



2006 Volleyball Review

In the athletic world, success often comes with developing a healthy self-concept. If individuals and the teams that they serve are not satisfied with their achievements, they must make a commitment to change, evaluate how they have developed to this point, set realistic goals and create a supportive environment for change. Two short seasons ago, the East Carolina volleyball program did not seem to have this self-concept. It was not for lack of effort on anyone's part. However, things just did not seem to be clicking. Enter Chris Rushing.

The 2005 season saw ECU post a record of 20-11, the best mark for the Pirates since 1982. The squad also finished 2005 with a C-USA record of 9-6 that was good enough for fifth place, the squad's highest all time finish in the conference. The Pirates also picked up their first-ever C-USA Tournament win, a 3-0 victory over Southern Miss. Additionally, ECU began to earn at least a modicum of respect from the league's coaches as Pam Ferris (first team), Heidi Krug (third team) and Erica Wilson (third team) garnered all-conference honors, a first in program history.

Considering the accomplishments of 2005 and the strong desire for improvement by the coaching staff and players, one would assume that things would only improve for the Pirates in 2006. The season started out less than ideal. However, by October, ECU proved that it belonged in the upper echelon of Conference USA. The Pirates ended the season with a 19-11 record and a 10-6 mark in conference play. It marked not only the first consecutive winning seasons since 1977-1978 but also the most wins in Conference USA history for ECU, eclipsing the nine wins of the 2005 squad.

The season started out with the Pirates hosting the East Carolina Invitational. ECU, hoping to start the campaign with three straight wins, welcomed William and Mary, Furman and Virginia Tech to Greenville. The Pirates took the season and tournament opener over William and Mary 3-1 but fell to Furman and Virginia Tech 3-1 on the final day of tournament play.

The next weekend, the Pirates traveled to Charlottesville to participate in the UVA tournament. There, ECU took on Wright State, Georgetown and host Virginia. After a hard fought 3-2 victory over Wright State and a 3-1 triumph over Georgetown, the Pirates fell to Virginia 3-1 in a hotly contested championship match.

After a midweek 3-0 domination of UNC Wilmington in Greenville, ECU made the short

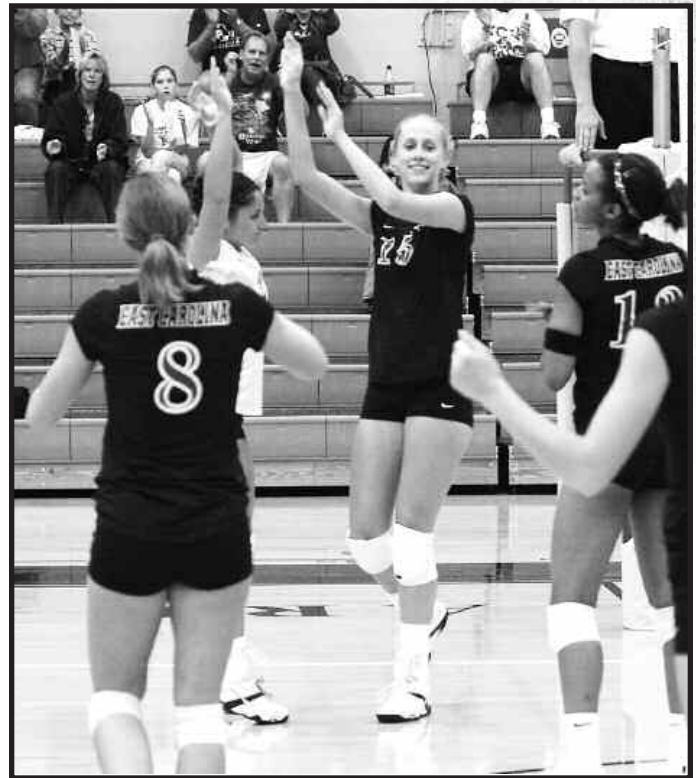
trip to Charlotte and Halton Arena for the Charlotte Invitational. The Pirates struggled, dropping a 3-0 decision to North Florida and a 3-1 contest to rival Charlotte in the first two matches. ECU did however pick up a 3-0 win over Penn to close out its time in the Queen City.

