COACH’S CORNER BY COACH HOLT

HO HO HO!!! I couldn’t have asked for a better Christmas present this year! It may have come early, August through November, but this 2011 Miner Volleyball season was way above what I wanted from Santa this year! Our goal coming into the season was just making the conference tournament. We would have been happy with even say a 3rd place finish in our division just to make the GLVC tournament. But what we ended up with was EVEN BETTER!!

This team earned not one but TWO BANNERS for the wall of the Gale Bullman Multipurpose Bldg... a GLVC West Division Champion banner AND a NCAA National Tournament Participant banner. In only our fifth season of existence, its just, well AMAZING!! (see right)

Thank you to all the families, friends and fans in Miner Nation. We hope your holidays are as great as our season was!! GO MINERS!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MINER VOLLEYBALL

On Tuesday, November 8th, Miner Volleyball assistant coach Megan Laws and her husband Kellen welcomed to the world their first child. Kyler Charles Laws.

Says Laws, “My husband and I are overjoyed to introduce our son Kyler to everyone. I was due December 1st, but he had other plans and decided to come a little early. Kyler is a very healthy boy! He weighed in at 8lbs 13oz and was 20 1/2” long at birth."

She continues, “It is hard to believe that he is already a month old, the time has flown by. We are looking forward to our first Christmas as a family.”

The team is so excited for Coach Laws and Kellen for the addition Kyler to their family, and now the Miner Volleyball Family. Welcome Kyler!

COACH LAWS BECOMES A MOM

Season Five was, in a word...AMAZING!! The end of the 2011 season was by far the best in the Miners short history, seeing the team earn its second consecutive winning record and even more impressive, post season berths into not only the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament but also into the NCAA National Tournament. Here are some highlights from the season...

The Miners spent the first weekend playing in a non-conference tournament at the University of Indianapolis, where the Miners finished weekend going 2-2.

The opened their GLVC schedule sweeping both Illinois-Springfield and Quincy to start their new program record 11-match winning streak (previous was 3). The streak included ending a 7-0 record over the GLVC West Division as well as wins over Rockhurst and Missouri-St. Louis for the first time in Miner history.

The 16-team GLVC participated in the 4th annual GLVC-GLIAC Crossover tournament in Chicago, Ill. ... The GLVC handed the GLIAC its second straight loss in the 32-team event, which is the largest collegiate volleyball tournament in country. The Miners finished 2-1 on the weekend (see page 4).

S&T had its highest finish ever in the always tough GLVC, finishing 15-3 and earning the GLVC West Division Title. Their record also tied for first overall, as both co-East Division Champions, Indianapolis and Lewis, both finished 15-3 in the GLVC.

The Miners earned the No. 3 seed in their first ever post season appearance in the GLVC Tournament at Indianapolis, where they faced GLVC West rival, No. 6 Missouri-St. Louis. The Miners dominated the match, sweeping the Tritons to earn a spot in the conference semifinals, where they were eliminated by No. 2 Lewis.

With their win over UMSL in the GLVC Tournament quarterfinals, Missouri S&T earned the No. 8 seed in the NCAA Regional Championships, making them one of the top 64 teams in all NCAA Division II volleyball out of over 300 teams. The Miners traveled to Hillsdale Michigan where they faced the host Chargers in the opening round of the regional. Although they played them tough, even taking a set from the eventual Final Four team, Hillsdale took the match in four, ending the Miners season with an outstanding 24-10 overall record.

Four Miner players earned GLVC All-Conference honors, the most in one season in program history, while two of them were also honored with All-Regional accolades on the year, also a Miner first. (see page 4).

Head Coach Jason Holt is named GLVC Coach of the Year. (see page 4)

The Gale Bullman Multi-Purpose Building was again the site of the one of the highest volleyball attendance stats in the GLVC (see page 4).

Four different Miners finished in the Top 10 statistically in the GLVC in five different categories, while the team ranks in Top 10 in all seven categories for the first time in program history. (see page 5).

AMAZING SEASON MINERS!!
Hello All... I hope all is well!!

This has been a very special season for me and I cannot believe that it had finally come to a close. I could not have asked for a better way to end my volleyball career than by playing with the 20 other amazing girls and coaches that make up this team. We had our first 20 win season, were the GLVC West Division Conference champions and we made it to the NCAA Tournament, who could ask for a better season!!! This team and program has come so far this year and I can only see brighter things happening in the future.

I want to thank everyone, especially our families, for the amazing support you have shown to us this year. From all the Facebook/Twitter posts of encouragement to our fans at the games... THANK YOU SO MUCH, you helped us get to the NCAA Tournament.

