You know, they always say it’s harder to stay on top than it is to get there. Well since last season was such an amazing ride to the top of the GLVC for the first time, this off season has been spent by both players and coaching staff, working very hard, both on and off the court to stay on top in 2012.

We ended up losing six great players from last fall’s championship team, three of which that were starters and huge leaders for the program over the years. But I am extremely confident in this 2012 squad and what each returning and new player & coach (see below) bring to the court. They are all very talented, hard working, passionate about what they do and **HATE TO LOSE**! They all want to stay on top!!

Season Six is here!! Its time to prove that 2011 was not a fluke but rather the start of winning ways and multiple post season appearances now and in the future. Its time to take the next step Miners. Its time to show we still belong among the elite. Its just time!! **LETS DO THIS MINERS!! #dec6**

The 2012 Miner Volleyball faces lots of expectations this season, both externally after being picked as a pre-season favorite in the GLVC and receiving votes in the AVCA Division II Coaches Poll (see page 4), but even more internally.

“This years players and coaches have set high goals, standard and expectations for ourselves.” Says Miner head coach **Jason Holt**. “Last season gave the team a taste post season life, and now we are hungry for more.”

The Miners return nine players including four starters, from the 2011 squad that finished 24-10 overall and 15-3 in the GLVC, and winning the GLVC West crown as well as a post season berth to the GLVC Tournament and the NCAA Midwest regional. Added to the mix is the return of 2009 team MVP and Second Team All-GLVC selection **Julie Meyer** after focusing on basketball to complete her career as well as the addition of five outstanding new players, one sophomore transfer and four freshmen.

“We are extremely confident that the addition of this great 2012 class along with our determined group of returnees, that this fall will be a great one for the Miners. We can’t wait to get started.”

The Miners have been training hard both on and off the court during their pre-season with many different things from team practices and individual training sessions, to scrimmages and team building activities (see page 2).

This looks to be a great year for the Miners. Now its time to take care of business on the court. **GO MINERS! #dec6**
Hey Everyone,

Happy Fall Everyone!!!

Would not be the team we are without all of you! I am honored to be their captain along with Jenny this year. We are a determined group and we plan on having a very long season that includes the elite eight. I hope that you all will be able to come out and support us on our journey this season. We have just completed a great preseason so far and are ready to get this regular season started! We had a long week full of practices, conditioning, weights and team bonding but we are fired up for the season. Great job to our five new players who didn’t skip a beat juggling their first preseason and tryouts and are ready to get this regular season started! We had a long week full of practices, conditioning, weights and team bonding but toughed it out and are fired up for the season. Great job to our five new players who didn’t skip a beat juggling their first preseason and tryouts and are fired up for the season.

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#1 / MORGAN SMITH
5-7 | DS-L | Freshman
Nixa HS | Nixa, Mo.

#2 / MORGAN SMITH
5-7 | DS-L | Freshman
Nixa HS | Nixa, Mo.

#3 / JENNY COSTELLO
5-10 | S | Senior
Parkway South HS | St. Louis, Mo.

#4 / ANDREA ROACH
5-10 | RS-S | Freshman
Thunderridge HS | Littleton, Colo.

#5 / JOCelyn DEMOTTE
5-5 | DSL | Senior
Emporia State Univ. | Topeka, Kan.

#6 / EMILY JAEGER
5-8 | DS-L | Sophomore
St. Joseph’s Acad. | St. Louis, Mo.

#7 / KATIE MCDONALD
6-1 | RS | Sophomore
Providence Catholic HS | Chicago, Ill.

#8 / KELLY KOSMOPOLIS
5-8 | MH | Senior

#9 / KELLY KOSMOPOLIS
5-8 | MH | Senior

#10 / JACKIE ZELLMER
5-11 | MH | Sophomore
Nixa HS | Nixa, Mo.

#11 / KRISTA HASLAG
6-1 | MH | Freshman
Helias Catholic HS | Linn, Mo.

#12 / GRACEY MOON
5-10 | MH | Sophomore

#13 / TORRIE RUPE
5-10 | OH | Freshman
Wichita Collegiate HS | Wichita, Kan.

#14 / ALISON MUELLER
5-10 | OH | Sophomore
Mater Dei HS | Bartelso, Ill.

#15 / ALISON MUELLER
5-10 | OH | Sophomore
Mater Dei HS | Bartelso, Ill.

#16 / ALISON MUELLER
5-10 | OH | Sophomore
Mater Dei HS | Bartelso, Ill.

#17 / JENN KEGLER
5-5 | DSL | Senior
Cor Jesu Acad. | St. Louis, Mo.

#18 / JENN KEGLER
5-5 | DSL | Senior
Cor Jesu Acad. | St. Louis, Mo.

#19 / JULIE MEYER
5-10 | RS | Senior
St. Francis Borgia HS | Marthasville, Mo.

#20 / JULIE MEYER
5-10 | RS | Senior
St. Francis Borgia HS | Marthasville, Mo.

#21 / HAYLEY WRIGHT
5-10 | OH | Junior
Millard West HS | Omaha, Neb.

JASON HOLT
Head Coach
6th Season | Grants Pass, Ore.

