

FIGHTING BEES Bowling

As the first head bowling coach at St. Ambrose University, Donna Slane is excited about building a program from scratch.

“I am looking forward to getting in at the ground level at St. Ambrose,” said Slane. “With bowling as big as it is in high school, St. Ambrose provides another opportunity for students to continue their careers. It’s really exciting.”

With a tradition of success, the St. Ambrose athletic department has set the bar high in terms of academic, community service and athletic success. Slane expects the SAU bowling program to make its mark immediately.

“St. Ambrose is a competitive school across the board,” said Slane. “I want the bowling team to meet and exceed those expectations.”

Contact the coach

Head Coach – Donna Slane
Assistant Coach – Jeff Griebel
563/333-6305
GriebelJefferyK@sau.edu
www.sau.edu/athletics

St. Ambrose Admissions Office
518 West Locust Street
Davenport Iowa, 52803
563/333-6300
800/383-2627
admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu/admissions

Starting a new tradition of success

In October 2008, St. Ambrose University Director of Athletics Ray Shovlain announced the University will start varsity men’s and women’s bowling programs in 2009–10. At the time, SAU was to become just the 18th NAIA institution with a certified bowling program.

“Bowling is a varsity sport in more and more high schools, but these students have limited opportunities at the collegiate level,” said Shovlain. “We want to be able to provide opportunities for young people to continue their bowling careers. The varsity bowling program at St. Ambrose will be treated the same as our other 18 athletic programs.”

According to the United States Bowling Congress (USBC), the national governing body for the sport, 19 states have high school varsity bowling programs and an additional 30 states offer high school bowling at the club level.

Standard collegiate competition utilizes a five-player team with each team’s regular travel roster consisting of up to eight players.

Bowling schedule

The coaches are preparing a schedule that will give the St. Ambrose bowling program the opportunity to compete against the best teams in the Midwest and throughout the country. The intercollegiate bowling regular season runs from October through February with postseason competition from March through May. The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) certifies and supports more than 70 intercollegiate bowling tournaments nationwide throughout the season.

The coaching staff

Donna Slane was hired as the first head coach of the St. Ambrose bowling program. Slane is an accomplished bowler, gaining induction into the Davenport-Bettendorf Women’s Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 2006. She participated in the Ladies Professional Bowlers’ Tour (LPBT) and won a Regional Championship title in 1997. Slane also holds several team and individual Iowa and Illinois local association titles. A member of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) for more than 20 years, Slane has maintained at least a 200 average in sanctioned league play for the past 15 years. Along with three 800 three-game series, Slane has rolled eight 300 games, four 299 games, and two 298 games in her career.

“Donna has had an outstanding bowling career in the Quad Cities and throughout the Midwest,” said SAU Director of Athletics Ray Shovlain. “We are very fortunate to hire her as our inaugural coach for the men’s and women’s program. The student-athletes will definitely respect her knowledge of the sport.”

Slane’s brother, Jeff Griebel, will serve as the assistant bowling coach. Griebel, the head men’s golf coach and Director of Athletic Recruitment at SAU, will primarily be responsible for recruiting.

Academic success

The St. Ambrose Athletic Department emphasizes academics as the priority. In 2007–08, St. Ambrose had 14 of its 16 eligible athletic programs earn recognition as NAIA Scholar Academic Teams. That recognition is awarded to teams with composite GPAs that exceed 3.0. SAU also had 53 NAIA Academic All-Americans, a prestigious honor given to only juniors and seniors with cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or higher. The entire St. Ambrose Athletic Department had a cumulative GPA of 3.17 in 2007–08.

Athletic success

During the 2007–08 year, St. Ambrose won a total of 10 conference championships. St. Ambrose was awarded the Midwest Collegiate Conference Commissioner Cup for overall athletic success after winning eight of the 13 MCC championships.

St. Ambrose also won the Mid-States Football Association Midwest League championship and the Mid-America Men's Volleyball Intercollegiate Conference championship.

Community service

Community service and quality of character are of the utmost importance at St. Ambrose. More than 500 St. Ambrose student-athletes participated in the SAU Athletic Department Leadership Academy each year. The SAU Leadership Academy challenges student-athletes to participate in a minimum of three community outreach experiences and attend/engage in four personal growth and leadership seminars every year.

Facilities

Bowlmor Lanes in Davenport will serve as the home practice and competition facility for the St. Ambrose bowling program.

Bowlmor installed synthetic lanes in the summer of 2008 and uses computer programs to apply any oil pattern.

Financial aid

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