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GENERAL INFORMATION

Name	Sacramento State
Location	Sacramento, Calif.
Founded	1947
Enrollment	27,033
Nickname	Hornets
Colors	Green & Gold
Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Conference	Big Sky
President	Dr. Alexander Gonzalez
Athletics Director	Dr. Terry Wanless
Faculty Athletic Rep.	Dr. Steve Perez
Athletics Phone	(916) 278-6481

TEAM INFORMATION

Facility (Capacity)	Colberg Court (1,200)
Press Row Phone	(916) 278-7531
Head Coach	Ruben Volta
Alma Mater, Year	Sacramento State, '93
Record at SAC	41-56 (3 yrs.)
Overall Record	Same
Office Phone	(916) 278-6427
Assistant Coach	Sarah Chlebana
Alma Mater, Year	Sacramento State, '02
Assistant Coach	Jason Borchin
Alma Mater, Year	Pacific, '10
Volunteer Assistant	Sam Hochwald
2010 Overall Record	15-17
2010 Big Sky Record	8-8 (5th)
Lettermen Returning/Lost	11/2
Starters Returning/Lost	6+libero/0
Returning Redshirts	2
Newcomers	2

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2011 SEASON OUTLOOK

Sacramento State returns all six starters and the libero from last year's team

Fresh off a season in which injuries and youth were big factors in the Hornets failing to reach the Big Sky Conference Tournament for just the second time in school history, Sacramento State looks to regain its winning edge behind 11 returners, including all six starters and the team's libero.

Last year's roster averaged just 19 years of age and the team played the entire season without projected starters at setter and middle hitter because of injury. In fact, Sacramento State had zero active seniors on the roster and four of the team's starters were underclassmen.

Despite all of that, the Hornets finished 15-17 overall and 8-8 in the Big Sky, and battled for one of the conference's four play-off spots into the final day of the season.

This season, behind the strength of its 11 returners, nine of which started at least one match in 2010, the Hornets hope to re-establish a tradition that saw the team win 11 straight Big Sky regular season and/or tournament crowns (1997-07) and reach the NCAA Tournament 10 times over that span.

Three of the team's starters from a year ago earned individual honors. Junior outside hitter Janelle Currey received second team all-Big Sky honors while both senior outside hitter Eryn Kirby and senior libero Breanne Menees received honorable mention accolades. Also returning are 2010 starters at rightside hitter (sophomore Kayla Beal), setter (sophomore Katie Aprile) and both middle blocker spots (senior Kelsey Elston and junior Olivia Moss).

Also back is senior setter Anna Schoener who was the probable preseason starter at rightside hitter before a shoulder injury forced her to play the setter position last season for the first time of her career. In addition, senior Maddison Thivierge (middle blocker) and sophomore Hannah Hettinga (setter) are both back after missing the entire 2010 season and being granted medical hardships. Both Thivierge and Hettinga were likely starters at their respective positions prior to the 2010 season.

One major obstacle the Hornets will need to overcome in 2011 is the team's inability to

consistently win on the road. In Big Sky play, Sacramento State was 1-7 on the road and 7-1 at home. Overall, the team was just 3-10 on the road and 2-4 at neutral sites. In fact, the team hit nearly 100 points better at home (.225) compared to the road (.127).

Always a strong defensive team, Sacramento State's average of 16.65 digs per set ranked second in the Big Sky and 52nd in the nation. Menees, who ranked 27th in the nation with 5.20 digs per set, leads a defensive unit that limited last year's opposition to a .187 hitting percentage. Menees, Currey (3.47), junior defensive specialist Sydney Kordic (2.58) and Kirby (2.21) combined to average nearly 13.5 digs per set last season.

Offensively, the team will need to improve upon last year's numbers of 11.76 kills per set and a .167 hitting percentage, marks which both ranked fifth in the nine-team Big Sky. Currey (3.24 kps) and Kirby (3.18 kps) accounted for 57 percent of the team's swings last year and both will be back in 2010. Currey led the Big Sky with 20 double-doubles while Kirby ranked ninth (9).



SEASON OUTLOOK

SETTERS

#	Yr.	Name	Hometown
5	So.	Hannah Hettinga	Boise, Idaho
6	So.	Katie Aprile	Escalon, Calif.
9	Sr.	Anna Schoener	Placerville, Calif.

