

## ANNE KORDES



In six seasons at Saint Louis, Anne Kordes has led the Billiken volleyball program to unparalleled success, which culminated in the squad being selected “All-Sports Trophy Champion” as the top I-AAA women’s volleyball program in the country by the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association in 2008. Individually, she is a three-time Atlantic 10 Conference Coach of the Year, and in 2008 garnered CVU.com (Collegiate Volleyball Update) National and AVCA Northeast Region Coach of the Year plaudits.

The ninth head volleyball coach in program history, Kordes already ranks among the elite coaches in the game. With a career record of 127-62 (.672), she is 41st on the Division I volleyball winningest active coaches list. Kordes, the only coach in program annals to lead her teams to four straight 20-win seasons, was the 2009 recipient of the Missouri Athletic Club’s Carl O. Bauer Award. The award is presented annually to the top amateur sports figure in the St. Louis area.

One of the hallmarks of Kordes’ teams is that they annually play one of the strongest schedules in the country. SLU finished the 2008 season No. 8 on the NCAA Women’s Volleyball RPI, playing seven teams that finished among the RPI’s top 25. The 2009 campaign was no different as the Billikens finished 27th in the RPI.

The 2009 campaign got off to a rousing start as the Billikens earned an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) preseason ranking (No. 20) for the first time ever. In the season’s opening weekend, a school-record 6,106 fans turned out for SLU’s Active Ankle Challenge finale vs. top-ranked and two-time defending national champion Penn State. Over the next two weeks, the senior-laden Billikens battled four more teams

ranked among the AVCA top 15, collecting a win over No. 10 California. The Billikens earned the highest ranking in program history the following week, coming in at No. 16 on Sept. 7.

SLU rolled through its regular-season conference slate, amassing a 14-1 record to earn a share of the A-10 title. Following a five-set setback at Dayton, the Bills won their next 10 matches to set up a rematch with the Flyers in the A-10 Championship final in Dayton. Despite winning the first two sets, Saint Louis was unable to finish, leaving its NCAA Tournament fate up to chance. However, the Billikens helped their cause by knocking off NCAA Tournament qualifier Middle Tennessee State just days before the selection committee established the tournament field. SLU, which finished 24-8 overall, made its third NCAA Tournament appearance in the last four seasons after being awarded the program's first at-large bid in 2009.

For the second straight season, multiple Billikens earned AVCA All-America plaudits with Bridget Fonke, Sammi McCloud and Whitney Roth achieving honorable mention status. Additionally, Kordes, McCloud and Roth swept A-10 Coach, Player and Setter of the Year laurels, respectively, for the second straight season. Roth, SLU's career assists leader, became the league's first three-time Setter of the Year. Fonke, McCloud and Roth were named to the All-Conference first team, while Megan Boken picked up second-team honors and Whitney Behrens, the Bills' career digs leader, earned honorable mention accolades.

Kordes' 2008 team, which finished 29-5 overall, enjoyed an historic campaign. Early in the season at the Billiken Invitational, SLU upset No. 3 Stanford 3-1 in front of the biggest on-campus volleyball crowd in program history (2,152). The victory put the Bills on the national radar and propelled Sammi McCloud to AVCA National Player of the Week accolades. Saint Louis broke into the Top 25 for the first time in program history on Oct. 20 in the 25th spot. The Bills, who earned votes in every weekly poll, remained in the Top 25 for the rest of the season, finishing at No. 21.

Saint Louis put together a program-best 21-match winning streak that featured a 13-0 finish in the A-10 regular-season race, marking the first time since 1997 that a team had finished the league slate unbeaten. With their second A-10 regular-season title in hand, the Billikens raced through the A-10 Championship to capture their second NCAA Tournament bid in three seasons.

With one NCAA Tournament appearance under its belt in 2006, 13th-seeded Saint Louis drew upon that experience to earn the first NCAA Tournament victory in program history, a 3-0 first-round win over Alabama A&M in Lexington, Ky.

In addition to their team success, Kordes' players have garnered numerous honors. Topping the list of individual plaudits is the selection of four Billikens to the 2008 AVCA All-America teams. Sammi McCloud became the first Billiken to garner a spot on one of the All-America teams when she was tabbed for the third team. Whitney Behrens, Bridget Fonke and Whitney Roth achieved honorable mention status. McCloud also went on to collect Under Armour *Volleyball Magazine* honorable mention laurels as well.

The Bills nearly swept the individual A-10 end-of-the-season awards. Kordes was named Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons, Roth picked up her second straight Setter of the Year accolade and McCloud became the first Billiken

volleyball student-athlete to be selected Player of the Year. SLU had a league-record four players named to the A-10 first team.

