



head coach reed **SUNAHARA**

11th season overall as head coach | 9th at Cincinnati

Reed Sunahara, the winningest coach in program history, has guided University of Cincinnati volleyball to unprecedented heights during his first eight seasons as head coach.

Sunahara has piloted the Bearcats to NCAA Tournament appearances during four of his eight seasons, after helping the program to a NCAA berth as an assistant in 1999. UC has claimed a trio of Conference USA regular-season championships and set school records for consecutive wins, consecutive home wins, and consecutive games won under Sunahara's tutelage. Since his arrival in Clifton, UC has won at least 20 matches in seven of his eight seasons. Sunahara earned the distinction

as the program's winningest coach in 2004 and he has amassed 180 victories on the Bearcats' sideline.

Sunahara has also coached on the international circuit, taking USA squads through tours of Spain and Portugal (2001), the Czech Republic (2003 & 2004) and Argentina (2006).

In 2007, the Bearcats finished with a 19-12 mark, falling one win shy of their 13th consecutive 20-win season. However, junior Jessie Nevitt earned first-team all-BIG EAST honors for the third consecutive season, while freshman Stephanie Niemer became the second Bearcat in three seasons to earn BIG EAST Freshman of the Year accolades en route to second-team all-BIG EAST honors.

During the program's first two seasons in the BIG EAST, the 2005 and 2006 campaigns, UC posted records of 20-12 and 22-7, respectively, extending its streak of 20-win seasons to 12. In its first year in the league in 2005, UC advanced to the BIG EAST Tournament semifinals, while Nevitt brought home BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and honorable mention all-American plaudits. In 2006, Nevitt became just the second Bearcat ever to earn all-America status two consecutive years.

The 2004 season saw UC advance to the C-USA Tournament semifinals for the seventh time in 10 years. Sunahara also guided the Bearcats to their 10th straight 20-win season, finishing with a 22-11 mark. Julie DuPont was honored as the C-USA Player of the Year for the second straight campaign and was again tabbed an all-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

During the 2003 season, Sunahara guided a team that lost two of the top players in school history-Trish Ladusaw and Bonita Wise-to a share of the C-USA regular-season championship and a fifth straight NCAA Tournament appearance. The Bearcats finished with a 27-6 record, presenting him with his 100th coaching victory. DuPont blossomed under Sunahara's tutelage, becoming UC's first-ever volleyball all-American.

In 2002, Sunahara led the Bearcats to a 23-9 mark and an at-large NCAA Tournament berth.

Sunahara earned the C-USA Coach of the Year Award in 2001 after leading the Bearcats to the most successful season in school history. The Bearcats finished the season 23-8, capturing the C-USA regular-season championship and matching a school record with a 14-2 conference ledger. Along the way, the Bearcats set a school record by winning 16 straight matches and later earned their first NCAA Tournament win with a victory over Xavier.

In 2000, his first year as UC's head coach, Sunahara led a team returning three starters to a second consecutive C-USA American Division title with a 14-2 league record, earning a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Along with the success on the court, Sunahara has had a hand in developing his players off the court. Six volleyball players were named

the reed sunahara file

personal information

Education: UCLA (BA in Sociology, 1989)

Years at Cincinnati: 9th as head coach, 12th overall

Career Record: 199-115 overall, 180-75 at UC

Coaching Experience: 20 seasons

Playing Experience: UCLA (1982-86), two-time all-American, three NCAA titles; NIKE/Molten at the USVBA national championships (1987, 90); Cisneros Isla Verdes in the Canary Islands (1988)

Personal: Children Rex (12), R.J. (7), and Mia (3)



