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ABOUT MISSISSIPPI STATE

Location: Starkville, Miss.
Enrollment: 16,206
President: Dr. Robert H. Foglesong (*West Virginia, 1968*)
Director of Athletics: Larry Templeton (*Mississippi State, 1969*)
Faculty Representative: Dr. Steven Turner (*Mercer, 1975*)
Senior Women's Admin.: Ann Carr (*Mississippi State, 1990*)
Conference: Southeastern Conference (*Western Division*)
School Mascot: Bulldog
School Colors: Maroon & White
Home Arena: Newell-Grissom Building (2,000)

STAFF INFORMATION

Head Coach: Tina Seals (*Mississippi State, 1987*)
Mississippi State record: 46-41 (3 years)
JC coaching record: 444-137 (12 years, Northwest Shoals CC)
E-mail address: tseals@athletics.msstate.edu
Assistant Coach: Chris Cothran, 3rd year (*Shorter College, 2001*)
E-mail address: ccothran@athletics.msstate.edu
Assistant Coach: Don Perkins, 1st year (*Syracuse, 2002*)
E-mail address: dperkins@athletics.msstate.edu
Volleyball Secretary: Lee Robertson (*Mississippi State, 1985*)
Grad. Asst. Athletic Trainer: Leigh Scott (*Troy University, 2007*)
Media Relations Contact: Joe Dier (*Mississippi State, 1975*)
E-mail address: jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu
Student Managers: Christine Allen, Josh Downs, Shannon Youmans
Student Trainer: Allison Meyer

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS (area code 662)

Director of Athletics: 325-2808 / FAX 325-7904
Senior Women's Administrator: 325-2532 / FAX 325-7904
Volleyball Office: 325-2722 / FAX 325-9051
Athletics Ticket Office: 325-2600 / FAX 325-2563
Volleyball Media Relations: 325-8040 / FAX 325-3600
Newell-Grissom Building Courtside: 325-6618

TEAM INFORMATION

2006 Record: 17-13 (Home: 10-4, Away: 4-8, Neutral: 3-1)
2006 SEC Record: 8-12 - 5th, SEC West (Home: 6-4, Away: 2-8)
Starters Returning: 4+libero — S-Eva Kriegel, OPP-Jamie Joyner, OH/MB-Cristina Jucan, MB-Erin Seago, L-Megan Lukasek
Starters Lost: 2 — OH-Martina Gregusova, OH-Orshi Kriegel
Letterwinners Returning: 9 — OH-Ioana Demian, DS-Dorey Gray, L/DS-Jennifer Hauskey, OPP-Jamie Joyner, OH/MB-Cristina Jucan, MB-Lauren Kowal, S-Eva Kriegel, MB-Erin Seago, L-Megan Lukasek
Letterwinners Lost: 3 — OH-Martina Gregusova, OH-Orshi Kriegel, S-Emily Tooker
Newcomers: 5 — H-Miranda Bauman, H-Ashley Newsome, H-Meaghan Schlueter, S-Kaitlin Whatley, DS/L-Kayla Woodard

MSU ON THE ROAD

• BAYLOR INVITATIONAL

August 31 — September 2
 Hotel Waco • Waco, Texas
 (254) 753-0261 • FAX (254) 759-0090

• MEMPHIS INVITATIONAL

September 7-8
 Fairfield Inn Memphis • Memphis, Tenn.
 (901) 795-1900 • FAX (901) 795-1967

• KENTUCKY

September 13-15
 Courtyard Lexington N. • Lexington, Ky.
 (859) 253-4646 • FAX (859) 253-9118

• TENNESSEE

September 15-16
 Marriott Knoxville • Knoxville, Tenn.
 (865) 637-1234 • FAX (865) 637-1193

• LOUISIANA STATE

October 6-7
 Red Roof Inn
 (225) 275-6600 • FAX (225) 275-6792

• ARKANSAS

October 26-28
 Holiday Inn Express • Bentonville, Ark.
 (479) 271-2222 • FAX (479) 271-2227

• AUBURN

November 1-3
 Marriott Grand National • Opelika, Ala.
 (334) 741-9292 • FAX (334) 741-9733

• GEORGIA

November 3-4
 America's Best Inn • Athens, Ga.
 (706) 549-1530 • FAX (706) 369-8095

• SOUTH CAROLINA

November 15-17
 Holiday Inn Express • Columbia, S.C.
 (803) 732-2229 • FAX (803) 732-2535

• FLORIDA

November 11
 Holiday Inn West • Gainesville, Fla.
 (352) 332-1615 • FAX (352) 332-0487



CREDITS: The **2007 Mississippi State University Volleyball Media Guide** is a publication of the MSU Athletic Media Relations Office. The media guide was designed and written by **Joe Dier**, with editorial and production assistance by **Jay D'Abramo, Jonathan Eaton, Jan Blaine and Cassie Chance**.

