



# GAME NOTES

## 2010 UAB VOLLEYBALL

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### Matches 29-30

#### UAB vs. UTEP; UAB vs. UCF



**UTEP** | Friday, Nov. 19 @ 7:00 p.m. CT  
**Location:** Bartow Arena (Birmingham, Ala.)  
**UTEP's Record:** 12-17 (4-12 Conference USA) | **Head Coach:** Ken Murphy  
**All-Time:** UAB leads, 5-2 | **Last:** UAB won, 3-1, in El Paso, Texas (10/24/10)



**UCF** | Sunday, Nov. 21 @ 1:00 p.m. CT  
**Location:** Bartow Arena (Birmingham, Ala.)  
**UCF's Record:** 13-15 (6-10 Conference USA) | **Head Coach:** Todd Dagenais  
**All-Time:** UAB leads, 10-6 | **Last:** UCF won, 3-2, in Orlando, Fla. (10/22/10)

#### UAB Home For Conference Weekend

UAB plays three of its final four matches at home, starting with two league contests this weekend. The Blazers welcome UTEP for a 7 p.m. CT first serve Friday and then host UCF in a 1 p.m. CT match Sunday. UAB and UCF are part of a three-way tie for seventh place in the C-USA standings, while UTEP sits in a tie for 10th.

#### Last Time Against the Knights, Miners

UAB put four players in double-figure kills and racked up 17 total blocks but came up on the short end of a 3-2 (16-25, 25-20, 28-26, 23-25, 15-12) decision at UCF back on Oct. 22. The Blazers out-killed UCF 15-9 in the first set but were out-killed 61-49 over the final four frames. Sam Serley paced UAB with 16 kills.

Two days later, the Blazers bounced back from a first-set loss to win three in a row in a 3-1 (20-25, 25-21, 26-24, 25-22) victory at UTEP. Serley posted a match-high 19 kills with just two errors in 27 attempts for a .630 attack percentage. Jordan McDonald had 14 kills and 10 digs for a double-double.

#### Blazers Split Last Weekend with Southern Miss, Tulane

Michele Simmons matched her season-high with 12 kills last Friday night, but UAB lost 3-0 (25-23, 25-22, 25-21) at Southern Miss. The teams finished with the exact same attack percentage offensively (.266), but Southern Miss out-blocked the Blazers 9-3 and committed just two service errors to 10 for UAB.

On Sunday, UAB rebounded by hitting for a season-best .357 percentage as a team in a 3-0 (25-23, 25-23, 25-13) victory at Tulane. Ally Slaughter led the way with 12 kills and hit for a career-high .524 percentage. In the third and final set, the Blazers hit an amazing .706 with 12 kills and zero errors.

#### Thomas Chasing Digs Record

Heather Thomas enters the weekend ranked second in Conference USA and 30th nationally with 5.17 digs per set. She has also committed just 12 receiving errors in 602 chances this season for a .980 receiving percentage. With four regular-season matches to play, Thomas already has 532 digs, the third-highest single-season total in UAB history, and is chasing Brianna Galvin's school record of 592 set in 2006. Thomas already owns second place on the Blazers' single-season digs chart with 586 last year. Her 1,425 career digs rank fourth all-time at the school.

#### Uzoh Named C-USA Defensive Player of the Week

Middle blocker Michelle Uzoh was named the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 8 after a 10-block, 12-kill performance for her first career double-double Nov. 6 at Rice. The 10 blocks tied for the second-most by a player in C-USA this season as she helped the Blazers to 18 total blocks, tying for the highest team mark in the league in 2010. Uzoh finished the weekend with a 1.62 blocks-per-set average against Rice and Houston.

### Quick Hits

- UAB is 104-63 in Kerry Messersmith's five seasons as head coach after going 42-77 in the four years prior to her arrival.
- Blazer libero Heather Thomas ranks second in C-USA and 30th nationally with a 5.17 digs-per-set average.
- UAB hit for a .357 percentage as a team last Sunday at Tulane, it's highest mark since hitting .446 at Tulsa in the 2008 season.
- UAB is 5-5 over the past 10 conference contests, winning one match and losing one in each of the past five weekends.