coaching experience

Year	School	Position	Record	Conf.	Postseason
1987	UCLA	Men's G.A. Coach	30-3	18-0	NCAA Champion
1989	UCLA	Men's G.A. Coach	29-5	17-3	NCAA Champion
1990	UCLA	Men's Asst. Coach	26-5	15-3	
1991	UCLA	Men's Asst. Coach	16-9	12-4	
1992	UCLA	Men's Asst. Coach	15-12	11-7	
1993	UCLA	Men's Asst. Coach	24-3	16-3	NCAA Champion
1993	Toledo	Women's Asst. Coach	16-12	9-9	
1994	Toledo	Women's Asst. Coach	8-19	4-13	
1995	Toledo	Women's Head Coach	7-21	4-13	
1996	Toledo	Women's Head Coach	12-19	5-12	
1997	Cincinnati	Women's Asst. Coach	21-13	12-4	
1998	Cincinnati	Women's Asst. Coach	21-12	12-4	
1999	Cincinnati	Women's Asst. Coach	28-7	13-3	C-USA Div. Champs, NCAA Tournament
2000	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	24-10	14-2	C-USA Div. Champs, NCAA Tournament
2001	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	23-8	14-2	C-USA Champions, NCAA Tournament
2002	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	23-9	11-2	NCAA Tournament
2003	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	27-6	12-1	C-USA Champions, NCAA Tournament
2004	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	22-11	10-3	
2005	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	20-12	9-5	
2006	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	22-7	10-4	
2007	Cincinnati	Women's Head Coach	19-12	9-5	
Totals			199-115	89-24	



sunahara career vs. all-opponents

	Won	Lost		Won	Lost
Akron	0	4	Minnesota	0	1
Arizona State	0	1	Missouri-Kansas City	1	0
Austin Peay	2	0	Missouri State	1	0
Ball State	1	4	Morehead State	4	0
Bowling Green	2	3	Nevada	1	0
Bradley	3	0	New Hampshire	1	0
Brown	1	0	New Mexico State	1	1
Buffalo	1	0	New Orleans	1	0
Butler	2	0	Nicholls State	0	1
Cal Poly	0	1	Northern Illinois	0	1
Cal State Northridge	1	0	Notre Dame	1	8
UC-Santa Barbara	0	1	Oakland	1	0
Central Connecticut State	1	0	Ohio	1	4
Central Florida	1	1	Ohio State	0	3
Central Michigan	1	4	Pacific	0	1
Charlotte	7	1	Penn State	0	1
Cincinnati	0	1	Pittsburgh	2	1
Cleveland State	1	0	Robert Morris	1	0
Colorado	0	1	Rutgers	3	0
Colorado State	1	0	Saint Louis	6	1
Connecticut	3	0	San Francisco	1	1
Dayton	6	3	Seton Hall	2	1
DePaul	9	1	South Carolina	0	1
East Carolina	5	0	Southern California	0	1
Eastern Kentucky	2	0	Southern Miss	7	0
Eastern Michigan	3	2	St. John's	0	1
Evansville	1	0	St. Mary's	1	0
Fairfield	1	0	Stanford	0	1
Florida	0	1	Syracuse	2	1
George Mason	2	0	TCU	3	2
Georgetown	3	0	Tennessee	1	0
George Washington	1	1	Tennessee-Martin	0	1
Georgia State	1	0	UT-Pan American	1	0
Gonzaga	1	0	Texas Southern	1	0
Hawai'i	0	2	Tulane	6	0
Hofstra	1	1	Tulsa	0	1
Houston	5	1	UAB	5	0
Indiana	0	1	UCLA	0	2
Indiana State	0	1	USF	5	4
IUPUI	4	0	Utah State	0	1
Jacksonville State	1	0	Valparaiso	0	1
Kent State	2	3	Villanova	1	2
Kentucky	2	0	Virginia	0	1
Louisiana-Lafayette	1	0	Virginia Tech	1	0
Louisville	3	8	Washington State	1	0
Loyola Marymount	0	1	West Virginia	3	0
Loyola (IL)	1	0	Western Illinois	1	0
Maine	2	0	Western Kentucky	7	1
Marquette	8	3	Western Michigan	3	2
Marshall	1	2	Wisconsin	0	1
Maryland	1	0	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	4	2
Maryland-Baltimore Co.	1	0	Wright State	6	2
Massachusetts	0	1	Wyoming	1	0
Memphis	6	0	Xavier	3	0
Miami (FL)	0	1	Youngstown State	1	0
Miami (OH)	3	3			
Michigan	0	3			

*2008 opponents in *italics*

to the BIG EAST All-Academic Team for the 2007-08 season. For the fourth straight year, the Bearcats were awarded the AVCA Academic Award, recognizing volleyball teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

Sunahara joined the Cincinnati family in 1997 as the top assistant to then-head coach Laura Alford.

continued...

