





# HEAD COACH



## TINA SEALS

**Head coach**  
(Mississippi State University, 1987)

### PERSONAL

**Birthdate:** March 19, 1963  
**Birthplace:** Florence, Ala.  
**Husband:** Tony Seals of Winfield, Ala.  
**Daughter:** Tracey Marie

### EDUCATION

**College:** Mississippi State (B.S., 1987)  
Univ. of North Alabama (M.S., 1994)

### ATHLETICS

**College:** Mississippi State University  
volleyball (1981-1984)

### COACHING

**Junior College:** Northwest Shoals (Ala.) C.C.  
• head coach - volleyball (1992-2003)  
**NCAA D-1:** Mississippi State University  
• head coach - volleyball (2004-present)

Tina (Burcham) Seals, who during her collegiate career became one of Mississippi State University's first standout volleyball performers, is in her fourth season as head coach of the Volleyball Bulldogs.

Seals joined the Mississippi State University Athletic Department family in March 2004, becoming the ninth head coach in the history of the 33-year old program.

Over the course of three seasons, the Florence, Ala., native has engineered an impressive resurgence in the Mississippi State volleyball program, guiding State to back-to-back winning campaigns the last two seasons while climbing the ladder as one of MSU volleyball's most successful coaches.

Seals' State teams have compiled a 46-41, tying or setting school records for conference wins each season and establishing the school mark for homecourt wins.

In 2004, her first season at the MSU helm, Seals guided the Bulldogs to a 14-16 worksheet, an 11-win gain over the 2003 edition and one of the program's biggest season-to-season turnarounds. That '03 team, projected for a last place SEC finish, tied a school record with five league wins and finished tied for eighth in the overall SEC standings, just missing a berth in the eight-team field of the SEC tournament. That MSU team, climbed 111 spots to a No. 156 final national ranking by RichKern.com.

Seals' 2005 edition climbed further up the ladder, posting a 15-12 worksheet, the program's seventh winning campaign in 31 seasons and only its second in 13 seasons. Along the way the Bulldogs established a school record with six SEC wins and earned the school's first berth in the SEC Tournament since qualification standards were put in place following the 1998 season.

During the '05 season RichKern.com ranked the Bulldogs as high as No. 66 -- the highest in-season national ranking ever for a Mississippi State volleyball. After spending much of the year ranked in the top 100, State finished the year at No. 111, also a school-best. The '06 Bulldogs begin the year with a Pablo system ranking of No. 77.

State's success story continued in 2006 when the Bulldogs raced to a 10-1 start en route to a 17-13 finish, most wins in program history since 1996. State again set the school standard for conference win, registering eight victories in rugged league competition. MSU swept a pair of SEC series (vs. Mississippi and South Carolina) for just the second time in school history and closed out the season with a program-first win over SEC West power and 2006 NCAA Tournament entrant Arkansas. That season-ending win at home was MSU's school-record 10th.

Prior to coming to MSU Seals enjoyed a highly-successful 12-year run as volleyball coach at Northwest-Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

A native of Florence, Ala., she launched her coaching career at Northwest-Shoals C.C. in 1992, the inaugural year for the sport at NW-SCC. She quickly built the program into a perennial power in the Alabama junior college ranks, compiling a remarkable 444-137 record (.764) in 12 seasons.



### The Seals

Tony, Tracey Marie & Tina



## Tina Seals' coaching milestones

Year	W-L	Team honors (national ranking)
2006	17-13	Most wins since '96, record SEC wins
2005	15-12	MSU record for SEC wins, finish
2004	14-16	MSU-record: 11-win improvement
2003	40-15	state champ. (No. 11), NJCAA Tourn.
2002	32-17	state champ. (No. 12), NJCAA Tourn.
2001	51-5	state champ. (No. 2), NJCAA Tourn.
2000	47-9	state champ. (No. 2), NJCAA Tourn.
1999	48-7	state champ. (No. 3), NJCAA Tourn.
1998	31-8	state runner-up
1997	32-7	state, district champ, NJCAA Tourn.
1996	35-14	state runner-up
1995	35-17	state runner-up
1994	30-15	3rd in state
1993	35-11	state, district champ, NJCAA Tourn.
1992	28-12	state runner-up



