

COACHING STAFF



HEAD COACH NANCY MUELLER Fifth Season • Tennessee (1993)

Following a season of unexpected injuries, UIC head volleyball coach Nancy Mueller is anticipating her most successful campaign in 2008 with a healthy roster heading into opening day.

Taking over the reigns in 2004, Mueller knew that there was plenty of room for improvement, when the rookie skipper took over the Flames' program.

"Hard work is the backbone of any great program," Mueller said. "If you have hard work and discipline, success is imminent."

Mueller immediately instilled her gritty work ethic upon her team, and the Flames responded in kind, improving from a seventh-place league mark in 2003 to two fourth-place finishes in 2004 and 2005 and a program-best second-place standing in 2006.

The Flames earned their second trip to the conference tournament championship match in program history in 2006 where they eventually fell to top-seeded Milwaukee.

Four seniors and an experienced group of upper-classman were the backbone to UIC's success in 2006. Starters included All-Horizon League recipients Ambria Springer and Katarina Nedeljkovic, plus Horizon League All-Tournament Team selection Katie Kozak. After an impressive season on the court, all three players now hold career, single-season or single-match records in the UIC records book.

At the conclusion of the season, Kozak owned first place with 4,640 career assists and second place in the single-season records with 1,476 assists. Springer holds first place with 160 blocks in 2006 and first place with 312 career blocks. Nedeljkovic currently owns spots in the top ten in career kills and career service aces, as well as a single-match record of eight service aces in one contest.

In 2006, transfer Amanda Kenny and newcomers Katerina Hanackova and Lana Lobdell each stepped up to the challenge their rookie season to help guide the Flames to the title match.

Kenny was acknowledged for her talent in 2006 with Horizon League All-Newcomer team honors. Kenny ranked third on the team with 356 kills and 377 digs. In 64 games, Hanackova tallied 129 kills, 144 digs and 56 total blocks, while Lobdell ranked second on the team with 73 blocks and third with a .231 attack percentage.

Making a positive impact for the Flames in 2005 were stellar performances from junior Katie Kozak, All-Horizon League team recipients Ambria Springer and Nedeljkovic, as well as junior transfer Maura McCarthy.

Kozak dished out a team and career-high 1,467 assists on the campaign, helping the Oak Forest, Ill., native secure a fourth-place spot in the UIC career records book, while Nedeljkovic garnered a team-high 531 kills and 48 service aces.

Leading the Flames with 113 total blocks, Springer racked up 395 kills, while leading UIC with a .272 attack percentage.

Mueller came to UIC after five standout seasons as the head coach at the University of South Florida, where she owned a record of 106-60 (.639) and was twice named Conference USA and AVCA/Tachikara Regional Coach of the Year.

During her tenure at USF, Mueller led the Bulls to a

pair of NCAA Tournament appearances (2000, 2002), two C-USA regular-season championships (2000, 2002) and a conference tournament title (2002). The 2002 campaign was Mueller's most impressive, guiding South Florida to a 30-7 record and the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Her record of developing individual talent at USF was just as impressive as her team results. In Mueller's five years, she coached three players to all-conference and all-region accolades while helping produce the program's first-ever All-American, Michelle Collier.

Prior to taking the head coaching position at South Florida, Mueller served for four years as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Houston under Bill Walton. The Cougars made four straight trips to the NCAA Tournament (1995-98) under her tutelage.

Mueller began her collegiate coaching career at Iowa State, serving as an assistant coach from 1993-95. She was a student assistant at the University of Tennessee during the spring of 1993.

Mueller graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Exercise Physiology. She was a four-year letter-winner on the Volunteer volleyball team as a defensive specialist and setter from 1988-92.



MUELLER'S HEAD COACHING RECORD

Year	Record	Accomplishments
South Florida		
1999	15-18	
2000	28-6	NCAA Tournament First Round, C-USA Regular-Season Champions, C-USA and AVCA Regional Coach of the Year
2001	21-9	No. 5 Ranking NCAA Midwest Region
2002	30-7	NCAA Tournament Second Round, C-USA Regular-Season and Tournament Champions, C-USA and AVCA Regional Coach of the Year
2003 UIC		
2004	10-21	
2005	12-19	
2006	17-17	Finished 2nd in the Horizon League and appeared in conference tournament title match for first time since 1989 (North Star Conference)
2007	15-16	
Totals	160-133	





ASSISTANT COACH
KATIE SCHUMACHER-CAWLEY
 Sixth Season • Penn State (2002)

Former NCAA All-American Katie Schumacher-Cawley enters her sixth season on the coaching staff for the UIC volleyball team and her fifth year as top assistant coach for the Flames.

"Katie has really become a phenomenal mentor to these young women," said head coach Nancy Mueller. "They look to her for guidance in the classroom, on the court, and in life. She has really matured as a coach and as a recruiter, which will help guide this program into the national spotlight. I believe Katie is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after assistants in the country because of what she can bring to any program."

Being an offensive weapon during her collegiate career, it comes as no surprise that Mueller utilizes the former Penn State standout in much of the same capacity as a coach at UIC. Schumacher-Cawley's primary on-court responsibilities include, but are not limited to, training the outside hitters and liberos.

Along with her on-court responsibilities, Schumacher-Cawley also serves as the recruiting coordinator, travel coordinator, and academic liaison to the players. Schumacher-Cawley has proven to be an outstanding role model for the team, and serves as a player counselor when necessary.

