

Facilities

The women's volleyball team plays home competitions in Blake Arena, on the main level of the three-level domed Physical Education Complex. The floor is covered by Connor Neo-Shock maple wood that allows for a variety of activities such as athletic contests, classes, lectures, and shows. Roll-out bleachers accommodate more than 2,000 spectators. With the bleachers closed, it has room for two regulation-size basketball courts. Blake Arena has served as the host site of the 2006 and 2007 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship (Final Four). Numerous regional and national tournaments have taken place in Blake as it also serves as the home facility to women's volleyball, wrestling, and men's and women's basketball.

2007 Season Review

With just two players returning from the 2006 squad that went 27-8, it appeared as though head coach Joel Dearing would have his hands full in 2007. However, a youthful team quickly responded and rattled off a 23-10 record, reaching the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference tournament semifinals. For Dearing's squad, it was the 16th straight time that the Pride had reached the 20-win plateau.

Leading the way for the Pride was AVCA Division III New England All-Region Honorable Mention selection **Aylene Ilkson**. Ilkson led the team in kills with 398 and digs with 573.

The Pride also was paced by the NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, **Bethany Stosz**. A local product from Amherst, Mass., Stosz was sensational as she set a new single season school record in block assists with 97. She led the conference in blocks and finished third on the team in kills with 316.

Directing the offense was freshman **Kelsea Hellyar**, who stepped in during her freshman year and handed out just over 11.5 assists per game. **Heidi Yohe** provided stability at the opposite hitter for Dearing as one of the team's most consistent players and finished second on the team with 345 kills. Also providing a spark in her first year at Springfield was middle **Sarah Lang-Rodean** and her 198 kills.

The platoon of **Jessica Baldwin**, **Aidan Tousey**, and **Jennifer Grimaldi** anchored Springfield's defense this season. The trio combined for 744 digs and took advantage at the service line, combining for 149 aces.

With the Pride only losing a pair of seniors in **Lindsay Marone** and **Alyssa Muething**, next season looks bright and promising for Dearing's squad.



junior
Jennifer Grimaldi



SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Women's Volleyball 2007

FAST FACTS:

- ▼ The Pride is one of the most competitive women's volleyball teams in the nation, posting 35-straight winning seasons.
- ▼ Head coach **Joel Dearing**, regarded as one of the sport's best coaches, has a .740 winning percentage in his 19 years at Springfield College.
- ▼ Coach Dearing has led the Pride to nine post-season tournaments, including seven NCAA Tournaments, three berths in the national quarterfinals, and six conference titles.
- ▼ Affiliations: National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III, Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)
- ▼ Conference: New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC)
- ▼ Home Court: Blake Arena

All-Time Results (1971-2007)

Year	Record	Highlights	Year	Record	Highlights
1971	5-5-0		1993	32-3-0	NCAA Division II Tournament, Northeast-10 Champion
1972	12-0-0	EIAIW Champion	1994	31-4-0	NCAA Division II Tournament, Northeast-10 Champion
1973	11-1-0		1995	30-7-0	NCAA Division III Tournament Quarterfinalist
1974	9-0-0		1996	28-10-0	NCAA Division III Tournament Quarterfinalist
1975	7-2-0		1997	23-13-0	NCAA Division III Tournament
1976	16-8-4	MAIAW Champion	1998	22-14-0	ECAC Tournament
1977	17-12-0		1999	28-9-0	ECAC Tournament
1978	28-5-0		2000	26-13-0	ECAC Tournament
1979	29-8-0		2001	31-7-0	NEWMAC Regular-Season Champion, ECAC Tournament
1980	21-12-0		2002	23-11-0	11th-consecutive 20-plus win season
1981	36-13-2	Northeast-8 Champion	2003	34-3	NEWMAC Champion, NCAA Division III Regional Final
1982	37-7-0	Northeast-8 Champion	2004	26-8	NEWMAC Champion, NCAA Division III Regional Final
1983	36-10-0	Northeast-8 Champion	2005	26-8	14th consecutive 20+ win season
1984	19-17-0	Northeast-8 Champion	2006	27-8	NEWMAC Finalist
1985	23-13-0		2007	23-10	NEWMAC Semifinalist
1986	23-10-0				
1987	18-9-0	Northeast-10 Champion			
1988	21-15-0				
1989	22-16-0	Coach Dearing's First Season			
1990	25-12-0	Northeast-10 Champion			
1991	19-16-0				
1992	29-7-0	ECAC Division II Tournament Champion			

