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Nelson-Brown Named IWU Volleyball Coach

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Since 1988 the fortunes of the Illinois Wesleyan University volleyball team have been in the capable coaching hands of a former all-conference Illinois State University volleyball standout.

With the appointment of Kim Nelson-Brown as IWU head coach, that tradition continues.

A four-year letterwinner at ISU from 1990-93 and Missouri Valley Conference "Most Valuable Player" in 1992 and 1993, Nelson-Brown replaces Tracy Stroyan-Maynard, who retired last month to devote more time to her family.

Nelson-Brown was head volleyball coach at Maroa-Forsyth High School in 1995 and served as head volleyball coach at Oak Forest High School in 1994. She has also coached the Mid-State Volleyball Club in Normal in 1995 and 1996 and the Chicago Juniors Volleyball Club in Evergreen Park in 1992 and 1993.

"I'm really excited and ready to get started," said the 24-year-old Nelson-Brown, a Palos Heights native. "This is a great opportunity in coaching and a step into the college coaching ranks. I don't know much about our talent yet but I look forward to getting together with the players and starting to work."

IWU's preseason practice begins August 21 in preparation for the season opener Sept. 4 at home against Aurora.

Nelson-Brown inherits 10 letterwinners and four starters from a squad that was 25-13 last season and, though a newcomer to the staff, she knows well about the IWU athletic and academic situation — her brother, Erik, was a four-year football letterman for the Titans and was a starting offensive lineman on the 1992 IWU team that went 10-1 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Nelson-Brown, who will be an instructor in physical education as well as assistant track coach at IWU, earned her bachelor's degree in park and recreation administration at ISU in 1994. She was the Redbirds' "Most Valuable Player" in 1992 and voted "Most Inspirational Player" in 1990, 1992, and 1993. Since August 1995 she has served as an athletic study center assistant and tutor coordinator at Illinois State, assisting coaches with campus recruiting and acting as liaison for the athletic department with the University Center for Learning Assistance.