SIGNE MUELLER
Assistant Coach
1st Season | Iowa City, Iowa

DAN LANDWEHR
Student Asst. Coach
1st Season | St. Louis, Mo.

ASHTON TIDDY
Student Manager
2nd Season | Rolla, Mo.
MINER VOLLEYBALL NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2012

MINERS TEAM BOND IN PRESEASON

The Miner Volleyball coaching staff wanted to get the most out of the returning and new players on the 2012 team during the week of preseason prior to classes starting, both on and off the court. Along with their tough on-court and in the weightroom training regime, the coaches put the Miner players through some challenging but really fun and growth filled problem solving and team building activities.

One of the first things they did was called the Newspaper Fortress (see pic above). Within an hour time period, the team had to problem solve and build a free-standing structure, that they entire team could fit inside of without touching it, while only using newspaper and masking tape. Throughout the hour, Coach Holt gave the team challenges to test them as a team, from blindfolding half the team to not being able to use their dominant hand and other obstacles. The team successfully completed the task in 45mins and learned a lot about how they communicate, problem solve and even delegate.

The Miners next got to fight against each other for fun in a fierce game of laser tag at The Zone in Rolla (see pic left). The 15min. battle-royale was a ton of fun for the players and even for the coaches to watch as the team was split in two and strategized ways to win the game.

On Friday of preseason week, the team took part in an array of problem solving activities for an hour led by the Missouri S&T ROTC. The cadets let the Miners through tasks such as crossing a mine field while having to touch (see pic below) to getting leading teammates through a maze while blindfolded and without touching them. The team used their cool intellect and great teamwork to solve all the tasks put before them, learn a lot, and have a ton of fun while doing it.

The team completed the week doing a car wash to fund raise money for the program while also spending time together to complete a task. The team raised $560 on the day for the program.

GREAT TIME TO BE A MINER! GREAT JOB LADIES!!

S&T PRE-SEASON FAVORITE IN 2012

The 2012 version of Miner Volleyball has a target on its back. After a stellar 2011 season, where S&T took home its first ever GLVC West title and made an appearance in the NCAA Midwest regional, in only its fifth season of existence, the Miners enter 2012 as the favorite to repeat as West Division champs this fall.

The GLVC released its preseason coaches poll in early August and Missouri S&T was favored to win the West Division while defending champion Indianapolis was picked as the East Division preseason favorite. The Miners was awarded 12 first-place votes to lead the GLVC West poll, and finished with a total of 116 points. UIndy lead the East poll with 119 points and 14 first-place votes. Behind S&T in the West was Missouri-St. Louis picked to finish second (103pts and four first-place votes). Rockhurst (80pts), Quincy (76pts.) and Drury (70pts.) round out the top five.

The Miners also received votes in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Coaches Preseason Top 25 Poll, placing them 30th in all of DII heading into the 2012 season. Five-time defending national champion Concordia-St. Paul was a unanimous selection to win for their unprecedented sixth consecutive title. Indianapolis (#10) and Lewis (#18) both made the Top 25 from the GLVC.

WAY TO GO MINERS!! LET'S DO IT!

SISTER RIVALRY IN THE GLVC

It’s not uncommon to hear about sisters fighting against each other in a family. This fall, two Miner defensive specialists will have a chance to bring those battles to a new place and new level.

Sophomore Emily Jaeger (St. Louis, Mo.) and freshman Morgan Smith (Nixa, Mo.) will twice each, compete against their sisters on the volleyball court in GLVC showdowns.

Jaeger (far right) for her second season, will look across the net to see one of her older sisters, Liz Jaeger, a senior right side hitter for the Tritons of Missouri-St. Louis. The battle three times last season with Emily coming out on top 2-1.

“Playing against my sister Liz is really fun,” Says Emily. “It pushes us to both become better players since we play opposite positions. It’s the best feeling in the world when I dig her hit! Although the outcome may not always turn out how we want, at least our parents are always happy!”

Smith (near left), a newcomer to the Miner Volleyball program this fall, will have to face her only sister and best friend Alex Smith, a senior outside hitter for the Panthers of Drury University.

And what does Morgan think about playing against her sister? “I love it! I couldn’t be more excited to play Alex! Especially since she is an outside hitter and I am a defensive specialist. Any ball she swings at, I would love to dig up.”

Let the family bragging rights begin!! GO MINERS!! #dec6
TWO EX-MINERS TO GET MARRIED

Two former Miner Volleyball players will officially be changing their names soon, when they exchange wedding vows with fiancés. Maddie Owak [RS, 2007-2008] and Bridget Williams [L, 2007-2010], will walk down the aisle in their beautiful wedding dresses on October 20th, 2012 and May 25th, 2013 respectively.

Owak, from Tinley Park, Illinois will marry her longtime beau and former S&T Miner Football great Ashton Gronewold in his hometown of Carthage, Ill. "I never thought when I signed my volleyball commitment papers, that I would fall in love with someone down in Rolla, MO," Says Maddie. "I just wanted to play volleyball and have nothing to do with boys!"