Photography was provided by **Russ Houston** (MSU University Relations), **Craig Jackson** (LeftfieldLounge.com) and **Joe Dier**. The covers were designed by **John Schaffhauser** (Schafdesign) of Madison, Miss.

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Mississippi State University formally reiterates and reaffirms its commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, affirmative action and diversity. Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated. This nondiscrimination policy applies to all programs administered by the University. However, this policy should not be construed to infringe upon the free exchange of ideas essential to the academic environment.

Mary Alexander, Interim Director of Diversity and Equity Programs, 106 McArthur Hall, P.O. Box 6199, MS State, MS 39762, office telephone number 662-325-2493, campus mailstop 9609, has been designated as the responsible employee to coordinate efforts to carry out responsibilities and make investigation of complaints relating to discrimination in conforming with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.



MEDIA INFORMATION

The **Mississippi State University Athletic Media Relations Office** is eager to assist you as you cover coach Tina Seals and the Bulldog volleyball team during the 2007 campaign. Much of the information that you will need concerning the Mississippi State University volleyball team is included in this publication produced for use by the media.

Should you need additional information, please call volleyball contact **Joe Dier** of the MSU Athletic Media Relations Office at **(662) 325-8040**. Also, please note that all interviews with MSU players and coaches must be coordinated through the MSU Athletic Media Relations Office.

Credentials are not required for media members who cover Mississippi State University home volleyball matches. Please contact the **MSU Athletic Media Relations Office (662-325-8040)** in advance of scheduled matches for any special needs you might have when you cover Bulldog Volleyball at the **Newell-Grissom Building**. Wireless internet service and limited electrical and telephone outlets are available at courtside at Newell-Grissom.

Mississippi State players and coaches are typically available for post-match interviews outside the MSU locker room approximately 10 minutes following each Bulldog volleyball match. If you need assistance in arranging a postmatch interview contact a member of the MSU Athletic Media Relations Office staff. Additional interview times can also be arranged through the MSU Athletic Media Relations Office.

• GAME DAY MEDIA SERVICES

The MSU Athletic Media Relations game staff compiles and distributes statistics and notes prior to each match and complete match results at the conclusion of competition. Following each match, box scores will be distributed via FAX to the sports information/media relations office of the visiting school and, upon request, to media outlets.

• VB INFO ON THE INTERNET

The official Mississippi State University Athletics home page (**www.MStateAthletics.com**) offers up-to-date information on MSU volleyball as well as Mississippi State's other varsity sports. That information includes schedules and results, biographical information on players and coaches and the department's latest press releases.

Mississippi State provides live stats on the internet (**www.MStateAthletics.com**) for its home matches and links to many opponent web sites for live stats on the road.

Media members should direct requests for SEC volleyball statistical data and other SEC volleyball-related information to SEC Volleyball Media Relations contact **Ayanna Wakefield (205-458-3010 • awakefield@sec.org)**.

The league office produces weekly press releases, selects players of the week and maintains updated statistical data detailing the conference's 11 competing volleyball teams. Much of that information is available online at **www.SECsports.com**.

Mississippi State University Athletic Media Relations Staff Directory

BRYAN ATHLETIC ADMIN. BUILDING: (662) 325-2703 • FAX: 325-2563

HUMPHREY COLISEUM: (662) 325-0540 • FAX: 325-3654

BASEBALL OFFICE BUILDING: (662) 325-8040 • FAX: 325-3600

Name (email address) title, office location

Mike Nemeth (nemeth@athletics.msstate.edu), Assoc. Athletic Director/Media & PR (B)

John R. Cade (jrcade@athletics.msstate.edu), Asst. Athletic Director/Media & PR (B)

David Rosinski (rosinski@athletics.msstate.edu), Associate Director (C)

Tim Andrzejewski (tandrzejewski@athletics.msstate.edu), Assistant Director (C)

Cassie Chance (cchance@athletics.msstate.edu), Assistant Director (B)

Joe Dier (jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu), Assistant Director (BBOB)

