

# COACHING STAFF



**Kellie Ryan**  
Head Coach

*Seattle Pacific Player, 1988-91*

*All-Conference, 1991*

*SPU Assistant Coach, 1994-95*

When Kellie Ryan was named head coach of the Falcons, Seattle Pacific University volleyball had truly come full circle. Ryan, an accomplished player and later assistant coach at both SPU and Syracuse University, is only the second coach in the program's 17-year existence and in her first two seasons she guided the team to uncharted territory.

In the 2000 season, Ryan's first as a collegiate head coach, she took the Falcons to a division title, a winning streak of 20 consecutive matches and their first-ever NCAA playoff berth. The team equalled the school record for victories, going 24-6, and won 17 of 18 conference matches en route to finishing second in the Pacific West. A year later, in 2001, they overcame injuries to go 20-8 and make the NCAA playoffs once again.

Returning to her alma mater and succeeding her own mentor was a dream-come-true, according to Ryan. She succeeded JoAnn Atwell-Scrivner, who started the team from scratch in 1986. Ryan became the fourth Seattle Pacific alum to have taken the reins of a team of which she was a previous member. Laurel Tindall has molded the gymnastics squad into a perennial national contender. More recently, Keith Jefferson has lifted crew to greater success, Jack Hoyt assumed leadership of a storied track & field team and Ken Bone brought the Falcons back into national prominence in men's basketball.

Ryan, the school's first full-time head coach, inherited a program which had gone 47-13 in its previous two seasons, and used that success as a springboard for even greater achievement. "I plan to build off what previous teams accomplished," said Ryan. "Because of the recent support that the program has received from the university, the program has a lot of the tools we need to climb to the next level."

Ryan's initial goals were to win the division and make the NCAA tournament by the second year. With the Falcons reaching those mileposts ahead of schedule, the aim now is to win the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and advance further into the regional. Her first recruiting classes rate among the strongest in the program's existence. She has also been creative in raising additional funds for operations and scholarships and developed a newsletter for reconnecting with her fellow alumni.

"Having played for and graduated from SPU, I want to give back to a program that has given me so much," she says. "It's important for me that Seattle Pacific succeeds."

Ryan first distinguished herself as an all-conference setter, from 1988-91. She remains the SPU record-holder for career service aces (142) and single-match assists (83), and was a member of the squad which set a season record for victories (26) in 1989. Ryan ranks No. 2 in season assists (1253) and season aces (54), and No. 4 in career assists (2659). She also lettered one season in tennis, playing No. 1 singles. Ryan, a 1988 graduate of Auburn (Wa.) High School, graduated from SPU in 1992 with a degree in business. She obtained her master's in education from Syracuse in 1998.



Ryan guided the Falcons to their first NCAA tournament appearances in her first two seasons

## COACHING STAFF

She first returned to the team as Atwell-Scrivner's top assistant coach from 1994-95. An opportunity to both coach and work toward her master's degree in higher education took her to upstate New York. Ryan was a member of Jing Pu's staff in 1996 and later she provided color commentary on the Orangewomen's matches for local TV.

At Syracuse, Ryan coached the Salt City Volleyball Club, a select high school-age team in Syracuse, and was an admissions advisor for the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry.

"This is my ultimate dream, returning home and coaching competitive volleyball," said Ryan. "An opportunity such as this comes but once in a lifetime. This a tremendous challenge, but the challenge is matched by my desire, enthusiasm and personal interest in the program."

"Having played under JoAnn and coached alongside her, I hope to stand as a representative of the quality student-athletes whom she helped mold. I know this: I've inherited a very strong program with a great foundation for even further success."



**Antonela Secer**  
Assistant Coach

Antonela Secer is back for her third season on the Seattle Pacific staff and is Kellie Ryan's top assistant. Secer brings international experience to the bench, having been a former first division player for Kastela and Viadukt of Zagreb in Croatia. Secer majored in volleyball coaching and kinesitherapy before graduating from the Institute of Sport Kinesiology.

A native of Split, Croatia, Secer coached the Viadukt youth team for four seasons, then moved to clubs Azena and Mladost for two years. She also has taught physical education in elementary schools and currently is an assistant coach for the Kent Juniors volleyball club.



**Jim Woolace**  
Assistant Coach

Jim Woolace returns for his third season on Ryan's staff in 2003. Previously, Woolace was the head coach of Lighthouse Christian High School in Fairbanks, Alaska, from 1993-94, and later an assistant at Lathrop High from 1997-99.

Woolace grew up in Mountain Home, Idaho, and attended Liberty University, graduating in 1992 with a degree in journalism. He is a graphic artist for the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* and resides in Kirkland.