



# RETURNING PLAYERS

## #3

### IOANA DEMIAN

6-0 • JUNIOR • 2L

OUTSIDE HITTER

BAIA MARE, ROMANIA

COLEGIUL NATIONAL UMIREA HS



**2008** With fellow Romanian countryman **Cristina Jucan** rates as one of MSU's two experienced outside hitters returning in 2008. Enters her junior season with 297 career kills, an average of nearly 6.5 kills in 46 career matches. Voted team's MVP following spring drills. Earned academic all-SEC honors and her second varsity letter in 2007.

**2007 (sophomore)** One of six Bulldogs to see playing time in all 29 matches. Played in 107 games and drew 10 starts, including the last six matches of the season. Established career-high with 254 kills, third-most on the team, 128 digs, and 40 total blocks. Reached double figure totals in kills 12 times, including nine of her last 14 matches. Registered a career-best

and team-leading 16 kills in State's win at Baylor (9/1). Had nine kills in 15 error-free attempts (.600) against Austin Peay (9/8). Reached twin-figures in digs four times, including back-to-back 14-dig performances against Louisiana State (11/9) and Ole Miss (11/11) and in digs four times. Recorded her first three career double-doubles with solid performances against Georgia (10/12), Louisiana State (11/9) and Ole Miss (11/11). Ranked second on the club with 10 block solos and twice tallied five total blocks in a match (Murray State, 8/25, and Ole Miss, 11/11). Set career-best mark for service aces with two each at Auburn (11/2) and against Louisiana State (11/9). Among nine Volleyball Bulldogs to earn a berth on the **2007 SEC Academic Honor Roll**. Voted team's Most Valuable Player following spring drills.



**2006 (freshman)** Saw playing time in 17 of MSU's 30 matches as a freshman, drawing nine starts, all against Southeastern Conference opponents. Made her collegiate debut with a brief appearance against Northern Iowa (9/1). In her second match delivered a season-best five digs against Jackson State (9/8). Saw duty as the MSU libero against Grambling State (9/9). Registered her first career kill at LSU (10/1). Made her debut in the starting lineup against Auburn (10/8). Piled up nine total blocks (three solos and six block assists) in that win over the Tigers, the most by a Bulldog in 2006. Also tallied seven blocks in MSU's series sweep-clinching win over South Carolina (11/3). Finished the year with 43 kills and a .255 hitting percentage. Hit a season-best .571 with a personal-best eight kills in 14 error-free attack attempts at Kentucky (10/29). Concluded the year with 33 total blocks, leading the team in blocks in five matches. Set a season-high with two assists at LSU (10/1), against Auburn (10/8) and South Carolina (11/3). Served up two of her three aces in 2006 against Grambling State (9/9). Sidelined by an ankle injury the final four matches of the season. Voted most improved player following the 2006 campaign.

**Pre-MSU** Attended Liceul cu Program Sportiv in Targu Mures, Romania. Coached on the prep level by **Horea Ardelean**. Played outside hitter in club volleyball where she was teamed with current MSU senior **Cristina Jucan**. A member of the Romanian Junior National Team that won the bronze medal in the 2004 Junior Balcanic Championships. Competed on the Romania Junior Championships title-winning team in 2004. Named best overall player in the 2004 tournament.

**Personal** Born **Ioana Silvia Demian** on July 29, 1987 in **Baia Mare, Romania**. Daughter of **Valeria** and **Gheorghe Demian** of Cluj, Romania. Majoring in graphic design.

DEMIAN'S CAREER STATISTICS													
YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	
2006	50/17-9	43	18	98	.255	9	3	7	27	4	29	33	
2007	107/29-10	254	136	785	.150	22	14	21	128	10	30	40	
Total	157/46-19	297	154	883	.162	31	17	28	155	14	59	73	

#### IOANA DEMIAN'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills:** 16 at Baylor (9/1/07)  
**Attacks:** 44 Ole Miss (11/11/07)  
**Errors:** 11 Louisiana State (11/9/07)  
**Hitting %:** .600 vs. Austin Peay (9/8/07)  
**Assists:** 4 Clemson (8/26/07)  
**Service Aces:** 3 (2x) Last: Louisiana State (11/9/07)  
**Service Errors:** 4 (2x) Last: Louisiana State (11/9/07)  
**Digs:** 14 (2x) Last: Ole Miss (11/11/07)  
**Block Solos:** 3 vs. Auburn (10/8/06)  
**Block Assists:** 6 (2x) Last: vs. South Carolina (9/3/06)  
**Total Blocks:** 9 vs. Auburn (10/8/06)  
**Career double-doubles:** 3 (all in 2007)  
**Top offensive performances (kills)**  
 16 — at Baylor (9/1/07)  
 15 — Georgia (10/12/07)  
 13 — Louisiana State (11/9/07)  
 13 — Ole Miss (11/11/07)  
**Top defensive performances (total blocks)**  
 6 — Auburn (10/8/06)  
 6 — South Carolina (11/3/06)  
 5 — Murray State (11/3/07)  
 5 — Ole Miss (11/11/07)

# RETURNING PLAYERS

## #18 DOREY GRAY

6-0 • JUNIOR • 2L

SETTER/LIBERO

INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FLA.

