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ABOUT MISSISSIPPI STATE

Location: Starkville, Miss. (population: 25,000)
Enrollment: 17,039
President: Dr. Vance Watson (Southeast Missouri State, 1964)
Director of Athletics: Greg Byrne (Arizona State, 1994)
Faculty Representative: Dr. Steven Turner (Mercer, 1975)
Senior Women's Administrator: 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: 58-58 (4 years)
Career coaching record: 502-195 (16 years)
E-mail address: tseals@athletics.msstate.edu
Assistant Coach: Lindsay Shondell, 1st year (Purdue, 2007)
E-mail address: lshondell@athletics.msstate.edu
Assistant Coach: Don Perkins, 2nd year (Syracuse, 2000)
E-mail address: dperkins@athletics.msstate.edu
Student Assistant Coach: Stephanie Joyner, 1st year
Volleyball Secretary: Midge Davis (Mississippi State, 1985)
E-mail address: mdavis@athletics.msstate.edu
Athletic Trainer: Leigh Scott (Troy University, 2007)
Student Trainer: Andrew Mock
Media Relations Contact: Joe Dier (Mississippi State, 1975)
E-mail address: jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu
Strength Coach: Lauryn Dixon (Baylor, 2008)
Student Managers: Christine Allen, Miranda Bauman, Anne McKibben, Meaghan Schlueter

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 Court side: 325-6618

TEAM INFORMATION

2007 Record: 12-17 (Home: 7-6, Away: 3-9, Neutral: 2-2)
2007 SEC Record: 7-13 • 18th overall/3rd SEC West (Home: 5-5, Away: 2-8)
Starters Returning: 2 (OH-Cristina Jucan, DS-Kayla Woodard)
Starters Lost: 4 + libero (OPP-Jamie Joyner, MB-Lauren Kowal, S-Eva Kriegel, L-Megan Lukasek, MB-Erin Seago)
Letter winners Returning: 6 (OH-Ioana Demian, DS-Dorey Gray, OH/MB-Cristina Jucan, OH/MB-Ashley Newsome, S-Kaitlin Wheatley, DS-Kayla Woodard)
Letter winners Lost: 9 (OH-Miranda Bauman, DS-Jennifer Hauskey, OPP-Jamie Joyner, OH-Stephanie Joyner, MB-Lauren Kowal, S-Eva Kriegel, L-Megan Lukasek, OH-Meaghan Schlueter, MB-Erin Seago)
Newcomers: 9 (S-Grace Hoyt, OPP-Hilary Hunt, OH-Kellye Jordan, OH-Leanna King, S-Kelsey Nichols, MH-Caitlin Rance, OH-Faith Steinwedell, MH-Aynne Swindell, MH-Mandy Mellencamp)
Squad by class: Seniors - 1, Juniors - 2, Sophomores - 3, Freshman - 9

MSU ON THE ROAD

• MCNEESE TOURNAMENT

September 4-5

Wingate by Wyndham • Sulphur, La.
 (337) 527-5151 • FAX (337) 527-1414

• TENNESSEE

September 19

Comfort Suites East • Knoxville, Tenn.
 (865) 246-2426 • FAX (865) 246-2425

• KENTUCKY

September 20

Ramada Conference Ctr. • Lexington, Ky.
 (859) 299-1261 • FAX (859) 293-0048

• ARKANSAS

October 11

Country Inn & Suites • Rogers, Ark.
 (479) 633-0055 • FAX (479) 633-0066

• AUBURN

October 30

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

• GEORGIA

November 6-7

Holiday Inn Express • Athens, Ga.
 (706) 354-6400 • FAX (706) 354-6438

• LOUISIANA STATE

November 8

Hilton Garden Inn • Baton Rouge, La.
 (225) 357-6177 • FAX (225) 357-6175

• FLORIDA

November 21

Hilton UF Conf. Center • Gainesville, Fla.
 (352) 371-3600 • FAX (352) 384-3455

• SOUTH CAROLINA

November 22

Hyatt Place Columbia • Irmo, S.C.
 (803) 407-1560 • FAX (803) 407-9365

CREDITS: The 2008 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**. Photography was provided by **Russ Houston** (MSU University Relations), **Craig Jackson** (LeftfieldLounge.com), **Joe Dier**, **Janet Gray**, **Mansel Guerry** and **Todd J. Van Emst**. 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 2008 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 court side 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 post match 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.