Joe Galbraith (jgalbraith@athletics.msstate.edu), Assistant Director, (B)

Anne Cooke (annecooke@athletics.msstate.edu), Administrative Secretary (B)

Athletic Media Relations office locations

(B) Bryan Administration Building (football, women's basketball, men's & women's tennis, women's cross country, indoor & outdoor track)

(C) Humphrey Coliseum (men's basketball, soccer, softball)

(BBOB) Baseball Office Building (baseball, volleyball)

Mailing address: Box 5308, MSU, MS 39762

Shipping address: Room 201, Humphrey Coliseum, Coliseum Circle, MSU, MS 39762

THE BOB HARTLEY MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Providing training opportunities for young SIDs



Bob Hartley

For more than half a century **Robert M. "Bob" Hartley** dedicated his life's work to promoting Mississippi State University athletics. From his hiring as the school's first sports publicity director in August 1946 to his initial "retirement" as assistant athletic director for communications in June 1985, through his later years as an invaluable consultant for the Mississippi State University Department of Athletics, the man we called "Hart" gave special meaning to the words "loyalty" and "devotion to duty."

Mr. Bob's labors of love with MSU have not gone unrecognized. He has taken his place among college athletics' greats as a member of both the university's and the state's sports halls of fame and the **College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame**.

His willingness to generously give of his talent, his time and his friendship serves as an inspiration to the countless lives he touched and to those that aspire to follow in his footsteps.

In that respect, the **Bob Hartley Memorial Fellowship** was created by the MSU Department of Athletics to provide hands-on training opportunities for young media relations practitioners.

Jay Middleton was selected as the sixth recipient of the Bob Hartley Memorial Fellowship for the 2007-2008 academic year. A native of Tupelo, Miss., Middleton enters his fifth season working with the Mississippi State athletic media relations office. Middleton worked as a student assistant from 2003-2006 and enters his second year as a graduate assistant. Middleton has served the last two years as the primary contact for the men's tennis and women's golf programs at MSU. Among other duties, he works with MStateAthletics.com, MSU's official athletic website, and Maroon to the Max, a video streaming service provided to MSU fans worldwide. Most recently, he earned national recognition for the 2007 men's tennis media guide, voted third-best tennis publication in the nation by CoSIDA.

Middleton earned his bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations in the summer of 2006 from State and is currently seeking a master's degree in business administration.



Jay Middleton

2007 SCHEDULE



DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
MSU/Microtel Classic - Newell-Grissom Building (Arkansas-Little Rock, Clemson, MSU, Murray State)				
Sat.	Aug. 25	MURRAY STATE	Newell-Grissom Building	10:00 a.m.
		ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK	Newell-Grissom Building	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Aug. 26	CLEMSON	Newell-Grissom Building	1:30 p.m.
Baylor Invitational - Ferrell Center (Baylor, MSU, Oregon, Stephen F. Austin)				
Fri.	Aug. 31	vs. Oregon	Waco, Texas	4:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 1	at Baylor	Waco, Texas	1:00 p.m.
		vs. Stephen F. Austin	Waco, Texas	5:00 p.m.
University of Memphis Invitational - Elma Roane Fieldhouse (UALR, Austin Peay, Memphis, MSU, Nicholls St.)				
Fri.	Sept. 7	vs. Nicholls State	Memphis, Tenn.	4:30 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 8	vs. Austin Peay	Memphis, Tenn.	11:30 a.m.
		at Memphis	Memphis, Tenn.	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 14	at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Sept. 16	at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	12:30 p.m.
Wed.	Sept. 19	ALABAMA	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 21	ARKANSAS	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 28	FLORIDA	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Sept. 30	SOUTH CAROLINA	Newell-Grissom Building	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 5	at Mississippi	Oxford, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 7	at Louisiana State	Baton Rouge, La.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 12	GEORGIA	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 14	AUBURN	Newell-Grissom Building	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 19	TENNESSEE	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 21	KENTUCKY (SEC RSN-TV)	Newell-Grissom Building	1:00 p.m.
Wed.	Oct. 24	at Alabama	Tusclaoosa, Ala.	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 28	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 2	at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 4	at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 9	LOUISIANA STATE	Newell-Grissom Building	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 11	MISSISSIPPI	Newell-Grissom Building	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 16	at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 18	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	12:30 p.m.

All match times listed are CENTRAL TIME

MSU/Microtel Classic

Newell-Grissom Building • Starkville, Miss.