In 2007, the Bills fell shy of their goal of a second straight A-10 Championship title after dropping a hard-fought match to Xavier in the semifinals. Sutton Lasater, McCloud and Roth were named to the All-Conference first team, and Fonke was named to the second team. Roth went on to garner A-10 Setter of the Year accolades, while she and Lasater received AVCA All-Region honorable mention nods.

The 2006 campaign featured a number of firsts as Kordes led the Billikens to a share of the A-10 regular-season crown, the program's first A-10 Championship title and SLU's first berth in the NCAA Tournament. Her peers recognized her performance by selecting her as the A-10 Coach of the Year.

Kordes' efforts on the recruiting trail also paid off as freshmen Behrens, McCloud and Roth were named to the league's All-Rookie team with McCloud garnering Rookie of the Year accolades. McCloud, who registered the only triple-double in the league in 2006, also was selected as the AVCA Northeast Region Freshman of the Year.

Meanwhile, seniors Tatyana Menshikova and Angela Powers were named first-team All-Conference. Menshikova received All-Region first-team honors en route to being the second Billiken to achieve AVCA All-America honorable mention plaudits under Kordes.

In Kordes' second year, she coached Menshikova to first-team All-Conference and All-Region honors, and Lauren Christman was selected to the A-10 All-Rookie team. Kordes also assisted Erin McClanahan in earning A-10 All-Academic honors.

In her first season at the helm of the Billiken program in 2004, the Bills finished with 15 wins, placed sixth in the C-USA regular season and reached the quarterfinals of the C-USA Tournament. One of the season's highlights occurred when the Billikens ended Cincinnati's 23-match home winning streak. Kordes also coached the first All-American in program history when Aida Antanaviciute earned AVCA honorable mention laurels.

Kordes began her coaching career in 1999 when Indiana hired her as an assistant coach. However, her stay in Bloomington was short-lived. Before sitting on the bench with the Hoosiers, she had an opportunity to take a recruiting position at the University of Illinois. Kordes then spent the next five seasons with the Fighting Illini, serving as the top assistant from 1999-2003 and coaching two All-Americans. During her five-year stint, the Illini qualified for the NCAA Tournament three times and posted a 90-61 record. In 2003, Kordes helped them to a 26-7 record, the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament and a No. 15 final ranking.

Establishing leadership within the AVCA has also been important to Kordes. She has served as chair of the Northeast Region All-American Committee and is the chair for the newly formed Coaches for Coaches Committee. Kordes was a featured speaker at the 2007 AVCA Convention and will take on that task again in 2010. She has also served on panels at the AVCA Convention the last three years.

Kordes has been visible on the national coaching scene, serving as a coach for USA Volleyball summer programs. In 2010, she was tabbed lead head coach for the U.S. Girls' Select A1 National Team, which competed at the USA Volleyball High Performance Championships in July. She was an assistant coach for the USA Volleyball

Girls' Youth National Team, which competed at the 2007 FIVB Girls' Youth National Championships in Baja California, Mexico.

In 2000, she was the assistant coach for the Youth National Team, and in 2001 she was an assistant for the Junior National Team. Kordes served as an assistant in 2002 and 2003 for the National A2 Collegiate Program. During the summer of 2003, she served as the assistant coach for the High Performance #2 team, the head coach for the High Performance #3 team and the head coach for the Youth National A3 team.

Kordes was the only college coach named as an assistant to the USA Junior National Team in 2004. She had an opportunity to coach some of the nation's best young players and accompanied the squad to an international tournament played in Ankara, Turkey, in late July 2005. Kordes was also tabbed an assistant coach in 2006 and 2009 for the USA Select Team. She helped with the team's training and competition at the USA High Performance Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Kordes' pursuit of coaching was influenced by her father, Ron, who coached at the grade school, high school and club levels in her hometown of Louisville, Ky. He coached his daughter at Assumption High School before she moved on to the University of Cincinnati. Kordes was named the 1994 Great Midwest Conference Newcomer of the Year, set the league record for assists by a sophomore with 1,575 and was named second-team All-Conference USA. After a two-year stint with the Bearcats, she transferred to the University of Louisville.

As a senior, Kordes led Louisville to the C-USA Tournament championship and the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. The Cardinals were ranked as high as No. 21 and finished with a 29-5 slate. She closed her career with 4,874 assists, 886 digs and 128 service aces and was a three-time All-Conference USA selection.

Not only was Kordes a standout athlete, but she also excelled in the classroom. She was a member of the Louisville Athletic Director's Honor Roll every semester and was a Red and Black Scholar-Athlete. Kordes was twice selected to the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Kordes received her bachelor's degree in athletic administration from the University of Louisville in 1998, and she earned a master's degree in athletic administration from Louisville in 2001.