### 2010 Schedule/Results

**Record:** 9-19 (6-10 C-USA)

#### August

##### Georgia Tech Courtyard Marriott Classic

27	vs. Alabama A&M	W, 3-0
28	vs. Indiana	L, 3-0
	at Georgia Tech	L, 3-0

#### September

##### Bama Bash

3	vs. Furman	L, 3-1
	vs. Toledo	W, 3-0
4	at Alabama	L, 3-1

##### Middle Tennessee Invitational

10	vs. Albany	L, 3-1
11	at Middle Tennessee	L, 3-1
	vs. Arkansas	W, 3-2

##### TCU Nike Invitational

17	vs. Ohio	L, 3-0
	at TCU	L, 3-0
18	vs. UTSA	L, 3-2
24	<b>SMU *</b>	<b>L, 3-0</b>
25	<b>SMU *</b>	<b>L, 3-0</b>

#### October

1	<b>EAST CAROLINA *</b>	<b>W, 3-2</b>
3	at Marshall *	L, 3-1
9	at Tulsa *	L, 3-0
10	at Tulsa *	L, 3-0
15	<b>RICE *</b>	<b>W, 3-2</b>
17	<b>HOUSTON *</b>	<b>L, 3-0</b>
22	at UCF *	L, 3-2
24	at UTEP *	W, 3-1
29	<b>TULANE *</b>	<b>W, 3-0</b>
31	<b>SOUTHERN MISS *</b>	<b>L, 3-1</b>

#### November

5	at Houston *	L, 3-0
6	at Rice *	W, 3-2
12	at Southern Miss *	L, 3-0
14	at Tulane *	W, 3-0
19	<b>UTEP *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
21	<b>UCF *</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
24	<b>MEMPHIS *</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
27	at Memphis *	7:00 p.m.

\* Conference USA match.

Home matches in BOLD CAPS.

All times local to site and subject to change.

## 2010 Conference USA Standings

Team	C-USA		All Matches		Home	Away	Neutral	Last 10	Streak
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.					
Tulsa	17-0	1.000	27-2	.931	10-0	13-0	4-2	10-0	W26
SMU	15-2	.882	23-5	.821	9-2	10-3	4-0	9-1	W7
Houston	13-4	.765	19-10	.655	8-5	7-3	4-2	8-2	W6
Southern Miss	11-6	.647	18-10	.643	12-2	3-6	3-2	9-1	W2
Rice	10-7	.588	15-14	.517	8-7	6-4	1-3	4-6	W1
Tulane	7-10	.412	10-19	.345	6-6	2-9	2-4	5-5	L1
Memphis	6-10	.375	15-13	.536	6-4	5-7	4-2	4-6	L3
UCF	6-10	.375	13-15	.464	6-6	3-7	4-2	4-6	L2
<b>UAB</b>	<b>6-10</b>	<b>.375</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>.321</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>3-10</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>5-5</b>	<b>W1</b>
UTEP	4-12	.250	12-17	.414	2-8	5-7	5-2	0-10	L10
Marshall	4-12	.250	10-18	.357	7-5	1-11	2-2	1-9	L1
East Carolina	0-16	.000	1-27	.036	0-10	0-12	1-5	0-10	L16

### McDonald Seeing 20/20

Outside hitter Jordan McDonald had her best match of the year Oct. 31 against Southern Miss, posting a career-high 21 kills to go along with 20 digs. The Birmingham native became the first Blazer to record at least 20 kills and 20 digs in a single match since Ivana Bozic posted 24 kills and 25 digs against Houston on Oct. 19, 2007. UAB will be forced to play the remainder of the season without McDonald, who suffered an injury Nov. 6 at Rice.

### Messersmith Earns 100th UAB Victory Versus Rice

UAB head coach Kerry Messersmith recorded the 100th win of her UAB tenure Oct. 15 against Rice. The fifth-year Blazer coach now owns an overall record of 104-63 during her time in Birmingham. For her 23-year coaching career, she owns 578 victories.

### Block Party

UAB has picked up its blocking over the second half of the season. After averaging 1.54 blocks per set through the first 14 matches, the Blazers have averaged 2.60 blocks per frame over the past 14 contests. During that stretch, UAB has reached double-digit blocks seven times -- Oct. 1 against East Carolina (11), Oct. 3 at Marshall (14), Oct. 15 against Rice (17), Oct. 22 at UCF (17), Oct. 31 versus Southern Miss (10), Nov. 6 at Rice (18) and Nov. 14 at Tulane (10). The Blazers managed double-digit blocks just once in the first 14 matches. The 18 blocks against the Owls are tied for the highest single-match total in C-USA this season.

### Monsters in the Middle

UAB's middle blockers have been two of the team's biggest producers. Sam Serley leads the team in kills per set (2.88), attack percentage (.316) and blocks per set (1.04). Fellow middle Michelle Uzoh follows Serley in attack percentage (.304) and blocks per set (0.93). Both players rank in the top 12 in Conference USA in attack percentage. Last year, Uzoh held the top blocks-per-set average in the league on her way to C-USA Newcomer of the Year honors. Serley was named to the league's all-freshman team.

