



## HEAD COACH **CHRIS POOLE**

### CHRIS POOLE



Head Coach  
2nd Season at FSU  
571-239/22 Years

In just one season at the helm of the Florida State volleyball program, Chris Poole led the Seminoles to one of the best overall seasons in the past five years. The 2008 team included two All-ACC honorees with libero Ashlee Moon and top hitter Lauren Richardson, as well as the first AVCA All-Region Honorable Mention since 2006 in Jordana Price.

Poole brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to FSU after heading the program at the University of Arkansas for 14 accomplished seasons.

Poole started the University of Arkansas' volleyball program in 1994 and was not only successful, but led the Lady Razorbacks to 11 Southeastern Conference Western Division titles. Add to that, 11 postseason appearances - two NIVC and nine NCAA - along with the SEC Tournament title and numerous individual player honors.

Upon arriving in Fayetteville in 1993, Poole personally handled every element of building the program from buying the first pieces of equipment, hiring the assistants and recruiting the players, to renovating the court and building locker room facilities.

With head coaching stints at Arkansas, Arkansas State and Arkansas Tech, Poole earned a 550-230 career record in 21 seasons prior to his hiring at FSU and has been named conference coach of the year seven times and was pegged the South Region Coach of

the Year in 1997. In 24 years of collegiate coaching, including three seasons as an assistant coach at Arkansas Tech, Poole has won 19 conference or divisional championships and has been to the finals 17 times in 22 conference tournaments.

During his 14 seasons at Arkansas, in which he compiled a 316-161 record, Poole produced two AVCA All-Americans, three AVCA honorable mention All-Americans, 24 players with 44 All-SEC honors, three SEC Freshmen of the Year and 25 AVCA All-District/All-Region honorees.

In addition to the success on the court, Poole's Arkansas teams excelled in the classroom as well with 67 SEC Academic Honor Roll selections, 10 CoSIDA All-District selections, two H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete finalists and one McWhorter winner.

Poole certainly made his mark in the SEC as he guided Arkansas to a 159-65 record in the SEC regular season for a 71 percent league-winning mark. Poole and the Lady Razorbacks were even more impressive against the Western Division winning 11 of 14 titles.

Poole spent an entire year away from competition preparing for the Razorback's inaugural season in 1994 and it was time well spent as he led Arkansas to a 19-17 overall record, a 10-5 SEC mark and a SEC Western Division title with a perfect 10-0 divisional record in the first year of competition. The Lady Razorbacks finished third overall in the league that year and played well enough to earn a postseason bid to the National Invitational Volleyball Coaches tournament in Kansas City where they finished seventh in a field of 20 teams. Poole was selected as the 1994 SEC Coach of the Year while two of his players (Krystal Osborne and Jamie Torromeo) earned All-SEC honors and one player (Osborne) earned All-District honors.

Poole's ability to build a program was proven first with Arkansas Tech then at Arkansas State. He took over days prior to the 1987 season at ASU and his first team showed the effects with a dismal 8-24 record. But with one season under Poole's careful tutelage,

virtually the same team was 41-1 the next year, launching a five-year run of winning seasons for the Lady Indians.

His 1988 team had a 33-match win streak, longest in the nation, and posted a school-record 41-1 overall mark. The next year, ASU had a 34-match win streak, notched a Lady Indian record with 43 wins (43-6 overall) and was ranked ninth in the South Region.

In his last season at ASU, the Lady Indians were 41-6 and received an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament in 1992. ASU entered the 32-team NCAA field with the most wins of any team, but lost a tough four-game match to the Northwest Region's top-seeded team, Long Beach State.

Prior to ASU, Poole was an assistant and later head coach at Arkansas Tech. In two seasons as head coach at ATU, he posted a 53-20 record, winning the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference title in 1985 as co-head coach and finishing runner-up as head coach in 1986. He started his collegiate career in 1983 as a graduate assistant for the nationally ranked Arkansas Tech Golden Suns. Tech was 58-9 with a perfect 24-0 conference mark in two seasons with Poole as an assistant coach.

A native of Heber Springs in north-central Arkansas, Poole is a 1983 graduate of Arkansas Tech and earned a master's degree from there in 1989. He is a member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association and has served on the AVCA's All-American, All-South Region and All-South Region Ranking committees and is also an AVCA Top 25 voter.

