



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UST FIELDS FIRST VARSITY WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL;
FULL SEASON SCHEDULED**

HOUSTON (Sept. 6, 2006) – For the first time in its 59-year history, the University of St. Thomas will field a varsity women's volleyball team. The Lady Celts have a full season scheduled. They won their first game, upsetting Concordia University in Austin, 30-25, 30-24 and 30-24, on Sept. 2.

"It's great to come away with a win the first game of the season," said Coach Jill Reynolds. "The ladies pulled together as a team, attacking and digging well, to win three games. Our middle hitters and co-captains, Mary Ann Shaw and Heather Hardy, were standouts."

"The women of the volleyball team have eagerly taken on the challenges of leading the way for future teams to follow," UST President Robert R. Ivany said.

The Lady Celts square off against Paul Quinn College at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 in Jerabeck Athletic Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon. The second home game, UST vs. Lee College, will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in Jerabeck Center.

Led by Reynolds, former Conroe High School coach, the team will play mostly Red River Athletic Conference member institutions. The University of St. Thomas has applied for membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, which will vote on UST's status in September.

Reynolds comes to UST with a Bachelor's in all-level physical education and a Master's in kinesiology. She was the head volleyball coach and assistant coach for

basketball, soccer and track at Conroe High School for two years, and a fitness instructor at Kingwood College and San Jacinto College. Coach Reynolds also played collegiate volleyball at Hardin-Simmons University and Ouachita Baptist University.

“It is an exciting opportunity to help build a new athletic program for UST,” Reynolds said. “The women we have on board now are the true pioneers. We spent much of August in training. I look forward to the challenge of starting a program from the ground up and bringing in quality student athletes to represent the University of St. Thomas on the volleyball court.”

Game day Lady Celts were: Mary Ann Shaw, Maryanna Rojas, Heather Bowden, Heather Hardy, Courtney Higgs, Shawna Boothe and Lisa Jonte.

University of St. Thomas is a private institution committed to educating leaders of faith and character and to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

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