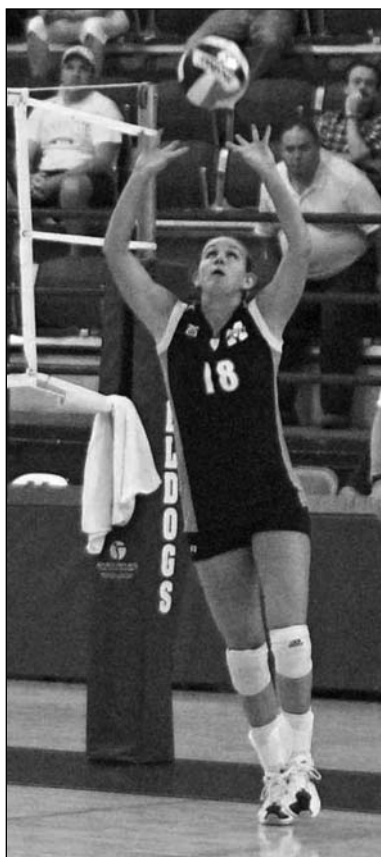
SATELLITE HIGH SCHOOL



**2008** Versatile junior floor leader for the Bulldogs destined for possible playing time as a setter or in the libero slot • Seasoned with playing time in 27 matches her first two seasons • Twice has earned academic all-conference honors.

**2007** (*sophomore*)

Competed in 18 matches and 45 games as a sophomore • Drew her first career start as the setter in MSU's season-opening win over Murray State (8/25) • Played in 10 of MSU's 20 Southeastern Conference matches • Totaled 134 assists for the season, including a career-high 40 on opening day against the Racers • Also reached double figure assist totals with 20 at Baylor (9/1), 15 at South Carolina (11/16) and 11 at Alabama (10/28) • Established career-highs in virtually every statistical category as a sophomore, including a six-dig defensive effort at South Carolina (11/16) • Repeat recipient of the team's 3-D Award (desire, determination and dedication) • Teamed with Eva Kriegel and advanced to the semifinals of the inaugural SEC Coaches Beach Volleyball Championship held in Gainesville, Fla. • Also captured the Dig The Beach Volleyball Tournament in Siesta Key, Fla. • One of a school-record nine Volleyball Bulldogs named to the 2007 SEC Academic Honor Roll.



**2006** (*freshman*) Saw playing time in nine matches (12 games) and earned her initial varsity letter as a true freshman in 2006 • Made her collegiate debut in MSU's season-opening 3-0 win against Southern Miss (8/25) • Delivered a season-best three assists against Southeastern Louisiana (8/26) • Also notched a dig against SEL and again against Grambling State (9/9) in the MSU/Microtel Classic • Delivered her first career service ace in State's 3-1 win at Mississippi • Played in five Southeastern Conference matches • Among five Volleyball Bulldogs named to the 2006 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll.

**High School** Multi-sport athlete at Satellite High School at Satellite Beach, Fla. • Three-year volleyball standout for the Scorpions • Coached by Mel Woods • Paced SHS in kills as a junior and senior and led her team in digs and assists all three prep seasons • Second-team All-Cape Coast selection in 2005 • Helped lead SHS to a 20-6 record as a junior en route to first-team All-Cape Coast and Florida all-state honors • Two-time recipient of Satellite's academic athlete award • Tabbed as her team's outstanding digger/setter in 2004 • Also a two-year performer in both basketball and track and a four-year in soccer • Midfielder on team that captured the 2002-03 state championship • Honored as the 2005-06 Scorp Pride Athlete of the Year • Four-year member of the Cape Coast/Brevard Spirit club volleyball program.

**Personal** Born Dorey Lynn Gray on September 7, 1987 in Melbourne, Fla. • Daughter of Glen and Janet Gray of Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. • Majoring in food science.

### GRAY'S CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB
2006	12/9-0	0	1	1	-1.000	4	1	3	2	0	0	0
2007	45/18-1	2	1	10	.100	134	1	5	39	0	2	2
Total	57/27-1	2	2	11	.000	138	2	8	41	0	2	2

### DOREY GRAY'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills:** 1 (2x) Last: Clemson (8/26/07)  
**Attacks:** 3 (2x) Last: at Baylor (9/1/07)  
**Errors:** 1 (2x) Last: at Baylor (9/1/07)  
**Hitting %:** 1.000 Clemson (8/26/07)  
**Assists:** 40 Murray State (8/25/07)  
**Service Aces:** 1 (2x) Last: Murray State (8/25/07)  
**Service Errors:** 3 Murray State (8/25/07)  
**Digs:** 6 at South Carolina (11/16/07)  
**Block Solos:** —  
**Block Assists:** 1 (2x) Last: at South Carolina (11/16/07)  
**Total Blocks:** 1 (2x) Last: at South Carolina (11/16/07)

### Top offensive performances (assists)

40 — Murray State (8/25/07)  
 20 — at Baylor (9/1/07)  
 15 — at South Carolina (11/16/07)

# RETURNING PLAYERS

## #10 CRISTINA JUCAN

5-11 • SENIOR

3L • OUTSIDE HITTER

CLUJ, ROMANIA

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT HS



**2008** Three-time letter-winner and only senior on the 2008 MSU team • One of two native Romanians on the team • Enters her senior season with a squad-high 600 kills, 429 digs, 74 total blocks and 18 career "double-doubles" • Seasoned with 43 starts in 70 career matches played • Two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection.

