

QUEEN BEES Basketball

Never has the St. Ambrose women's basketball program experienced a losing season. In the team's 30-year history, the Queen Bees have finished at .500 or better and have made many trips to the NAIA national tournament. First year head coach Nathan Altenhofen is striving to maintain that success.

"As a coach, I have a lot of goals and mainly I hope to pass on some of my own better characteristics," Altenhofen says.

According to Altenhofen, he will be stressing the importance of community and hard-work.

"I want to get the student athletes involved in the school and the community, and to represent St. Ambrose in a positive manner," he says. "I will work to instill strong work ethics in my players and to bring discipline in their lives both on and off the court."

Contact the coach

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Athletic success

Last season, the Queen Bees capped off a perfect conference season with a trip to the NAIA National tournament, where they are no stranger to national competition. In the Queen Bees' history, they have made 14 trips to nationals, and have finished in the NAIA Final Four twice. They had eight Elite Eight finishes. This success has led to ten NAIA All-American awards and five MCC Player of the Year awards.

Since 1991, the Queen Bees have won eight MCC Championships. Their last came during the 2007-08 season, where they lost in the Sweet Sixteen of the national tournament.

The conference

St. Ambrose became a member in 2007 of the highly competitive Midwest Collegiate Conference in 2007, which was formerly the Midwest Classic Conference. The conference contains nine colleges scattered across the state of Iowa, with one Wisconsin member. Each school in the conference is a four-year institution with enrollment between 500-3,900 students.

Midwest Collegiate Conference

St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa
Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa
Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa
Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa
Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Viterbo University, LaCrosse, Wis.
Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa
William Penn University, Oskaloosa, Iowa

Recent results

2003-04 Overall 26-10; MCC 12-2 (1st in MCC, first round NAIA Nationals)
2004-05 Overall 17-16; MCC 7-7 (5th in MCC)
2005-06 Overall 21-11; MCC 9-5 (Tied 2nd in MCC)
2006-07 Overall 26-7; MCC 14-0 (1st in MCC, first round NAIA Nationals)

2006-07 MCC regular season

vs. Viterbo W 75-56	at Viterbo W 53-48
at Grand View W 65-51	vs. Iowa Wesleyan . . . W 69-65
at Iowa Wesleyan . . . W 79-65	vs. Grand View W 44-41
at Mount Mercy W 50-40	at Ashford W 82-45
vs. Ashford W 68-50	vs. Mount Mercy W 70-61 (OT)
vs. Waldorf W 53-47	vs. William Penn W 83-47
at William Penn W 73-56	at Waldorf W 63-62

MCC Tournament

vs. William Penn W 78-53 vs. Iowa Wesleyan . . . L 71-62

NAIA National Tournament

vs. Ottawa L 67-57

The coaching staff

Coach Nathan Altenhofen is embarking on his first season as head coach of the St. Ambrose women's basketball team. Before accepting the job at SAU, Altenhofen was named the NJCAA Division I National Coach of the Year after guiding Odessa College to a 32-1 mark and a national title.

Altenhofen is a two-time WJCAC Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2007. He has coached six all-conference players, four all-region players, three All-Americans, and two WJCAC Players of the Year. He finished 68-3 over his final two seasons at Odessa College and brought an 80-15 mark to St. Ambrose.

Altenhofen is assisted by Tim O'Neill and Jennifer Goetz. O'Neill, in his second season with the Queen Bees, is currently a senior sales representative with Power Lift and coordinates the Bees strength and conditioning. Goetz, in her first season as a coach, was a two-time All-American forward at St. Ambrose. She currently is ranked fourth in career scoring and career rebounds.

Academic success

Academically, the Bees have done well, posting a GPA team average of 3.3 during the 2006–07 season. In the team's history, 25 St. Ambrose women's basketball players have been named NAIA All-American Scholar Athletes.

Community service

Altenhofen says his players are willing to put in time to help those in the community. Typically, the women's basketball team will participate in 4–5 community service projects each year. Projects include a gift-giving program with SAU's neighborhood schools and a book collection for the "Reading for Success" program.

Facilities

Built in 1983, Lee Lohman Arena on the St. Ambrose campus has an exercise room with free weights, weight machines and cardiovascular workout machines. The Queen Bees practice and play their home games on the court in Lee Lohman.

Financial aid

Partial scholarships not tied to academics and financial need are available.