Poole and his wife, Toni, a former Arkansas State track and field standout, have two children, son Joshua and daughter Taylor.





**HEAD COACH CHRIS POOLE**

**CHRIS POOLE'S COACHING CAREER**

**Assistant Coach - Arkansas Tech (1983-1985)**

Year	Overall	Conf.	Finish
1983	26-4	12-0	1st
1984	32-5	12-0	1st
1985	34-7	13-1	1st
<b>Total</b>	<b>92-16</b>	<b>37-1</b>	



**Head Coach - Arkansas Tech (1986)**

Year	Overall	Conf.
1986	21-15	11-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21-15</b>	<b>11-3</b>

**Head Coach - Arkansas State University (1987-1992)**

Year	Overall	Conf.	Finish	Highlights
1987	8-24	N/A		
1988	41-1	13-0	1st	American South title
1989	43-6	13-0	1st	American South title
1990	39-8	14-1	1st	American South title
1991	41-9	5-0	1st	Sun Belt title
1992	41-6	9-0	1st	Sun Belt title
<b>Total</b>	<b>213-54</b>	<b>54-1</b>		

**Head Coach - University of Arkansas (1994-2007)**

Year	Overall	Conf.	Finish	Highlights
1994	19-17	10-5	1st	NIVC Tourn.
1995	25-15	11-4	1st	NIVC Tourn.
1996	26-11	11-4	1st	NCAA 2nd Rd.
1997	30-6	13-2	1st	SEC Tourn. title; NCAA 2nd Rd.
1998	29-6	14-1	1st	NCAA Regionals
1999	30-7	14-1	1st	NCAA 2nd Rd.
2000	16-14	9-6	2nd	3 all-SEC; 6 SEC all-academic
2001	21-12	12-3	1st	NCAA 1st Rd.
2002	27-6	14-2	1st	SEC Tourn. Runner-Up
2003	27-7	15-1	1st	SEC Tourn. Runner-up; NCAA 2nd Rd.
2004	17-16	10-6	1st	NCAA 1st Rd.
2005	21-12	10-5	1st	Western Div. co-champ; NCAA 2nd Rd.
2006	16-13	9-11	4th	NCAA 1st Rd.
2007	12-19	6-14	5th	
<b>Total</b>	<b>316-161</b>	<b>159-65</b>		

**Head Coach - Florida State University (2008-present)**

Year	Overall	Conf.	Finish	Highlights
2008	21-9	13-7	5th	First 20-win season since 2002
<b>Total</b>	<b>21-9</b>	<b>13-7</b>		





## ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH HOLLY WATTS

### HOLLY WATTS



Associate  
Head Coach  
2nd Season at FSU

Holly Watts enters her second season at Florida State as the associate head coach after helping head coach Chris Poole build the University of Arkansas volleyball program into a consistent NCAA postseason team.

After joining the Lady Razorbacks in 1996, they accomplished a 262-129 record, nine Southeastern Conference Western Division titles and nine NCAA Tournament appearances with Watts in the second chair. Her hard work and commitment to the program was rewarded at the conclusion of the 2002 season when she was promoted to associate head coach.

Although her duties have been many and varied, one of Watts' most critical jobs has been to coordinate all of the recruiting efforts including correspondence, evaluation, visits and tracking athletes.

She is also in charge of scheduling the fall and spring travel for the team and coordinating many of the day-to-day activities in the office.

In addition to her recruiting duties, she serves as the primary coach for the middle blockers and quick attack.

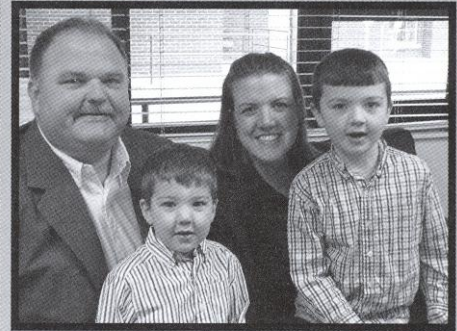
Her blocking talents are evident as the Lady Razorbacks consistently ranked in the top of the SEC and the nation in blocking during her 12-year stint. Watts' impact was immediate at Florida State in 2008 when the team finished 6th in the ACC with a 2.32 blocks-per-set average after finishing in 12th (last place) with only 1.96 blocks per game average in 2007.

