletes," she said.

"I am so excited that Christina is joining SFA," said Molley Polleto, women's soccer assistant coach at University of California Los Angeles. "She brings unmatched energy, investment in the student athlete and a work ethic like no other. The program and university is getting the next up coming coach even better person."

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