



SPORTS NEWS

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For immediate release

Beechy named softball coach at Saint Mary's College

Kristi Beechy has been named the head softball coach for Saint Mary's College by Director of Athletics Lynn Kachmarik. Beechy will run the summer softball camp at Saint Mary's then begin her preparations for taking over the 2004 MIAA Conference Tournament Champions.

Beechy has been assisting the softball program at Siena Heights University (Adrian, Michigan) since 2002 where she recently received her Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership. Along with on field coaching duties at Siena Heights, she was the program's recruiting coordinator, was in charge of academic achievement including tutoring services and academic progress, as well as being the coordinator of game field maintenance.

A four year starter at Defiance College ('02) she was also a three year captain. Beechy was the 2001 MVP for the team, and was named NFCA All-American Scholar-Athlete in both 2001 and 2002. In an ironic twist now that she will be coaching in the MIAA, Beechy was a 1999 MIAA Honorable Mention All-Conference player in Defiance's last season within the conference.

Excited to be taking over a conference tournament champion team, Beechy doesn't feel there's any added pressure to her new position. "Any tournament champion has to start all over again the next year," Beechy explained, "but so does every other team. It's a new year for everyone, we just happen to be going in with a new coach."

The Belles will have to replace four senior starters going into next season but two outfield positions were filled by sophomores, three other starters were freshmen, one of whom was second team All-MIAA, and first team All-MIAA pitcher/outfielder Kate Sajewich returns for her junior season.

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