

## What They're Saying About Russ Rose

### **Salima (Davidson) Rockwell, Three-Time All-American & Former Penn State Assistant Coach**

It's hard to believe that an era of such significance is coming to a close. I can honestly say that the game of collegiate volleyball would not be where it is today if not for the influence and legacy of Russ Rose. He quietly built a dynasty at Penn State and set the standard for excellence for all that play the game. Over the years, he has created a culture of hard work, determination, and grit, that translated into a consistent level of play and success at the highest level, setting the bar for all college programs. But for the players and coaches that were lucky enough to be trained by him, those qualities extend well beyond the walls of South Gym, the floor of Rec Hall, and the boundaries of State College. We will all proudly carry those lessons with us for a lifetime and pass them on for generations to come. Coach will be sorely missed as the Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Penn State. He truly is the greatest of all time.

### **Leanne (Kling) Piscotty, Two-Time All-American & Shippensburg Head Coach**

I'm profoundly grateful for having Coach Rose in my life. Playing for him was a dream come true and the journey was priceless. Coach had us all hanging on every word. His humor and honesty were priceless gems for laughter, life lessons and great memories. The program he built makes us all so proud. He required our best and we wanted to impress the man we respected so much. Thank you Coach for all your trust and loyalty, your guidance and mentorship, and RELENTLESS PURSUIT of success. Congratulations on retirement Coach, YOU ARE the greatest of all time and WE ARE PENN STATE!

### **Dom Gonzalez, Three-Time Team Captain & Michigan State Assistant Coach**

I can truly say I never thought this day would come, but I want to say thank you to coach for everything he has done for the entire volleyball community, and especially the Penn State volleyball community. Having the opportunity to both play for Coach Rose and to have him as a mentor as I moved into the coaching world has been nothing short of amazing. All of the life lessons and characteristics he instilled in me over the years, such as toughness and mental toughness and the ability to connect are all things I have used since leaving Penn State, and I owe that all to Coach Rose. The legacy he has left behind will be at there forever, and I am extremely grateful for everything he has done for me and everyone around you. Thank you, Coach!

### **Nicole Fawcett, Four-Time All-American, 2008 AVCA National Player of the Year**

It's hard to put into words how I feel about Coach and everything he has done for me and the sport of volleyball. To put it simply, Russ Rose is to volleyball what John Wooden is to basketball. The impact Coach has on on collegiate volleyball and how the game is played today is undeniable. But the impact he has had on his players and anyone who truly knew his was life changing. He pushed us to be great athletes but what he really excelled at was making us all better humans. There is not a more loyal, caring, and thoughtful person than Coach.

I am eternally grateful for all the lessons I've learned under his tutelage and I hope he embraces his retirement from coaching with the same energy and passion that he brought to the game of volleyball and growth of his players. All of those that were fortunate enough to know him, really know him, are better for it.

Thank you, Coach, for everything.

### **Char Morett-Curtiss, Penn State Field Hockey Head Coach**

Upon returning to Penn State in 1987, the first person who reached out to me was Russ. Lucky me! He has always embraced everyone affiliated with Penn State, young and tenured coaches, alums, donors, fans, students, coaching and teaching peers, and me most fortunately. Early on, I shared an office nearby in Rec Hall, I absorbed all of his daily advice! He is humbly aware of the opportunity afforded to him by Penn State decades ago...and to see how he elevated this program with humility, hard work, passion, consistency, discipline and love for his players...his way...is not only impressive but more so a labor of love to those who not only believed in his program, but those who believed in him. Believing and competing for him with incredible talent, athleticism and heart was Lori Rose. While she watched behind the scenes, she without a doubt watched him firsthand grow this program to become the most successful coach in NCAA volleyball history in more ways than wins. In his first years he put up the nets in White Building, in his later years he cut down the nets winning seven National Championships and hanging banners in Rec Hall. His legacy of National Championships is incredibly impressive, but his relationships with his players and assistant coaches who he developed into resilient and confident people will be his greatest legacy. While I cannot speak for our coaches, I do know that, when Russ speaks, people listen, for it is always thoughtful and for the betterment of Penn State University. I am beyond grateful for our friendship and all that he taught me as a coach...I simply love him and wish he and Lori and the boys many days of sunshine in Sarasota! And a cigar or two!