BEARCATS COMMITTED TO ACADEMICS

Success in the classroom is one of Reed Sunahara's top priorities, which has shown throughout his career. Among the highlights during Sunahara's tenure are:

- For the past four seasons, the Bearcats earned the Team Academic Award from the AVCA for holding a team GPA of 3.3 or higher.
- Julie DuPont was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American three times, including a first-team choice in 2004.
- Trish Ladusaw named CoSIDA Academic All-District in 2002.
- In UC's first two years as league members, the volleyball program placed a total of 18 student-athletes on the BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team.
- Student-athletes earned a total of six Conference USA Academic Medals and 33 slots on the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.



As an assistant, Sunahara was involved in all coaching aspects, from recruiting and scheduling to practice planning and scouting. He was instrumental in developing Cincinnati's middle blockers, including former all-time kills leader Becky Tenkman, four-time all-conference selection Bonita Wise, and two-time all-conference choice Stephanie Meinig. The Bearcats were 70-32 in his three seasons as an assistant.

Sunahara previously spent four seasons at Toledo, serving as head coach for the final two years. In 1993, the Rockets reached the Mid-American Conference Tournament for the first time. As head coach for the Rockets, he posted a 19-40 record, including a 12-19 mark in 1996.

Prior to Toledo, Sunahara served as assistant men's coach (1990-93) at perennial power UCLA under Al Scates, the all-time winningest volleyball coach in NCAA history. He also served as the graduate assistant at UCLA in 1987 and 1989 and later was an assistant (1990-95). The Bruins won three national championships during his coaching tenure.

As a player, Sunahara helped lead UCLA to three straight national championships, including two undefeated seasons (29-0 in 1982 and 38-0 in 1984). He led the Bruins with a .399 hitting percentage in 1984 and was considered the nation's best outside hitter.

A two-time all-American, Sunahara played with Olympians Karch Kiraly, Ricci Luyties (the current head coach at Southern Miss), Doug Partie, and Dave Saunders during his career. In 1988, he went to Spain to play professionally in the Canary Islands for Cisneros Isla Verdes. He played for champion NIKE/Molten at the United States Volleyball Association national championships in 1987 and 1990.

Sunahara has held his own camp, The Reed Sunahara Volleyball Camp, for 12 years.

sunahara milestone wins at uc

1	Sept. 2, 2000 at Indiana	UC 3, Loyola (IL) 0
50	Sept. 14, 2002 at Wright State	UC 3, Austin Peay 0
100	Sept. 4, 2004 at Fifth Third Arena	UC 3, Kent State 0
102*	Sept. 10, 2004 at Loyola Marymount	UC 3, Washington State 1
150	Oct. 12, 2005 at Morehead State	UC 3, Morehead State 1

**Sunahara became UC's winningest coach.*

assistant COACHES

erin VIRTUE



Virtue, a former University of Illinois standout with ties to the USA National program, begins her second season with the UC volleyball program as the top aide to ninth-year head coach Reed Sunahara.

Virtue's responsibilities with the Bearcats include working with the setters and liberos, coordinating camps, serving as the program's recruiting coordinator. Last season, Virtue mentored freshman setter Annie Fesl, who finished the season ranked in the Top-25 nationally in assists per game (13.12).

Virtue broke into the coaching ranks on the collegiate level in 2006, spending a season as an assistant at Loyola University in Chicago. While with the Ramblers, Virtue worked with the team's setters, while handling recruiting and training organization.

Virtue's connection with the USA National team comes as both a player and a coach. During the summer of 2004, she participated with the USA National A2 program and was a coach for the junior team two years later. During 2005-06, Virtue trained with the USA National Team. This past summer, Virtue coached the USA A1 and A2 programs and the A1 program finished in fourth place in the high-performance championships in Tucson, Ariz.

On the collegiate level, Virtue enjoyed her best season as a senior at Illinois, helping the Fighting Illini to a Top-10 national ranking and a spot in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen. For her play, she was named to the Big Ten all-conference first team and was an honorable mention all-American. Throughout her career, she was awarded numerous awards for spirit, academic excellence and sportsmanship.

Virtue also competed in international tours, serving as a team captain with Bring It Promotions teams from 2002-05.

the erin virtue file

Education: Illinois
(BS in Kinesiology, 2005)

Years at Cincinnati: 2nd

Coaching Experience: One season: Cincinnati, (2007); one season: Loyola (Ill.), (2006), assistant coach; USA A2 Camp (2006), assistant coach.

Playing Experience: Illinois (2001-05), USA National A2 Program (Summer 2004); Trained with USA National Team (2005-06).



myanna HELLSTEN



Myanna Hellsten starts her second season on the UC sideline in 2008 following a stellar four-year career for the Bearcats from 2003-06.