The MSU volleyball computer stats crew --- inputter Scott Walters (center) and spotters Jan Blaine (left) and Vance McCullough (right).

• 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 homepage (**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 in-match 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**.

MSU Athletic Media Relations Staff Directory

- Bryan Athletic Administration Building: (662) 325-2703 • FAX: (662) 325-2563
- Humphrey Coliseum: (662) 325-0540 • FAX: (662) 325-3654
- Baseball coaches office building: (662) 325-8040 • FAX: (662) 325-3600

NAME • TITLE • EMAIL ADDRESS • OFFICE LOCATION • SPORT RESPONSIBILITY

Mike Nemeth, Sr. Assoc. AD/Media Relations/Corp. Dev. • nemeth@athletics.msstate.edu • Bryan Building (football)

John Cade, Asst. AD/Media and Public Relations • jrcade@athletics.msstate.edu • Bryan Building (web site)

Joe Dier, Assistant Director • jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu • Baseball coaches office building (baseball, volleyball)

Joe Galbraith, Assistant Director • jgalbraith@msstate.edu • Bryan Building (football)

Jay Middleton, Assistant Director • jmiddleton@athletics.msstate.edu • Bryan Building (women's basketball)

Brock Turnipseed, Assistant Director • bturnipseed@athletics.msstate.edu • Humphrey Coliseum (soccer, softball)

Anne Cooke, Office Associate • annecooke@athletics.msstate.edu • Bryan Building

Diane Keith, Office Associate • dkeith@athletics.msstate.edu • Humphrey Coliseum

Volleyball Media Relations Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5308, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Volleyball Media Relations Shipping Address: Humphrey Coliseum Room 201, Coliseum Circle, Mississippi State, MS 39762



2008 SCHEDULE

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<i>MSU Classic (Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Colorado, MSU, Troy University)</i>				
Fri.	Aug. 29	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Aug. 30	Troy	Starkville, Miss.	10:00 a.m.
Sat.	Aug. 30	Colorado	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
<i>McNeese Invitational (Grambling St., UL-Lafayette, McNeese State, MSU, Southern Miss)</i>				
Fri.	Sept. 5	vs. Southern Miss	Lake Charles, La.	11:30 a.m.
Fri.	Sept. 5	at McNeese State	Lake Charles, La.	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 6	vs. Grambling State	Lake Charles, La.	1:30 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 6	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	Lake Charles, La.	6:30 p.m.
Tue.	Sept. 9	at Jackson State	Jackson, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
<i>MSU Bulldog Club Invitational (Centenary University, Central Arkansas, Memphis, MSU)</i>				
Fri.	Sept. 12	Centenary	Starkville, Miss. (Humphrey Coliseum)	12:30 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 12	Central Arkansas	Starkville, Miss. (Humphrey Coliseum)	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sept. 13	Memphis	Starkville, Miss. (Humphrey Coliseum)	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Sept. 19	at Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Sept. 21	at Kentucky	Lexington, Ky.	12:30 p.m.
Sun.	Sept. 28	Auburn	Starkville, Miss.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 3	South Carolina	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 5	Florida	Starkville, Miss.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 10	at Ole Miss	Oxford, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 12	at Arkansas	Fayetteville, Ark.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 17	Louisiana State	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 19	Georgia (RSN-TV)	Starkville, Miss.	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 24	Kentucky	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Oct. 26	Tennessee	Starkville, Miss.	1:30 p.m.
Wed.	Oct. 29	Alabama	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Fri.	Oct. 31	at Auburn	Auburn, Ala.	6:00 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 7	at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 9	at Louisiana State	Baton Rouge, La.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 14	Arkansas	Starkville, Miss.	7:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 16	Ole Miss	Starkville, Miss.	1:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 21	at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Nov. 23	at South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	12:30 p.m.
Fri.	Nov. 28	at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	7:00 p.m.

All match times shown are CDT or CST • MSU home matches shown in bold

MSU Classic

Newell-Grissom Building • Starkville, Miss.

Friday, August 29

4:30 p.m. — Colorado vs. Troy

7:00 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Saturday, August 30

10:00 a.m. — Mississippi State vs. Troy

12:30 p.m. — Colorado vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

4:30 p.m. — Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Troy

7:00 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Colorado

McNeese State Tournament

Memorial Gym • Lake Charles, La.

