

Rocheleau to take over Golden Bears

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By PAUL BATTERSON

ThisWeek Staff Writer

After leading the Ohio Wesleyan women's lacrosse team to a 11-4 record in 2007, Kim Rocheleau was ready for a break from coaching.

That break lasted a little more than a year, as Rocheleau has been named to succeed Lynda McCandlish with the Upper Arlington High School girls team. During her four seasons at Ohio Wesleyan, the Bishops went 42-17.

"I'm excited about coaching this team," Rocheleau said. "I work in this community and I've seen the huge support it gives its programs and I've heard so many great things about these girls."

McCandlish coached UA for just last season as the Golden Bears finished 20-2 after beating Cincinnati Sycamore 14-8 in the Division I state final for their fourth state title since 2002. Rocheleau, the North Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2005, was one of six candidates interviewed for the vacancy.

"Kim is very passionate about coaching and teaching," athletics director Chris Potts said. "She has a lot of experience as a coach and as a player and is very knowledgeable about the game. Being a former college coach gives her an ability to help players through the recruiting process."

UA lost six graduates, including five who will play in college. Seniors Erin Junk (33 goals, 11 assists), Avery Toothman (15 goals, 5 assists), and Rosie Knisley and sophomore Adriane Ghidotti (31 goals, 5 assists) are expected to return to the attack. The midfield should have back seniors Kelly Mason (41 goals, 10 assists), Marissa Henderson, and Maggie Yerke, juniors Megan Knoop, Lauren Hanover, Alice O'Neill and sophomore Jordan John.

Juniors goalie Kevyn Harer is expected back, with Susan Dappen, Kelly Dermott and junior Erin Williams in front of her on defense.

Mason and Junk were first-team all-league and second-team all-district, with Mason also an All-American. Williams and Knoop, the defensive MVP of the state tournament, were second-team all-OCC and Henderson received honorable mention.

Rocheleau, who was defender in college for Eastern Connecticut State, is looking forward to the challenge of keeping UA an elite program.

"I believe that defense wins games, but I really enjoy developing attack players and working (with the offense) because it's a new challenge for me," she said. "As a team, I think my biggest achievement at Ohio Wesleyan was in 2005 when we won the conference and made the NCAA Division III tournament. But personally, though, it'd be

the times when I taught a player a new skill, whether it would be catching the ball with the left hand or playing good defense."