A 2002 graduate of Penn State, Schumacher-Cawley helped lead the Nittany Lions to the NCAA Division I Championship in 1999 and three Big Ten Conference championships during her career.

Schumacher-Cawley was a three-time All-Big Ten selection, two-time All American and an AVCA All-Region selection in 2001. Schumacher-Cawley tallied 1,310 kills (10th in Penn State history), 299 blocks (eighth in Penn State history) and 772 digs.

Schumacher-Cawley, a Chicago, Ill., native and a 1997 graduate of perennial powerhouse Mother McAuley, first got a taste of the collegiate coaching life in 2002 as she served as a volunteer coach for the University of Illinois.

She had spent her entire collegiate career at Penn State serving as a coach for the Nittany Lions' summer camps in both volleyball and basketball.

Schumacher-Cawley was married to Mike Cawley of Pittsburgh, Pa. on May 26, 2007.



ASSISTANT COACH
SARA HUGHES
 First Season • Valparaiso (2008)

Former Valparaiso standout Sara Hughes enters her first season on the coaching staff for the UIC volleyball team.

"Sara's success both on and off the court make her the right fit for this program," said head volleyball coach Nancy Mueller. "She will be a great role model for this team because she is positive and has a competitive drive that will enhance this program."

Hughes' primary on-court responsibilities include setter training and scouting opponents. In addition to equipment duties, Hughes will also serve as the alumni relations and special events coordinator.

A 2008 graduate of Valparaiso, Hughes helped guide the Crusaders to NCAA Division I Championship appearances in 2004 and 2005. Hughes was a 2008 Academic All-Horizon League recipient and guide the team to the league title match.

She was a four-time AVCA Academic Team Award selection and a 2008 Valparaiso University Athletic Department Rebecca D. Carter Sportsmanship Award winner. Hughes was named Horizon League Scholar Athlete of the Week on Sept. 25, 2008. She concluded her career at Valpo with 2,582 career assists, ranking sixth school history.

Hughes, a Perrysburg, Ohio native, spent the last two years as the Cherterton Volleyball Club coach in Indiana. She also helped coach and run Midwest Volleyball Camps throughout her collegiate career.



COACHING/SUPPORT STAFF



VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACH **TIM WALENGA**

First Season • Illinois State (1995)

Tim Walenga brings over a decade of experience to the UIC volleyball program in his first year as the volunteer assistant coach.

“Tim has been in the college ranks for a long time, and his knowledge and experience are definitely going to be a positive influence on both the staff and players,” said head coach

Nancy Mueller. “His reassuring, calm nature will be an added bonus for our staff and we are really looking forward to him getting in the gym to help us out.”

Walenga’s responsibilities include team defense and serving, while he will also assist in the scouting of opponents.

Prior to UIC, Walenga served as the head volleyball coach for Division III Dominican University in River Forest, Ill. from 2006-08. Under his tutelage, Dominican broke 30 school records and recorded its highest winning percentage since 2004.

A 1995 graduate of Illinois State, Walenga helped guide the USA Volleyball Club Team to four USAV National Championship appearances. He also led the Illinois State men’s club volleyball team to a nationally-ranked finish during his collegiate career.

Walenga received his master of arts in Athletic Administration from Minnesota State University-Mankato in 2001.

AMELIA **HOLLENBURG**

Volleyball Trainer

Amelia Hollenberg enters her first season as the athletic trainer for the UIC volleyball team.

Prior to UIC, Hollenberg spent three years as a student trainer for the University of Tennessee-Martin, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Health and Human Performance.

Emphasizing her studies in athletic training, Hollenberg served as the trainer for football, women’s soccer and volleyball at UTM.

Hollenberg was an inactive member of the U.S. Army from 2001-2005. She then served in the National Guard the following two years. Hollenberg is an ATC-certified trainer and is a member of the National Athletic Training Association (NATA).



ANN **CROSBY**

Head Strength and Conditioning Coach

Ann Crosby enters her third season as the head strength and conditioning coach for UIC. Crosby oversees and implements strength and conditioning programs for all 18 UIC athletic teams. In her position, Crosby becomes one of just a handful of female head strength and conditioning coaches in collegiate athletics.

Crosby came to UIC after nearly six years as an independent strength and conditioning consultant for numerous professional athletes, including 2003 Women’s World Cup and 2003 FIFA Player of the Year Birgit Prinz, softball player Tara Knudsen and the entire Scottish Women’s National Lacrosse Team.

At the collegiate level, Crosby has served as a strength and conditioning coach for Georgia Tech (2003-2004) and Northwestern (1998-2001). At Northwestern, Crosby designed and implemented programs for varsity sports while assisting the football, men’s basketball, wrestling and men’s coach strength coaches.

Crosby also served as the head of athlete performance for the Carolina Courage of the Women’s United Soccer Association from 2001-2003, becoming the first full-time strength and conditioning coach in the WUSA.

From 2004 through 2005, Crosby served as the director of women’s sports for Velocity Sports Performance in Baltimore, Md. There she implemented speed, strength and conditioning programs for ages 12-adult.

Crosby earned her bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science with an emphasis in Biomedical Science from Western Michigan University in 1998. She is a certified strength and conditioning specialist with the National Strength and Conditioning Association and earned certification and membership with the American Red Cross, USA Track and Field, USA Weightlifting, the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Academy of Sports Medicine.