Friday, August 24

7 p.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Murray State

Saturday, August 25

10 a.m. — Mississippi State vs. Murray State

12 p.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Clemson

4 p.m. — Clemson vs. Murray State

6 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Ark-Little Rock

Sunday, August 26

1:30 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Clemson

Baylor Invitational

Ferrell Center • Waco, Texas

Friday, August 31

4 p.m. — Oregon vs. Mississippi State

7 p.m. — Baylor vs. Stephen F. Austin

Saturday, September 1

11 a.m. — Stephen F. Austin vs. Oregon

1 p.m. — Baylor vs. Mississippi State

5 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Stephen F. Austin

7 p.m. — Baylor vs. Oregon

Memphis Invitational

Elma Roane Fieldhouse • Memphis, Tenn.

Friday, September 7

11:30 a.m. — Memphis vs. Nicholls State

2 p.m. — Austin Peay vs. Arkansas-Little Rock

4:30 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Nicholls State

7 p.m. — Memphis vs. Austin Peay

Saturday, September 8

9 a.m. — Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Nicholls State

11:30 a.m. — Mississippi State vs. Austin Peay

2 p.m. — Memphis vs. Arkansas-Little Rock

4:30 p.m. — Austin Peay vs. Nicholls State

7 p.m. — Memphis vs. Mississippi State



2007 ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
4	Miranda BAUMAN	OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Killen, Ala. (Brooks High School)
3	Ioana DEMIAN	OH	6-0	So.	1L	Baia Mare, Romania (Coleguil National Umirea High School)
18	Dorey GRAY	S	6-0	So.	1L	Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. (Satellite High School)
10	Cristina JUCAN	OH	5-11	Jr.	2L	Cluj, Romania (Licel cu Program Sportiv Targu Mures)
12	Jennifer HAUSKEY	DS	5-2	So.	1L	Springdale, Ark. (Springdale High School)
11	Jamie JOYNER	OPP	6-2	Sr.	3L	St. Louis, Mo. (Mehlville High School)
26	Stefanie JOYNER	OH	6-2	Fr.	HS	St. Louis, Mo. (Mehlville High School)
1	Eva KRIEGEL	S	5-11	Sr.	2L	Jaszbereny, Hungary (University Godollo)
16	Lauren KOWAL	MB	6-3	Sr.	1L	Chesterfield, Mo. (Ursuline Academy/Xavier University)
17	Megan LUKASEK	L	5-8	Sr.	3L	St. Louis, Mo. (Notre Dame High School)
9	Ashley NEWSOME	OH/MB	6-0	Fr.	HS	Florence, Ala. (Florence High School)
2	Meaghan SCHLUETER	OPP	6-4	Fr.	HS	Lampasas, Texas (Lampasas High School)
35	Erin SEAGO	MB	6-2	Sr.	3L	Rockford, Ill. (Guilford High School)
15	Kaitlin WHEATLEY	S	5-6	Fr.	HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lafayette High School)
28	Kayla WOODARD	DS/L	5-5	Fr.	HS	Arley, Ala. (Addison High School)

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
1	Eva KRIEGEL	S	5-11	Sr.	2L	Jaszbereny, Hungary (University Godollo)
2	Meaghan SCHLUETER	OPP	6-4	Fr.	HS	Lampasas, Texas (Lampasas High School)
3	Ioana DEMIAN	OH	6-0	So.	1L	Baia Mare, Romania (Coleguil National Umirea High School)
4	Miranda BAUMAN	OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Killen, Ala. (Brooks High School)
9	Ashley NEWSOME	OH/MB	6-0	Fr.	HS	Florence, Ala. (Florence High School)
10	Cristina JUCAN	OH	5-11	Jr.	2L	Cluj, Romania (Licel cu Program Sportiv Targu Mures)
11	Jamie JOYNER	OPP	6-2	Sr.	3L	St. Louis, Mo. (Mehlville High School)
12	Jennifer HAUSKEY	DS	5-2	So.	1L	Springdale, Ark. (Springdale High School)
15	Kaitlin WHEATLEY	S	5-6	Fr.	HS	Lexington, Ky. (Lafayette High School)
16	Lauren KOWAL	MB	6-3	Sr.	1L	Chesterfield, Mo. (Ursuline Academy/Xavier University)
17	Megan LUKASEK	L	5-8	Sr.	3L	St. Louis, Mo. (Notre Dame High School)
18	Dorey GRAY	S	6-0	So.	1L	Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. (Satellite High School)
26	Stefanie JOYNER	OH	6-2	Fr.	HS	St. Louis, Mo. (Mehlville High School)
28	Kayla WOODARD	DS/L	5-5	Fr.	HS	Arley, Ala. (Addison High School)
35	Erin SEAGO	MB	6-2	Sr.	3L	Rockford, Ill. (Guilford High School)

