

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Seniors Kaitlin Leck, Egan Metcalf and Sanja Tomasevic.

QUICK FACTS

School: University of Washington
Location: Seattle, Wash.
Address: 229 Graves Bldg., Box 354070, Seattle, WA 98195-4070
Founded: November 4, 1861
Enrollment: 42,000 (31,474 undergraduate)
Nickname: Huskies
Colors: Purple and Gold
Conference: Pacific-10
Home Facility (capacity): Bank of America Arena (10,000)
Press Row Phone: (206) 616-8845
President: Mark Emmert
Interim Athletic Director: Todd Turner
Sr. Assoc. AD for Sports Programs/Student Services: Marie Tuite
Asst. Athletic Director for Media Relations: Jim Daves
Asst. Media Relations Director/Volleyball Contact: Misty Tucci
Work / Cell: (206) 685-3119 / (206) 349-3119
Fax: (206) 543-5000
e-mail: mistyrc@u.washington.edu
Head Coach: Jim McLaughlin (UC Santa Barbara, 1985)
Record at Washington: 54-36 (.600)/three years
Overall Record: 278-154 (.644)/14 years
McLaughlin's Phone: (206) 543-0432
McLaughlin's e-mail: jimmc@u.washington.edu
Assistant Coach: Leslie Tuiasosopo, fourth year (Washington, 2000)
Assistant Coach: Mike Johnson, first year (Washington, 2003)
Certified Athletic Trainer: Chrissy Messick
Equipment Manager: Karen Gunderman
2003 Overall Record: 23-9
2003 Conference Record/Place: 10-8/t-5th
2003 Postseason/Final AVCA Ranking: 4-1/9th
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/4
Starters Returning/Lost: 4/2
Newcomers: 4
NCAA Tournament Appearances: 8 – 1986, 88, 89, 94, 96, 97, 2002, 03
Best NCAA Finish: Elite Eight – 1988, 2003

HUSKY VOLLEYBALL

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HUSKY EXPERIENCE

NEWSPAPERS

Seattle Times
(AM weekdays, Sunday)
1120 John Street, Box 70,
Seattle, WA 98111
Phone: (206) 464-2276 or
(800) 3436319
Fax: (206) 464-3255
Website: www.seattletimes.com

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
(AM weekdays, Saturday)
101 Elliot Ave. W.,
Seattle, WA 98119-4220
Phone: (206) 448-8370
Fax: (206) 448-8164 or 8224
Website: www.seattlepi.com

Tacoma News-Tribune
(AM Monday-Sunday)
1950 S. State St., Box 11000,
Tacoma, WA 98411
Phone: (253) 597-8680
Fax: (253) 597-8360
Website: www.tribnet.com

Everett Herald
(AM Monday-Sunday)
1213 California St.,
Box 930,
Everett, WA 98206
Phone: (425) 339-3470
Fax: (425) 339-3464
Website: www.heraldnet.com

King County Journal
(AM Monday-Sunday)
Website: www.kingcountyjournal.com

Eastside (Bellevue) Journal
1705 132nd Ave. NE., Box 90130,
Bellevue, WA 98009-5590
Phone: (425) 453-4255 or 4256
Fax: (425) 635-0603

Southside (Kent) Journal
600 S. Washington,
Kent, WA 98035
Phone: (253) 872-6733
Fax: (253) 872-6611

Daily Olympian
(AM Monday-Sunday)
111 Bethel St., NE.,
Olympia, WA 98507
Phone: (360) 754-5432
Fax: (360) 357-0202
Website: www.theolympian.com

The Daily
(AM Monday-Friday)
University of Washington,
144 Communications Bldg.,
Box 353720
Seattle, WA 98195
Phone: (206) 543-2703
Fax: (206) 543-2345
Website:
www.thedaily.washington.edu

Associated Press
3131 Elliot Ave., Suite 750,
Seattle, WA 98121-1095
Phone: (206) 682-1812
Fax: (206) 621-1948