**2007 (junior)** A starting outside hitter in 23 of her 24 matches played, seeing playing time in 88 games • Ranked second on the team with a career-best 293 kills and a team-leading 3.33 kills per game average • Averaged 3.37 kills and 2.94 digs in her 15 SEC matches • Reached double figures in kills in 17 of her 24 matches • Piled up a season-high 18 kills at Ole Miss (10/5) and against Auburn (10/14) • Opened the '07 campaign with 15 kills and a season-best .314 hitting mark against Murray State (8/25) • Third on the team with a career-high 243 digs • Set a career-high with 22 digs at Alabama (10/24), her 12th double-digit digs total as a junior • Also tallied 19 digs against Arkansas (9/21) • Missed five of MSU's final six matches with a back injury • Also established career marks with eight assists against Arkansas-Little Rock (8/25) and five service aces at Louisiana State (10/7) • Ended the season with a career-best 33 aces, fourth-most on the team • Enjoyed her most productive match at the next with five total blocks (two solos/three assisted blocks) in MSU's win at Baylor (9/1) • Also turned in four-block performances against Tennessee in Knoxville (9/16) and in Starkville (10/19) • Earned her second consecutive berth on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

**2006 (sophomore)** Opened the season with 15 consecutive starts as an outside hitter • Played in all but two of MSU's 28 matches, closing the

year with starts in the final four matches • Ranked second on the team with 266 kills and fifth on the squad with 168 digs and 38 total blocks • Enjoyed an impressive season debut against Southern Miss (8/25), recording a career-best 24 kills and 11 digs for a first career "double-double" • Notched 10 of her 14 double figure kills performances in her early-season run as a starter • Finished the year with seven "double-doubles", five in her first seven matches • Reached twin digits in digs eight times, including 16-dig efforts against Georgia State (9/2) and Kentucky (9/22) • Led State in kills in nine matches • Established personal-bests for total blocks with six at Auburn (11/10) and in MSU's first-ever win against Arkansas (11/19) • Tallied 18 aces and an .854 serving percentage in 2006 • Named to the all-tournament team, tallying 51 kills and 35 digs in three matches at the Capital One Classic in Lafayette, La. • Among 11 Bulldogs to earned SEC Freshman or SEC Academic Honor Roll accolades in 2006.

**2005 (freshman)** Reserve outside hitter who earned her first varsity letter after playing in 18 matches (one start) • Made collegiate debut in MSU's 2005 season-opener against Southern Mississippi (8/27) • Registered first career kills (2), digs (3) and block (1) against Georgetown (9/3) in the Hokie Fall Invitational at Blacksburg, Va. • Drew lone start of season in SEC competition at Arkansas (10/16) • Tallied 41 kills and hit .184 in rookie season at MSU • Registered season-high eight kills at Tennessee (10/2) and matched that in a season-best 8-kill, 5-dig performance at Louisiana State (10/14) • Hit a season-best .533 (8-0-15) in that match at LSU.

**Pre-MSU** Attended Liceul cu Program Sportiv in Targu Mures, Romania • Coached on the prep level by Horea Ardelean • Played outside hitter in club volleyball • Played two years for CSS2 Baia Mare and five years with CSS Unirea Cluj Napoca • Helped guide the Romanian Junior National Team to a third place finish in the Junior Balcanic Championships in 2002 and 2003, where she was honored as the tournament's best blocker • Played on the Romanian Junior Championships title-winning team in both 2003 and 2004.

**Personal** Born Cristina Maria Jucan on January 29, 1987 in Baia Mare, Romania • Daughter of Ioan and Monica Jucan of Cluj, Romania • Majoring in graphic design and foreign language (French/Spanish).

### CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB
2005	31/18-1	41	20	114	.184	4	0	2	18	0	2	2
2006	85/28-19	266	109	649	.242	34	18	38	168	7	31	38
2007	88/24-23	293	148	849	.171	42	33	50	243	8	26	34
Total	204/70-43	600	277	1612	.200	80	51	90	429	15	59	74

### CRISTINA JUCAN'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills: 24** vs. Southern Miss (8/25)  
**Attacks: 55** vs. Kentucky (9/22/06)  
**Errors: 13** vs. Kentucky (9/22/06)  
**Hitting %:** .550 vs. Grambling State (9/9/06)  
**Assists: 8** Arkansas-Little Rock (8/25/07)  
**Aces: 5** at Louisiana State (10/7/07)  
**Service Errors: 5 (2x)** Last: vs. Auburn (10/14/07)  
**Digs: 22** at Alabama (10/24/07)  
**Block Solos: 2 (4x)** Last: at Tennessee (9/16/07)  
**Block Assists: 6 (2x)** Last: vs. Arkansas (11/19/06)  
**Total Blocks: 6 (2x)** Last: vs. Arkansas (11/19/06)  
**Career double-doubles: 18** (11 in 2007; 7 in 2006)