Seals' first team posted a 28-12 record and finished runner-up in Alabama. Her teams won 30 or more matches over the next 11 seasons. In 12 seasons the Patriots claimed seven state junior college titles and took runner-up honors four times. Her last five teams concluded play with top 20 rankings, including the 2000 edition that posted a 47-9 record and a school-highest No. 2 national ranking.

Seals guided the Patriots to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I or Division II national volleyball tournament seven times during her term there. And she directed NW-SCC to top 10 national rankings in three of her last five seasons at Northwest-Shoals.

Eight players coached by Seals at NWCSS were accorded All-America team honors, including Anisha Hill, a two-time first-team All-American selection in 2002 and 2003. Ten of her players also earned Academic All-America team honors.

Seals' accomplishments did not go unnoticed, as she was honored as the Tachikara/AVCA Regional Coach of the Year in 1999, 2000 and 2002 and seven times received the Alabama Junior College Coach of the Year award. During her term at NW-SCC Seals tutored nearly 50 players that advanced their volleyball careers with athletic scholarships at four-year colleges and universities.

Seals signed a volleyball scholarship with Mississippi State University in 1981 following a stellar prep career at Bradshaw High School, where she was a three-sport athlete. She earned all-state honors in volleyball and also competed in basketball and on the BHS track team.

She was recruited to Mississippi State by coach Gina Jacobellis and played her first two seasons at MSU for coach Lynn Keiser (1981 and 1982). Seals concluded her playing career competing her final

two seasons for coach Vivian Langley, becoming one of MSU's initial four-year letterwinners in volleyball. She served as team captain in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

Following her sophomore season she was selected to play for the touring Athletes in Action volleyball team that competed in China and Japan in the summer of 1983. The successful AIA Asian tour helped advance her career and set the stage for a career-best senior season at Mississippi State in 1984, a season in which she paced the Bulldogs with 387 kills and a .316 hitting percentage, still the fourth-best single season hitting mark in 29 seasons of Mississippi State volleyball. For her exploits Seals was accorded first-team All-Southeastern Conference honors as a senior, becoming the first Mississippi State player to earn such distinction.

The MSU standout was also a member of the MSU softball team during her college career, earning a varsity letter as an outfielder in 1983.

Seals got her first taste of coaching as an undergraduate assistant on Langley's MSU volleyball staff in 1985 team before earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1987.

Following graduation she worked four years as an engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Her involvement with volleyball continued during that span when she formed and directed a club volleyball program in Muscle Shoals. She later earned her master's degree in math education at the University of North Alabama in 1994.

During her MSU career she met and married Tony Seals, a native of Winfield, Ala., and a 1986 graduate of Mississippi State University. They are the parents of a daughter, Tracey Marie, a sophomore at Starkville High School.

## Tina Seals vs. all opponents (2004-2006)

OPPONENT	W-L	H	A	N
Air Force	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Alabama	1-4	1-2	0-2	0-0
Arkansas	1-5	1-2	0-3	0-0
Arkansas-Little Rock	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0
Arkansas State	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Auburn	2-4	2-1	0-3	0-0
Austin Peay	First meeting			
Baylor	First meeting			
Clemson	First meeting			
Creighton	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
Dayton	1-0	0-0	1-0	0-0
Eastern Kentucky	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Florida	0-5	0-3	0-2	0-0
Georgetown	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Georgia	4-1	3-0	1-1	0-0
Georgia State	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0