### Doubling Up

UAB has had six different players record double-doubles this season -- Jordan McDonald (8), Alison Woods (8), Becca Howard (2), Kate Morrell (2), Ally Slaughter (1) and Michelle Uzoh (1). Morrell (10 kills, 17 digs), McDonald (14 kills, 12 digs) and Woods (24 assists, 10 digs) each recorded a double-double in the same match Sept. 18 against UTSA. Woods led UAB with 10 double-doubles last year, while McDonald finished with eight.

### Career Days All-Around Versus Arkansas

UAB players put up monster statistics in the Sept. 11 five-set win over Arkansas. Four Blazers set or matched their UAB career-highs in kills at the time -- Sam Serley (23), Michelle Uzoh (19), Jordan McDonald (17) and Thais Soares (9). Additionally, setter Alison Woods finished with a career-best 64 assists. While not a career-high, libero Heather Thomas did manage a remarkable 30 digs in the match.

### Messersmith Magic

In her five years as head coach, Kerry Messersmith has presided over the most successful era in UAB volleyball history. She has guided the Blazers to a record of 104-63, including a 50-30 mark in Conference USA matches. She has also led UAB to its first two NCAA tournament appearances (2006 and 2008). Her .623 winning percentage at the school is the highest in program history. Now in her 23rd year of coaching, her career record is 578-315.

## Coaching Staff

**Head Coach: Kerry Messersmith** | Fifth season | Chadron State, 1986

**Assistant Coach: Casey Dent** | Second season | UAB, 2009

**Director of Ops: Hal Messersmith** | Fifth season | Chadron State, 1986

**Volunteer Assistant: Jennifer Charles** | First season | Georgia Southern, 2007

**Manager: Ivana Bozic** | First season

## 2010 Roster

- 1 Alison Woods | S**  
So. | 5-9  
Franklin, Tenn. (Centennial HS)
- 2 Sam Serley | MB**  
So. | 6-2  
Nashville, Tenn. (Independence HS)
- 3 Becca Howard | S**  
Fr. | 5-9  
Tampa, Fla. (Plant HS)
- 4 Rachel Fairbanks | OH/DS**  
Fr. | 5-8  
Katy, Texas (Cinco Ranch HS)
- 6 Kirsten Gallagher | OPP/MB**  
R-So. | 6-2  
Auburn, Ala. (Auburn HS)
- 7 Kate Morrell | MB**  
So. | 6-0  
Ogallala, Neb.  
(Hutchinson (Kan.) CC)
- 8 Thais Soares | OH**  
Jr. | 6-0  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
(Jefferson (Mo.) College)
- 9 Ally Slaughter | OH**  
Fr. | 5-10  
Pelham, Ala. (Pelham HS)
- 10 Michelle Uzoh | MB**  
Sr. | 5-10  
San Antonio, Texas  
(Georgia Southern Univ.)
- 11 Jordan McDonald | OPP/OH**  
Sr. | 5-10  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Univ. of West Georgia)
- 14 Daniela Cavallo | DS**  
Fr. | 5-4  
Caracas, Venezuela  
(West Forsyth (Ga.) HS)
- 20 Michele Simmons | OPP/MB**  
So. | 6-3  
Alabaster, Ala. (Univ. of Georgia)
- 23 Heather Thomas | L**  
Jr. | 5-7  
Madison, Ala. (Bob Jones HS)

### Pronunciations

Kate Morrell (mor-EL)  
Thais Soares (TY-EES SOR-es)  
Michelle Uzoh (OO-zoh)  
Daniela Cavallo (cuh-VAL-oh)

## Statistics and Results

<b>RECORD:</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
ALL GAMES	9-19	3-4	3-10	3-5
CONFERENCE	6-10	3-4	3-6	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	3-9	0-0	0-4	3-5