### Top offensive performances (kills)

24 — vs. Southern Miss (8/25/06)  
 20 — vs. Kentucky (9/22/06)  
 18 — vs. Tennessee (9/24/06)  
 18 — at Ole Miss (10/5/07)  
 18 — Auburn (10/14/07)

# RETURNING PLAYERS

## #9

### ASHLEY Newsome

**6-0 • SOPHOMORE • 1L**

**MIDDLE BLOCKER/OH**

**FLORENCE, ALABAMA**

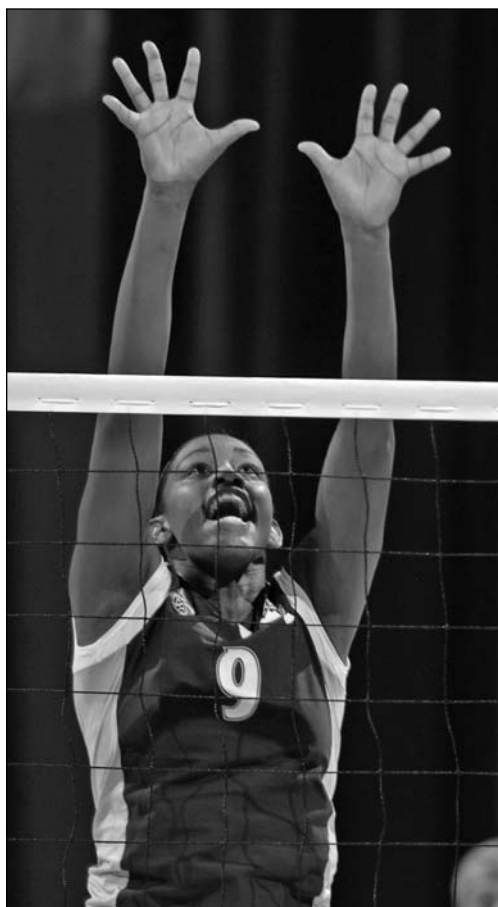
**FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL**



**2008** Strong candidate for a starting position as a middle blocker • Among five Bulldogs hailing from neighboring Alabama • Earned his first varsity letter in 2008 and a berth on the SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll.

**2007 (freshman)** One of two Bulldog freshmen to see starting duty for State in 2007 • Started 10 of the 25 matches in which she played • Played

in 72 games, totaling 107 kills, 18 digs and 35 total blocks • Made her collegiate debut and drew the first of her 10 starts in MSU's season-opening win over Murray State (8/25) • Tallied nine kills, hit .375 and registered four blocks against the Racers • Matched that season-best kill total in three late-season matches ---- at Georgia (11/4), vs. Louisiana State (11/9) and at South Carolina (11/16) •



Hit .700 with eight kills in 10 attack attempts against Austin Peay (9/8) • Tallied a season-best and match-leading six total blocks (three block assists/three solos) at Memphis (9/8) • Registered at least one kill in 21 of her 25 matches played • Set season-high with three digs at Memphis (9/8) and at Auburn (11/2) • Made four starts and played in 16 of MSU's 20 SEC matches as a rookie • Among five first-year Bulldogs named to the **2007 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll** • Voted by her teammates as the most improved Bulldog player for the 2007 campaign.

**High School** A four-year starter as a middle blocker at **Florence (Ala.) High School** • Coached by **Debbie Reynolds** • Three-time all-area team selection honoree • Paced the Falcons with 365 kills and 168 blocks as a senior • Recipient of her team's Outstanding Senior Award for 2006-07 • Also led Florence High School in numerous categories as a sophomore and junior • Earned all-region honors as a junior • Three-year standout as a forward for the FHS basketball team, earning all-area and all-region honors three seasons • Member of the Florence High School student council • Also played three years for the **Northwest Alabama Volleyball Club**, coached by **Brian Smith** and in 2007 for the **Mountain Valley Volleyball Club** in Guntersville, Ala., for coach **Dusty Cothran**.

**Personal** Born **Ashley Nicole Newsome** on April 13, 1989 in Florence, Ala. • Daughter of **Michelle** and **Louis Newsome** of Florence, Ala. • Majoring in biological sciences.