I also want to say a special thank you to all our coaches and trainer. You prepared us to be the best team we could be.

I cannot explain how AWESOME going to Conference Tournament and then going to the NCAA Tournament was. I will never forget the experience. We have started a tradition and we have put Missouri S&T on the Colligate Volleyball map!!! WAY TO GO MINERS!!!!!
**MINERS SIGN FOUR FOR 2012**

Fresh off its first ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, Missouri S&T volleyball coach Jason Holt has announced the signing of four individuals to play volleyball at S&T for the fall 2012 season. The newcomers are Krista Haslag (MH/Linn, Mo.), Andrea Roach (RS/Littleton, Colo.), Torrie Rupe (OH/Wichita, Kan.) and Morgan Smith (DS/L., Springfield, Mo.).

Says Coach Holt about the 2012 class, "The loss of outgoing seniors Erin Bekebrede & Kit Spears is big, so we needed an equally big signing to make up for what we lose with Erin and Kit. I am extremely excited and confident about the addition of these four outstanding student-athletes to our 2012 roster of Miner volleyball. Each student-athlete brings something unique to the program and will provide us outstanding options in all positions both offensively and defensively. All four are very strong students in the classroom as well, that will excel in the academic atmosphere of S&T. We are honored to have them apart of our program."

Haslag (left), a 6-5 middle hitter from Helias HS in Jefferson City (Mo.), played four seasons for Helias Catholic as a middle hitter, where she has set many blocking records both her junior and senior seasons. She was named to both the All-District and All-Central/South Region First Teams as both a junior and a senior as well as earning a First Team All-State honor this fall. Haslag, a four-time letter winner in basketball as well as two-time letter winner in track & field, also played high level club volleyball for Central Missouri Volleyball Club but this spring will play for top team of High Performance VBC in St. Louis. She is an ‘A’ Honor Roll honoree and is planning on majoring in civil engineering at S&T.

The 5-11 Roach (right), right side hitter from Thunderbird HS, the first ever left-handed player for the Miners, is a three-time letter winner as both a setter and right side hitter at Thunderbird. The versatile Roach has mainly played setter for her high school team but will strictly be a right side hitter; for the Miners, Roach was named to the Second Team All-Continental Conference as a junior and First Team All-Conference this fall senior season. She is a member of Honor Roll, and is planning on possibly majoring in business at Missouri S&T. She has played for some of the best clubs in the nation including Front Range Volleyball Club, but has spent the past two seasons in a Denver Volleyball Club uniform.

Rupe (left) is a four-time letter winner at multiple positions, including all three front row positions. Although recruited only as an outside hitter, the 5-10 Rupe gives the Miners lots of options. Rupe earned many accolades during her interscholastic volleyball career including first team all-league as a junior and all-tournament team at Kansas State tournament as a sophomore. Most recently she was named Honorable Mention 4A All-State and selected to the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail League (AVCTL) Division IV First Team as a senior. Rupe is a member of High Honor Roll at Collegiate High School and plans to major in biological sciences. She plays club volleyball for ICT Elite Volleyball Club.

The 5-7 Smith (right), finished her high school career as the starting libero for Nixa HS, one of the best high school programs in the state of Missouri, leading her team in digs, passing efficiency and service aces as a senior. She was named to the 2011 All-Southwest. Region Honorable Mention this fall. Smith has played high level club volleyball as well for both Springfield Juniors and Midwest Xplosion Volleyball Clubs. She is also a member of National Honor Society and A Honor Rolls. She plans to major in biological sciences with a minor in business at S&T.

**CAPTAINS CORNER BY KIT**

Hey Everyone...

I still can’t believe that it’s over. Miner Volleyball has been a part of my life for the past five years and it’s been on my mind for the past six. It’s extremely weird to think that in two weeks this chapter of my life will come to a close. I couldn’t have asked for a better season, a better support staff and a better team to end the run with. Every girl that has ever been a part of this team will always have a special place in my heart. This season has absolutely been something amazing. To not only go to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament for the first time in the program’s history, but to also qualify for a bid to the NCAA National Tournament is almost something out of a dream.

I just want to say thank you to all the parents and fans that have been along for the ride throughout the five years. We, and I, wouldn’t be anywhere near where we are today without all of you. I have been truly blessed to have had the chance to be a Miner, and I wish the team and the program all the success in the world throughout the future. AUTOBOTS. ROLL OUT.

**CAPTAINS CORNER BY JENNY**

Hey everyone...

