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Ariel Krolikowski

VOLLEYBALL

All-Americans dominate team

By [Marije Ducey](#) / World-Herald Staff Writer

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Ariel Krolikowski has turned out to be one of UNK coach Rick Squiers' favorite Christmas presents.

The senior outside hitter from Grand Island High School emailed the University of Nebraska at Kearney coach four years ago during Christmas break, asking about a transfer from Louisiana Lafayette.

"I always check my email hoping for another Ariel Krolikowski," Squiers said. "We haven't had one since."

All-Nebraska volleyball teams

Division II
H: Cori Hobbs, Wayne State, Jr.
H: Ariel Krolikowski, UNK, Sr.
H: Katie Sokolowski, UNK, Jr.
H: Ellie Pesavento, UNK, Jr.
H: Alex Armes, Wayne State, Sr.
S: Jenna Rouzee, UNK, Sr.
L: Liz McGowan, UNK, So.
>> Honorary captain: Ariel Krolikowski, University of Nebraska at Kearney
>>Honorable mention: Mallory Irvine, Mollie Jones, Kristina Harter, Chadron State; MJ Massanet, UNK; Katie Hughes, Leisa McClintock, Melanie Placke, Courtney VanGroningen, Wayne State.

NAIA

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Krolikowski turned in another stellar performance in her third season, and today is named the honorary captain of The World-Herald's All-Nebraska Division II volleyball team.

Kendra Schwein of Hastings College headlines the NAIA team and Danika Youngblood of Western Nebraska Community College is the junior college captain. Both are first-team All-Americans.

Athletes for each of the three teams were voted on by small college coaches in the state.

The 5-foot-8 Krolikowski was a well-rounded, six-rotation player who led the Lopers to a 35-3 record, the finals of the Central Region and a third-place national ranking. The two-time honorable mention All-American, all-conference and regional selection averaged 3.7 kills per set, 3.29 digs and a .241 attack percentage. She had 52 blocks and 27 assists.

She had 21 kills in UNK's regional loss to Concordia-St. Paul, which went on to win its sixth straight national title.

"For three years in a row," Squiers said, "she was a slow starter at the beginning of the season but finished playing her best volleyball."

Krolikowski was one of three All-Americans on the UNK roster: Setter Jenna Rouzee and libero Liz McGowan also were honored.

The graduation of Rouzee and Krolikowski will leave some big shoes to fill, but Squiers is happy with his returning lineup as well as some strong recruits. He knows what it's going to take to catch St. Paul.

"We're not far off," he said.

Schwein, a senior outside hitter from Highlands Ranch, Colo., also headed a talented lineup that included three All-Americans.

Schwein, the GPAC and West Central Region player of the year, directed Hastings to a 30-7 record and a spot in the elite eight at the NAIA national tournament.

"She did a lot for the team," coach Matt Buttermore said. "She was our biggest point scorer, a good blocker and led in digs in several matches. She was an offensive option who could score from anywhere on the court."

Schwein averaged 4.36 kills, a .237 hitting percentage, 0.5 blocks and 2.77 digs. She's one of the Broncos' all-time leaders with 1,736 kills for her career.

Although only 5-9, she consistently hit high and hard in good spots on the court, forcing opponents to be perfect on defense to stop her for an entire match.

"She was just a great competitor," Buttermore said. "Whether in a game in practice or playing a big match, you can just tell on her face she's thinking about how to win and doing everything she can to win the game."

Schwein was joined on the first team by Hastings teammates Shayna Schacher, a second-team All-American, and Haley Beardsley, a third-team All-American.

H: Annie Benson, Bellevue, Jr.
H: Susan Rollman, Doane, Sr.
H: Kendra Schwein, Hastings, Sr.
H: Shayna Schacher, Hastings, Jr.
S: Jordan Broady, Bellevue, Sr.
S: Haley Beardsley, Hastings, Sr.
L: Meghan Evans, Bellevue, Jr.
>> Honorary captain: Kendra Schwein, Hastings
>> Honorable mention: Sunny Bell, Symone Faulkner, Bellevue; Baylee Collins, Lindsay Gumb, Joy Leick, Kaylee Wallace, College of St. Mary; Amanda Kisker, Carli Smith, Concordia; Ashley Axmann, Emily Max, Miranda Wisheart, Doane; Carissa Kinne, Kirsten Nickel, Hastings; Megan Farley, Mackenzie Scheef, Ashley Wheeler, Midland; Mackenzie Hite, Kamy Kuehl, Hannah Softley, Katelyn Walsh, Nebraska Wesleyan; Tara Gonzalez, Courtney Jurek, Emily Maresh, Peru State; Nicole Gates, Crystal Rush, Erin Davidson, York.

Junior Colleges

H: Morgan Heise, Central, Fr.
H: McKenzie Leu, Central, So.
H: Danika Youngblood, Western Nebraska, So.
H: Bailie Muller, Southeast, So.
H: Brooke Henry, North Platte, So.
S: Luiza Martins, Western Nebraska, Fr.
L: Alex Rivera, Western Nebraska, So.
>> Honorary captain: Danika Youngblood, Western Nebraska Community College
>> Honorable mention: Darian Erickson, Kaitlyn Ernst, Chelsea Saalfeld, Central, Vanessa Bartilla, Samantha Kramer, Madison Mousel, McCook; Maggie Burke, Sandrina Hallahan, Shannon Liewer, North Platte; Tara Doughty, Allison Glathar, Tiffanie Powell, Southeast; Kat Agson, Priscila Mendes, Yoro Tovar, Western Nebraska.



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Western's Youngblood, the daughter of former Utah State basketball great Kendall Youngblood, helped the Cougars to a 40-3 record and a runner-up finish at nationals.

The 5-8 sophomore, who will play next year at Cal State Bakersfield, averaged 4.05 kills and had 1,166 kill attacks, both third-best in the nation. She had 18 double-doubles with kills and digs.

She earned All-Region IX honors for the regular season and was named all-tournament at the regional and national tournaments.

Coach Giovana Melo said Youngblood was a hard-working player who improved a lot from her freshman to sophomore season.

"Danika had a great season," she said. "I think she matured as a player and as a person."

Western setter Luiza Martins and Central Community College hitter Morgan Heise also were first-team All-Americans and are on the state's first team. Central's McKenzie Leu was honorable mention.

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