

Kyle Capps named associate head coach for Goshen College men's basketball

2014 Maple Leaf graduate will enter sixth year as assistant and third at GC this season

GOSHEN, Ind. — The Goshen College men’s basketball program has promoted Kyle Capps to associate head coach for the 2021-22 season. Head coach Jon Tropf announced the move Wednesday.

Capps is a 2014 GC graduate who played four years of basketball for the Maple Leafs. The 2021-22 season will be his sixth as a collegiate assistant coach and his third at Goshen: he was previously a GC assistant in 2016-17 and 2020-21, with the two stints separated by three seasons at Siena Heights University in Michigan.

The Mount Clemens, Michigan, native also has experience coaching at the middle school and high school levels in addition to spending two years as the athletic director at the Boys and Girls Club in Middlebury, Indiana.

“Kyle earned this title with his loyalty, hard work and relentless desire to be the best he can be,” Tropf said. “When Kyle returned to Goshen for the second time as an assistant, I was struck by how much initiative and drive he had to make our program better. He has a knack for meeting players where they are at and is intentional with his relationships. He is bought in to the vision and culture of our program and does not cut corners in the profession. Kyle is a rising young coach who will continue to make a strong impact on the lives of our players.”

The promotion to associate head coach will see Capps take on the role of recruiting coordinator for the Maple Leafs in addition to increased responsibilities around practice planning and in-game substitutions. He is the first person to serve as associate head coach in the program since his boss, Tropf, held the title in 2016-17 under head coach Neal Young.

“Kyle has shown he is more than capable of serving in this capacity, and this title reflects my opinion of how valuable he is to our program, Goshen College, and the coaching profession in general,” Tropf said. “He bleeds purple and loves Goshen College, which always helps, but this is not a title he was simply given—he earned it.”

“I’m truly thankful for Coach Tropf’s trust in my ability to assist him on and off the court,” Capps said. “Being here as a student-athlete and a coach has given me a well-rounded view of what it takes to be successful at Goshen College. Coming back to GC during the pandemic was a tough choice, but it was the best decision I made. Goshen has always challenged me to grow and never be complacent, and that is what I hope to pass on to help our guys and program continue to climb.”

What His Players Say About Coach Capps:

Robert Sanders, junior guard:

“Kyle Capps is definitely a great addition to the Goshen family. His heart and passion for the game and developing us as players is felt throughout the program. He has a knack for understanding how the game should be played so this position will be good for him.”

Austin Branagan, senior forward:

“Coach Capps’ biggest strength is being that guy that can understand each individual and create a

relationship with them while still being able to be that tough coach when it is needed.”

Goshen College will compete in its 66th season of intercollegiate varsity men’s basketball this fall, with practices slated to begin in September ahead of a season opener in late October.

Goshen College is an affordable, nationally-ranked Christian liberal arts college in Northern Indiana known for leadership in intercultural and international education, sustainability and social justice.

Goshen College names Lauren Ford new head men's volleyball coach

Indiana native, former NCAA Division I player to take reins of newest Maple Leaf program

GOSHEN, Ind. — Lauren Ford has been named the head coach of the Goshen College men's volleyball team, continuing a volleyball coaching career that extends back nearly a decade and includes work at the club, high school and college levels. Ford has served as an assistant coach for the Maple Leaf women's volleyball program since 2019. The GC athletic department announced the hiring Friday.

Ford is an Indianapolis native who played at Lawrence North High School before taking her talents to NCAA Division I at the University of Wisconsin and the University of South Carolina. At South Carolina, she set program records that still stand for blocks in a match (13) and blocks per set in a season (1.27) before graduating in 2006 with a degree in experimental psychology.

Ford has international professional volleyball experience, playing five seasons in Finland, Germany, the Philippines, Switzerland and Spain before returning to the United States as a coach at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis. She assisted the Warriors from 2012-14 before taking over as head coach in 2015, then spent the 2018 season in the Pocono Mountain School District in Pennsylvania. Additionally, she has been a travel coach for All-American Volleyball Camps since 2012 and was a Team Indiana Volleyball Club head coach from 2014-16.

"We had a great pool of candidates for the head coach position," said Dr. Erica Albertin, athletic director. "Lauren quickly rose to the top because of her professional playing experience, her passion and experience at Goshen College, and most importantly her drive to develop student-athletes. I am excited to welcome Lauren as the next head men's volleyball coach!"

In her time at Goshen, Ford has also served as the school's student involvement coordinator, overseeing event planning in the student life division and working with the Campus Activities Council.

"I am very blessed and excited for the opportunity to lead this men's volleyball program at Goshen College," Ford said. "This is a very inspiring and hardworking group of young men on the court and in the classroom. After only three years, there is already a solid foundation established that is rich in tradition and I look forward to building on that success. Let's get to work."

The second permanent head coach in Maple Leaf men's volleyball history, Ford will also become the second woman to assume sole responsibility for coaching a men's team at GC. Allison Bailey was the first female head coach, leading the men's golf team from 2011-13.

Goshen added men's volleyball as its 14th varsity sport in 2019 after playing as a club team in the 2017-18

academic year and has been very successful. The team is 38-36 in its three seasons, including a 30-15 record since 2020, and reached the postseason for the first time this spring while competing in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC).

Five other Hoosier institutions sponsored men's volleyball last season, with Indiana Tech being the only one to compete at the NAIA level. Ball State and Purdue Fort Wayne play in NCAA Division I while Trine and Wabash compete in NCAA Division III.

The Maple Leafs will begin their fourth varsity season in January 2022, with the NAIA championship slated for April 11-17 in West Des Moines, Iowa. The season schedule will be released later this fall.

Goshen College is a renowned college in Indiana with award-winning programs that educate the head and heart, creating global citizens who lead with courage and compassion.

The Maple Leafs compete in 14 varsity sports in the NAIA's highly competitive Crossroads League and Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, continuing a tradition of intercollegiate athletics that dates to 1956 and included women's competition nearly a decade before Title IX. For more information on GC athletics, visit www.GoLeafs.net and follow the Maple Leafs on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @GCMapleLeafs