TELEVISION

KOMO-TV
(ABC, Channel 4)
140 4th Ave. North,
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone: (206) 404-4006 or 4167
Fax: (206) 404-4438

KIRO-TV
(CBS, Channel 7)
2807 3rd Avenue,
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone: (206) 728-7803 or 8901
Fax: (206) 441-4840

KING-TV
(NBC, Channel 5)
333 Dexter Ave. N.,
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone: (206) 448-3959
Fax: (206) 448-3953

KCPQ-TV
(FOX, Channel 13)
1813 Westlake Ave., N.,
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone: (206) 674-1305
Fax: (206) 674-1713

Fox Sports Net
3626 156th Ave SE,
Bellevue, WA 98006
Phone: (425) 641-0104
Fax: (425) 641-9811

RADIO

KJR (AM 950)
351 Elliot Ave. W., Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone: (206) 281-9045
Fax: (206) 286-2376

KIRO (AM 710)
1820 Eastlake Ave E.,
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: (206) 726-5440
Fax: (206) 726-7001

KOMO (AM 1000)
140 4th Ave. N.,
Seattle, WA 98109
Phone: (206) 404-4145
Fax: (206) 404-4422

MEDIA SERVICES

The 2004 edition of the Washington Volleyball Media Guide is a source of information for the media covering the Huskies during the season. Additional information is available upon request – news releases, photographs and news clips. Contact the Washington Media Relations Office at (206) 543-2230 for various needs, including interviews.

INTERNET

Fans and media can stay updated on all Husky teams on the Washington Athletic website at www.gohuskies.com.

CREDENTIALS

Members of the working media are asked to contact the Washington Media Relations Office for press row, photography and media passes at least 24 hours before the match. If passes cannot be mailed, they will be left at "Will Call", which is located at the main entrance of the Bank of America Arena. Any credentials left at "Will Call" will require proper identification.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews with players and coaches should be arranged at least 24 hours in advance by contacting the Washington Media Relations Office at (206) 543-2230. The best time for short interviews is before practice, while extended interviews, depending on players' class schedules and team obligations will take place at the Media Relations Office. Telephone interviews are available to the media on a "call-back" basis only. The Washington Media Relations Office will arrange for telephone interviews at a time that is convenient for the student-athlete.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT (206 AREA CODE)

Athletic Department	543-2210
Director of Athletics—Todd Turner	543-2212
Sr. Assoc. AD for Sports Programs and Student Services—Marie Tuite	543-2279
Assoc. AD for Fund Development—Ken Winstead	543-2234
Assoc. AD for Business & Finance—Paul King	685-7554
Asst. AD for Facilities & Events—Chip Lydum	543-7373
Asst. AD for Media Relations—Jim Daves	543-2230
Assoc. Media Relations Director—Dan Lepse	543-2230
Asst. Media Relations Directors—Brian Beaky, Jeff Bechthold, Erin Rowley, Brian Tom, Misty Tucci ..	543-2230
Asst. Director of Olympic Sports—Karen Flor	685-7853
Marketing & Promotions Director—Leslie Wurzberger	543-3086
Asst. Marketing & Promotions Dir.—Carol Parrish (Vball) ..	616-8654
Facilities Manager—Larry White	616-5932
Event Manager—Scott Baebler	543-2246
Volleyball Athletic Trainer—Chrissy Messick	543-9972
Interim Student-Athlete Services Director—Pam Robenolt ..	616-6723
Ticket Manager—Wendy Brown	543-2200
Travel Coordinator—Mary Ryles	685-0100
Equipment Manager—Karen Gunderman	543-9719

CREDITS:

The 2004 Washington volleyball media guide was compiled, written and edited by Assistant Media Relations Director Misty Tucci. Design and layout was done in-house by Tucci. Outside cover design by Jay Torrell. Inside cover design by Jeff Bechthold. Additional contributions/proofing by Alisa Brandle and Jonathan Price. Printing by UW Publication Services (Judy Robertson).