Friday, September 5

11:30 a.m. — Mississippi State vs. Southern Miss

2:00 p.m. — McNeese State vs. Grambling State

4:30 p.m. — Southern Miss vs. UL-Lafayette

7:00 p.m. — McNeese State vs. Mississippi State

Saturday, September 6

11:00 a.m. — Grambling State vs. Southern Miss

1:30 a.m. — Mississippi State vs. Grambling State

4:00 p.m. — McNeese State vs. UL-Lafayette

6:30 a.m. — UL-Lafayette vs. Mississippi State

MSU Bulldog Club Invitational

Humphrey Coliseum • Starkville, Miss.

Friday, September 12

10:00 a.m. — Memphis vs. Central Arkansas

12:30 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Centenary

4:30 p.m. — Memphis vs. Centenary

7:00 p.m. — Mississippi State vs. Central Arkansas

Saturday, September 13

11:00 a.m. — Centenary vs. Central Arkansas

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



2008 ROSTER

2008 MISSISSIPPI STATE ALPHABETICAL VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
3	Ioana DEMIAN	OH	6-0	Jr.	2L	Baia Mare, Romania (Coleguil National Umirea High School)
18	Dorey GRAY	S/DS	6-0	Jr.	2L	Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. (Satellite High School)
13	Grace HOYT	S	6-1	Fr.	HS	Suwanee, Ga. (South Forsyth High School)
4	Hilary HUNT	OPP	6-3	Fr.	HS	Tampa, Fla. (Academy of the Holy Names)
32	Kellye JORDAN	OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Jasper, Ala. (Curry High School)
10	Cristina JUCAN	OH	5-11	Sr.	3L	Cluj, Romania (Liceul cu Program Sportiv, Targu Mures)
1	Leanna KING	OH/DS	5-10	Fr.	HS	Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom High School)
5	Mandy MELLENCAMP	MH	6-1	Fr.	HS	Prescott, Ariz. (Prescott High School)
9	Ashley NEWSOME	MB/OH	6-0	So.	1L	Florence, Ala. (Florence High School)
12	Kelsey NICHOLS	S/DS	5-3	Fr.	HS	Hoover, Ala. (Hoover High School)
17	Caitlin RANCE	MH/OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Kingwood, Texas (Kingwood High School)
6	Faith STEINWEDELL	OH/OPP	6-2	Fr.	HS	LaJolla, Calif. (Santa Fe Christian HS)
11	Aynne SWINDELL	MH	6-1	Fr.	HS	Germantown, Tenn. (Evangelical Christian High School)
15	Kaitlin WHEATLEY	S	5-6	So.	1L	Lexington, Ky. (Lafayette High School)
28	Kayla WOODARD	DS	5-5	So.	1L	Addison, Ala. (Addison High School)

2008 MISSISSIPPI STATE NUMERICAL VOLLEYBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Exp.	Hometown (High School)
1	Leanna KING	OH/DS	5-10	Fr.	HS	Huntsville, Ala. (Grissom High School)
3	Ioana DEMIAN	OH	6-0	Jr.	2L	Baia Mare, Romania (Coleguil National Umirea High School)
4	Hilary HUNT	OPP	6-3	Fr.	HS	Tampa, Fla. (Academy of the Holy Names)
5	Mandy MELLENCAMP	MH	6-1	Fr.	HS	Prescott, Ariz. (Prescott High School)
6	Faith STEINWEDELL	OH/OPP	6-2	Fr.	HS	LaJolla, Calif. (Santa Fe Christian HS)
9	Ashley NEWSOME	MB/OH	6-0	So.	1L	Florence, Ala. (Florence High School)
10	Cristina JUCAN	OH	5-11	Sr.	3L	Cluj, Romania (Liceul cu Program Sportiv, Targu Mures)
11	Aynne SWINDELL	MH	6-1	Fr.	HS	Germantown, Tenn. (Evangelical Christian High School)
12	Kelsey NICHOLS	S/DS	5-3	Fr.	HS	Hoover, Ala. (Hoover High School)
13	Grace HOYT	S	6-1	Fr.	HS	Suwanee, Ga. (South Forsyth High School)
15	Kaitlin WHEATLEY	S	5-6	So.	1L	Lexington, Ky. (Lafayette High School)
17	Caitlin RANCE	MH/OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Kingwood, Texas (Kingwood High School)
18	Dorey GRAY	S/DS	6-0	Jr.	2L	Indian Harbour Beach, Fla. (Satellite High School)
28	Kayla WOODARD	DS	5-5	So.	1L	Addison, Ala. (Addison High School)
32	Kellye JORDAN	OH	6-0	Fr.	HS	Jasper, Ala. (Curry High School)