Hellsten's duties range from planning all of the team's travel to assisting with recruiting and working with the players on the court, particularly the middle blockers. In her first season on the sidelines Hellsten worked with junior Jessie Nevitt who was named a first-team all-BIG EAST performer for the third consecutive season. Nevitt also ranked 45th in the nation in blocks per game (1.38 bpg).

While the assignment to the UC staff is Hellsten's first full-time coaching position, she gained experience on the club and youth levels. Following her junior year of competition as a player at UC, Hellsten assisted Sunahara with his coaching duties for the Team Z club team in Cincinnati. She led her own Team Z squad in the spring of 2007. In addition, Hellsten has worked many of UC's youth camps and coached a third and fourth grade team for two years.

During her playing career, Hellsten excelled both on and off the court. As a middle blocker, Hellsten was the Conference USA Freshman of the Year in 2003 and a two-time all-conference selection. She concluded her career as the only UC player ever to accumulate 1,000 career kills and 500 career blocks. As a Bearcat, she was one of the program's top middle blockers, playing alongside former standout Rachel Torblaa and current star Nevitt.

Away from volleyball, Hellsten was a two-time BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team honoree and was the recipient of the Helen Norman Smith Award, honoring the top graduating senior at UC in 2007. She earned her undergraduate degree in human ecology in June, 2007.

the myanna hellsten file

Education: Cincinnati
(BS in Human Ecology, 2007)

Years at Cincinnati: 2nd

Coaching Experience: One season: Cincinnati, (2007), assistant coach.

Playing Experience: Cincinnati (2003-06).



support STAFF



John Berry
Sports Communications



Katey Schroeder
Student Assistant Coach



Bruce Johnston
Athletic Trainer



Jeff Foltz
Student Manager

Not Pictured:
Linda Mueller, Student
Athletic Trainer
Buck McCoart, Volunteer
Assistant Coach

university **PRESIDENT** dr. nancy **ZIMPHER**



Nancy L. Zimpher – a widely recognized leader in higher education, civic engagement, economic development and urban education reform – serves as the president of the University of Cincinnati, one of the nation's top public research universities. She became UC's 25th president and its first woman president in October 2003. Under her leadership, UC embarked on an unprecedented consultation process that involved a wide spectrum of the university's stakeholders and resulted in the strategic vision, UC[21: Defining the New Urban Research University.

Under President Zimpher's direction, the university continues to make significant strides in its UC[21 vision to become a leading urban research institution for the 21st century. The university has experienced enrollment growth to over 36,500 students, increased retention and graduation rates, improved student satisfaction and enhanced national rankings – including breaking into the Princeton Review's 2008 best colleges list. These achievements have been accomplished through a number of strategic actions that President Zimpher implemented, among them restructuring the university's decision-making process and introducing comprehensive state-of-the-art business practices; raising admissions standards while growing enrollment and maintaining the university's deep commitment to access and a diverse student body; introducing a series of academic reforms related to Strategic Enrollment Management, program offerings and performance-based budgeting; redesigning mechanisms for research support and opportunities for commercialization on intellectual property; as well as transforming decanal leadership through the completion of several national searches.

Additional examples of President Zimpher's achievements at UC include:

- Completion of the final phases of a \$1.7 billion, 15-year capital transformation of the urban UC campus in Uptown Cincinnati;
- Creation of a university Academy of Fellows for Teaching and Learning;
- Initiating the largest campaign in UC history;
- Stepping up freshman innovations, an assessment center and undergraduate research opportunities;

- Establishment of UC's new Center for the City, designed to facilitate innovative and productive partnerships that leverage university and public expertise to work toward the betterment of the community;
- Chairing the Uptown Consortium, a five-member partnership in neighborhood development that involves five of the largest employers in the Uptown area surrounding the UC campus; and
- Founding of Strive, a Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky partnership focused on college access and success. President Zimpher is a co-founder of this partnership, which involves higher education institutions in the region, urban P-12 school districts in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, as well as business, civic and nonprofit organizations.

Prior to her arrival at UC, Dr. Zimpher served as the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she led the university from 1998 to 2003, developing The Milwaukee Idea strategic vision and holding a faculty position in the School of Education. Prior to her appointment in Wisconsin, she was the Executive Dean of the Professional Colleges and Dean of the College of Education at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. During her career at OSU, she worked in various administrative positions and engaged in research and development efforts concerned with improving the preparation of teachers, especially teachers for urban contexts.