OPPONENT	W-L	H	A	N
Georgia Tech	1-0	0-0	1-0	0-0
Grambling State	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Idaho	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
Indiana State	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Jackson State	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Kentucky	0-4	0-2	0-2	0-0
Louisiana-Lafayette	3-0	1-0	2-0	0-0
Louisiana-Monroe	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Louisiana State	2-3	1-1	1-2	0-0
Louisiana Tech	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Memphis	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0
Mississippi	6-0	3-0	3-0	0-0
Missouri	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0
Murray State	First meeting			
Nicholls State	First meeting			
Northern Iowa	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1

OPPONENT	W-L	H	A	N
Northwestern (La.) St.	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Oregon	First meeting			
South Carolina	3-2	1-1	2-1	0-0
Southeastern Louisiana	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Southern Miss	3-0	1-0	1-0	1-0
Stephen F. Austin	First meeting			
Tennessee	0-6	0-2	0-3	0-1
Tennessee-Martin	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Troy University	2-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Tulsa	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1
Virginia	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Virginia Tech	1-0	0-0	1-0	0-0
UAB	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Wisconsin-Milwaukee	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
<b>TOTAL (39 opponents)</b>	<b>46-41</b>	<b>24-16</b>	<b>13-20</b>	<b>9-5</b>
<b>2007 opponents shown in bold</b>				





# ASSISTANT COACH



## CHRIS COTHAN

**Assistant coach**  
(Shorter College, 2001)

### PERSONAL

**Birthdate:** January 28, 1971  
**Birthplace:** Centre, Ala.

### EDUCATION

**High School:** Cherokee County High School (1989)  
**College:** Shorter College (B.S., 2001)

### ATHLETICS

**Club Volleyball:** Shorter College (1990-93)

### COACHING

Shorter College  
(coach, club volleyball team, 1990-93)  
Shorter College  
(women's basketball student asst., 1993)  
Cherokee County (Ala.) High School  
(volleyball assistant coach, 1997-1999)  
(basketball assistant coach, 1999-2000)  
Jacksonville, Ala. - Cheaha Juniors VB Club  
(assistant coach, 1998)  
Centre, Ala. - AAU basketball  
(girls coach - 1998-2000; boys coach - 2000)  
Northwest-Shoals (Ala.) Community College  
(volleyball assistant coach, 2000-2003)  
Muscle Shoals, Ala. - Northwest Alabama VB Club  
(head coach, 2003)  
Muscle Shoals, Ala. - Blue Skies VB Club  
(head coach, 2004)  
Mississippi State University  
(assistant coach, 2005 — present)

In his third season on the Mississippi State volleyball coaching staff is Alabama native **Chris Cothran**.

Cothran, 36, with more than 15 years experience in coaching and athletic administration, is in his second coaching association with MSU head coach Tina Seals.

At Mississippi State Cothran oversees individual skill development and serves as MSU's national recruiting coordinator. On the court Cothran serves as the coordinator of MSU's offense, working with outside hitters. Off the court he is the primary staff liaison with the office of athletic academics and assists with the operations of the MSU volleyball camps.

He previously served for four years (2000 to 2003) as an assistant coach on Seals' staff at **Northwest-Shoals (Ala.) Community College**. At NW-Shoals he helped guide the Patriots to four consecutive NJCAA Region XXII volleyball championships while posting a 162-34 combined regular season record over the four-year span.

He served from 2001 until 2003 as volleyball commissioner at the Alabama Sports Festival in Mobile, Ala. Over the past eight years Cothran has been active on the volleyball camp circuit, serving as a camp coach or clinician at more than 80 volleyball camps and clinics in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Virginia and Texas.

Prior to joining Tina Seals' coaching staff at Northwest-Shoals, Cothran launched his coaching career at his high school alma mater in Centre, Ala., **Cherokee County High School**. There he served as assistant volleyball coach from 1997 to 1999, helping CCHS to three straight Elite Eight and state top five finishes, and as an assistant basketball coach in 1999 and 2000.