Photography by Corky Trewin, Scott Bisch, Joanie Komura, Jay Metzger, Janet Shibuya and Tucci (and UW archives).

The UW Media Relations Office thanks all members of past UW staffs that assisted in compiling information for this guide. Any corrections or additions are welcome and should be directed in writing to the sports information office.

2004 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

			1 Trinity Western 7 pm	2	3 vs. Butler 5 pm	4 vs. Wisconsin Milwaukee & at NIU 10 am/5 pm
5	6	7	8	9 at Wichita St. 7 pm	10 vs. Arkansas 5 pm	11 vs. Michigan St. 5 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17 vs. Florida A&M 5 pm	18 vs. Montana & at Boise St. 10 am/8 pm
19	20	21	22	23	24 at UCLA* 7 pm	25 at USC* 7 pm
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

			1	2 NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds TBA	3 NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds TBA	4 NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds TBA
5	6	7	8	9 NCAA Regionals TBA	10 NCAA Regionals TBA	11 NCAA Regionals TBA
12	13	14	15	16 NCAA Final Four TBA	17 NCAA Final Four TBA	18 NCAA Championship TBA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

OCTOBER

					1 Oregon 7 pm	2 Oregon St. 7 pm
3	4	5	6	7	8 Washington St. 7 pm	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 at Arizona St. 7 pm	16 at Arizona 7 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22 California 7 pm	23 Stanford 7 pm
24	25	26	27	28 at Oregon St. 7 pm	29 at Oregon 7 pm	30

NOVEMBER

Oct. 31	1	2	3	4	5 at Washington St. 7 pm	6
7	8	9	10	11 Arizona 7 pm	12 Arizona St. 7 pm	13
14	15	16	17	18 at Stanford 7 pm	19 at California 7 pm	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 USC 7 pm	27 UCLA 7 pm
28	29	30				

2004 SCHEDULE

9/1	Trinity Western! (Exhibition)	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
9/3	vs. Butler!	DeKalb, Ill.	5 p.m.
9/4	vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee!	DeKalb, Ill.	10 a.m.
9/4	vs. NIU!	DeKalb, Ill.	5 p.m.
9/9	at Wichita State@	Wichita, Kan.	7 p.m.
9/10	vs. Arkansas@	Wichita, Kan.	5 p.m.
9/11	vs. Michigan State@	Wichita, Kan.	5 p.m.
9/17	vs. Florida A&M#	Boise, Idaho	5 p.m.
9/18	vs. Montana#	Boise, Idaho	10 a.m.
9/18	at Boise State#	Boise, Idaho	8 p.m.
9/24	at UCLA*	Los Angeles, Calif.	7 p.m.
9/25	at USC*	Los Angeles, Calif.	7 p.m.
10/1	Oregon*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
10/2	Oregon State*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
10/8	Washington State*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
10/15	at Arizona State*	Tempe, Ariz.	7 p.m.
10/16	at Arizona*	Tucson, Ariz.	7 p.m.
10/22	California*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
10/23	Stanford*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
10/28	at Oregon State*	Corvallis, Ore.	7 p.m.
10/29	at Oregon*	Eugene, Ore.	7 p.m.
11/5	at Washington State*	Pullman, Wash.	7 p.m.
11/11	Arizona*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
11/12	Arizona State*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
11/18	at Stanford*	Stanford, Calif.	7 p.m.
11/19	at California*	Berkeley, Calif.	7 p.m.
11/26	USC*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
11/27	UCLA*	Seattle, Wash.	7 p.m.
12/2-4	NCAA 1st & 2nd Rounds	TBA	TBA
12/9-11	NCAA Regionals	TBA	TBA
12/16-18	NCAA Championship	Long Beach, Calif.	TBA

* = Pacific-10 Conference match

! = Northern Illinois Tournament (DeKalb, Ill.)

@ = Wichita State Tournament (Wichita, Kan.)