President Zimpher is highly engaged on the national and regional level and remains committed to an active role as a thought-leader in the 21st century. She serves as past-chair of the Board of Directors for National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the nation's primary alliance of public universities as well as the oldest higher education association in the United States, now consisting of 215 members. Dr. Zimpher also chairs a national network of presidents called the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), an organization committed to the urban agenda and the role of urban-located universities in their communities. In November 2007, she represented urban universities at the launch of the Blueprint for American Prosperity at the Brookings Institution. In addition, she serves as the Big East representative to the Division I Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and on the national board for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). A past president of a national education reform network, The Holmes Partnership, she has previously served on the Executive Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the AACTE, on the board of the American

Council on Education (ACE), as chair of NASULGC's Commission on International Programs and as Project Director for a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Grant.

Dr. Zimpher participates on numerous state, regional, civic and community commissions and boards. Presently, she co-chairs the Ohio Board of Regents' Articulation & Transfer Advisory Council. She serves as chair of the board of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Cincinnati Business Committee, co-chairing its Education Task Force; serves on the boards of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC), and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Dr. Zimpher is the co-author and co-editor of books on university leadership as well as books on teacher education and urban education. She also has authored and co-authored many monographs, book chapters, and academic journal articles related to academic leadership, school/university partnerships and teacher education, and in many instances her co-author has been her husband, Dr. Kenneth R. Howey, a research professor in education at UC. She often is sought after as a key participant at both national and international conferences, making numerous presentations for groups such as ACE, NASULGC, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), and Association of Teacher Educators (ATE).

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the People of Vision Award from Prevent Blindness Ohio; the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's Chief Executive Leadership Award; Ohio State University's Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award; the Urban Appalachian Council's Kinship Award; the Association of Teacher Educators' Distinguished Research Award; the AACTE's Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education; and Virginia Commonwealth University's Distinguished Woman Scholar Award. In 1998, she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and she has been recognized with the YWCA's Women of Achievement award in Columbus, Milwaukee and Cincinnati.

President Zimpher holds a bachelor's degree in English education and speech, a master's degree in English literature, and a PhD in teacher education and administration in higher education, all from The Ohio State University.

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director of ATHLETICS

mike THOMAS



A 22-year veteran of college athletics administration, Mike Thomas was named as the University of Cincinnati's Director of Athletics on October 20, 2005. Since taking the reins of the department with 18 teams and 560 student-athletes, Thomas has championed

student-athlete development and fiscal responsibility, while also authoring a detailed plan for competitive success in the BIG EAST Conference and on the national level.

In May of 2006, Thomas introduced his vision for Bearcats Athletics, aptly titled CATAPULT. His five-year vision for UC's 18-sport intercollegiate program was launched on his six-month hiring anniversary. The plan focuses on three main initiatives: winning BIG EAST team championships, a high-level of academic achievement, and a comprehensive integration with the UC Campus and Greater Cincinnati Community.

CATAPULT – an acronym for championships, academics, and together – sets a goal that in the next five years UC will win a BIG EAST championship in every sport; UC's student-athletes will lead the general student body in graduation rate and grade-point average; and UC's student-athletes and coaches will engage the Cincinnati community in service.

Through the 2007-08 Winter Quarter, the second year under the CATAPULT plan, UC's sports teams continue to make marked improvement in academics as 14 of the 18 sports programs achieved a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and the student-athletes continued to graduate at a rate 10 percent higher than the overall student body. Those numbers will continue to grow as more and more students receive the benefits of the recently expanded and redefined academic services office and NCAA CHAMPS/Life Skills program. Overall, 12 teams showed improvements in their GPAs from 2006-07 to 2007-08.

"It is exciting to see our student-athletes and staff working together and making significant progress in so many areas, so quickly," says Thomas. "We will continue to progress as we work towards our collective goals in the three components of our CATAPULT program."

A total of 273 student-athletes from UC's 18 sports were named to either the Bearcat or the Topcat Honor Roll. To qualify for

the Bearcat Honor Roll, a student-athlete must have earned a grade point average between 3.0 and 3.49 for the quarter, while Topcat honorees must maintain between a 3.5 and a 4.0 GPA.

