SYDNEY MARTIN: A SUMMER SEASON STORY

Sophomore Sydney Martin experienced lots of success in her freshman year. Coastal Georgia's Volleyball Team opened its season against Brewton-Parker College, winning 3-0. Coach Val Every said, “It was very tough considering I was sent home my first week of school and had to contact all the players afterwards, but here we are. I'm so proud of our team.”

Despite those early challenges, Martin found the greatest inspiration in watching the Mariners play. "The Mariners are a knit group that really inspired our players and I think they learned a lot from it,” said Coach Every.

As a middle blocker, Martin averaged 1.05 total blocks. With, hopefully, a full season of work, Martin expects to be among the top players in the Sun Conference. "I’m so happy with the progress we’ve made so far this season,” said Coach Every.

Martin’s success on the court did not come without trials off of it. Martin did not start the collegiate Conference Championship game appearance. She was a large part of that run, averaging 1.05 total blocks. With, hopefully, a full season of work, Martin expects to be among the top players in the Sun Conference. "I’m so happy with the progress we’ve made so far this season,” said Coach Every.

Martin attended Coastal Georgia from the beginning of her college career. "I’m very grateful for Coastal Georgia,” said Martin. "From the professors to the community, Coastal Georgia has been my home away from home.”

Martin plans to pursue a career in accounting, which she learned about while considering Coastal Georgia’s Business Program. "I’m very grateful for Coastal Georgia,” said Martin. "From the professors to the community, Coastal Georgia has been my home away from home.”

Martin has been involved in extracurricular activities since her first week in college. "I have a lot of fun volunteering with the local community and I’m very grateful for the opportunities Coastal Georgia has given me,” said Martin.

Martin hopes to continue her education by pursuing a master’s degree. "I’m very grateful for Coastal Georgia,” said Martin. "From the professors to the community, Coastal Georgia has been my home away from home.”

Alumni Q&A: Dr. Ben Harrell

Ben Harrell graduated from Coastal Georgia in 2008 with a degree in Political Science. "I went on to join the GSA and wrote an editorial for the school newspaper, The Nest (the campus newspaper at the time) for National Coming Out Day in later years,” said Harrell.

Harrell currently works as a research economist that studies health disparities, health insurance markets, and discrimination in access to healthcare, especially among LGBTQ+ populations. "I still get chills when I think of how incredible Coastal Georgia was for my time among Mariners for a single season,” said Harrell.

Harrell currently teaches in the Department of Economics and the LGBTQ+ Policy Lab. "I love how the faculty and staff have always been supportive and understanding,” said Harrell. "They have always been there for me, and I’m grateful for that.”

Harrell plans to continue his work in the field of economics and health disparities. "I’m very grateful for Coastal Georgia,” said Harrell. "From the professors to the community, Coastal Georgia has been my home away from home.”

Harrell encourages current students to take advantage of the resources available to them. "I would not be where I am today without the support of Coastal Georgia,” said Harrell. "I’m very grateful for Coastal Georgia,” said Harrell. "From the professors to the community, Coastal Georgia has been my home away from home.”

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