He served as president of the **Shorter College** club volleyball team in Rome, Ga., (1990 to 1993) and coached teams in both Jacksonville, Ala. (1998) and Muscle Shoals, Ala. (2003). He worked in a variety of capacities with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Rome, Ga. (1991 to 1996, 1998) and in Gainesville, Ga. (1996-97). In recognition of his work with the Boys and Girls Clubs, he was selected as an Olympic Torchbearer prior to the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta. He served as the executive director of the summer youth program in Centre, Ala., in 1999.

Cothran earned a bachelor of science degree in general studies at Shorter College in 2001. Since leaving Northwest-Shoals, Cothran worked as an individual trainer for volleyball players in the Muscle Shoals area, developed and conducted team and individual volleyball camps and launched two new club volleyball teams in Northern Alabama.

He is married to the former **Melissa Lehman** of Wadesville, Ind., and they are the parents of a daughter, **Elena "Ellie" Camille**, born April 1, 2006.



***The Cothrans***  
Chris, Ellie & Melissa

New York native **Don Perkins** is in his first year as a member of the Volleyball Bulldog coaching staff, joining Tina Seals' MSU volleyball team as an assistant coach in July.

Perkins, 28, has nearly 15 years of volleyball experience under his belt as both a player and as a coach. He joined the MSU staff in 2007 after serving for one season as head women's volleyball coach at The **State University of New York Institute of Technology** in Albany, N.Y. A native of **East Greenbush, N.Y.**, Perkins was also instrumental in the implementation of the SUNYIT's first men's volleyball program.

At Mississippi State Perkins works primarily with Mississippi State's middle blockers and coordinating the team defense. He will also coordinate team travel and scheduling and oversee the team's tape exchange and opponent scouting.

Perkins is a 2000 graduate of **Syracuse University** in New York, where he competed on SU volleyball club teams that captured three consecutive club league championships. He earned his undergraduate degree in political science in three years before earning a master's degree in public administration from The University at Albany's Rockefeller School of Public Affairs.

He previously served for three seasons as head coach of the **North Country Albany Juniors Volleyball Club**, helping guide the 17-and-under team to a second place finish in the regional championships. While with NCAJ, Perkins served as tournament director of the Great Nor'easter Tournament, one of the top club volleyball events in the Northeast.

Prior to his work with NCAJ, Perkins served from 2001 to 2003 as head coach and club director of the University of Albany Men's Volleyball Club. He guided his 2003 edition to the NIRSA National Championship Tournament. Perkins also worked with the University of Albany women's volleyball team, one of the region's top NCAA Division I teams.

Perkins, who also previously coached the Georgetown University men's volleyball club, began coaching women's volleyball in 2001, serving as assistant coach and offensive coordinator at the Sage Junior College of Albany.

The new MSU assistant has also worked with USA Volleyball as the director of High Performance Programs for the Iroquois Empire Region and as an evaluator for the USA Youth and Junior National team tryouts.

Perkins' coaching history also includes a stint as an assistant coach with the Adirondack Region Men's and Girl's Empire State Games in 2003 and 2005 respectively. Additionally, he has served as camp instructor and clinician at volleyball camps at the University of Florida, University of Texas, the University of Albany, the University of Pennsylvania, and more recently, Mississippi State University.

Perkins, who is single, enjoys skiing, cycling, film and traveling.



**DON PERKINS**  
**Assistant coach**  
*(Syracuse, 2000)*

## PERSONAL

**Birthdate:** April 23, 1979

**Birthplace:** Albany, N.Y.

## EDUCATION

**High School:** Columbia High School (1997)

**College:** Syracuse (B.A., 2000)

University of Albany (M.A., 2002)

## ATHLETICS

**Club Volleyball:** Syracuse University (1998-2000)

## COACHING

Sage Junior College of Albany  
(assoc. head coach/off. coord., 2001)

Univ. of Albany Men's Club Volleyball  
(head coach/director, 2001-2003)