A few days later, Campbell traveled to Greenville only to get swept by the Pirates. ECU hoped that the win would build momentum going into an important weekend that would see the Pirates host the East Carolina Classic. This tournament not only served as a tune-up for the impending C-USA schedule, but also ECU's first conference match against Marshall. The Pirates fell to Marshall 3-1 in a thrilling match to begin tournament and conference play but bounced back to post consecutive sweeps over Wisconsin Green-Bay and Grambling State.

The following Tuesday, ECU hosted North Carolina A&T in its last non-conference match before starting the bulk of its C-USA schedule. The Pirates disposed of the Aggies 3-0 to bring their record to 9-6 overall and 0-1 in conference play.

ECU's conference record fell to 1-4 in its first five matches, as the squad suffered sweeps at the hands of Tulane, UTEP and Tulsa while earning a 3-1 victory over SMU in Dallas. At this stage of the season, the team had two options. It could either give up on the season, blaming their failure on bad luck, or it could put the past behind it and move forward, knowing that there were 11 more conference games yet to play. Rushing and Rackham would not let the first option even be an option.

The Pirates blazed through the rest of October and did not suffer another conference loss until the beginning of November. During this time, ECU completed season sweeps of division rivals UCF and Southern Miss while also picking



Pirates celebrate a Melissa Zentner kill.

up its first ever win over Houston. When all was said and done, the Pirates had rattled off eight straight conference wins, a school record.

The regular season ended with ECU losing two out of three matches but the Pirates had high hopes for the Conference USA Tournament, earning the six seed as the sixth-place finisher in the conference standings. ECU met the 11th seed UTEP Miners in the first round, a team that had swept the Pirates earlier in the season in Greenville. With a win, ECU would move on to face the third seed Memphis, whom the Pirates had swept in two matches during the regular season. However, ECU would not get the chance to play the Tigers for a third time as it dropped a heart-breaking 3-2 contest to the Miners, a match which the Pirates led two games to one.

Yes, the season came to an abrupt and unexpected halt for ECU. However, teams do not often learn from success but from mistakes and failure. Some of the lessons learned from the past season will undoubtedly prove useful come this August, as the program looks to build on its new and successful tradition. East Carolina volleyball is only beginning to make its mark.



2006 Match-by-Match Results

	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
Overall Record	19-12	12-4	4-6	3-2
Conference	10-6	6-2	4-4	0-0
Non-Conference	9-6	6-2	0-2	3-2

