

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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Report 13A (Nov. 14, 2011)

Volleyball: UAA's Matthisen Selected GNAC Player-of-the-Year

SPOKANE, WA – Outside hitter Jackie Matthisen of Alaska Anchorage has been voted the *2011 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Volleyball Player-of-the-Year*.

Matthisen, who was one of four unanimous selections on the first team all-conference team, ranked second in the GNAC this fall in both kills (4.17) and points (4.53) in leading the Seawolves to an 18-8 record and a second-place finish.

Also earning special awards were UAA setter Kimya Jafroudi, Montana State Billings outside hitter Monica Grimsrud and Saint Martin's outside hitter Kristyn Ross.

Jafroudi, who ranked fifth in the GNAC in assists averaging 10.13 per set, was selected the *GNAC Newcomer-of-the-Year*, while Ross and Grimsrud, who finished fourth (3.91) and seventh (3.67), respectively, in the conference in kills, shared the *GNAC Freshman-of-the-Year* award.

Chris Johnson of Seattle Pacific was selected as the *GNAC Coach-of-the-Year*. Johnson, a 2002 grad of Westmont, has a 133-59 record in seven seasons at SPU, leading the Falcons to conference titles in 2005, 2006, 2010 and this fall. Each time he was selected the Coach-of-the-Year.

Seattle Pacific led the all-star selections placing three players on the first team. Alaska Anchorage placed two players on the first team, while Western Washington and Western Oregon each had one.

Four players – Matthisen, outside hitters Lindsey Wodrich of Seattle Pacific and Danielle Reese of Western Oregon and middle blocker Robyn Burton of Alaska Anchorage were unanimous selections.

Wodrich was the lone repeat first team selection from last year though both Matthisen and outside hitter Marlayna Geary of Western Washington were also repeaters after winning first team honors in 2009. Completing the first team were libero Anna Herold and setter Shelby Swanson, both from Seattle Pacific.

2011 GNAC ALL-CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

GNAC Player-of-the-Year – Jackie Matthisen, UAA (OH, 5-11, Sr., Anchorage, AK). **GNAC Newcomer-of-the-Year** - Kimya Jafroudi, UAA (S, 5-7, Jr., Huntington Beach, CA). **GNAC Freshman-of-the-Year** - Monica Grimsrud, MSUB (OH, 6-1, Fr., Montana City, MT) and Kristyn Ross, SMU (OH, 5-10, Fr., Olympia, WA). **GNAC Coach-of-the-Year** – Chris Johnson, Seattle Pacific.

FIRST TEAM: Outside Hitters - +*Jackie Matthisen, UAA (5-11, Sr., Anchorage, AK); +*Lindsey Wodrich, SPU (5-9, Sr., Richland, WA); *Marlayna Geary, WWU (5-9, Jr., Tacoma, WA); +Danielle Reese, WOU (5-9, Jr., Gig Harbor, WA). **Middle Blocker** – +Robyn Burton, UAA (5-11, So., Eagle River, AK). **Libero** – Anna Herold, SPU (5-8, Sr., Bothell, WA). **Setter** – Shelby Swanson, SPU (5-9, Jr., Kennewick, WA). *Repeater (Geary and Matthisen from 2009). +Unanimous

SECOND TEAM: Outside Hitters - Jordan Offutt, CWU (5-11, Jr., Leavenworth, WA); Monica Grimsrud, MSUB (6-1, Fr., Montana City, MT). **Middle Blocker** – Emily Jepsen, WWU (MB, 5-11, Sr., Kennewick, WA); Krissi Kemper, WOU (5-10, So., Prineville, OR); Haley Abbott, NNU (6-0, Sr., Kenmore, WA). **Setter** – Laurie Yearout, WWU (5-9, Jr., Spokane, WA); Kimya Jafroudi, UAA (5-7, Jr., Huntington Beach, CA).

HONORABLE MENTION: Outside Hitters - Kristyn Ross, SMU (5-10, Fr., Olympia, WA); Paige Hoffman, SPU (6-2, Sr., Encinitas, CA); Ariel Austin, UAA (5-11, Jr., Woodland Park, CO); Meg Ryan, CWU (5-10, Sr., Spokane, WA). **Middle Blockers** - Nikki Lowell, SPU (5-10, So., Claremont, CA); Erin Smith, CWU (MB, 5-11, So., Selah, WA); Becky Blee, WOU (MB, 5-10, So., Portland, OR). **Setters** - Kaitlyn Tuholski, NNU (5-10, Fr., Vancouver, WA); Carlee Marble, CWU (5-8, Sr., La Conner, WA); Brooke Tolman, MSUB (5-8, Sr., Honeyville, UT). **Libero** - Kailey Trautmann, NNU (L, 5-10, Sr., Snohomish, WA); Samantha Hutchinson, WWU (L, 5-9, Fr., University Place, WA).