= Boise State Tournament (Boise, Idaho)

□ = televised game by Fox Sports Net. All matches will air on a tape delayed basis the following Saturday

■ = home match played at Bank of America Arena

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2004 WASHINGTON ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	YR/EXP	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL	CLUB
2	Alesha Deesing	MB	6-1	Fr./HS	Salem, Ore./Santiam Christian HS	Webfoot Juniors VBC
3	Courtney Thompson	S	5-8	So./1V	Kent, Wash./Kentlake HS	Kent Juniors VBC
4	Carolyn Farny	OH	6-1	So./1V	Fort Wayne, Ind./Concordia Lutheran HS	Fort Wayne VBC
5	Kaitlin Leck	OH	6-1	Sr./3V	Carson City, Nev./Carson HS	Sierra Nevada VBC
8	Ashley Aratani	DS	5-5	Fr./HS	Honolulu, Hawaii/Iolani HS	Oahu VBC
9	Christal Morrison	OH	6-2	Fr./HS	Puyallup, Wash./Puyallup HS	Kent Juniors VBC
10	Brie Hagerty	OH	6-1	Jr./2V	Defiance, Ohio/Defiance HS/Ohio State	Fort Wayne VBC
11	Darla Myhre	MB	6-2	Jr./2V	Victoria, British Columbia/Secondary HS	Victoria KOA/Victoria
14	Candace Lee	L	5-7	Jr./2V	Eugene, Ore./Churchill HS	Webfoot Juniors VBC
15	Danka Danicic	DS	5-10	Jr./3V	Ljig, Serbia & Montenegro/Valjevska Gimnazija HS	Obilic VBC
18	Erin Liu	S	5-6	Jr./HS	Brentwood, Calif./Marlborough School	Santa Monica VBC
19	Jessica Veris	OH	6-1	Jr./2V	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa HS	Asics VBC
20	Egan Metcalf	MB	6-2	Sr./3V	Kenmore, Wash./Inglemoor HS	Washington VB Academy
21	Sanja Tomasevic	OH	6-1	Sr./2V	Uzice, Serbia & Montenegro/Medical Secondary HS	Radnicki VBC

Head Coach: Jim McLaughlin

Assistant Coaches: Leslie Tuiasosopo and Mike Johnson



PRONOUNCIATIONS

Ashley Aratani	air-ah-TA-nee
Danka Danicic	dawn-KUH dan-i-CHICH
Brie Hagerty	BREE
Erin Liu	LOU
Darla Myhre	my-REE
Sanja Tomasevic	saun-YUH toe-MOSS-i-vich
Leslie Tuiasosopo	TOO-ee-ah-so-SO-po
Jessica Veris	VARE-iss

CLASS BREAKDOWN

Seniors (3):	Kaitlin Leck, Egan Metcalf, Sanja Tomasevic
Juniors (5):	Danka Danicic, Brie Hagerty, Candace Lee, Darla Myhre, Jessica Veris,
Sophomores (2):	Carolyn Farny, Courtney Thompson
Freshmen (4):	Ashley Aratani, Alesha Deesing, Christal Morrison, Erin Liu

TV/RADIO ROSTER



**ALESHA
DEESING**

6-1 • Fr. • MB
Salem, Ore.



**COURTNEY
THOMPSON**

5-8 • So. • S
Kent, Wash.



**CAROLYN
FARNY**

6-1 • So. • OH
Ft. Wayne, Ind.



**KAITLIN
LECK**

6-1 • Sr. • OH
Carson City, Nev.



**ASHLEY
ARATANI**

5-5 • Fr. • DS
Honolulu, Hawaii



**CHRISTAL
MORRISON**

6-2 • Fr. • OH
Puyallup, Wash.



**BRIE
HAGERTY**

6-1 • Jr. • OH
Defiance, Ohio



**DARLA
MYHRE**

6-2 • Jr. • MB
Victoria, British Columbia



**CANDACE
LEE**

5-7 • Jr. • L
Eugene, Ore.