Date	Opponent	Result	Score-By-Game	Overall
Aug. 25	^WILLIAM & MARY	W, 3-1	30-25, 30-17, 25-30, 30-21	1-0
Aug. 26	^FURMAN	L, 1-3	17-30, 22-30, 30-23, 21-30	1-1
Aug. 26	^VIRGINIA TECH	L, 1-3	30-27, 24-30, 26-30, 27-30	1-2
Sept. 1	#vs. Wright State	W, 3-2	24-30, 27-30, 30-23, 30-24, 17-15	2-2
Sept. 2	#vs. Georgetown	W, 3-1	22-30, 30-22, 30-27, 30-20	3-2
Sept. 2	#at Virginia	L, 1-3	19-30, 30-27, 22-30, 24-30	3-3
Sept. 6	UNC WILMINGTON	W, 3-0	30-14, 30-25, 30-18	4-3
Sept. 8	\$vs. North Florida	L, 0-3	22-30, 24-30, 25-30	4-4
Sept. 9	\$at Charlotte	L, 1-3	29-31, 30-24, 14-30, 24-30	4-5
Sept. 9	\$vs. Penn	W, 3-0	30-22, 30-22, 30-21	5-5
Sept. 12	CAMPBELL	W, 3-0	30-19, 30-24, 30-23	6-5
Sept. 14	%* MARSHALL	L, 1-3	28-30, 26-30, 30-23, 26-30	6-6
Sept. 15	% UW GREEN BAY	W, 3-0	30-23, 30-21, 30-23	7-6
Sept. 15	% GRAMBLING STATE	W, 3-0	30-18, 30-16, 30-27	8-6
Sept. 19	NORTH CAROLINA A&T	W, 3-0	30-19, 30-24, 30-26	9-6
Sept. 22	*at Tulane	L, 0-3	23-30, 20-30, 25-30	9-7
Sept. 24	*UTEP	L, 0-3	30-32, 23-30, 28-30	9-8
Sept. 29	*at SMU	W, 3-1	30-24, 29-31, 30-27, 30-17	10-8
Oct. 1	*at Tulsa	L, 0-3	26-30, 23-30, 12-30	10-9
Oct. 6	*UAB	W, 3-1	33-31, 27-30, 30-27, 30-21	11-9
Oct. 8	*MEMPHIS	W, 3-1	30-28, 20-30, 30-28, 30-23	12-9
Oct. 13	*at Southern Miss	W, 3-2	30-28, 30-22, 27-30, 28-30, 15-7	13-9
Oct. 15	*at UCF	W, 3-0	30-26, 30-22, 32-30	14-9
Oct. 20	*RICE	W, 3-2	24-30, 30-17, 30-20, 18-30, 15-12	15-9
Oct. 22	*HOUSTON	W, 3-1	30-22, 20-30, 30-21, 30-27	16-9
Oct. 27	*SOUTHERN MISS	W, 3-0	30-26, 30-27, 30-16	17-9
Oct. 29	*UCF	W, 3-0	30-25, 30-12, 30-21	18-9
Nov. 3	*at UAB	L, 1-3	30-28, 20-30, 27-30, 22-30	18-10
Nov. 5	*at Memphis	W, 3-1	30-23, 30-17, 24-30, 30-25	19-10
Nov. 11	*at Marshall	L, 0-3	18-30, 31-33, 26-30	19-11
Nov. 16	&vs. UTEP	L, 2-3	31-33, 30-21, 30-26, 26-30, 8-15	19-12

^ East Carolina Invitational (Greenville, N.C.); # Jefferson Cup (Charlottesville, Va.); \$UNC Charlotte Invitational (Charlotte, N.C.)

% East Carolina Classic (Greenville, N.C.); * Conference USA Matches; & Conference USA Tournament (Houston, Texas)

MATCH HIGHS

INDIVIDUAL

Kills:	24, Kelley Wernert two times, last at Memphis (11/5/06)
Attempts:	68, Kelley Wernert vs. UTEP (11/16/06)
Percentage:	.727, Heidi Krug vs. Virginia Tech (8/26/06)
Points:	28.5, Kelley Wernert at Memphis (11/5/06)
Assists:	71, Heidi Krug at Southern Miss (10/5/06)
Aces:	3, Trish Monroe at Memphis (11/5/06)
Digs:	29, Trish Monroe vs. UTEP (11/16/06)
Blocks:	12, Jaime Bevan vs. UTEP (11/16/06)

TEAM

Kills:	86 vs. Wright State (9/1/06)
Attempts:	222 vs. UTEP (11/16/06)
Percentage:	.373 vs. Campbell (9/12/06)
Assists:	81 vs. Wright State (9/1/06)
Aces:	9, four times, last vs. UCF (10/29/06)
Digs:	110 vs. UTEP (11/16/06)
Team Blocks:	19.0 vs. UTEP (11/16/06)