NEWSOME'S CAREER STATISTICS												
YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB
2007	72/25-10	107	80	306	.088	9	0	1	18	6	29	35
Total	72/25-10	107	80	306	.088	9	0	1	18	6	29	35

#### ASHLEY NEWSOME'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills: 9 (4x)** Last: at South Carolina (11/16/07)

**Attacks:** 33 Louisiana State (11/9/07)

**Errors:** 14 Louisiana State (11/9/07)

**Hitting %:** .800 at Alabama (10/24/07)

**Assists:** 2 (2x) Last: at Auburn (11/2/07)

**Aces:** —

**Service Errors:** —

**Digs:** 3 (2x) Last: at Auburn (11/2/07)

**Block Solos:** 3 at Memphis (9/8/07)

**Block Assists:** 3 (5x) Last: vs. Alabama (10/24/07)

**Total Blocks:** 6 at Memphis (9/8/07)

#### Top offensive performances (kills)

9 — Murray State (8/25/07)

9 — at Georgia (11/4/07)

9 — Louisiana State (11/9/07)

# RETURNING PLAYERS

## #15

### KAITLIN WHEATLEY

5-6 • SOPHOMORE • 1L

SETTER

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL



**2008** Steady second-year Bulldog setter voted team's most improved player during spring training • Impressed coaches with her hard work and consistent play in the spring.

**2007 (freshman)** Saw playing time in seven matches as a defensive specialist after earning a roster position as a walk-on during pre-season drills • Made her collegiate debut in Mississippi State's season-opening win over Murray State (8/25) • Registered three of her season-total five digs against Austin Peay (9/8) in the Memphis Tournament • Also record two digs in the home court win over Arkansas (9/21) • Appeared in five Southeastern Conference matches, including both matches against her hometown team, the University of Kentucky • Among five Bulldog newcomers named to the **2007 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll**.

**High School** Four-year starter during her prep career at Lexington's Lafayette High School • Coached by Chris Langston • Paced LHS in assists and service aces and helped lead the Generals to a 42-3 record and final four finish in the 2006 Kentucky High School Athletic Association state championship tournament • Second-team all-state selection and first-team KHSAA all-tournament pick • Earned all district honors in both 2005 and 2006 and first-team all-city plaudits her final three seasons at Lafayette HS • Recipient of LHS's "Team Comes First Award" in 2005 and the school's "110% Award" in 2006 • Played four seasons of club volleyball with the Bluegrass Area Volleyball Association and was coached by Kyle Conn • Three-time academic all-state selection • Ranked fifth in her high school graduating class at LHS • Recipient of a Commonwealth Scholar Diploma.

**Personal** Born Kaitlin Michelle Wheatley on January 4, 1990 in Campbellsville, Ky. • Daughter of Mary Kay Mitchell and Michael Wheatley of Lexington, Ky. • Majoring in biological engineering.

#### CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB
2007	9/7-0	0	0	2	.000	0	1	2	5	0	0	0
Total	9/7-0	0	0	2	.000	0	2	2	5	0	0	0

#### KAITLIN WHEATLEY'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills:** —  
**Attacks:** 1 (2x) Florida (9/28/07)  
**Errors:** —  
**Hitting %:** .000  
**Assists:** —  
**Aces:** — 1 Kentucky (10/21/07)  
**Service Errors:** — 1 (2x) Last: Kentucky (10/21/07)  
**Digs:** 3 Austin Peay (9/8/07)  
**Block Solos:** —  
**Block Assists:** —  
**Total Blocks:** —

## #28

### KAYLA WOODARD

5-5 • SOPHOMORE • 1L

DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST/LIBERO

ADDISON, ALABAMA

ADDISON HIGH SCHOOL



**2008** Spirited sophomore back row performer and a candidate for the Bulldogs' libero position • Dedicated worker and team leader in the weight room.

**2007 (freshman)** Earned a berth on the team as a walk-on and saw playing time as a defensive specialist in all 29 matches as a freshman • Ranked third on the team with 25 starts • Played in 105 of the team's 110 games • Made her collegiate debut in MSU's season-opening win over Murray State (8/25) • Drew her first career start against Pac-10 power Oregon (8/31) at the Baylor Invitational • Reached double figure digs total three times — 15 vs. Ole Miss (11/11), 12 vs. Stephen F. Austin (9/1/07) and 10 against Tennessee (10/19) • Ranked fifth on the team with 177 digs • Served up 18 aces, including a season-high three at Alabama (10/24) • One of five MSU rookies named to the **2007 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll** • Voted the recipient of the team's Strength & Conditioning Award following spring training.

**High School** Versatile four-sport standout during her prep career at Addison High School • Four-year starter and three-time all-state and all-area performer in volleyball, starting as a defensive specialist on teams that compiled a 262-10 record and captured three consecutive Alabama Class 1A state titles (2003-2005) • Coached by Pam Wilkins • Also competed six years basketball, softball and track • Piled up a career-high 797 digs in helping lead the Addison Bulldogs to a 61-5 record and runner-up honors in the Alabama Class 2A state playoffs • Delivered 725 digs as a junior in helping Addison post a perfect 67-0 worksheet in 2005 and its third straight Alabama Class 1A state title • Valedictorian and member of the National Honor Society.

**Personal** Born Kayla Rhae Woodard on November 3, 1988 in Jasper, Ala. • Daughter of Karen and Bryan Woodard of Addison, Ala. • Majoring in elementary education.

#### CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP/MP-MS	K	KE	ATT	PCT	A	SA	SE	DIGS	BS	BA	TB
2007	105/29-25	2	1	4	.250	30	18	38	177	0	0	0
Total	105/29-25	2	1	4	.250	30	18	38	177	0	0	0

#### KAYLA WOODARD'S CAREER HIGHS

**Kills:** 1 (2x) Last: at Arkansas (10/28/07)  
**Attacks:** 1 (4x) Last: at South Carolina (11/16/07)  
**Errors:** 1 Florida (9/28/07)  
**Hitting %:** 1.000 at Arkansas (10/28/07)  
**Assists:** 4 Kentucky (10/21/07)  
**Aces:** — 3 at Alabama (10/24/07)  
**Service Errors:** — 4 (3x) Last: Alabama (9/19/07)  
**Digs:** 15 vs. Ole Miss (11/11/07)  
**Block Solos:** —  
**Block Assists:** —  
**Total Blocks:** —

# NEW PLAYERS

## #13

GRACE HOYT

6-1 • FRESHMAN • HS

SETTER

SUWANEE, GEORGIA

SOUTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL



"Grace is a tall, physical setter that knows the game well and can run the offense. She has a great court awareness and puts up a very effective block."

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** Four-year letter-winner and all-state performer at **South Forsyth High School** in Cumming, Ga. • Coached in high school by **David Turner** • Helped lead SFHS to a school-best 39-10 record in 2007, earning all-state recognition as a senior • Served as the War Eagles team captain for three seasons • Voted team Most Valuable Player in 2005, 2006 and 2007 • Also a three-time all-county selection • Concluded her prep career with 543 kills, 1,200 assists, 541 digs and 160 total blocks Also registered 364 career aces, fifth-most in Georgia prep volleyball • Played for the **A5 Volleyball Club** in Atlanta that captured the 2007 and 2008 Southern Region Championship and won the national division of the 2008 **USA Volleyball Girls Junior Olympic Championships**.

**Personal** Born **Grace Elizabeth Hoyt** on September 11, 1989 in Atlanta. • Daughter of **Kurt and Frances Hoyt** of Suwanee, Ga. • Undecided on an academic major.



Grace...

at The Cullis Wade Depot

## #4

HILARY HUNT

6-3 • FRESHMAN • HS

OPPOSITE HITTER

TAMPA, FLORIDA

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES



"Hilary is another talented player that brings a great deal of versatility to the team. At 6-3, she's the tallest player on the team, plus she is a left-handed right side hitter. Hilary is a big block with a solid serve, so she can help us in a variety of ways."

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** Left-handed hitting right-side hitter from the Florida prep ranks • Starred in volleyball at Tampa's **Academy of the Holy Name** • Coached by **Doug Chinchier** • Played on the AHN team that upset top-ranked Bishop Verot in the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 3A volleyball championships • Chosen to compete for Team Florida in the 2007 USA Volleyball High Performance Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. • A member of the **Tampa Bay Juniors** team that claimed runner-up honors in her American Division classification of the 2007 USA Volleyball Girls Junior Olympic Championships • Concluded her club career in 2008 with the **Tampa United Volleyball Club**, coached by **Jeff Lamb**.

**Personal** Born **Hilary Ann Hunt** on February 14, 1990 in Tampa, Fla. • Daughter of **Hamilton and Margaret Hunt** of Tampa, Fla. • Majoring in animal and dairy science (pre-veterinary medicine).



Hilary... at the MSU Drill Field





# NEW PLAYERS

## #32 KELLYE JORDAN

6-0 • FRESHMAN • HS

OUTSIDE HITTER

JASPER, ALABAMA

CURRY HIGH SCHOOL



"Kellye is a highly-competitive, high-energy type of athlete. She has shown a great work ethic as she has worked to overcome a knee injury and brings that 'lead by example' quality to the team."

--- Coach Tina Seals

**High School** Multiple-sport standout at Curry High School in Jasper, Ala. • Starred in volleyball playing for coach Saige Beatty • Tallied more than 800 kills as a senior in 2007 to lead CHS to its first berth in the AHSAA'S 5A Elite Eight in eight seasons • Earned all-state honors in 2007 • Established the state record with 2,697 career kills • Four-time team Most Valuable Player • Also earned first-team all-state honors in softball and honorable mention all-state recognition in basketball 2007 and 2007 Birmingham News West Player of the Year.

**Personal** Born Kellye Nicole Jordan on January 11, 1990 in Jasper, Ala. • Daughter of Randy and Janice Jordan of Jasper, Ala. • Majoring in biological sciences (physical therapy).



Kellye...  
with Bully at The Junction

## #1 LEANNA KING

5-10 • FRESHMAN • HS

OUTSIDE HITTER/DEF. SPECIALIST

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL



"Leanna has the versatility to help us as an outside hitter or, because of her ball control skills, in a back court/libero role. She's a smart player with great court awareness that we expect will challenge for playing time this fall."