The Bearcats continue to step up their levels of performance in their third season in the BIG EAST, having three teams finish in the upper third of the conference and six student-athletes bring home individual championships.

The football team made program history in 2007 under first-year head coach Brian Kelly as the team tied the school record for single-season wins (10), ranked No. 17 in the final *Associated Press* Poll, a first for the UC program, and captured its second straight bowl victory, winning the Papajohns.com Bowl vs. Southern Mississippi.

The UC baseball team also posted a historic year in the spring as it finished second during the regular season with a school-record 39 wins and made its first trip to the BIG EAST Tournament title game. All told, UC Athletics produced five all-Americans, two all-Region selections, and 31 all-BIG EAST honorees in 2007-08.

In 2006-07 UC's men's soccer team became the first Bearcat squad to claim a BIG EAST title, winning the Red Division of the league's regular-season race.

"Spreading the Bearcats' message is vital to our continued brand building efforts and our charge to reach out to our fans, alumni, and sports fans and share the excitement of being a Bearcat," says Thomas. "I am very proud of the strides that we are making in all areas of UC Athletics. Our achievement is coming as a result of working together as a team. Our student-athletes and staff are setting the bar high and then reaching their goal, which is fun to be a part of."

During his tenure at UC, Thomas has hired five head coaches (head men's basketball coach Mick Cronin, head women's basketball coach Kelley Hall, head football coach Brian Kelly, head women's lacrosse coach Lellie Swords, head women's soccer coach Michelle Salmon), added the sport of women's lacrosse, and has introduced a new financial management plan which will trend operations towards a balanced budget for the first time in over a decade.

In March 2007, UC Athletics was recognized in the 2006-07 Diversity in Athletics Award, presented by the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport at Texas A&M University. The award recognizes the NCAA Division I athletics departments that excel in various areas of diversity and UC was recognized for the graduation of African American male student-athletes. UC was one of just 10 programs nationwide to earn the Diversity in Athletics Award for the graduation of African American male student-athletes.

As expenses continue to rise in the world of college athletics, the University of Cincinnati has kept pace and made historic leaps in 2007-08. The football program established new records for sellouts (3) and ticket sales revenues, while the development area, better known as UCATS, reached all-time highs for donors (3,000) and donations to the annual fund. Three months before the first football game of 2008, season ticket sales for UC football broke the all-time record and crossed over the 10,000 mark for the first time.

Beginning in the fall of 2008, all UC teams will be outfitted exclusively in adidas footwear, uniforms, training apparel, and accessories as the department signed its first across-the-board shoe and apparel contract. The four-year, \$14.5 million contract aligns

UC with other adidas marketing partners such as the NFL, MLS, and an 11-year exclusive all-league partnership with the NBA.

Prior to coming to UC, Thomas spent five years as the Director of Athletics at the University of Akron, bringing a model of academic and athletic success with him from his seven years of experience as an associate athletic director at the University of Virginia. Virginia finished in the Top 25 in the Director's Cup in each year of Thomas' tenure there, while at the same time was in the Top 10 nationally in student-athlete graduation rates.

Under Thomas' direction, Akron rose from last to second place among Mid-American Conference schools in the Director's Cup annual rankings. Simultaneously, Akron vaulted from last to second place in the MAC Academic Achievement Awards.

Thomas hired highly successful football and men's basketball head coaches at Akron, and served on several coaching search committees at Virginia. He is well-connected with several national leaders in both NCAA and NBA basketball realms. In his career, he has worked with coaches who have won over 30 national championships combined.

Thomas increased the financial base of the Akron athletics program through increasing corporate sponsorship levels by 500 percent and boosted annual giving to athletics to its highest level in the school's history. Community support was rallied, with marked increases shown in football and basketball attendance.

Support services and facilities for academic support for student-athletes were significantly increased, which resulted in a significant improvement in grade point averages and graduation rates of UA student-athletes.

Thomas coordinated over \$140 million in facility construction and renovation, including \$25 million in capital improvements to Akron's athletic facilities. He also was instrumental in the initial fundraising and planning stages of the new football stadium which is under construction on the Akron campus.

Recognized for his administrative acumen by his peers, Thomas presently serves on several national and conference committees, including the NCAA Division I Championship/Competition Cabinet, the NCAA Postseason Bowl Licensing Subcommittee, the NCAA Men's Basketball Issues Committee, and he also chairs the BIG EAST Championship and Competition committee. Thomas has also previously served as a member of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee, the NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet, and the Division 1A Athletics Director's Association Legislative Review Committee.