Sacramento State has three active setters on this year's roster and each will likely see time in 2010. Hannah Hettinga was the projected starter last year before suffering a knee injury in the preseason and missing the entire season. Because of the injury, head coach Ruben Volta employed a modified 5-1 offense with Katie Aprile and Anna Schoener rotating at setter. Schoener will serve as a team tri-captain this year.

Aprile, who started 28 of 32 matches, averaged 5.18 assists while Schoener averaged 4.61 assists per set. In 2009, Hettinga averaged 3.48 assists while serving as the team's backup setter.

A fourth setter, senior Alex Diemer, is also on the roster but will not be eligible to play this season after transferring from Washington State.



ERYN KIRBY

ATTACKERS

#	Yr.	Name	Hometown
3	Jr.	Jessie Genger	Kent, Wash.
8	So.	Emily Kiser	Golden, Colo.
10	Sr.	Eryn Kirby	Yuba City, Calif.
12	Jr.	Janelle Currey	Rocklin, Calif.
13	So.	Kayla Beal	Dixon, Calif.

Sacramento State has five players that could see time at outside hitter and/or right-side hitter this year. Back in the mix this season is the starting outside hitter tandem of Janelle Currey and Eryn Kirby. Both Currey (5th, 3.24) and Kirby (7th, 3.18) ranked among the Big Sky's top seven players in kills per set, with Currey receiving second team all-league honors and Kirby honorable mention. Currey will serve as a team tri-captain.

Also back is sophomore Kayla Beal, who started 22 times on the right side last year. She averaged 2.30 kills per set while hitting .216. The Dixon, Calif., native had at least eight kills in 13 of the team's final 15 matches of the season.

Sophomore Emily Kiser returns after appearing in 21 matches last year. Gonzaga transfer Jessie Genger brings versatility as the Kent, Wash., native could see time on both the outside and right side.

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

#	Yr.	Name	Hometown
2	Jr.	Olivia Moss	Monument, Colo.
4	Sr.	Maddison Thivierge	Ashland, Ore.
7	So.	Ashley Newcomb	El Paso, Texas
11	Sr.	Kelsey Elston	Rocklin, Calif.

Sacramento State returns last year's starting middle blocker tandem of Kelsey Elston and Olivia Moss. In addition, the team welcomes back Maddison Thivierge who was slated to start at middle last year before missing the entire year with a knee injury suffered during the preseason. If healthy, Thivierge could also see time on the right side as the fifth-year senior has been called on to play both positions during her Sacramento State career.

Elston, who is a team tri-captain, started all 32 matches and appeared in all 127 sets while averaging 1.61 kills and 1.06 blocks a season ago. Despite playing the majority of the season with a shoulder injury, Moss ranked seventh in the Big Sky in blocks, and upped that mark to sixth (1.02 per set) against conference competition.

Sophomore Ashley Newcomb appeared in 24 matches (one start) in her first season with the Hornets, and finished with 0.49 kills and 0.77 blocks per set.

DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS

#	Yr.	Name	Hometown
1	Sr.	Breanne Menees	Bakersfield, Calif.
15	Jr.	Sydney Kordic	San Ramon, Calif.

For the third straight season, the defensive specialist duo of senior Breanne Menees and junior Sydney Kordic will man the Hornets' back row. Menees has served as the team's libero and Kordic at right back since 2009 and the pair have been key factors to Sacramento State finishing atop or near the top of the Big Sky Conference in digs per set each year.

In fact, Menees' 5.20 digs per set last season led the Big Sky and ranked 27th in the nation. In addition, she paced the conference with 41 aces. An honorable mention all-Big Sky selection in 2010, Menees' career average of 4.00 digs per set is the fifth best mark in school history and she has already amassed 1,293 digs. Last season, the Bakersfield, Calif., native had at least 12 digs in all but one match.

Kordic played in all but one set last season while finishing third on the team with 2.58 digs per set. She had 16 matches with double figures in digs, including a career-high 30 in a home win against Portland State. In addition, her 0.30 aces per set were the fifth best mark in the Big Sky.



