

Angelo State Assistant Selected To Launch Women's Volleyball Program At UT-Dallas

RICHARDSON, TX (Jan. 12, 2004) - **Marci Sanders**, an assistant volleyball coach at Angelo State University for the past four years, has been selected to lead the new women's volleyball program at the University of Texas at Dallas, UTD Athletic Director **Chris Gage** has announced.

UTD will play its first season of intercollegiate volleyball this fall as part of the NCAA Division III American Southwest Conference. Sanders officially began her duties as Head Volleyball Coach on Monday, Jan. 12.

A record-setting defensive specialist as a player with Angelo State in 1997 and 1998, Sanders joined the staff of ASU Head Volleyball Coach and Women's Athletic Director **Kathleen Brasfield** as a student graduate assistant in 1999, then became a fulltime assistant coach in 2000.

"I am very excited about the opportunity of coming in to start a program on the ground level," said Sanders, a native of Amarillo, Texas. "I've learned a lot the last few years as a player and as a coach, and am convinced we can build a successful program at UT-Dallas. I'm very much looking forward to the challenge.

"UT-Dallas has a tremendous amount to offer any student-athlete – from location to facilities, as well as an outstanding academic program. We'll be looking for young women who want to be successful in the classroom, as well as on the court," said Sanders, who was an Academic All-American at ASU.

"We feel extremely fortunate to have found a candidate like Marci to launch our program," Gage said. "She has done a lot of work in preparing herself to become a collegiate head coach, and we are confident she has the right tools to build what we believe can be a very successful program."

Sanders was a three-time all-district performer at Amarillo (TX) Palo Duro High School and began her collegiate career at College of the Southwest in New Mexico, where she was the team MVP after two seasons. After moving to Angelo State, she set numerous ASU, Lone Star Conference and NCAA Division II records. Her career average of 5.52 digs per game is still an NCAA Division II record.

Sanders was a summa cum laude graduate of ASU in 1999 with a degree in kinesiology. In 2001, she earned a master's degree in the same subject and taught on the ASU faculty as a kinesiology lecturer.

In addition to her duties with the ASU team, Sanders has organized volleyball camps