2006 Overall Statistics

Record: 19-12

No.	Name	ATTACK					Pct.	SET			SERVE			DIG		BLOCKING					
		G	K	K/G	E	TA		A	A/G	SA	SE	SA/G	RE	DIG	D/G	BS	BA	Total	B/G	BE	BHE
4	WERNERT, Kelley	113	496	4.39	208	1229	.234	9	0.08	31	58	0.27	67	264	2.34	15	37	52	0.46	4	0
13	DUBENION, Mignon	114	383	3.36	87	812	.365	8	0.07	2	9	0.02	3	61	0.54	17	105	122	1.07	7	3
1	BEVAN, Jaime	112	242	2.16	74	570	.295	12	0.11	32	32	0.34	1	74	0.66	18	115	133	1.19	1	2
3	TURNER, Stephanie	112	221	1.97	109	555	.202	40	0.36	18	45	0.16	19	275	2.46	5	79	84	0.75	6	5
15	ZENTNER, Melissa	69	120	1.74	57	337	.187	3	0.04	0	0	0.00	1	24	0.35	7	18	25	0.36	6	0
8	KRUG, Heidi	109	110	1.01	23	248	.351	1369	12.56	30	30	0.28	4	263	2.41	3	56	59	0.54	4	19
11	JEFFERSON, Kim	41	64	1.56	42	194	.113	0	0.00	0	1	0.00	0	16	0.39	4	18	22	0.54	3	1
10	THOMPSON, Peyton	33	33	1.00	17	95	.168	2	0.06	3	4	0.09	1	20	0.61	1	7	8	0.24	0	0
7	FENKER, Hannah	114	27	0.24	20	125	.056	100	0.88	34	26	0.30	30	241	2.11	0	11	11	0.10	0	1
9	PRAST, Katie	38	13	0.34	8	57	.088	1	0.03	1	2	0.03	9	22	0.58	0	2	2	0.05	0	0
2	MONROE, Trish	112	5	0.04	0	13	.385	22	0.20	15	3	0.13	50	422	3.77	0	1	1	0.01	0	0
6	PATON, Holly	18	3	0.17	2	7	.143	1	0.06	2	4	0.11	1	9	0.50	0	0	0	0.00	0	1
14	DALY, Caitlin	14	1	0.07	0	1	1.000	0	0.00	0	3	0.00	1	4	0.29	0	0	0	0.00	0	0
TEAM																					
EAST CAROLINA		114	1718	15.07	647	4244	.252	1567	13.75	174	217	1.53	198	1697	14.89	70	449	294.5	2.58	31	32
OPPONENTS		114	1758	15.42	781	4628	.211	1599	14.03	199	275	1.75	173	1582	13.88	52	303	203.5	1.79	31	48

2006 Team Statistics

ATTACK

	ECU	OPP
Kills	1718	1758
Errors	647	781
Total Attacks	4244	4628
Attack Percentage	.252	.211
Kills/Game	15.07	15.42

SET

	ECU	OPP
Assists	1626	1568
Assists/Game	14.4	13.9

SERVE

	ECU	OPP
Aces	167	178
Errors	233	260
Aces/Game	1.5	1.6

SERVE RECEPTIONS

	ECU	OPP
Errors	178	167
Errors/Game	1.6	1.5

DEFENSE

	ECU	OPP
Digs	1810	1659
Digs/Game	16.0	14.7

BLOCKING

	ECU	OPP
Block Solo	58	61
Block Assist	332	361
Total Blocks	224.0	241.5
Blocks Per Game	2.0	2.1
Block Errors	29	52
Ball Handling Errors	27	36



Kelley Wernert

PER GAME AVERAGES

KILLS

Kelley Wernert	4.39
Mignon Dubenion	3.36
Stephanie Turner	1.97
Melissa Zentner	1.74
Peyton Thompson	1.00
Katie Prast	0.34

DIGS

Trish Monroe	3.77
Stephanie Turner	2.46
Kelley Wernert	2.34
Hannah Fenker	2.11
Peyton Thompson	0.61
Katie Prast	0.58

BLOCKS

Mignon Dubenion	1.07
Stephanie Turner	0.75
Kelley Wernert	0.46
Melissa Zentner	0.36
Peyton Thompson	0.24
Hannah Fenker	0.10

SERVICE ACES

Hannah Fenker	0.30
Kelley Wernert	0.27
Stephanie Turner	0.16
Peyton Thompson	0.09
Katie Prast	0.03
Mignon Dubenion	0.02