Watts coached the best blockers in Arkansas volleyball history, including All-Americans Jessica Field and Kim Storey along with Sara Kincaid, an honorable mention All-American, and many all-conference and all-district selections.

Watts also played a vital role with the summer camps where she helped build Arkansas from ground level to averaging around 600 campers. At Florida State, she now plays an important role in drawing all talent levels to FSU in an effort to introduce volleyball to beginners and elite players alike

While with the Lady Razorback program, Watts founded Ozark Juniors Volleyball Club, which played nationally and provided playing opportunities for all ages. Watts also served on the board for Ozark Juniors, which has continued to expand with each season.

Watts was invited to assist with the U.S. National Team for several weeks in the summer of 1998, working with the country's elite volleyball players and



with then-head coach Mick Haley.

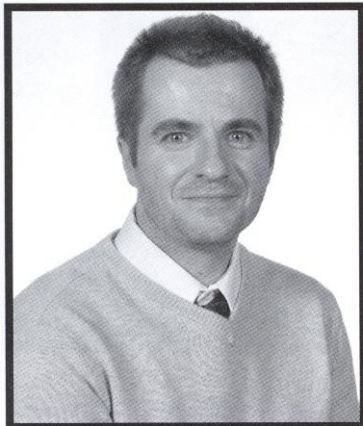
As an athlete, the former Holly Graham helped the University of Texas to national dominance and was the Lady Longhorns' MVP as a senior. An all-conference pick, she was an All-SWC and All-SWC Tournament selection and well as being named to the all-South region team in her final year. She went on to play basketball in her final year before graduating with a degree in Kinesiology from the University of Texas in 1994.

Watts began her coaching career while in college working with Haley at the University of Texas volleyball camps. Watts accepted the assistant coaching job at Texas-Arlington in 1994, a position she held until going to Arkansas in the spring of 1996.

Watts is married to John Watts and the couple has two sons, Jeremiah and Jared.





**ASSISTANT COACH GOKHAN YILMAZ**
**GOKHAN YILMAZ**


Assistant  
Coach  
2nd Season at FSU

Gokhan Yilmaz joined the Florida State staff in 2008 after two seasons as an assistant coach for the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks.

Yilmaz's primary role is as the team's training coordinator where he is in charge of the day-to-day training while working to enhance the skills of all players. Yilmaz has also taken on an expanded recruiting role to help establish Seminole volleyball at the regional, national

and international level. His efforts have been rewarded with a strong 2009 recruiting class that includes two National Team-level players from his home country of Turkey and a up-and-coming middle blocker from California. Turkish standouts, outside hitter Fatma Yildirim and setter Duygu Duzceler, along with Sareea Freeman will challenge for playing time this season as freshmen.

Yilmaz had a busy spring after being selected as an assistant coach for the 2009 Florida Region Girls Junior National Team. This allowed him to make inroads in the Florida recruiting base and gave him a chance to work with lots of young talent.

"We have been very lucky to have Gokhan working with our program as well as him having the opportunity to work with some of the best talent in Florida with the region team," head coach Chris Poole said. "He is an intense trainer and pushes the girls to reach their fullest potential."

While at Arkansas, Yilmaz went to work on re-energizing practices as the training coordinator for the Lady Razorbacks. He was also involved with recruiting by making trips both nationally

and internationally to spread the Lady Razorbacks' name.

Yilmaz's first exposure to Arkansas came in the spring of 2005 when he worked with the Lady Razorbacks as a volunteer coach.

Prior to Arkansas, Yilmaz was at Northwood where he helped the Timberwolves to a regional semifinal in 2005 with a 23-11 overall record. They were conference runners-up with a 14-4 mark that same season. Northwood was 16-11 and had three players selected to the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic all-conference team in 2006.

Also at Northwood, Yilmaz coached a first team All-American and Regional Player of the Year in Gorana Maricic, as well as four other All-Conference players. Yilmaz was also in charge of camps, recruiting and training for the Timberwolves.