North Country Albany Juniors Club  
(head coach/tourn. director, 2003-06)

Iroquois-Empire Volleyball Association  
(director of High Performance, 2004-07)

The State University of New York Inst. of Tech.  
(head men's & women's coach, 2006)

Mississippi State University  
(assistant coach, 2007 — present)

**Assistant coach**  
**Don Perkins**







# VOLLEYBALL SUPPORT STAFF

## Joe Dier

*Media Relations Contact*  
(Mississippi State University, 1975)

Overseeing the publicity needs of the Volleyball Bulldogs is Joe Dier, who this year begins his 22nd year on the Mississippi State Athletic Department staff and his 12th as the primary media relations contact for the Bulldog volleyball program.

Dier, 54, has been affiliated with Mississippi State athletics since 1978. A 1975 graduate of Mississippi State University, Dier followed the late Bob Hartley and Bo Carter as MSU's third full-time sports information director in November 1986, initially serving as the primary media contact for all 15 Mississippi State sports.

He served as media coordinator for MSU-hosted NCAA regional baseball tournaments in 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1992 and for MSU's 1991 Liberty Bowl football team. In 1992 Dier began a four-year term as editor of the weekly athletic department publication *Dawgs' Bite*, returning to sports information work in July 1996.

Born in Baton Rouge, La., Dier is the son of a career Air Force chaplain and traveled extensively with his family to military assignments in Washington, British Columbia, Oregon, Alabama, Florida, Okinawa, Mississippi and Alaska.

He is married to the former Kim Monroe of Starkville, a teacher in the Starkville public schools, and they are the parents of a son, Reed Burton, age 16, is a junior at Starkville High School.



During the later portion of her stay in the Jackson area, Moore also served on the women's softball coaching staff at Belhaven College during the 1998 and 1999 seasons. In addition to her coaching and recruiting duties with the Blazers, she served as tutor coordinator for Belhaven's department of athletics.

Moore also serves as academic counselor for MSU men's basketball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's cross country/track and field teams.

She is married to David Moore, and they are the parents of three sons — Rylan James, 8, Corey Ross, 6, and Tanner Ray, 5.

## Callye Williams

*Graduate Assistant Strength Coach*  
(Mississippi State University, 2006)

In her second season as the coordinator of the Volleyball Bulldogs' strength and conditioning program is Callye Williams.

Williams is no stranger to the Mississippi State University athletic department. In 2005 she concluded a highly-successful four-year playing career as a member of the MSU softball team. Williams was a four-year regular as a middle infielder.

A three-time SEC Softball Academic Honor Roll selection, Williams earned a bachelor of arts degree in communication at Mississippi State this spring and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in business administration.

Williams, 23, is a graduate of James E. Taylor High School in Katy, Texas, is a native of Virginia Beach, Va.



## Lynda Moore

*Academic Counselor*  
(Stetson University, 1997)

Providing academic guidance and counseling for the Volleyball Bulldogs is Lynda Moore, completing her sixth year on the athletics department staff at Mississippi State University as an academic counselor.

A native of Yazoo City, Miss., Moore joined the MSU staff in January 2002 after working as an adult literacy instructor at Southeastern Technical College in Georgia. While instructing on the Glennville campus, she organized and taught ESL classes in addition to GED classes.

Upon obtaining her bachelor's degree in English in 1997 from Stetson University in Deland, Fla., Moore worked as a teaching assistant at Mississippi College during the 1997-98 and 1998-99 academic years. While at the Clinton-based school she pursued graduate work on her master's degree in English.



## Lee Robertson

*Administrative Secretary*  
(Mississippi State University, 1985)

Tending to countless administrative tasks for the Volleyball Bulldogs and the MSU coaching staff is Lee Robertson, in her 22nd year on the Mississippi State University Athletics Department staff.

A native of Booneville, Miss., Robertson earned a bachelor's degree in computer science at MSU in 1985.

