



Julian Smith Named New Cloud County Wrestling Coach; Drew Mahin Promoted to Head Women's Track & Field Coach



Cloud County Community College Athletic Director Matt Bechard has announced the hiring of Julian Smith as the school's third wrestling coach in the program's five-year history, while the Cloud County Board of Trustees voted Tuesday, May 25th to name Drew Mahin as the college's new Head Women's Track & Field Coach.

Smith will take over a Thunderbird Wrestling program that is coming off their highest-ever finish at the NJCAA National Championships. Cloud County finished 11th overall as a team in 2021, and produced the program's first national champion in 197 pound wrestler Zach Ferris.

Having most recently coached as an assistant at Labette Community College from 2017-2020, Smith will take over as head coach for the first time in his career and brings with him three years as an assistant wrestling coach at the collegiate level as well as two years as a graduate assistant wrestling coach. While at Labette, Smith helped coach five NJCAA All-Americans while also having a direct role in the day-to-day operations, including the recruiting of student-athletes and budget management for the wrestling program.

Prior to serving as an assistant coach at Labette, Smith was a graduate assistant at Fort Hays State University where he helped the Tigers coach four NCAA Division II All-Americans and one NCAA Division II National Finalist. Smith also helped orchestrate practices during his time in Hays, and assisted with the coaching of student-athletes at tournaments and open meets.

A native of Florissant, Missouri, Smith attended Hazelwood Central High School where he posted an overall record of 110-17, which included a 45-1 mark as a senior. A two-time All-Conference selection and two-time Conference Wrestler of the Year, Smith later attended McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois where he wrestled for four years.

In his first year with the Bearcats, Smith posted a 16-9 record. He became an NWCA National Champion and All-American in his sophomore year with an overall record of 33-6. Smith then finished as a NCAA Division II National Runner-Up at 197 pounds his junior year before taking home third-place at the NCAA Division II National Championships as a senior.

Smith graduated from McKendree University in 2015 while majoring in Physical Education and a minor in Sports Performance and Coaching and earned his Master's Degree in Sports Administration from Fort Hays State University.

<https://www.ncktoday.com/local/julian-smith-named-new-cloud-county-wrestling-coach-drew-mahin-promoted-head-womens-track>

May 26, 2021



CONCORDIA
BLADE-EMPIRE
510 Washington Street • 785-243-2424

SMITH NAMED NEW CCCC WRESTLING COACH

Cloud County Community College athletic director Matt Bechard has announced the hiring of Julian Smith as the school's third wrestling coach in the program's five-year history.

Smith will take over a Cloud County program that is coming off their highest-ever finish at the NJCAA National Championships of 11th place and produced the program's first national champion in 197 pound wrestler Zach Ferris.

“Julian brings to the program an impressive collegiate wrestling background as well as successful collegiate coaching experience that will allow him to build upon the solid foundation that outgoing head coach Cody Cole has established,” Bechard said.

Having most recently coached as an assistant at Labette Community College from 2017-2020, Smith will take over as head coach for the first time in his career and brings with him three years as an assistant wrestling coach at the collegiate level as well as two years as a graduate assistant wrestling coach.

While at Labette, Smith helped coach five NJCAA All-Americans while also having a direct role in the day-to-day operations which included the recruiting of student-athletes and budget management for the wrestling program.

Prior to serving as an assistant coach at Labette, Smith was a graduate assistant at Fort Hays State University where he helped the Tigers coach four NCAA Division II All-Americans and one NCAA Division II national finalist.

Smith would also help orchestrate practices during his time in Hays as well as assist with the coaching of student-athletes at tournaments and open meets.

A native of Florissant, Mo., Smith attended Hazelwood Central High School where he posted an overall record of 110-17 which included a 45-1 mark as a senior.

A two-time all-conference selection and two-time conference Wrestler of the Year, Smith would go on to attend McKendree University in Lebanon, Illinois, where he wrestled for four years.