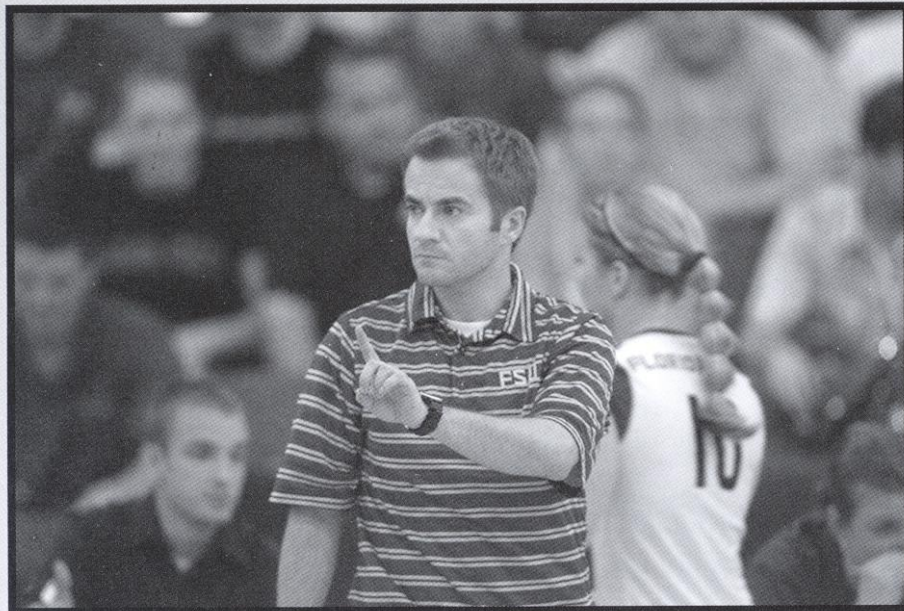
Yilmaz got his coaching start in the United States as an assistant at Cameron University from 2003 to 2004 and at Western New Mexico from 2002 to 2003.

Before coming to the states, Yilmaz worked for various club programs in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as with the Turkish National Team.

While working with the Turkish National Team, Yilmaz guided multiple age groups to eight National Titles. He also worked with the Turkish Junior National Team during the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

He has also worked with national team coaches from Cuba, Russia and Bulgaria, assisting in their practices and working in the physical training aspect of the game.

Yilmaz received his bachelor's degree in European Studies in 2002 from Istanbul University and completed his master's degree in Sports Psychology while coaching at Cameron in 2005.







# SUPPORT STAFF



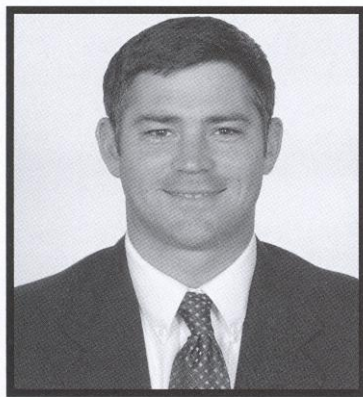
BRANDON  
BLAHNIK  
TEAM MANAGER



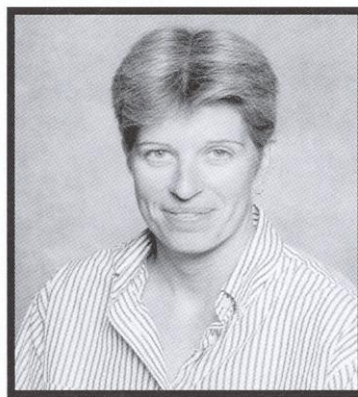
SARAH  
GRIFFIN  
ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST



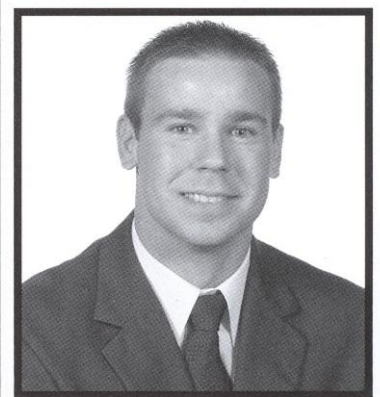
JON JOST  
DIRECTOR OF  
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



STUART PEARCE  
FACILITY  
COORDINATOR



LAURIE SWIGER  
FACILITY  
COORDINATOR



MARK  
WELCH  
MARKETING ASSISTANT

*Not Pictured: Jill Hoomes - Administrative Assistant, Myra Atwell - Equipment Manager*



BRANDI STUART  
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC  
DIRECTOR  
VOLLEYBALL OVERSIGHT