Ashton and Maddie met in the Rayl Cafeteria of Missouri S&T, UMR at the time, during the first week of pre-season of Maddie’s freshman year while with the Miner Volleyball team in the fall of 2007. The ceremony will take place in front of the couple’s families, friends, as well as some of her former teammates and coaches.

"From when we first met, it has been a roller coaster dealing with a city girl gone country, and a complete country boy allowing city into his world," Says Maddie. "It will have been 6 years ago that we met in the Rayl, one place I never would have guessed for love. As Ashton says, he works to pay for experiences, so our life are always full of adventures! And what a crazy ride the rest of our lives will be!" The couple will honeymoon in Nashville TN, attending the CMA Awards as well.

Tom and Bridget met in speech class while both attending S&T in 2009, while Tom was a senior and Bridget was a junior. The couple lives in St. Charles, Mo., where there are currently building a house together and their world revolves around their two dogs. Tom currently works for Boeing while Bridget is employed by MasterCard Worldwide.

"Both of our families about very excited about our new home being built and the wedding," says Bridget. “My family has come to help with the wedding plans and see where we will start our lives together, and of course my mom cried when she left.” The couple hope to honeymoon in Italy.

CONGRATULATIONS

ASHTON & MADIE

TOM & BRIDGET!!

FORMER ASSISTANT GIVES BIRTH

This past spring, former student assistant coach Kris Conley [Eng/Mgmt '08/Kansas City, Mo.], who worked with the Miner Volleyball program in their inaugural 2007 season, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.

Lora Ann Ko was born on March 20, 2012 to Kris and Justin Ko in Denver, Colorado where Kris currently lives, working for Bankrate.com. Lora came in at 6lbs 12oz and was 19” long.

"Motherhood is one of the most empowering feelings and at the same time leaves you feeling vulnerable everyday," says Conley. "Nothing can describe that feeling when you see your child finally figure out what you are teaching or the smile they give you when you are having a bad day. When you have a child you feel an indescribable love.”

2012 MINERS BY POSITION

Here is a closer look at the amazing 2012 Miner Volleyball roster by position:

DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS/LIBEROS

Holt has arguably the best & deepest back court in the GLVC this year with four highly talented and strong defensive minded players in seniors Jocelyn DeMotte and Jennifer Kegler, sophomore Emily Jaeger and freshman Morgan Smith DeMotte, who was named first team all-GLVC and second team all-region, returns as the starting libero, with the remaining trio competing to see time as defensive specialists.

SETTERS

First team all-GLVC senior setter Jennifer Costello returns as the only true setter on the 2012 roster after the sudden loss of two setters from last years squad. The Miners are definitely in great ‘hands’ however with Costello who is the all-time assists program history with over 3,000 career assists. The highly talented freshman right side hitter Andrea Roach will train as a great backup option however.

MIDDLE HITTERS

The middle hitter position has four outstanding options for the Miners this fall, starting with the return of second team all-GLVC selection sophomore Jackie Zellmer. She will be competing with three amazing options in senior Kelly Kosmopolis, transfer sophomore Gracey Moon and freshman sensation Krista Haslag. The middle is very strong and deep for the Miners this year.

OUTSIDE HITTERS

With the loss of first team all-GLVC Erin Bekebrede, junior Hayley Wright, sophomore Alison Mueller and freshman Torrie Rupe will all have to step up to score points for the Miners. These great swingers make up the talented trio of outside swinging to start or for time this fall.

RIGHT SIDE HITTERS

Holt is very excited about the right side this fall with a line-up that includes an established returning starter in Julie Meyer, along with an outstanding young talent of sophomore Katie McDonald and the freshman Roach.

These beautiful pictures were all taken by Lori Smith of Milla Jane Photography of Springfield, who also happens to be the mother of freshman defensive specialist Morgan Smith.

THANK YOU LORI & MILLA JANE
FOR THE GORGEOUS PICS! GO MINERS!
MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  | MINER VOLLEYBALL

OPERATION MINER VOLLEYBALL

Missouri S&T Miner Volleyball begins its 6th Annual OPERATION VOLLEYBALL: ‘Support The Miners’ fundraising program for the ’12-’13 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!! #dec6

Support Levels >>>

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MINER VB ’12 SUPPORT FORM (cut out & return)

I would like to Support the 2012 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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Name: _____________________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: _______ Zip: __________

Home Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: ___________________

Email: _____________________________________________________

SS/LS T-Shirt Size (circle): Sm. Med. Lg. X-Lg. 2XLg. 3XLg.

Sweatshirt Size (circle): Sm. Med. Lg. X-Lg. 2XLg. 3XLg.

Method of Payment: Donation Total: __________

Check/Money Order MasterCard
Cash Visa
Discover

Credit Card Number: ______________________ ExpDate: ____ / ____

Signature: __________________________________________________

Please make checks/money orders payable to Missouri S&T Volleyball. Send all donations to: Miner Volleyball Office, 705 W. 10th St., Rolla, Mo. 65401.

MINER VOLLEYBALL OFFICE
G-2 Gale Bullman Multi-Purpose Bldg.
705 W. 10th Street
Rolla, MO 65409-0740