--- Coach Tina Seals

**High School** An all-state performer and four-year letter-winner at Huntsville's Grissom High School • Coached by Tanya Wigley-Broadway • Led the GHS Tigers with 562 kills and piled up 340 digs, 44 aces and 52 blocks as a senior • Helped lead Grissom to a 65-6 record and a State Final Four finish in 2007 • A three-time all-area selection and three-time team offensive MVP • Tabbed for Super All-Metro Huntsville and Birmingham News Super All-State honors • Accorded MVP honors at the North/South State All-Star match • Totaled 391 kills as a junior and a career-best 611 with 296 digs and a team-best 118 aces as a sophomore • Eight-year veteran of the NASA club volleyball team in Huntsville, where she was coached by Anne McArthur and Brent Wistner • Competed on club teams that claimed seven southern region championships.

**Personal** Born Kasey Leanna King on May 31, 1990 in Huntsville, Alabama • Daughter of David and Michelle King of Huntsville, Ala. • Majoring in secondary education with a minor in special education.



Leanna...  
at the campus post office



# NEW PLAYERS

## #5

**MANDY  
MELLENCAMP**

**6-1 • FRESHMAN • HS  
MIDDLE HITTER  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA  
PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL**



*"Mandy is a strong, physical player who blossomed into an outstanding offensive weapon over the last year. If that development continues she could work her way into the starting lineup as a freshman."*

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** A three-year standout frontline player from **Prescott High School** in Prescott, Ariz. • Coached by **Dan Dendy** • Mississippi State's first volleyball signee from Arizona • Earned honorable mention all-state and first-team all-region and **KYCA All-Area Player of the Year** honors as a senior • Paced the PHS Badgers with 176 kills as a senior • Tabbed for second-team all-region honors her sophomore and junior seasons • A seven-year veteran of club volleyball, concluding her club career competing for **Club Red** coached by **Joe Hesse** • Also served as a volunteer coach in her local YMCA youth volleyball program • Honored as the **2007-08 Prescott High School Scholar-Athlete of the Year** • Also played trumpet for four years in the PHS jazz and marching bands.

**Personal** Born **Amanda Lyn Mellescampa** on May 18, 1990 in Tucson, Arizona • Daughter of **Ross** and **Ann Mellescampa** of Prescott, Ariz. • Majoring in marketing.



*Mandy...  
at the Chapel of Memories*

## #12

**KELSEY NICHOLS**

**5-3 • FRESHMAN • HS  
SETTER/DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST  
HOOVER, ALABAMA  
HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL**



*"Kelsey is a real spark plug for us. She has a great background in volleyball and brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the court."*

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** A four-year varsity starter from the Birmingham prep ranks • Starred as a setter her junior and senior seasons at **Hoover High School** after playing her first two high school years at **Oak Mountain High School** • Coached at HHS by **Donna Burke** • Team captain, all-metro Birmingham and honorable mention all-state both seasons at Hoover • Dished out a team-best 1,496 assists with 284 digs, 83 aces and 63 kills in leading the Buccaneers to their second straight 6A Region runner-up finish • Tallied 1,256 assists and earned Super All-Metro team honors as a junior in 2006 • Served as team captain and earned team MVP honors both seasons playing for coach **Emily Sharp** at Oak Mountain HS • Played three seasons of club volleyball and served as team captain for the **Magic City Thunder** • Coached by **Danielle Graff** • National Honor Society member and honored as a Superintendent's Scholar at Hoover HS.

**Personal** Born **Kelsey Erin Nichols** on November 13, 1989 in Florence, Ala. • Daughter of **Chris** and **Vickie Nichols** of Hoover, Ala. • Mother was a four-year standout player and former MSU volleyball teammate of State head coach **Tina Seals** (1983-87) • Majoring in education.



*Kelsey...  
at the Colvard Student Union*



# NEW PLAYERS

## #17 CAITLIN RANCE

6-0 • FRESHMAN • HS  
MIDDLE HITTER/OUTSIDE HITTER  
KINGWOOD, TEXAS  
KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



"Caitlin is a shotmaster. She sees the court so well and plays so smart. She has a knack for reading opposing defenses and then placing the ball where it needs to go. Caitlin has had outstanding training and should have little difficulty making the move to the collegiate level."

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** A three-year starter on the varsity volleyball team at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas • Coached at KHS by Ashley Earhart • Paced the Mustangs with 428 kills and 127 total blocks and delivered 261 digs • Helped lead Kingwood to a third consecutive district crown and an advancement to the Texas regional quarterfinals • Earned all-state and district MVP honors in the talent-rich Houston area as a senior • Served as team captain in 2006 and 2007 and twice was accorded all-district honors • Led Kingwood with 380 kills and 120 total blocks her junior campaign in 2006 • Tabbed as the team's "newcomer of the year" as a sophomore in 2005 • Five-year club volleyball veteran • Played most recently for the Houston Juniors volleyball club where she was coached by Mitch Casteel.

**Personal** Born Caitlin Michelle Rance on August 5, 1990 in Kingwood, Texas • Daughter of Rick and Jeannie Rance of Kingwood, Texas • Majoring in elementary education.



Caitlin...  
at the Union Food Court

## #6 FAITH STEINWEDELL

6-2 • FRESHMAN • HS  
OUTSIDE HITTER/OPP  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA  
SANTE FE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



"Faith impresses you with ball control skills that you don't see often in a 6-2 player. We think she is well-prepared to make a smooth transition to the college game and will find a way to quickly contribute to the team this fall as either an outside or right side hitter."