WOW!! I truly can’t believe our season has come to an end. What an incredible journey. So many first and so many new traditions created. Between being the GLVC West Division Champions, making the GLVC tournament and the NCAA tournament for the first time ever, this season has been magical. I knew that coming into this season, we would do amazing things. We were all so excited and anxious about making this fall different. We have worked really hard in the offseason and all season to make our goals a reality and seeing them unfold in front of my eyes has been so special.

I would like to thank our two seniors (and fellow captains), Kit and Erin...Thanks for everything you have done for this program. You took a huge risk in joining a new program four (or five) years ago and have worked really hard to develop this program. You took me in as a freshman and have continued to make this program a family. You both will be missed dearly and I wish you the best in your future, even though you don’t need it.

It is hard right now to look forward but I am so excited for next season. We have set a tradition this year and plan to build on it every year. I know with the returning group of girls and our four new freshmen we will have the basic building blocks in place to make another run at the NCAA tournament and beyond. I can’t believe it but it’s time to start preparing for my senior season, it seems like yesterday I was coming in as the only freshmen!

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported us, it really means a lot to all of us to see everyone at home and away games. Regardless of if we were in Rolla or Michigan we always had one of the largest fan bases on hand and watching online. We look forward to seeing everyone in the spring and next fall! I know we are all looking forward to having a break and spending time with our families before we start working toward next season. Have a great holiday season! GO MINERS!!

Missouri University of Science and Technology | Miner Volleyball
Holt. “They have been invaluable to the hard work and dedication of a successful season without the hard work,” said Coach of the Year for the Miners, Erin Bekebrede (St. Charles, Mo.) and junior libero Jocelyn DeMotte (Topeka, Kan.) became the first Miners in its five-year existence to earn First Team All-GLVC honors. Additionally, freshman middle hitter Jackie Zellmer (Nixa, Mo.) became the first freshman in Miner history to earn All-GLVC honors as she was named to the Second Team.

Bekebrede finished the 2011 season with a career highs in multiple categories including kills (490), attack percentage (.230), service aces (41), digs (358), blocks (47) and total points (558.5), even finishing in top 10 in GLVC in several categories (see page 5).

Costello set the new standard for setting in the Miner Volleyball program breaking records on the year. She set career highs with 1,438 set assists, 290 digs, 107 kills and 159.5 points. She finished as one of the top setters not only in the GLVC but all in the nation (see page 6).

DeMotte, who transferred from MIAA powerhouse Emporia State last spring, completed her first season in a Miner uniform this fall and racked up a career and team high 575 digs, ranking her in the top five in the GLVC in digs per set (see page 5). She also notched 30 service aces, placing her third on the team.

The 5-8 Zellmer finished her rookie campaign with one of the best freshman seasons in the Miners five-year history. She finished the season with 320 kills while hitting a clip of .281, the most ever for a freshman middle. She also lead the team and broke a program record in service aces with 47. She also blocked a team high 97 balls on the year.

CONGRATS ERIN, JENNY, JOCELYN & JACKIE!! GO MINERS!

GLVC WINS CROSSOVER AGAIN

Behind unbeaten efforts from Northern Kentucky, William Jewell and Rockhurst, the Great Lakes Valley Conference defended the title at the 4th Annual Mizuno GLVC/GLIAC Crossover Tournament played at the Great Lakes Center in Aurora, Ill. during the weekend of Oct. 15th-16th.

The GLVC finished with a 29-19 advantage and 11 of the league’s 16 teams finished the event with a winning record, including Missouri S&T who finished 2-1 on the weekend. Miners recorded wins over national powerhouse & 2005 Division II National Champions Grand Valley State (3-1) and the then-ranked No. 25 Northern Michigan (3-2), the Miners first victory over a ranked opponent in program history. Their loss was against the then-ranked No. 8 Ferris State (2-3).

Senior outside hitter Erin Bekebrede was named to All-Tournament team. Six players from each conference were selected for the honor by the Sports Information Directors of both conferences.

GREAT JOB GLVC & JOCELYN!!

MINERS 2ND IN GLVC ATTENDANCE

For the second straight season, the Flyers of Lewis University have topped the Miners as the champion of GLVC home match attendance in 2011.

The Miners this season brought in a total of 4,675 fans into the Gale Bullman Multi-Purpose Bldg. for their 14 home matches for an average of 334 fans per match. Lewis edged the Miners with their 3585 fans per match to win the attendance bragging rights in 2011. Northern Kentucky (277), Indiana (265), Illinois-Springfield (217) and Rockhurst (197) rounded out the top six.

From 2007-2009, the Miners dominated the GLVC attendance, including ranking as high as #14 in all of NCAA Division II in 2009.