She began her affiliation with the athletics department in 1985, working for two years in the business office, then in sports information and now as an administrative secretary for volleyball, men's and women's golf and soccer.

She is married to Dale Robertson, and they are the parents of two sons, Cody and Casey.



**Leigh Scott**  
Grad. Asst. Trainer



**Allison Meyer**  
Student Trainer



**Christine Allen**  
Student Manager



**Josh Downs**  
Student Manager



**Shannon Youmans**  
Student Manager

# ATHLETICS STAFF DIRECTORY



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DR. STEVEN TURNER, MSU Faculty Athletics Rep. (325-2049)

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SCOTT JOHNSON, Assistant Athletics Trainer (325-4108)  
ANDY ORSILLO, Interim Asst. Athletics Trainer (325-3215)  
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STEVE SMITH, Assistant Coordinator of Compliance (325-8731)  
DEBBIE DEARMON, Administrative Secretary (325-5891)

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JOHN MCCALLISTER, Assistant Strength Coach (325-4007)  
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JASON ROLLINS, Assistant Coordinator for Facilities (325-0958)  
SHAUN TAYLOR, Assistant Coordinator for Facilities (325-0958)  
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GAIL LANGSTON, Administrative Secretary (325-4201)

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RON POLK, Head Coach  
WADE HEDGES, Coordinator of Baseball Camps  
TOMMY RAFFO, Assistant Coach  
RUSS MCNICKLE, Assistant Coach  
APRIL EDWARDS, Administrative Secretary

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ROBERT KIRBY, Assistant Coach  
MARCUS GRANT, Assistant Coach  
SUZANNE COOK, Administrative Secretary

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GREG FRANKLIN, Assistant Coach  
STACEY FRANKLIN, Assistant Coach  
NITRA PERRY, Assistant Coach  
JOEY BURTON, Coordinator/Women's Basketball Operations  
LILLIAN LATHAM, Administrative Secretary

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WOODY MCCORVEY, Assistant Head Coach (325-8560)  
ROCKEY FELKER, Assistant Coach (325-2536)  
J.B. GRIMES, Assistant Coach (325-8560)  
CHARLIE HARBISON, Assistant Coach (325-2534)  
ELLIS JOHNSON, Assistant Coach (325-2534)  
MELVIN SMITH, Assistant Coach (325-2534)  
REED STRINGER, Assistant Coach (325-8560)  
DAVID TURNER, Assistant Coach (325-2534)  
PAT WASHINGTON, Assistant Coach  
RYAN HOLLERN, Coordinator of Football Operations (325-2534)  
BRAD PENDERGRASS, Asst. to the Head Football Coach (325-2534)  
NANCY COVINGTON, Exec. Secretary/Head Football Coach (325-2539)  
JANE BALLARD, Executive Secretary (325-2534)  
LINDA CRISWELL, Executive Secretary (325-8560)  
SUSAN SIMMONS, Executive Secretary (325-2536)

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CHRISTI SANDERS, Head Women's Coach

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JA'NET ESPARZA, Assistant Coach (325-0204)  
ANDY MANNERS, Assistant Coach (325-9190)

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BO REID, Assistant Coach (325-0571)  
ANNIE SMITH, Associate Head Coach (325-0572)  
MICHELLE SCRIVENER, Admin. Secretary (325-0560)

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TRACY LANE, Head Women's Tennis Coach (325-3510)  
MAX FOMINE, Assistant Women's Coach (325-9163)

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HOUSTON FRANKS, Assistant Coach (325-7042)  
APRIL THOMAS, Assistant Coach

## VOLLEYBALL (662) 325-2722 • FAX 325-9051

TINA SEALS, Head Coach  
CHRIS COTHRAN, Assistant Coach  
DON PERKINS, Assistant Coach  
LEE ROBERTSON, Administrative Secretary [also soccer & golf]

## MEDIA RELATIONS

Complete athletic media relations staff listing on page 3