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### **Mark Pavlik, Penn State Men's Volleyball Head Coach**

Penn State Volleyball and the Pennsylvania volleyball community will undoubtedly miss Russ and his insight, humor and guidance. Throughout his career, his legacy is one that will be remembered and should be celebrated. He has influenced and helped mentor many young, aspiring coaches over the years. His clarity of vision for the potential of each and every one of his student-athletes stood as a challenge he knew they could meet through their efforts, perseverance and hard work. He was always there for them. He grew his program into THE elite model for the collegiate women's game and was just as interested in helping the men's game in any way he could. When Frank Sinatra sang "My Way" little did he know a volleyball coach from Penn State would be the prime example of those famous lyrics! No doubt many will comment on what he meant to the game, but to those of us in Rec Hall he was simply the best. Enjoy those cigars in the sun, Russ! You have certainly earned them!

### **Taras Liskevych, Oregon State Head Coach & Former US National Team Head Coach**

Russ is a dear friend who I have known him for 49 years. He is a perfectionist and had a knack for getting the best out of his teams. You always knew you had to beat Penn State because Penn State would never beat themselves. That is a quality of Russ teams since he got to Penn State in 1979. He is one of the greatest coaches of all-time because everything he did, he did it his way and never deviated from it. He has been invaluable to the sport of volleyball and a coach every coach can learn from. Penn State volleyball under Russ was a program everyone wanted to emulate, and he leaves a legacy that goes beyond the court. Russ will go down as one of the greatest coaches of all time, in any sport.

### **John Cook, Nebraska Head Coach**

Today is a sad day for the sport of volleyball, but also a great day to honor Coach Rose. What he has accomplished will never be matched in our sport, like winning four-straight National Championships. For me personally, he helped make me a better coach. Every time you played a Russ Rose coached team, you were taught lessons on how to get better.

Some of the greatest matches in our sport's history were between Penn State and Nebraska, with the 2008 match being the greatest of them all. Russ was such a compelling figure in our sport that he drew fans to watch and grew the sport in the process. Russ will definitely be missed by me, our fans and our players, who call Russ my BFF. I look forward to some time with Russ, smoking cigars and talking about grandbabies.

He is the GOAT!

Most importantly, I want to put in the first bid at \$500 on that damn notebook he writes in!

### **Steve Aird, Indiana Head Coach & Former Penn State Assistant Coach**

I want to congratulate Russ Rose on an incredible, legendary career. I might not have the words to describe the impact he has had on so many, but I can certainly articulate his impact on me. He has been a father figure and someone I love dearly. I have learned volumes over the decades as a young player, young professional, peer and close friend. I have been asked countless times to describe Coach Rose and I use the terms caring, funny, hardworking and compassionate. But above all, he is loyal. His loyalty to Penn State 43 years has been extraordinary and his love for the school and all those who played or worked with him is absolute.

He will be quick to pass on the praise and spotlight to the incredible players and staff he has been fortunate to coach and mentor. But Penn State Women's Volleyball is because of Russ Rose and Russ Rose will forever be Penn State Women's Volleyball. It was the privilege of a lifetime to work with him and spend time with him. I also want to acknowledge his wife, Lori, and his sons who are more than family. I hope they enjoy every day moving forward as they deserve all the happiness in the world.

### **Beth Mowins, ESPN**

The Penn State Volleyball dynasty is one of the greatest in college athletics history. Coach Russ Rose has proven to be one of the great coaches as well. His teams were so well prepared and so clutch under pressure. It was a privilege to be a part of the TV crews that documented an amazing run and incredible group of student-athletes. I will forever remember the joy that Russ and Nittany Nation got from watching opponents Ride the Struggle Bus.



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### **Holly Rowe, ESPN**

Russ Rose is one of, if not THE greatest volleyball coach we have ever seen. Penn State Volleyball is one of the best programs ever and Russ has been able to grow, cultivate and maintain that excellence for many decades. It's amazing. I have enjoyed covering him and his teams so much. It's been an absolute honor. Russ Rose is a legend.

### **Charmelle Green, Former Senior Associate AD and Sport Administrator**

Congratulations to Russ Rose on the announcement of his retirement. As I reflect on my relationship with Russ during my time at Penn State, I am overjoyed with the memories we shared, the lessons we learned, and I marvel at the impact he's had on my life and so many others. He has had a lasting impact on Penn State, on collegiate sports, and he has been a champion for girls and women in sports. Russ is the greatest of all time, and I am fortunate to have worked with him. I wish him tremendous health and happiness as he and Lori embark on this new journey. Thank you, Russ!

### **Sue Scheetz, Former Senior Woman Administrator and Sport Administrator**

Russ has had a remarkable career at Penn State. Guided program thru its growing pains and developed it into one of the best collegiate programs in the country. He excelled in player develop and saw many of his players find success beyond Penn State. His team and professional achievements and awards at the collegiate, national and international level are numerous and remarkable. I wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