COACHING STAFF

Tina Seals (*Mississippi State University, 1987*) head coach — fifth season

Don Perkins (*Syracuse, 2000*) assistant coach — second season

Lindsay Shondell (*Purdue, 2007*) assistant coach — first season

SUPPORT STAFF

Christine Allen, *student manager*

Miranda Bauman, *student manager*

Anne McKibben, *student manager*

Meaghan Schlueter, *student manager*

Ryan Ratliff, *volunteer assistant coach*

Stefanie Joyner, *student assistant coach*

Leigh Scott, *athletic trainer*

Laurn Dixon, *strength coach*

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Cristina **JUCAN** (JOO-cun)

IOANA DEMIAN (yuh-WAN-uh DEH-me-un)

Faith **STEINWEDELL** (STINE-wah-DELL)

Aynne **SWINDELL** (swin-DELL)

2008 OUTLOOK

BULLDOGS IN REBUILDING MODE IN 2008

The school colors are Maroon and White, but Mississippi State's Volleyball Bulldogs could easily mix in a couple of shades of green for 2008.

"With nine new players, all freshmen, on this year's team, we are most definitely in a rebuilding year," said fifth-year Bulldog head coach **Tina Seals**. "It's a great collection of young players, though, and they all bring solid backgrounds in high-caliber volleyball programs with them to Mississippi State. We were successful in recruiting quality players at all positions across the board, and we're looking forward to seeing them compete for starting and key backup positions on the team very early in their careers."

It's quite a contrast to the 2007 season, when Mississippi State returned five seasoned seniors and nine letter-winners, including four starters and the team's libero.

While the newcomers are expected to take on increasingly significant roles on the team as their experience levels grow, Seals is counting heavily on a handful of experienced returning veterans to form the corps of the 2008 Mississippi State team.

Outside hitter **Cristina Jucan** (Cluj, Romania), the lone senior and the most experienced of MSU's 2008 Bulldogs, is positioned to take on a leadership role on the team. Jucan, one of two Romanian standouts on the team, averaged a team-best 3.33 kills per set and finished second on the team in total kills with 293. She was on target to finish the team leader in kills before a back ailment sidelined her for the final six matches of the season. Jucan also finished third on the team with 243 digs, tops among MSU's '08 returnees.

The Bulldogs also return a solid offensive threat in junior outside hitter **Ioana Demian** (Baia Mare, Romania), the team's No. 3 leaders in kills and one of six Bulldogs to see playing time in all 29 matches. Demian, also from Romania, had a solid finish to her sophomore campaign last fall, averaging better than 10 kills per match over the second half of the 2007 season.

At the net the Bulldogs return sophomore middle blocker **Ashley Newsome** (Florence, Ala.), one of the rising stars among the SEC's 2007 rookies. Newsome, who drew starts in 10 of her 25 matches played as a freshman, tallied 107 kills and 35 total blocks in 2007 and enjoyed a productive stretch run to her first collegiate season.

Junior **Dorey Gray** (Indiana Harbour Beach, Fla.) enters the 2008 season as the leading candidate to replace departed two-year starting setter **Eva Kriegel**. Gray played in 18 matches and drew one start as a sophomore, a career-best 40-assist performance in MSU's 2007 season-opener. Gray and Kriegel teamed up in a pair of spring beach volleyball tournaments in Florida, earning top honors at a tournament in Siesta Key, Fla. Sophomore **Kaitlin Wheatley** (Lexington, Ky.) made her collegiate debut and gained invaluable playing experience with court time in seven matches as a rookie.

Sophomore defensive specialist **Kayla Woodard** (Addison, Ala.) drew 25 starts and played in all 29 matches as a rookie in 2007. She tallied 177 digs, fifth-most on the team and second-most among MSU's 2008 returnees. Woodard and Gray are also contenders for the job as the Bulldogs' libero in 2008.