COACHING STAFF

Tina Seals, head coach
Chris Cothran, assistant coach
Don Perkins, assistant coach

STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF

Christine Allen, student manager
Josh Downs, student manager
Shannon Youmans, student manager
Joe Wood, student manager
Leigh Scott, graduate assistant trainer
Allison Meyer, student trainer

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Miranda **BAUMAN** (BOWE-mun)
Jennifer **HAUSKEY** (HOUSE-key)
Cristina **JUCAN** (JOO-cun)
Lauren **KOWAL** (COE-all)
EVA KRIEGEL (AY-vuh KREE-gull)
MEGAN LUKASEK (MAY-gun LUKE-uh-sek)
MEAGHAN SCHLUETER (MEH-gun SHLEE-ter)
Erin **SEAGO** (SEE-go)
IOANA DEMIAN (yuh-WAN-uh DEH-me-un)
Assistant coach Chris **COTHRAN** (COTH-run)



In 2005, Coach **Tina Seal's** second Mississippi State volleyball edition registered a 15-12 mark and earned State's first winning campaign in five years. Last fall Mississippi State raised the bar with a 17-win season, marking just the second time in school history MSU had recorded back-to-back winning seasons on the volleyball court.

This fall, the Bulldogs take aim on an unprecedented third straight winning season. And with four returning starters and a solid corps of returning senior players, the table appears to be set for just such a run at Mississippi State.

Seals' 2007 squad features five seniors and eight of the 10 players that drew match-opening assignments and sparked State to its biggest single-season win totals in a decade.

"We've got a lot of experienced players returning in 2007, so one of the keys to our success could be our ability to stay healthy and avoid injuries," said Seals.

"We're going to have to develop our talent at the outside hitter position after losing two very valuable components of our offense from a year ago. But we have players with the potential to step up and fill those holes."

The quintet of returning seniors includes a trio of players --- opposite hitter **Jamie Joyner**, libero **Megan Lukasek** and middle blocker **Erin Seago** --- that were part of the six-player 2003-04 MSU recruiting class that was ranked among the nation's top 50 by PrepVolleyball.com, the first such ranking for a Mississippi State volleyball recruiting class.

Versatile senior setter **Eva Kriegel**, beginning her third year in the MSU program, and senior middle blocker and second-year Bulldog **Lauren Kowal**, complete an impressive collection of experienced players for MSU in 2007.

Junior outside hitter **Cristina Jucan** and sophomore outside hitter **Ioana Demian** drew 28 starts between them last fall and will be counted on to step up their games and take on leadership roles on offense.

A pair of sophomores, defensive specialist **Jennifer Hauskey**, one of five Bulldogs to play in all 30 matches last fall, and setter **Dorey Gray**, return primed to play more significant roles for State in 2007. Both earned berths on the 2006 squad as walk-ons.

While Mississippi State returns the lion's share of its 2006 team, the team did sustain a pair of significant losses, both at the outside hitter position.

Offensive standout **Orshi Kriegel**, the first European to play volleyball at Mississippi State, piled up 931 kills and 744 digs in three seasons at MSU. She wrapped up her stellar MSU

career with a team-leading 354-kill campaign in 2006.

All-SEC Freshman selection **Martina Gregusova**, who totaled 245 kills in just 24 matches and sported the team's second-best kills-per-game average (3.36), opted to return to her native Slovakia following her rookie season in the Southeastern Conference.

The Bulldog roster features five newcomers in 2007. State inked a pair of signees last November --- **Ashley Newsome**, a

6-0 outside hitter/middle blocker from Florence, Ala., and 6-4 opposite hitter **Meaghan Schlueter** from Lampasas, Texas.

The MSU roster is also bolstered by a trio of walk-on candidates --- outside hitter **Miranda Bauman** of Killen, Ala., setter **Kaitlin Wheatley** of Lexington, Ky., and defensive specialist **Kayla Woodard** of Arley, Ala.