**DANKA
DANICIC**

5-10 • Jr. • DS
Ljig, Serbia & Montenegro



**ERIN
LIU**

5-6 • Jr. • S
Brentwood, Calif.



**JESSICA
VERIS**

6-1 • Jr. • OH
Manhattan Beach, Calif.



**EGAN
METCALF**

6-2 • Sr. • MB
Kenmore, Wash.



**SANJA
TOMASEVIC**

6-1 • Sr. • OH
Uzice, Serbia & Montenegro



**JIM
MCLAUGHLIN**

Head Coach



**LESLIE
TUIASOSOPO**

Assistant Coach



**MIKE
JOHNSON**

Assistant Coach

**HUSKY
VOLLEYBALL**

**COACHING
STAFF**

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EVERY PLAY, EVERYDAY

The Washington volleyball team's recipe for success in 2004 is simple—make every play, everyday. This team motto, that was adopted when Jim McLaughlin took over the reigns of Husky volleyball in 2001, has helped catapult Washington from the bottom of the Pacific-10 Conference to a top 10 team and national title contender.

Last season, McLaughlin's approach helped Washington amass a 23-9 record and tie its best-ever postseason finish with an appearance in the Elite Eight. In the quarterfinal match, Washington lost a five-game heartbreaker to Minnesota to just miss out on what would have been the program's first Final Four appearance. While McLaughlin is proud of his team for its accomplishments, he makes it clear that the team is not satisfied with just being a top 10 program. Washington is hungry for a national title.

"There is always room for improvement," said McLaughlin. "As a coach, you are proud of advancing to the Elite Eight but you're never totally content. This team made big strides last year but there were still seven teams better than we were. We just need to look at the things that we need to correct and go correct them this season. It's pretty simple."

Keys to success in 2004 will be a combination of Washington's firepower, its passing ability, and its intense work ethic.

"This team knows how to work hard," said McLaughlin. "We can pass the ball, we have good ball control and we have some live arms. We don't need to reinvent the wheel this season and there's no magic in winning. If we do things the right way and our hearts and minds are in it and we work extremely hard—we will get better."

The Huskies enter the season with a No. 7 national ranking in the AVCA USA Today/CSTV preseason poll and have been picked to finish third in the grueling Pac-10 by the league's coaches. It marks Washington's highest preseason ranking in the Pac-10 since 1995 but McLaughlin takes all the hype in stride as he believes rankings don't always tell the whole story.

"Last year we weren't ranked in the preseason poll and we finished in the top 10," said McLaughlin. "This year we are in the top 10, but we

try not to focus on that too much. The girls are excited but what matters to us is that we get a little better every day. We need to just take care of what we need to take care of and make progress every time we take the court. If we do that, the ranking is going to be kind of fun in the end."

Washington returns 10 players from the Elite Eight team, including four that earned All-Pac-10 honors.

UW's ace is senior outside hitter Sanja Tomasevic. Tomasevic earned second team All-American honors last season after ranking among the conference's top four in kills, points and aces. Three other returners were named to the Pac-10 honorable mention team, including junior middle blocker Darla Myhre, junior libero Candace Lee and sophomore setter Courtney Thompson. Tomasevic and Thompson will also serve as team captains for the second consecutive season.

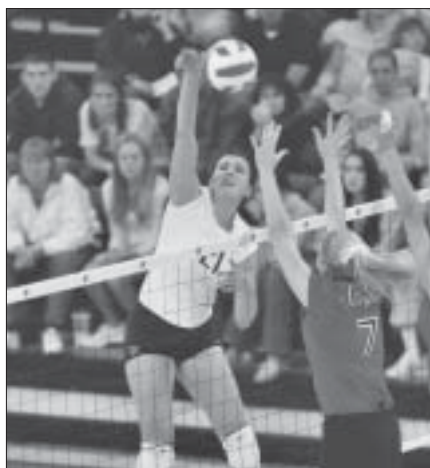
"Sanja and Courtney did great last year as captains so we are going to go with them again," said McLaughlin. "They have provided some really sound leadership and we don't want to change things—we just want them to get better. They both have amazing drive, they just need to have their focus in the right area. Leadership is hard, responsibility is tough. Great leaders serve their people, and Sanja and Courtney can do that."