HOLT NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

Miner Volleyball head coach Jason Holt was tabbed by his peers, the coaches of the Great Lakes Valley Conference as the 2011 GLVC Coach of the Year. Holt guided the Miners to the GLVC West Division title with a 15-3 conference mark, as well as earning the No. 3 seed in their first GLVC tournament appearance.

Holt, who started the S&T program back in 2006, shares this award with his entire coaching staff. “Although I am honored by the award, this honor truly goes to my entire coaching staff. We would not have had this successful season without the hard work and dedication of Megan (Laws), Kyle (Walton) and Samantha (Klump).” says Holt. “They have been invaluable to the growth of this program.”
Four different Miner players finished in the Top 10 statistical categories in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) during the 2011 season.

Senior outside hitter Erin Bekebrede [St. Charles, Mo.] finished third in the GLVC in points scored with 4,32 points per set (559.0 total point, second all-time in Miner history) average. She was also fourth in kills (3.84 kills/set, 490 total kills, second all-time), and tenth in service aces (0.33 sa/set, 42 total service aces).

Junior setter Jennifer Costello [St. Louis, Mo.] finished second in the GLVC in assists, averaging 11.12 assists/set, which was also 20th in all of NCAA Division II. Her 1,435 total assists on the year, were also a new Miner record.

Junior libero/defensive specialist Jocelyn DeMotte [Topeka, Kan.] finished the 2011 season ranked third in the conference defensive digs, averaging 4.44 digs/set finishing with a total of 573 digs, which was second all-time behind former Miner libero Bridget Williams, who happens to be a former high school teammate of DeMotte.

Freshman middle hitter Jackie Zellmer [Nixa, Mo.] finished fifth in the GLVC in service aces 0.37 sa/set, notching a new Miner record 47 service aces on the season.

In addition to all the individual stats above, the Miners as a team ranked in the Top 10 in the GLVC in all seven statistical categories, ranking first in digs (16.89 d/set), second in opponent attack pct. (1.17), third in aces (13.60 a/set), third in assists (12.79 a/set), fourth in service aces (1.50 sa/set), sixth in attack pct. (21.6%) and 10th in blocks (1.70 tb/set).

For the first time in Missouri S&T volleyball history, a Miner player was named to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week. During the week of September 13th-19th, senior outside hitter Erin Bekebrede [St. Charles, Mo.] was honored by the GLVC with the Player of the Week honor.

Beginning on Tuesday Sept. 13th of that week, Bekebrede posted a double-double with 13 kills and 13 digs as the Miners defeated host Drury 3-2, also adding a pair of assists, a service ace and two blocks.

She returned on Friday, Sept. 16th to post 16 kills, 15 digs, three service aces and two blocks in the Miners 3-2 win at Rockhurst, the first win versus the Hawks in program history.

On Saturday Sept. 17th, S&T defeated William Jewell 3-0 as Bekebrede tallied 11 kills, six digs and five service aces. The Miners also picked up a win that day over Pittsburg State, 3-1 with Bekebrede recording a career-high 25 kills to go with 14 digs, four service aces and a .413 hitting percentage.

For the week, Bekebrede averaged 4.76 points, 3.82 kills and 3.00 digs per set. She also posted a .225 hitting percentage and tallied 13 service aces, four assists & four blocks. GREAT WEEK ERIN!
BEKEBREDE KILLS HER WAY TO 1K

On Saturday, October 8th against GLVC rival Southern Indiana, senior outside hitter Erin Bekbrede (St. Charles, Mo.) became the first player in Miner Volleyball history to record 1,000 career kills.

Heading into the 2011 season Bekbrede needed 247 kills on the year, while coming in averaging 251 kills/yr on her career. It only took 19 matches for the four-year starter to top the 1k mark, with still 15 matches remaining for the season.

She finished the 2011 season with 490 kills to bring her career total to an outstanding 1,243 kills. AMAZING JOB ERIN!!

MINER VB HOMECOMING MATCH

On Saturday, October 8th, during the Miner Athletics Homecoming Weekend, Miner Volleyball hosted its first annual Alumni Match. Ten former founding members of the program, along with both a current and former team manager, all returned to Rolla to take part in the match as well as be honored prior to the Miners versus Southern Indiana match, which took place prior to the Miner Alumni match. Participating in the match were Katie Herington (MH/2007-10), Samantha Klump (MH/2007-10), Jessica Laughary (2007-10), Lisa (Robinson) Lombardo (OH/2007), Hope Moober (2007-09), Maddie Owak (2007-08), Leandra Pelae (OH/2007-08), Annie Smith (2007-10), Lauren Summerville (2007-08) and Bridget Williams (2007-10). Rounding out the match roster was former manager Amy Coffman (2009) and current manager Ashton Tiddy.

