

CSI Announces New Interim Head Volleyball Coach

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TWIN FALLS, Idaho - The College of Southern Idaho welcomed Jim Cartisser as the new Golden Eagle Volleyball interim Head Coach Friday.

Cartisser replaces Heidi Cartisser, who died unexpectedly Dec. 19th. Jim, Heidi's husband, has assisted Heidi at many stops throughout their volleyball journey and will make the transition seamless from a coaching philosophy.

"The vision, goals and expectations as well as structure will remain intact," Cartisser said. "Heidi and I worked on it together. There wasn't an aspect we both weren't well versed in. We had our roles but they were interchangeable. You can't live and work with someone and not have a complete understanding of all the parts. The product we will put forth we will keep close to what it has been."

Cartisser began his volleyball career in the sand, playing in local tournaments in Oregon growing up. He then attended Portland State University, where he played court volleyball for the school's club team. His first collegiate coaching job was as the head coach for Edmonds CC in 1994. He remained there through 1997. Jim also coached for the Seattle Juniors Club program.

After his stint at Edmonds, Jim transitioned to Treasure Valley CC, where he assisted Heidi from 1998 until 2000. They then accepted jobs at NCAA Division I Chicago State University with Heidi serving as the head coach and Jim assisting her. They were there from 2000 until 2004. During that time, Cartisser also served as the Head Men's Volleyball Coach at Kendall College in North Chicago in 2002 and 2003. An NAIA school, Kendall had won just one match the year prior to Jim taking over the program. In his first year in 2002, he led the team to a conference championship and a national ranking as high as third in the country.

Wanting to be closer to home, they moved back to the area for Jim to accept an assistant coaching position at the College of Southern Idaho under then head coach Ben Stroud. That year (2005), he helped the Golden Eagles to an NJCAA National Championship. Jim started the Club Canyon Volleyball club in the Magic Valley in 2006 and ran the club until 2014.

Cartisser took a brief coaching break to pursue real estate but a couple years after Heidi was named the CSI head coach, he returned to assist her in 2011, playing a key role in the Golden Eagles winning their 10th and 11th NJCAA National titles. This past season, CSI placed second at the national tournament.

Cartisser is the fourth CSI Volleyball Head Coach in the program's history. Jan Mittleider was the first coach before the program was dropped for a period of time. She was followed by Ben Stroud and Heidi Cartisser. "It was an easy decision," said CSI Athletic Director Joel Bate. "And it was the right decision. We know that Jim will continue what Heidi and Jim started and will keep the CSI Volleyball program as one of the best in the nation on the court as well as continue to change lives off the court."

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