Totals 873-326-6 (.727 winning percentage)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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outside hitter
Aylene Ilkson,
AVCA All-New England
Region



Head Coach Joel Dearing

▼ Education

Springfield College '79
Bridgewater State College '82
USAV Level III accredited coach

▼ The "Dearing Era" at Springfield College

- Seven NCAA Tournament appearances ('93-'97, '03-'04)
- Five ECAC appearances ('92, '98-'01)
- Three NE-10 Championships
- Two NCAA Division III Northeast Regional Championships ('95 and '96)
- Two NEWMAC Championships
- One ECAC Championship ('92)

▼ Honors and Accomplishments

- AVCA Division III New England Region Coach of the Year ('96, '03)
- AVCA Division II Northeast Region Coach of the Year ('94)
- NEWMAC Coach of the Year ('96, '03)
- NE-10 Coach of the Year ('90, '93, '94)
- Trailblazer Award (2006) awarded by USA Volleyball, AVCA, and Molten USA for his role in establishing the Men's Invitational Volleyball Championship.
- Distinguished Springfield Professor of Humanics, 1997-98
- Member of the Volleyball Hall of Fame board of directors

Joel Dearing will enter his 20th season as head women's volleyball coach and associate professor of physical education at his alma mater in the fall of 2008. Dearing is regarded nationally as one of the sport's best coaches. During his tenure at Springfield College, Dearing's record sits at 505-179, a winning percentage of .738, and he ranks in the top-10 in Division III history with a 638-293 (.685) overall mark in 26 seasons as a women's volleyball coach. The Pride has enjoyed 35-straight winning seasons, including 16 straight with at least 20 wins under Coach Dearing.

Championships and post-season competition are hallmarks of the "Dearing Era." Last season (2007) the Pride posted an impressive 23-10 record, advancing to the NEWMAC semifinals.

During the 2003 and 2004 seasons, Springfield College won back-to-back NEWMAC titles. In both banner years, the Pride advanced to the New England Regional Championship. In 2003, the Pride rolled to a 34-3 record, which included a school-record 21-match

win streak. Springfield has qualified for the NCAA Tournament seven times in the last 11 seasons.

Dearing also coached the Springfield College men's volleyball team from 1990 to 1996, compiling a 130-52 record.

Prior to joining the Springfield College staff, Dearing served as the director of athletics at Roger Williams (R.I.) University, where he started both the women's and men's volleyball programs. While there, Dearing compiled an overall record of 174-136. His women's teams posted a 133-114 mark in eight years, while the men's squads had a three-year record of 41-22.

Dearing, a member of the USAV Coaching Accreditation Program Cadre, is well-respected in the world of volleyball and has spent time conducting clinics in Aruba, Argentina, Bermuda, China, and Ireland. He has been the director of the Dearing Volleyball School for the past twenty-four years. He has authored the books, *Volleyball Fundamentals* and *The Untold Story of William Morgan-Inventor of Volleyball*.

The Program

Springfield College's competitive year-round program consists of both a traditional season, beginning in September and concluding in late November, and a five-week nontraditional season in March and April. Team members also participate in various campus and community projects. Springfield College hosts the annual Tom Hay Invitational in honor of former Springfield College teacher and coach Tom Hay, who retired in 1987 after coaching the men's and women's volleyball teams at Springfield for twenty-two years. Hay coached the women's team from 1978 to 1986, compiling an impressive 252-95-2 record.

History

Did you know that William G. Morgan, who graduated from Springfield College in 1894, invented the sport of volleyball? In fact, Springfield College was the site of the first volleyball game ever played—in 1896.

