



## University of Saint Mary Names New Head Coach for Lady Spires Volleyball Team

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary has picked **Sarah Johnson**, a past assistant coach with the university's volleyball program, to head up the Lady Spires Volleyball Team.

Johnson is an Atchison, Kan., native and Leavenworth resident. She's a Pittsburg State grad and earned her Master of Arts in Education from the University of Saint Mary in 2010. Johnson was a record-setting volleyball setter during her college days, has coached club volleyball in the Kansas City area, and was an assistant coach at USM for the 2008 and 2009 volleyball seasons.

"I'm very excited about being back on the campus and court at the University of Saint Mary and about the opportunity to be working with a great group of players...

"I want to serve as a positive role model for our student-athletes, and help them succeed both on and off the court," she said. "I want to build a winning program, and, at the end of the day, I want my players to graduate with the tools, the confidence, and the value system they need to be successful."

Johnson was most recently working in fundraising with metro area schools for the American Heart Association.

USM Athletic Director **Rob Miller** called Johnson a perfect fit for the university.

"She's very enthusiastic about being our volleyball coach," Miller said. "In her time here, we appreciated her enthusiasm, her passion for the sport, her desire to teach, and her work ethic."

Miller said Johnson's top priority will be "to recruit quality, high-character kids for the program."

"Sarah's education, volleyball background and professional experience make her the ideal candidate for Saint Mary," added Ibraheem Suberu, Johnson's coach at Pitt State. "As a collegiate stand-out at Pittsburg State, she captained our team to success on and off the court. She is always dedicated to improving everyone around her. Coach Johnson will be a great ambassador for Saint Mary and will mentor each and every player on the volleyball team to achieve higher goals."

Saint Mary has 12 varsity sports programs—football, volleyball, baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and track & field—along with co-ed cheerleading and dance. Visit [www.gospires.com](http://www.gospires.com) to learn more about USM athletics.

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*



Sarah Johnson