

LEBANON -- Cumberland University Director of Athletics Ron Pavan announced Thursday the hiring of Gavin McKinney as the head women's soccer coach, effective July 1. McKinney comes to Cumberland after spending the past three seasons as an assistant coach at Bethel University.

"We are very happy to add Gavin to our coaching staff and feel like he will be a great addition to our women's program in its growth and development," Pavan said. "He has enjoyed considerable success as a player and coach at several different levels and his experience should only add to the program at Cumberland."

McKinney played four seasons at Lambuth University, earning All-Mid-South Conference honors as a junior and senior in 2003 and 2004. He was a member of the Dean's List during the Fall of 2004 and earned the Eagle Award in 2004 as well.

McKinney graduated with a bachelor's in Recreation and Sports Management from Lambuth in 2005 and received his master's in Education from UT Martin in 2006.

The Sherwood Park, Alberta, native started his coaching career with the West Tennessee Select Soccer Club and the U18 boys team in 2005. McKinney was then the boys and girls soccer coach at Madison Academic High School in Jackson, Tenn., for the 2006-07 academic year before becoming a full-time assistant at Bethel during the summer of 2007.

At Bethel McKinney, served as the recruiting coordinator, running daily training sessions with the team and assisting in match management, travel preparation and scheduling. The Wildcats posted a 30-18-7 record during his three seasons, finishing runner-up in the TranSouth regular season twice and appearing in the conference tournament championship game all three years.

"I would like to thank Ron Pavan and his administrative staff for giving me this opportunity at Cumberland University." McKinney said. "Cumberland is very dedicated to the success of its student-athletes and I feel privileged to be a part of such a great institution. I am excited for the challenges ahead and I look forward to my future here at Cumberland."

CU hires women's soccer coach

Thursday, July 1, 2010

McKinney has served as a club coach with the Jackson Soccer Club since 2006 and as part of the State of Tennessee Olympic Development Training Program for the last two years. He holds a "C" coaching license with the US Soccer Federation, completed in February 2009.

McKinney was a member of the Sherwood Park Rangers Soccer Club from 1995-00, serving as captain. Sherwood won provincial championships from 1998-00.

Cumberland opens the 2010 season at the Golden Corral Classic in Barboursville, Ky., on August 27-28.