SISTER ACT

The 2006 Mississippi State volleyball roster includes one sister act. Opposite hitter **Jamie Joyner** is one of five seniors on the '07 squad. She is joined on the State squad by her younger sister **Stefanie**, a 2005-06 MSU signee who sat out the 2006 season as a redshirt. The Joyners hail from St. Louis, Mo., and prepped at Mehlville High School.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2007?

The MSU volleyball program welcomed a new coaching staff member during the summer.

The newcomer is assistant coach **Don Perkins**, a native of East Greenbush, N.Y., who served as head volleyball coach at The **State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT)**, an NCAA Division III program in Utica, New York.

Two Bulldog players will be wearing different jersey numbers in 2007. Defensive specialist **Jennifer Hauskey** has traded her No. 9 for a No. 12 jersey while setter **Dorey Gray** will wear No. 18 after wearing No. 8 in 2006.

NEW TRAVEL PARTNERS IN SEC

The SEC has rotated some of the team pairings for travel purposes for the 2007 season.

Arkansas will be without a travel partner in 2007, resulting in a few changes in the pairings of teams for weekend travel purposes. **Mississippi State** will now be partnered with the **University of Alabama** after sharing weekend

foes with instate SEC rival Mississippi, now paired with Louisiana State. In the SEC East, Auburn is partnered with Georgia and Florida is paired with South Carolina. Kentucky and Tennessee are the only teams not impacted by the change.

Here's a position-by-position summary at the 2007 Volleyball Bulldogs:

Setter --- **Eva Kriegel** starred in her first season as MSU's full-time setter in 2006, piling up 1,120 assists, ninth-most in a season in MSU volleyball history. But the Jaszbereny, Hungary, product, one of five seniors on the 2007 squad, has proven to be quite the versatile player for MSU --- leading MSU and ranking second in the SEC with 57 aces (eight-most in season at State), finishing second on the club with 49 total blocks and adding offensive punch with 194 kills. MSU's 2006 MVP matched her own school record and led the SEC with four "triple-doubles". Set to serve as Kriegel's primary backup is sophomore **Dorey Gray** (Indian Harbour Beach, Fla.) and freshman walk-on **Kaitlin Wheatley** (Lexington, Ky.).

Outside Hitter --- Junior **Cristina Jucan** from Cluj, Romania, and sophomore **Ioana Demian** from Baia Mare, Romania, are the top two candidates to replace MSU's departed starting outside hitters from 2006, senior **Orshi Kriegel** and Freshman All-SEC selection **Martina Gregusova**. The two showed flashes of brilliance in 2006 when they combined for 28 starts, with Jucan ranking second on the team with 266 kills.

Freshman signee **Ashley Newsome** (Florence, Ala.) has worked with the outside hitters and middles during preseason drills and should challenge for playing time this year. Redshirt freshman **Stefanie Joyner** (St. Louis, Mo.), younger sister of Bulldog senior, is looking for her first career playing time at the position this fall. So, too, is freshman walk-on **Miranda Bauman** (Killen, Ala.).

Opposite Hitter --- Left-handed hitting **Jamie Joyner** of St. Louis, Mo., returns for her senior campaign and her fourth season as a starter. She tallied a career-best 243 kills, hit .218 and ranked third on the team with 48 total blocks in State's 17-win season last fall. A 6-4 freshman signee, **Meaghan Schlueter** (Lampasas, Texas), will serve as Joyner's primary backup.

Middle Blocker --- Senior **Erin Seago** of Rockford, Ill., the team leader with 14 solos and 74 total blocks last year, leads MSU's middle blocking corps. A starter in 29 of 30 matches as a junior, Seago led State and ranked fifth in the SEC with a .363 hitting percentage. Another senior, **Lauren Kowal** of Chesterfield, Mo., returns to action as a middle after recovering from a knee injury that ended a promising junior campaign midway through the season. Kowal, who began her career at Xavier University, hit at a .354 clip and, despite playing in just 17 matches, ranked second with nine solo blocks and fourth on the team with 39 total blocks. Rookie **Ashley Newsome**, also listed as an outside hitter, could see action as a middle.

Libero --- Despite missing her first seven matches with a back ailment, **Megan Lukasek** of St. Louis, Mo., piled up 295 digs and paced MSU in the statistical category for the third straight year. She returns to the court for her fourth season as State's defensive leader. Sophomore defensive specialist **Jennifer Hauskey** (Springdale, Ark.), who replaced Lukasek during her injury last fall, and freshman walk-on **Kayla Woodard** (Arley, Ala.) add a measure of depth to the MSU defense.