Also adding to Washington's arsenal are four newcomers, headlined by outside hitter Christal Morrison and middle blocker Alesha Deesing.

"Christal Morrison is one of the top recruits in the country and Alesha Deesing was one of the top and most physical recruits in the country," said McLaughlin. "Those two are physical enough to make an impact in some way, shape or form. Time will tell. The first year is always the toughest, but you can have a tremendous amount of growth in the initial period. We are seeing it. You rate your recruiting class a couple of years down the road, but I sure am encouraged every day. I am excited about the season ahead."

OUTSIDE HITTERS

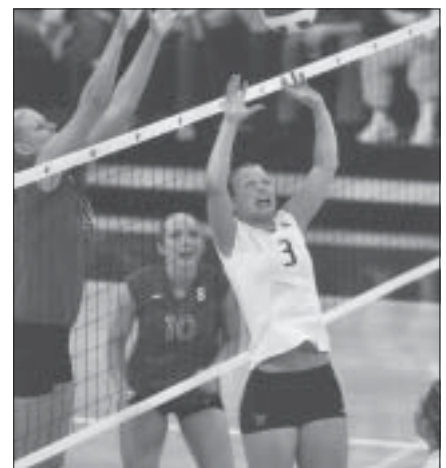
Washington returns a strong corps of outside hitters for the 2004 campaign, headlined by Tomasevic. A senior from Uzice, Serbia and



Sanja Tomasevic headlines a potent Husky attack. Last season, she tallied 571 kills to rank second on the UW all-time season list.



Brie Hagerty ranked second on the team in kills per game and points per game last season behind Sanja Tomasevic.



Courtney Thompson ranked third nationally with a 14.20 assists per game average last season. She also set the UW single-season record with 1590 assists.

SEASON OUTLOOK

Montenegro, Tomasevic led the Huskies in nearly every statistical category last season, while ranking third in the Pac-10 with 5.29 kills per game. She set school records for single-season attacks (1411) and aces (58) and tallied double-figure kills in every match.

"Sanja does many things at a high level and she has a true feel for the game," said McLaughlin. "If she can add the extreme discipline to her game that all the great ones have and continue to prioritize her game, she will take it to the highest level."

Other key returners include Kaitlin Leck, Brie Hagerty, Jessica Veris and Carolyn Farny. Leck, a senior from Carson City, Nev., played in 95 games last season, averaging 3.09 ppg, while ranking fourth on the team with 2.44 kpg.

"At times, Kait is the best attacker in the gym because she is fast and has a good arm," said McLaughlin. "Being a lefty, we can get the ball to her on the right side in all situations. If Kait improves her serve receive skills, she could become an all-conference player."

Hagerty, who made her Husky debut last season after transferring from Ohio State, made an immediate impact on the Washington offense. She ranked second on the team with 3.56 kpg and 3.90 ppg, while posting double-figure kills 23 times.

"Brie has the drive," said McLaughlin. "If she keeps her emotions from taking her out of the game and continues to do things in the right way, Brie should become an All-American. Attacking is her identity but she can block when she remains focused."

Veris, a junior from Manhattan Beach, Calif., appeared in 57 games for the Purple and Gold, making seven starts. She averaged 1.46 kpg and 1.56 dpg.

"Jess is one of the most skilled players on our team," said McLaughlin. "She has a very fast arm and the ability to play under control at all times. I'm impressed with her composure in tough situations. If she can improve her ability to play above the net, she will become an impact player."

Farny saw limited action last season, playing in five matches and seven games.

