



Jen Theissen

Title: Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

College: Gannon, 2006

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PENGUINS

Jen Theissen is in her first season as an assistant women's basketball coach at Youngstown State. She is part of the initial staff under first-year head coach Bob Boldon.

Theissen, recognized for her enthusiasm and work ethic first as a student-athlete and now as a coach, came to YSU with three years of Division I experience under her belt.

"Jen has had a successful career as a player and as a coach, and she has a great understanding of how to be successful," Boldon said. "She approaches everything she does with a great deal of enthusiasm, and she will be a terrific addition to our staff."

Theissen will be responsible for on-floor coaching, game preparation, assisting with recruiting, overseeing academic and equipment needs and organizing YSU's individual camps.

Although Theissen has been in the full-time coaching ranks for just three seasons, she's been part of two successful mid-major programs at Canisius and Saint Francis (Pa.).

In her first of two seasons at Canisius in 2008-09, the Golden Griffins went 24-9, advanced to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship game and played Women's National Invitation Tournament. The 24 wins were a Division I record at Canisius, and the Golden Griffins qualified for the WNIT for the first time in program history.

Theissen's duties on the Canisius staff included recruiting high school student-athletes, scouting opponents, assisting with guard development, overseeing compliance issues and monitoring academic progress. Among the successes in those areas, guard Brittané Russell was named the 2009 MAAC Defensive Player of the Year and finished her career as the only player in MAAC history to record 1,200 points, 500 rebounds, 400 assists and 300 steals over a career. Additionally, five Golden Griffins earned Academic All-MAAC honors in her first year, and Marie Warner was a CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Third-Team Academic All-American.

Theissen spent the 2007-08 season at Saint Francis (Pa.) and helped start the rebuilding effort that allowed the Red Flash to win the Northeast Conference Tournament in 2009-10. There, in addition to her similar duties at Canisius, Theissen was charged with organizing travel arrangements, exchanging film and overseeing team community service activities.

Theissen got her coaching start as a student assistant at her alma mater, Division II Gannon University in Erie, Pa.

A four-year starter and two-time team captain for the Golden Knights, Theissen still owns Gannon's school record for career assists with 835 from 2001-05. She also finished her career with 1,045 points, which ranked 16th in school history when her career ended. Theissen also ranks among Gannon's career leaders with 112 games played, 538 rebounds and 260 steals (260). A two-time First-Time All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection, Theissen played under Boldon her freshman season when he was an assistant at Gannon. That season the Golden Knights went to the NCAA Division II Tournament as Theissen was named the conference freshman of the year.

Theissen graduated as a double major from Gannon in 2006. She earned a bachelor's in finance with a minor in marketing and a bachelor's in management with a minor in human resources. Theissen went on to earn a master's in sports administration from Canisius in 2010.

Theissen and her husband, Craig, were married in August 2010.