

BC3 volleyball coach nears lofty career victory

Pioneers' Snyder could win 400th in September

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(Butler, PA) Rob Snyder tosses volleyball after volleyball above the net. One current player after another takes her turn practicing footwork and timing in executing hit after hit.

Nearby this Aug. 18 evening are former players, some BC3 volleyball legends. Those who have helped Snyder to win game after game are themselves practicing for Butler County Community College's annual preseason volleyball scrimmage that pits alumni against current players.

There are Missy Schnur, Dani Beatty and Brittney Bianco, All-Americans facing BC3's current players and a Field House wall bedecked with pennants commemorating their state, national regional or conference championship victories.

They – Schnur, Beatty, Bianco – have helped to give Snyder 395 career wins. The current players practicing footwork and timing in executing hit after hit – Morgan Frishkorn, Breanna Reisinger, Josie Rupp, others – this fall will help to give Snyder his 400th.

“I didn't win any games,” Snyder said. “I appreciate the people whom we have had here and they are the ones who have won every one of these games.”

His teams are 395-153 through his 21 seasons.



Rob Snyder enters his 22nd season as coach of the Butler County Community College volleyball team with 395 career victories. The Pioneers open a 13-game regular season at 6 p.m. Sept. 1 by hosting Penn State-Greater Allegheny.

“I will love to see the big smile on his face”

The Pioneers begin their pursuit of five victories needed to reach the milestone for Snyder when they open a 13-game regular season at 6 p.m. Sept. 1 by hosting Penn State-Greater Allegheny.

“It will be special,” Frishkorn said of win No. 400 for Snyder, “because it is something that my team accomplished for him.”

“Awesome” is how the Pioneers will feel, Reisinger said.

“He deserves it,” Rupp said. “He loves to win. For us to do that for him will be great. I will love to see the big smile on his face. It would make him feel so good.”



Among former players who participated Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021, in Butler County Community College’s annual preseason volleyball scrimmage that pits alumni against current players were All-Americans Brittney Bianco, front row, second from left; Dani Beatty, back row, first from left; and Missy Schnur, back row, third from left. They are among former players who have helped to give coach Rob Snyder 395 career wins. Snyder is shown in the back row. The Pioneers open a 13-game regular season at 6 p.m. Sept. 1 by hosting Penn State-Greater Allegheny.

Snyder did not feel so good when he began to coach BC3’s volleyball team – his interest was with the college’s basketball programs. He accepted the position to augment his income as a 26-year-old part-time Field House supervisor and intermural program director at the college in 1996.

He’d played volleyball years earlier, at Midlakes High School in upstate New York, mostly to condition for basketball season.

The Pioneers won only four games in his first season and lost eight.

The Pioneers won only four games in his second season and lost 11.

“I don’t want to go out losing”

“It wasn’t the love of my life right away,” Snyder said. “I thought, ‘I don’t want to go out losing. I don’t want to do this and be bad at it. As soon as we have a good season, then I’ll probably move on to something different.’”

That good season came in 1998.

The Pioneers won 15 games in his third season – including the program’s first conference title under Snyder and its first state championship – and lost only four.

“And I was hooked,” Snyder said. “And the next year I wanted to come back and win it all again. And that’s how it just kind of spiraled.”

What has followed have been 17 more winning seasons, four more Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association state championships, 10 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Region XX crowns and 10 more Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference titles.

And six Top 10 rankings – including a season-ending No. 5 after the Pioneers finished fifth in the 2002 NJCAA Division III national tournament in Rochester, Minn. – and seven NJCAA Division III All-Americans.

Neither Frishkorn nor Reisinger nor Rupp were players on a 2019 Pioneers squad that ended 19-5 after advancing to the NJCAA Mid-Atlantic District Tournament in Pinehurst, N.C. The NJCAA postponed the 2020 season with regard to COVID-19.

Frishkorn, Reisinger and Rupp are among players drawn to BC3’s program from at least 28 high schools across Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango counties under Snyder's tenure.

Frishkorn is a graduate of Knoch High in Butler County; Reisinger, of Lincoln High in Ellwood City; and Rupp, of Redbank Valley High in Clarion County.

“It’s pretty much his life, the volleyball program”

Frishkorn as a youth attended grade-school weekend clinics initiated by Snyder “and always knew I was going to play at BC3.” Reisinger said she “knew BC3’s teams were very good and that (Snyder) was a good coach.” Rupp met Snyder after he’d scouted Redbank Valley and learned he “really puts a lot of effort into his program.”



Morgan Frishkorn, a graduate of Knoch High School and a first-year player on Butler County Community College’s volleyball team, said coach Rob Snyder’s 400th victory at BC3 “will be special because it is something that my team accomplished for him.”



Breanna Reisinger, a graduate of Lincoln High School in Ellwood City and a first-year player on Butler County Community College’s volleyball team, said she expects the Pioneers will feel “awesome” when coach Rob Snyder wins his 400th game at BC3.

His heart and soul, Schnur said.

“And sweat and tears,” said Schnur, a graduate of Laurel High in Lawrence County. “It’s pretty much his life, the volleyball program. And making it successful.”

Making it successful, said Beatty, a graduate of Butler High, means Snyder comes early to the Field House for practice and stays late.

“If we were working on a drill, and I just wasn’t getting what he was asking, I would say, ‘Hey Rob. After practice, can you hit 20 balls at me and let me pass and break down what I am doing wrong?’ And he would stay after,” Beatty said. “And we would talk about lineups. Or who we were playing.”

His current players have been practicing for more than a month.

“He is a big, big reason to the success”

BC3’s alumni this Aug. 18 evening faced a Field House wall bedecked with pennants – and Snyder, as he tossed volleyball after volleyball above the net for one current player after another to take her turn practicing footwork and timing for hit after hit.

At some point this fall, whether facing a team from a Penn State University commonwealth campus or from a Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference institution, Snyder’s current players will win for him his 400th game at BC3 – where the former part-time Field House supervisor and intermural program director today serves as director of student life and athletics.

“I will be super, super proud of him,” said Bianco, a graduate of Freeport High in Butler County.

“He needs to understand how impactful he is because he takes what he does very lightly,” Bianco said. “He really doesn’t give himself credit. He gives it to the players, which is fantastic. It’s what you would want in a coach, to have the innate ability to say, ‘This is you. You’ve done it.’”

“But he needs to realize he is a big, big reason to the success that the program has had.”

After their season opener, the Pioneers in September visit Penn State-Shenango on Sept. 3; Penn Highlands Community College, of Johnstown, on Sept. 10; Penn State-New Kensington on Sept. 13 and the Community College of Allegheny County on Sept. 15.

The Pioneers then return home for consecutive home games in September against Potomac State College, of Keyser, W.Va., on Sept. 17; Penn State-Beaver on Sept. 20; Penn State-Shenango on Sept. 22 and Howard Community College, of Columbia, Md., on Sept. 25.



Josie Rupp, a graduate of Redbank Valley High School in New Bethlehem and a first-year player on Butler County Community College’s volleyball team, said winning the program’s 400th game under coach Rob Snyder “will be great. I will love to see the big smile on his face.”

Snyder's tenure as coach at BC3 was interrupted only from 2006-2008, when he served as an assistant varsity coach at Seneca Valley High in Harmony, Butler County, and as coach of club squads in the Pittsburgh area. Most of his 13 seasons as a club coach in the Pittsburgh area were with Pittsburgh 3-Rivers, which qualified for nationals four times under his tenure.