"Carolyn made significant progress this spring and she has tightened the gap for playing time," said McLaughlin. "It's now time for her to beat someone out. Although her skill level is more complete, Carolyn needs to develop an identity other than blocking. Her ability to pass will be key."

Adding depth to the Huskies' offense will be newcomer and 2003 Gatorade Player of the Year Christal Morrison. Standing at 6-foot-2, she is expected to immediately bolster Washington's firepower and take some of the scoring pressure off of Tomasevic. Morrison, a four-year letterwinner at Puyallup High School, should adapt quickly to the Huskies' style as she is more than familiar with UW setter Courtney Thompson. Morrison and Thompson were club teammates for Kent Juniors and Morrison has also honed her skills with the junior national team that earned a silver medal at the NORCECA Junior Continental Championship in Puerto Rico.

"Christal is the real deal," said McLaughlin. "She is fast, jumps high, hits hard and has a nice skill level. The key to her development will be

how she assesses and manages her game day-to-day. If she wants to be the best and does things in the right way- she will be the best. Plus, she's a good kid."

SETTERS

Thompson returns as Washington's starting setter after a record-setting freshman season. Thompson, a native of Kent, Wash., tallied 1590 assists last season, breaking the school record by more than 150 assists. Her 14.20 assists per game ranked third in the nation and first in the conference to pick up Pac-10 All-Freshman team and All-Pac-10 honorable mention honors.

"Not many freshmen could have done what Court did last year and we aren't even close to where she could and will be," said McLaughlin. "Her competitiveness is unmatched on a day-to-day basis and she is developing sound composure, which is a tough trait to understand your first year. She will do whatever it takes- work hard, study film, tutor, etc. She has matured in her first year and is beginning to grasp the setting position from an emotional, intellectual and physical aspect. I thought she was one of the best setters in the country last season and I want her better this year."

The Huskies will also introduce Erin Liu into the mix this season. Liu, a junior academically, will be a rookie athletically. McLaughlin will look to her to challenge Thompson to get better each day and be prepared to step in at a moments notice.

"Erin was a pleasant surprise this past spring," said McLaughlin. "She knows the commitment level it takes to be on the University of Washington volleyball team. She knows how tough it is going to be and she welcomes the challenge. She is the type of kid we want representing our university and program. I'd like to have her take the approach that she can she put pressure on Courtney and make her better. "

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

The Huskies will look to veterans Dalra Myhre and Egan Metcalf to anchor the middle, while freshman Alesha Deesing should also see significant time at the net.

Darla Myhre, a junior from Victoria, British Columbia, ranked sixth nationally with a .418 hitting percentage last season. She averaged 2.22 kpg and led the Huskies with a 1.10 blocks per game average, which also ranked 10th in the Pac-10.

"Darla continues to improve her attacking and attacking will be her primary focus for a while," said McLaughlin. "We've asked her to get stronger and she is a lot stronger. She has distinguished herself as a blocker but if Dar is to make the all-conference team, she knows what she has to work on and she just has to go after it."

Metcalf, a senior from Kenmore, Wash., saw limited action last season but made the most of her appearances with 1.71 kpg and 0.82 bpg. She logged at least one kill in every match in which she appeared and had a season-best performance against 17th-ranked Wisconsin with six kills and four blocks.

"I can legitimately say that Egan is in the mix," said McLaughlin. "I love coaching her. She gives everything she has everyday, every play and then she gives more. Egan knows what she has to do. She has made great gains but she has to make more progress. Egan has a chance to

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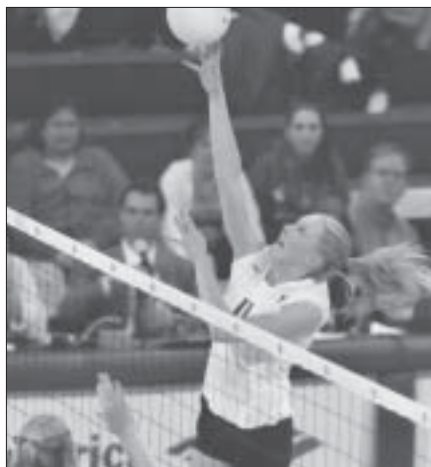
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Darla Myhre will be the veteran in the middle, replacing Kara Bjorklund. Last season, Myhre set a single-season record with a .418 hitting percentage.