Dr. Morgan, the physical education director of the Holyoke YMCA, developed the sport as a less strenuous alternative to basketball. He originally named the sport "mintonette," but after Springfield College professor Dr. A.T. Halstead observed an exhibition match at the College, he suggested "volleyball" as a more appropriate name.

2007 Honors

AVCA Division III All-New England Region Honorable Mention: Aylene Ilkson, Junior ▼ NEWVA All-New England Honorable Mention: Aylene Ilkson, Junior ▼ NEWMAC All-Conference Second Team: Aylene Ilkson, Junior; Bethany Stosz, Freshman ▼ NEWMAC Rookie of the Year: Bethany Stosz, Freshman ▼ NEWMAC All-Academic Team: Jennifer Grimaldi, Junior; Alyssa Muething, Senior ▼ Maroon Club Athletes of the Week: Sep. 11-Heidi Yohe, Sophomore; Sep. 24-Bethany Stosz, Freshman

2007 Roster

Name	Cl.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/Previous School/Club
Paige Babcock	Fr.	OH	5-7	Niantic, Conn./East Lyme
Jessica Baldwin	Jr.	DS	5-6	Fairport, N.Y./The Harley School
Jennifer Grimaldi	Jr.	S	5-3	Farmingville, N.Y./Sachem
Kelsea Hellyar	Fr.	S	5-5	Fairhaven, Mass./New Bedford
Aylene Ilkson	Jr.	OH	5-8	Baldwin, N.Y./Baldwin Senior
Sarah Lang-Rodean	Fr.	MB	6-0	Mansfield Center, Conn./E.O. Smith
Lindsay Marone	Sr.	OH	5-4	Hamden, Conn./Hamden
Alyssa Muething	Sr.	S	5-5	Plainsboro, N.J./Rutgers Prep
Bethany Stosz	Fr.	MB	6-0	Amherst, Mass./Amherst Regional
Aiden Tousey	Jr.	DS	5-7	Irvington, N.Y./Irvington
Heidi Yohe	Jr.	OPP	5-6	Deer Park, Wash./Spokane Falls CC

Head Coach: Joel B. Dearing (19th season, Springfield '79)

Assistant Coaches: Eddie Stawinski, Kait Kozak, Kristen Brosius, Megan Silver

Captains: Jessica Baldwin, Aylene Ilkson, Alyssa Muething

2007 Results (23-10, 7-2 NEWMAC)

AUGUST

31 Univ. of New England^ W, 3-0

SEPTEMBER

1 Rhode Island College^ W, 3-0
 1 Colby-Sawyer^ L, 2-3
 7 Salve Regina# W, 3-0
 7 Bowdoin# W, 3-2
 8 New Jersey City# L, 2-3
 8 Keene State# W, 3-1
 11 Wellesley* L, 2-3
 15 at Wheaton* W, 3-0
 18 at Smith* W, 3-2
 21 Bates ~ W, 3-1
 21 Tufts ~ L, 0-3
 22 Colby ~ W, 3-2
 22 Bowdoin ~ W, 3-0
 25 MIT* L, 0-3
 28 Colby% W, 3-0
 28 Worcester State% W, 3-0
 29 Rivier% W, 3-0
 29 ECSU% L, 2-3

^ Springfield College Invitational
 # Endicott Invitational
 ~ MIT Invitational

OCTOBER

2 Coast Guard* W, 3-1
 5 Randolph\$ W, 3-0
 6 Plymouth State\$ W, 3-0
 6 Western Conn.\$ W, 3-0
 9 at Babson* W, 3-1
 16 Mount Holyoke* W, 3-0
 19 Gordon+ W, 3-0
 19 Williams+ L, 1-3
 20 Amherst+ L, 0-3
 20 Bowdoin+ L, 2-3
 23 at WPI* W, 3-0
 27 Clark* W, 3-0
 30 Wheaton! W, 3-0

NOVEMBER

2 Wellesley! L, 0-3

%Bates Invitational
 \$ Tom Hay Invitational
 + Volleyball Hall of Fame Classic
 ! NEWMAC Tournament
 * NEWMAC game
 Home matches in **bold**