Twice during his career, Thomas has received distinction for his efforts and dedication as a director of athletics, garnering the General Robert R. Neyland Outstanding Athletics Director Award in 2005 at Akron and then again this past April (2008) at Cincinnati.

Prior to his experience at Virginia, Thomas spent seven years at the University of Denver as assistant athletic director for internal operations, and one year at the University of Iowa in marketing and promotions.

Thomas, 48, received his B.S. degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University in 1983, and his M.S. degree in Athletic Administration from Western Illinois University in 1986. He and his wife, Jenifer, have four children: Vince, Joey, Mick, and Meredith.

the mike thomas file

personal information

Wife: Jenifer
Children: Vince, Joey, Mick, and Meredith
Education: Colorado State (1983),
B.S. in business administration
Western Illinois (1986),
M.S. in athletics administration

experience

Years	Positions	School
1985-86	Marketing and Promotions Associate	Iowa
1986-93	Assistant Director of Athletics	Denver
1993-00	Associate Director of Athletics	Virginia
2000-05	Director of Athletics	Akron
2005-08	Director of Athletics	Cincinnati

senior ADMINISTRATION

RECRUITING

OUTLOOK & PLAYER BIOGRAPHIES

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bob arkeilpane

deputy director of athletics

Bob Arkeilpane joined the University of Cincinnati as Deputy Director of Athletics in December of 2005. He is the No. 2 administrator in charge of UC's 18-sport intercollegiate athletics program and oversees the daily operations of the athletics department.

Arkeilpane has three decades of Division I experience as a student-athlete, coach, and administrator. He joined the Bearcats Department of Athletics in 2005 after serving for three years as Associate Vice President of the UC Foundation, the private sector fund-raising entity for the University of Cincinnati and its campuses, colleges, departments, and units. Arkeilpane previously had worked for the UC Foundation as college director of development and alumni affairs from 1987-91.

Arkeilpane made his return to UC after five successful years as Director of Athletics at the University of Buffalo. Arkeilpane was named officer-in-charge in UB's Division of Athletics and then served as interim athletics director for 10 months prior to being named director in February 1999. He was promoted to the helm of the Bulls' department of athletics after spending three years as Associate Athletics Director of Development at UB starting in 1995.

A native of Amherst, N.Y. and a standout high school football player at Sweet Home High School, he earned an athletics scholarship to Syracuse, where he was a starting defensive back for three seasons. He played with future NFL stars Art Monk, Joe Morris, and Gary Anderson—and against such big-name players as Warren Moon, Dan Marino, and Jim Kelly. Arkeilpane earned his bachelor's degree in 1981 from Syracuse. He earned his master's degree from Ohio University while serving as a graduate assistant football coach.



mike waddell

senior associate director of athletics/external relations

Mike Waddell joined the UC athletics family as senior associate director of athletics in March, 2006. His duties include oversight of marketing/fan development, ticketing/customer service, sports communications, information technology, the Wheels of Support program, and UC's profitable licensing and merchandising efforts. He also oversees UC's fundraising efforts with UC's professional sports alumni and serves as a member of the Campus Communications Cabinet.

Waddell has sport oversight over the UC men's soccer, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's swimming/diving teams. He also serves as the department's liaison with adidas, ISP Sports, and ESPN.

The North Carolina native came to UC from The University of Akron, where he served as the associate athletics director for external relations. Akron's sports marketing revenues increased more than five-fold during Waddell's tenure at UA via the creation of the TEAM AKRON corporate patron program. Following Mike Thomas' departure for the UC Director of Athletics chair, Waddell served as Akron's Interim Director of Athletics from December 2005 through January 2006.

A 1991 graduate of Guilford College (NC) where he was a two-time football letterman, Waddell resides with his wife, Heidi, a USPTA Tennis Professional, and their two children, son Andrew and daughter Caroline. He is an active member of NACDA and BCA, serves on the American Cancer Society Board in Cincinnati and is a founding member of the Cincinnati Sports Professionals Network.



andy hurley

senior associate director of athletics/development

Andy Hurley joined the University of Cincinnati in March of 2006 to head the Athletics Development office. His primary duties as the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development are centered on managing efforts to generate private, philanthropic support to assist UC's student-athletes and coaches in building championship caliber programs in the BIG EAST.