Roster Breakdown

By Position

Outside Hitters (4)

Janelle Currey, Jessie Genger,
Eryn Kirby, Emily Kiser

Rightside Hitters (3)

Kayla Beal, Jessie Genger,
Maddison Thivierge

Middle Blockers (4)

Kelsey Elston, Olivia Moss,
Ashley Newcomb, Maddison Thivierge

Setters (4)

Katie Aprile, Alex Diemer,
Hannah Hettinga, Anna Schoener

Defensive Specialists/Liberos (2)

Sydney Kordic, Breanne Menees

By Class

Seniors (6)

Alex Diemer, Kelsey Elston,
Eryn Kirby, Breanne Menees,
Anna Schoener, Maddison Thivierge

Juniors (4)

Janelle Currey, Jessie Genger,
Sydney Kordic, Olivia Moss

Sophomores (5)

Katie Aprile, Kayla Beal,
Hannah Hettinga, Emily Kiser,
Ashley Newcomb

By Height

5-4 (1) – Breanne Menees

5-7 (1) – Katie Aprile

5-8 (2) – Alex Diemer, Sydney Kordic

5-9 (1) – Hannah Hettinga

5-10 (2) – Janelle Currey, Emily Kiser

5-11 (4) – Kayla Beal, Jessie Genger,
Anna Schoener, Maddison Thivierge

6-0 (2) – Kelsey Elston, Eryn Kirby

6-2 (2) – Olivia Moss,
Ashley Newcomb

Pronunciations

Katie Aprile – April

Sarah Chlebana – Kluh-BAN-uh

Jessie Genger – GANG-er

Emily Kiser – KIZE-er

Breanne Menees – Mih-NEECE

Anna Schoener – ANN-uh SHOW-ner

Maddison Thivierge – TEE-verge

Ruben Volta – VOLE-tuh

Numerical

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/Previous School
1	Breanne Menees	DS	Sr.	5-4	Bakersfield, Calif./Centennial HS
2	Olivia Moss	MB	Jr.	6-2	Monument, Colo./Lewis Palmer HS
3	Jessie Genger	OH/OPP	Jr.	5-11	Kent, Wash./Gonzaga
4	Maddison Thivierge	MB/OPP	Sr.	5-11	Ashland, Ore./Ashland HS
5	Hannah Hettinga	S	So.	5-9	Boise, Idaho/Capital HS
6	Katie Aprile	S	So.	5-7	Escalon, Calif./Escalon HS
7	Ashley Newcomb	MB	So.	6-2	El Paso, Texas/Franklin HS
8	Emily Kiser	OH	So.	5-10	Golden, Colo./Fairview HS
9	Anna Schoener	S	Sr.	5-11	Placerville, Calif./Union Mine HS
10	Eryn Kirby	OH	Sr.	6-0	Yuba City, Calif./Yuba City HS
11	Kelsey Elston	MB	Sr.	6-0	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
12	Janelle Currey	OH	Jr.	5-10	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
13	Kayla Beal	OPP	So.	5-11	Dixon, Calif./Dixon HS
14	Alex Diemer	S	Sr.	5-8	Rocklin, Calif./Washington State
15	Sydney Kordic	DS	Jr.	5-8	San Ramon, Calif./California HS

Head Coach: Ruben Volta (Fourth Season)

Assistant Coaches: Sarah Chlebana, Jason Borchin

Volunteer Assistant: Sam Hochwald

Alphabetical

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/Previous School
6	Katie Aprile	S	So.	5-7	Escalon, Calif./Escalon HS
13	Kayla Beal	OPP	So.	5-11	Dixon, Calif./Dixon HS
12	Janelle Currey	OH	Jr.	5-10	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
14	Alex Diemer	S	Sr.	5-8	Rocklin, Calif./Washington State
11	Kelsey Elston	MB	Sr.	6-0	Rocklin, Calif./Rocklin HS
3	Jessie Genger	OH/OPP	Jr.	5-11	Kent, Wash./Gonzaga
5	Hannah Hettinga	S	So.	5-9	Boise, Idaho/Capital HS
10	Eryn Kirby	OH	Sr.	6-0	Yuba City, Calif./Yuba City HS
8	Emily Kiser	OH	So.	5-10	Golden, Colo./Fairview HS
15	Sydney Kordic	DS	Jr.	5-8	San Ramon, Calif./California HS
1	Breanne Menees	DS	Sr.	5-4	Bakersfield, Calif./Centennial HS
2	Olivia Moss	MB	Jr.	6-2	Monument, Colo./Lewis Palmer HS
7	Ashley Newcomb	MB	So.	6-2	El Paso, Texas/Franklin HS
9	Anna Schoener	S	Sr.	5-11	Placerville, Calif./Union Mine HS
4	Maddison Thivierge	MB/OPP	Sr.	5-11	Ashland, Ore./Ashland HS