FORMER MINER GETS ENGAGED

Former defensive specialist Bethany Bray (2007-09), will officially be changing her name on December 1, 2012, when she exchanges wedding vows with her fiancé Adam Randles (Springfield, Mo.) in Lee’s Summit, Mo. The ceremony will take place in front of the couple’s families, friends, as well as some of her former teammates and coaches. Bethany and Adam met through Bethany’s former college roommate at Longview Community College prior to both Bethany and Adam transferring to Missouri S&T in the fall of 2009.

In romantic fashion, Adam proposed on a horse-drawn carriage ride near the St. Louis Arch. “There was a lot of crying & hugging!” says Bethany. “The day Adam & I met was love at first sight. He was the guy I had always dreamed of & thought I’d never find. He has been my biggest fan, my rock & my best friend. He was the best gift I could have ever received. ‘God gave me you! I can’t wait for our future together & to grow as a couple!’ The couple will honeymoon is still to be determined.

CONGRATULATIONS BETHANY & ADAM!!

SETTER EARS ACADEMIC HONOR

Miner junior setter Jennifer Costello (St. Louis, Mo.) was named to the 2011 Capital One/NCAA Division II Academic All-District 4 First Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). This award recognizes the nation’s top student-athletes for their combined performances athletically and in the classroom.

Costello maintains a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 in chemical engineering and is the primary setter in S&T’s offense, averaging 11.12 assists/set which ranked second in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and 20th in all of NCAA Division II. She also serves as a volleyball representative to the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) and volunteers her time to train causes around the S&T campus and the Rolla community.

Rounding out the First Team District 4 are Ashley Huntley (Sr., Ferris State), Danielle LaGrange (Sr., Southern Indiana), Clara Lenthe (Sr., Hillsdale), Jenna Schreiber (Jr., Northern Kentucky) and Anne Sutton (Jr., Ferris State).

First team Academic All-District volleyball honorees advance to the Capital One Academic All-America Team ballot which will be named December 14th.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PART 4

Where are the former members of Miner Volleyball and what are they up to? This is Part 4 of an ongoing series of what has happened to former players & coaches since finishing with or leaving the program.

Kris Conley (Asst. Coach/2007): Since serving as a student assistant for the inaugural ‘07 season, she graduated from S&T with bachelor and masters degrees in Engineering Management. She then continued coaching as the high school level in her hometown of Kansas City for a couple seasons and is currently living and working in Denver, Colorado, awaiting the arrival of her first baby.

Leandra Pelae (OH/2007-08): One of the top players ever in a Miner uniform, the two-season outside hitter, completed her bachelor degree from Missouri S&T in mechanical engineering in 2011, and then entered the working world with a position at Proctor & Gamble based in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Heather Roberts (Asst. Coach/2007): Roberts, a Hawaii native, but who completed her collegiate volleyball career in Missoula at William Woods University in 2005, served as the first full-time assistant for the Miners in the inaugural 2007 season helping build the program. She then moved to Denver, Colo. to serve in the same role as the assistant coach the Colorado School of Mines.

Lauren Summerville (OH/2007-08): The multi-talented Summerville played multiple positions for the Miners in her two seasons with the program. She completed her Psychology degree from S&T in 2010. She is currently attending graduate school at Western Illinois University studying Experimental Psychology.

Chelsie Winkelmann (OH/2008): Played one season for the Miners in 2008 after a prolific interscholastic career at Hermann HS. The former outside hitter remained at Missouri University of Science and Technology where she is currently completing her bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. She plans to graduate from Missouri S&T in the spring of 2013.
Missouri S&T Miner Volleyball begins its 5th Annual OPERATION VOLLEYBALL: ‘Support The Miners’ fundraising program for the ‘11-‘12 year. The objective is to raise support & build opportunities for the success of the volleyball program. In order to secure the best possible playing environment for our program, we are asking supporters to donate to the Miner Volleyball program through tax-deductible monetary donations (receipts for taxes/records will be sent).

Funds raised through this program will be used to offset costs for the program: special trips & other travel, uniforms, equipment, locker room/office space renovations, team building activities & more. Supporters who donate can choose to receive support awards in return for their donation to the program depending upon the level of sponsorship. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

I would like to Support the 2011 Missouri S&T Miner Volleyball team, at the following Level (check one & if want to receive the support awards tied to that donation level):

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