He came to UC after seven years at the University of Buffalo, where he served as an assistant athletics director for the last three. Hurley had served as UB's Director of Athletics Development since September of 1998 before being appointed an Assistant Athletics Director of Development in July of 2003.

Hurley earned his bachelor's degree from UB in 1984 and starred on the football team at defensive back, earning ECAC and Pizza Hut All-America honors in 1984. He received his master's degree in sports administration from the University of Massachusetts in 1987.



robin martin

associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator

Robin Martin, who has three years of experience as a director of athletics and over 12 years of experience in the field of athletics, took over as the University of Cincinnati's Associate AD and Senior Woman Administrator in August, 2007. Martin currently manages nine of the 18 intercollegiate sport programs and provides supervision for compliance, academics, and CHAMPS/Life Skills.

Prior to coming to UC, Martin was the Director of Athletics at Holy Names University, where she

was the first African-American woman to ever hold the position. There, she was the oversight of 10 intercollegiate sports programs, intramurals and recreation, and served as the facilities manager. Under her leadership, the HNU athletics department produced four conference championships, four conference MVP's, three regional championship appearances, and the department sent two athletes to the NAIA National tournament in cross country.

A former women's basketball player at the University of New Orleans, Martin received a bachelor of arts degree in English and a master's degree in education. Martin plans to pursue her doctoral degree in the field of educational leadership.



dan krone

assistant director of athletics/facilities and operations

Dan Krone joined the University of Cincinnati as the Assistant Director of Athletics for Facilities and Operations in May of 2007. Krone is responsible for the staff that operates all of the athletics facilities, including Nippert Stadium and Fifth Third Arena. He is involved with security, parking, ushers, and all aspects of game-day operations for UC events. His duties also include oversight of the strength and conditioning facility/program, the equipment room, as well as any new

construction and renovations involving athletics.

Krone comes to Cincinnati after spending four years at the University of Akron where he was the director of the athletics fieldhouse and building services. There, he oversaw all aspects of Akron's 157,000-square foot, state-of-the-art field house which includes a 120-yard football field, a 300-meter track, four batting cages, 8,000-square foot strength and conditioning room, and locker rooms.

A former college basketball player at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., Krone earned his bachelor's degree from there in 1983 in recreational sports administration. He went on to pick up his master's degree from Eastern Michigan in 1990.



michael harris

assistant director of athletics/sports communications

Michael Harris joined the University of Cincinnati as Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Communications in April of 2007.

Harris' responsibilities include directing Cincinnati's sports communications department and assisting with the continued development of UC Athletics multimedia, most notably GoBEARCATS.com. He will also serve as a media contact for the Bearcat football and basketball programs.

No stranger to the Cincinnati media, Harris, a native of Springboro, Ohio, worked at Miami University (Ohio) for six years (2001-2007) as an assistant director of athletics, overseeing various media relations and marketing roles. Harris helped the RedHawks realize unprecedented growth in season ticket and attendance numbers, doubling the season ticket base and setting all-time highs for ticket revenue.

Harris is a 1995 graduate of Miami where he earned a bachelor of science degree in organizational behavior. He is an active member of CoSIDA, the United States Basketball Writers Association, the Football Writers Association of America, and is a committee member of the Cincinnati Sports Professionals Network.



dr. fritz russ

faculty athletics representative

President Nancy L. Zimpher appointed Dr. Fritz Russ, Professor of Marketing, as the faculty athletics representative for the Cincinnati Department of Athletics, effective February 1, 2007.

Academic integrity, institutional control of the athletics program, and promotion of student-athlete welfare are a FAR's major focus.

The position's duties include being a liaison between academics and athletics; serving on UC's Athletics Advisory Council; assisting in institutional certification processes; participating in compliance reviews; monitoring student-athletes' academic performance and their welfare; assessing and advising on NCAA and conference policies; and attending conference and NCAA meetings.

Russ, who joined the UC faculty in 1989, has previously served the university as Senior Vice Provost, as Dean of the College of Business and as Marketing Department Head. He currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in international marketing and in marketing research. An active researcher, he is also involved in the business community through consulting and as a director of two publicly-held companies.

Before coming to the University of Cincinnati, he was a chaired professor at the University of North Carolina, where he also participated for four years on the university's faculty athletics committee. Russ earned a bachelor's degree from Eckerd College and a master's and doctorate from Carnegie-Mellon University.