Senior OH Cristina Jucan

The Bulldog newcomers will likely make their presence felt quickly throughout the lineup in 2008. Middle blockers **Mandy Mellencamp** (Prescott, Ariz.), **Caitlin Rance** (Kingwood, Texas) and **Aynne Swindell** (Germantown, Tenn.) are expected to join returning veteran **Ashley Newsome** in the mix for playing time at the net. Outside hitters **Leanna King** (Huntsville, Ala.) and **Kellye Jordan** (Jasper, Ala.) and right side hitters **Hilary Hunt** (Tampa, Fla.) and **Faith Steinwedell** (LaJolla, Calif.) are expected to challenge for playing time and provide depth on offense. Newcomers preparing to direct the Bulldog offense as setters are **Grace Hoyt** (Suwanee, Ga.) and **Kelsey Nichols** (Hoover, Ala.)

LARGEST FRESHMAN CLASS FOR MSU

Mississippi State's current freshman class can claim a school record even before first serve for the 2008 season.

With nine first-year student-athletes, the Bulldogs' rookie class rates as the largest in school history.

The newcomers provide excellent height, with seven of the players standing at least six feet tall. At 6-3, rookie opposite hitter **Hilary Hunt** of Tampa, Fla., is the tallest member of the 2008 MSU volleyball team.

Mississippi State recruited players at every position on the court, with the players hailing from seven states — Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas. Middle hitter **Mandy Mellencamp** is the first Mississippi State volleyball signee from Arizona (Prescott, Ariz.).

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

A third of Mississippi State's 15-player roster for 2008 hails from neighboring Alabama, the single-biggest one-state contingent for MSU volleyball since 1999. The players hail from Addison (Kayla Woodard), Florence (Ashley Newsome), Hoover (Kelsey Nichols), Huntsville (Leanna King) and Jasper (Kellye Jordan).

ON THE TUBE AGAIN

Mississippi State makes its eighth appearance in a televised volleyball match in 2008 when the SEC's Regional Sports Network beams the broadcast of State's Oct. 19 matchup with Georgia. The Sunday match, set to be contested in the Newell-Grisson Building, has a special 1 p.m. start time.

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

MSU has its first legacy player in volleyball. **Kelsey Nichols**, a freshman setter/defensive specialist from Hoover, Ala., is the daughter of former Mississippi State volleyball standout **Vickie (Pickens) Nichols**. Mrs. Nichols lettered with the Volleyball Bulldogs from 1984 to 1987 and was a teammate of current MSU volleyball coach **Tina Seals**.

LINDSAY SHONDELL JOINS MSU STAFF

There's a new face on coach **Tina Seals'** Mississippi State volleyball coaching staff in 2008. Indiana native **Lindsay Shondell** joined the MSU coaching staff in January after serving for a season at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Shondell is a 2007 graduate of Purdue University, where she was a three-year standout for the Boilermakers volleyball team.

'08 SLATE FEATURES TWO HOME TOURNAMENTS

Mississippi State will for the first time in the modern era play host to two early-season volleyball tournaments in Starkville. State opens its 34th season of volleyball entertaining longtime regional rival Troy and first-time foes Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Colorado in the **MSU Classic** Aug. 29-30 at the **Newell-Grisson Building**. Two weeks later State plays host to Centenary, Memphis and another first-time foe, Central Arkansas, in the **MSU Bulldog Club Invitational** that will be played Sept. 12-13 in **Humphrey Coliseum**. It stands as State's first competition since 2002 in Humphrey Coliseum, the Volleyball Bulldogs' on-campus volleyball home prior to their 1997 move to the Newell-Grisson Building.

State plays 16 of its 31 matches at home, including 10 Southeastern Conference matches.

NCAA RULE CHANGES FOR '08

The **NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee** and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel have enacted a number of rules changes that will go into effect for the 2008 season.

Beginning in 2008, the term for the units that comprise a volleyball match will be changed from "game" to "set", matching the terminology already in place for international volleyball. As with previous competition, a match will still consist of a best-of-five competition.

The biggest change for 2008 and one that will shorten the time of the match is a change in the number of points required to win a set. Beginning this fall teams will play to 25 points rather than 30, again matching the rules in place for international volleyball. The number of points required to win the deciding fifth set remains at 15.

In association with the change to 25-point sets, the NCAA has also reduced the maximum number of substitutions per set from 15 to 12.

Among points of emphasis for collegiate volleyball officials is a directive designed to make for more consistency in officials' ball handling judgments. The new approach to ball handling judgments is intended to increase intensity and focus for the players and coaches and result in fewer play-stopping whistles for minor ball handling infractions.