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** Two-time all-conference and all-league standout at Sante Fe Christian School in Solana Beach, Calif. • Starred for coach Gail Malone's SFCS teams that captured California state volleyball championships in both 2005 and 2007 and district titles from 2004 through 2007 • Earned third-team Union Times All-San Diego Section and first-team All-Coastal North League honors as a junior and senior • Played club volleyball for the Epic Volleyball Club coached by Ozhan Bahrambeygui.

**Personal** Born Faith Lynn Steinwedell on December 5, 1990 in Vista, Calif. • Daughter of William and Barbara Steinwedell of LaJolla, Calif. • Undecided on an academic major.



Faith...  
at Hathorn Hall

# NEW PLAYERS

# #11

## AYNNE SWINDELL

6-1 • FRESHMAN • HS

MIDDLE HITTER

GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN H.S.



"Aynne is a well-rounded and hard-working volleyball player with a great deal of potential as a middle blocker. She has the physical tools and quickness that will give us some invaluable options with what we do at the net."

— Coach Tina Seals

**High School** Three-year starter on the volleyball court at **Evangelical Christian School** in Memphis, Tenn. • Two-time **Tennessee Sportswriters Association All-State** selection and **Commercial Appeal Best of the Preps** selection • Coached at ECHS by **Tommy Danner** • Tallied a team-leading 286 kills, a 90 percent serving accuracy rate and a club-best 80 total blocks in helping lead the Eagles to a final four finish in the state volleyball tournament • Three-time TSSAA All-Region selection • Four-year member of the Memphis Metro volleyball club, serving as team captain in 2008 • Coached by **Jitka Okolicany** • Also competed in track and swimming, where she holds five swim team records • Member of the ECHS Student Council and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Team.

**Personal** Born **Aynne Crawford Swindell** on August 14, 1989 in Memphis, Tenn. • Daughter of **Tim** and **Vita Swindell** of Germantown, Tenn. • Majoring in physiology



Aynne...

at Mitchell Memorial Library

## BREAKING DOWN THE MSU ROSTER

### ... by classification

SENIORS: 1 (Cristina Jucan)

JUNIORS: 2 (Ioana Demian, Dorey Gray)

SOPHOMORES: 3 (Ashley Newsome, Kaitlin Wheatley, Kayla Woodard)

FRESHMEN: 9 (Grace Hoyt, Hilary Hunt, Kellye Jordan, Leanna King, Mandy Mellencamp, Kelsey Nichols, Caitlin Rance, Faith Steinwedell, Aynne Swindell)

### ... by birth date

JANUARY: 3 — Kaitlin Wheatley (4th), Kelly Jordan (11th), Cristina Jucan (29th)

FEBRUARY: 1 — Hilary Hunt (14th)

APRIL: 1 — Ashley Newsome (13th)

MAY: 2 — Mandy Mellencamp (18th), Leanna King (31st)

JULY: 1 — Ioana Demian (29th)

AUGUST: 2 — Caitlin Rance (5th), Aynne Swindell (14th)

SEPTEMBER: 2 — Dorey Gray (7th), Grace Hoyt (11th)

NOVEMBER: 2 — Kayla Woodard (3rd), Kelsey Nichols (13th)

DECEMBER: 1 — Faith Steinwedell (5th)

### ... by birthplace

ALABAMA: 5 — Florence (Ashley Newsome, Kelsey Nichols), Huntsville (Leanna King), Jasper (Kelly Jordan, Kayla Woodard)

ARIZONA: 1 — Tucson (Mandy Mellencamp)

CALIFORNIA: 1 — Vista (Faith Steinwedell)

FLORIDA: 2 — Melbourne (Dorey Gray), Tampa (Hilary Hunt)

GEORGIA: 1 — Atlanta (Grace Hoyt)

KENTUCKY: 1 — Campbellsville (Kaitlin Wheatley)

TENNESSEE: 1 — Memphis (Aynne Swindell)

TEXAS: 1 — Kingwood (Caitlin Rance)

ROMANIA: 2 — Baia Mare (Ioana Demian, Cristina Jucan)

### ... by home state

ALABAMA: 1 — Addison (Kayla Woodard), Florence (Ashley Newsome), Hoover (Kelsey Nichols), Huntsville (Leanna King), Jasper (Kelly Jordan)

FLORIDA: 2 — Indian Harbour Beach (Dorey Gray), Tampa (Hilary Hunt)

ARIZONA: 1 — Prescott (Mandy Mellencamp)

CALIFORNIA: 1 — LaJolla (Faith Steinwedell)

GEORGIA: 1 — Suwanee (Grace Hoyt)

KENTUCKY: 1 — Lexington (Kaitlin Wheatley)

TENNESSEE: 1 — Germantown (Aynne Swindell)

TEXAS: 1 — Kingwood (Caitlin Rance)

ROMANIA: 2 — Baia Mare (Ioana Demian), Cluj (Cristina Jucan)