Candace Lee led the Huskies and ranked third in the Pac-10 with 4.17 dpg last season. She also set the UW single-season record with 467 total digs.



Kaitlin Leck's speed and hitting ability will make her a vital part of the Husky attack.

be a starting center blocker."

Deesing, a freshman from Salem, Ore., joins the Husky squad after a successful career at Santiam Christian High School. Deesing led the 2003 team to the state championship while earning first team all-tourney accolades. She also served as team captain and was named to the all-league first team. A former member of the Webfoot Juniors 18 Gold team, Deesing's 6-foot-1 frame will bring additional height to the Husky middle.

"Alesha is physical and as she learns to control her ability- the sky will be the limit," said McLaughlin. "She will learn what she needs to do and as she makes progress, her confidence will build. She has a drive comparable to Court and Brie, which is the key. In time she will learn what she needs to know. I can't wait to coach her."

DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS

Junior libero Candace Lee, who has led UW in digs each of the last two seasons, will anchor Washington's defense. Last year, Lee averaged 4.17 dpg to rank third in the Pac-10. She set the school's single-season record with 467 total digs, recorded 25 double-figure dig performances and committed just 30 reception errors.

"Candace, in my opinion, is the best and I believe she will only get better," said McLaughlin. "Everyday she is connected to the task emotionally, intellectually and physically. She needs to be and deserves to be more aggressive."

Also returning to the Washington defensive line-up is junior Danka Danicic. Danicic, a native of Lijg, Serbia and Montenegro, played in 81 games for the Huskies last season, posting 48 digs for a 0.59 dpg average.

"Danka just had the best spring of her career," said McLaughlin. "She increased her range defensively and is running to and picking up more balls. What has impressed me most is that she has made some improvements in her passing game. We asked her to change her technique and she did. We are reaping the return but we want more."

McLaughlin will also look for Tomasevic to pull double-duty- not just as UW's primary scorer but as a primary passer as well.

"Sanja can do everything," said McLaughlin. "She can do a lot on the court, but I want her to be the best passer. I want her and Candace to control the floor. Her contribution to the team is significant if she does the things she is capable of doing." Washington also welcomes newcomer Ashley Aratani to its defense. Aratani, a walk-on from Honolulu, Hawaii, earned first team all-state honors in 2002 and led her team to the 2001 state championship.

"Ash is fast and likes to compete," said McLaughlin. "As she learns our mechanics and systems she will become a contributor."

SCHEDULE

Washington opens its 2004 campaign with 10 pre-conference matches. The Huskies open the season at home with an exhibition match against Canada's Trinity Western on Sept. 1. UW then hits the road for three-straight tournaments hosted by Northern Illinois, Wichita State and Boise State. Washington's toughest pre-conference opponent should be NCAA participant Florida A&M at the Boise State Tournament. Last season, FAMU dropped to Elite Eight team Georgia Tech in the NCAA second round.

The Huskies kick-off the Pac-10 slate with the toughest road series of the season as they face UCLA and defending national champion USC. USC and UCLA were picked to finish first and second, respectively in the Pac-10 and the Trojans are ranked No. 1 in the preseason national poll. The Pac-10 competition is expected to be fierce as six of its teams participated in the 2003 postseason and five advanced to the regional tournament.

"Our schedule is a little tougher than we've had in the past," said McLaughlin. "But you never know. We are at a point now that if we play well, we have a good chance to win. We also want to stay in the present and take the season one match at a time. You can't look too far down the road- you have to stay in the now. If we can do that and continue to get better every play, everyday- we will succeed. That's the Washington way."