##	Player	sp	Attack				Set		Serve			Dig			Blocking					points		
			k	k/s	e	ta	pct	a	a/s	sa	se	sa/s	re	dig	dig/s	bs	ba	total	blk/s		be	bhe
2	SERLEY, Sam	103	297	2.88	91	652	.316	8	0.08	19	32	0.18	1	46	0.45	33	74	107	1.04	7	0	386.0
11	MCDONALD, Jordan	95	282	2.97	119	935	.174	27	0.28	6	22	0.06	29	243	2.56	3	34	37	0.39	2	1	308.0
10	UZOH, Michelle	92	194	2.11	40	506	.304	4	0.04	0	0	0.00	1	37	0.40	15	71	86	0.93	9	1	244.5
7	MORRELL, Kate	85	170	2.00	83	590	.147	6	0.07	19	23	0.22	18	156	1.84	3	34	37	0.44	11	1	209.0
9	SLAUGHTER, Ally	79	165	2.09	95	544	.129	12	0.15	10	30	0.13	16	103	1.30	2	22	24	0.30	7	2	188.0
20	SIMMONS, Michele	62	93	1.50	46	261	.180	10	0.16	0	2	0.00	1	14	0.23	7	32	39	0.63	6	1	116.0
1	WOODS, Alison	103	26	0.25	13	84	.155	826	8.02	18	34	0.17	0	221	2.15	0	21	21	0.20	1	9	54.5
4	FAIRBANKS, Rachel	55	23	0.42	23	120	.000	6	0.11	5	16	0.09	11	114	2.07	0	1	1	0.02	1	0	28.5
6	GALLAGHER, Kirsten	34	21	0.62	8	76	.171	5	0.15	0	2	0.00	0	19	0.56	0	15	15	0.44	3	1	28.5
8	SOARES, Thais	22	19	0.86	20	85	-.012	2	0.09	3	10	0.14	8	37	1.68	0	0	0	0.00	1	0	22.0
5	BAYER, Bobbi	4	4	1.00	6	29	-.069	0	0.00	1	3	0.25	1	20	5.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	5.0
23	THOMAS, Heather	103	4	0.04	2	33	.061	20	0.19	8	23	0.08	12	532	5.17	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	12.0
14	CAVALLO, Daniela	17	1	0.06	2	3	-.333	0	0.00	0	2	0.00	0	21	1.24	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1.0
3	HOWARD, Becca	75	0	0.00	6	20	-.300	265	3.53	6	8	0.08	4	119	1.59	0	0	0	0.00	0	4	6.0
	TEAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	UAB	103	1299	12.61	555	3939	.189	1191	11.56	95	208	0.92	119	1682	16.33	63	304	215.0	2.09	49	20	1609.0
	Opponents	103	1420	13.79	557	3955	.218	1322	12.83	119	177	1.16	95	1807	17.54	41	410	246.0	2.39	50	21	1785.0

Team Statistics	UAB	OPP
<b>ATTACK</b>		
Kills	1299	1420
Errors	555	557
Total Attacks	3939	3955
Attack Pct	.189	.218
Kills/Set	12.6	13.8
<b>SET</b>		
Assists	1191	1322
Attempts	3873	3885
Assist Pct	.308	.340
Assists/Set	11.6	12.8
<b>SERVE</b>		
Aces	95	119
Errors	208	177
Attempts	2194	2354
Serve Pct	.905	.925
Aces/Set	0.9	1.2
<b>SERVE RECEPTIONS</b>		
Errors	119	95
Errors/Set	1.2	0.9
Attempts	2171	1974
Reception Pct	.945	.952
<b>DEFENSE</b>		
Digs	1682	1807
Digs/Set	16.3	17.5
<b>BLOCKING</b>		
Block Solo	63	41
Block Assist	304	410
Total Blocks	215.0	246.0
Blocks/Set	2.1	2.4
Block Errors	49	50
Ball handling errors	20	21
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
Total	1337	6304
Dates/Avg Per Date	7/191	13/485
Neutral site #/Avg	8/15	
Current win streak	1	-
Home win streak	0	-

Date	Opponent	Score	Score by set	Att.
Aug 27	vs Alabama A&M	w 3-0	27-25,25-23,25-13	0
Aug 28	vs Indiana	L 0-3	19-25,13-25,22-25	0
Aug 28	at Georgia Tech	L 0-3	19-25,13-25,14-25	1037
Sept 3	vs Furman	L 1-3	25-20,21-25,16-25,24-26	0
Sept 3	vs Toledo	w 3-0	25-21,25-23,25-23	0
Sept 4	at Alabama	L 1-3	15-25,25-20,22-25,22-25	564
Sep 10	vs Albany	L 1-3	23-25,18-25,25-19,21-25	67
Sep 11	at Middle Tennessee	L 1-3	16-25,25-22,17-25,18-25	153
Sep 11	vs Arkansas	w 3-2	24-26,25-23,23-25,25-19,17-15	52
Sep 17	vs Ohio	L 0-3	23-25,19-25,25-27	0
Sep 17	at TCU	L 0-3	8-25,16-25,25-27	1334
Sep 18	vs UTSA	L 2-3	25-20,25-21,15-25,20-25,6-15	0
*Sep 24	SMU	L 0-3	15-25,17-25,20-25	252
*Sep 25	SMU	L 0-3	18-25,16-25,14-25	247
*Oct 01	EAST CAROLINA	w 3-2	25-14,25-14,23-25,21-25,15-12	166
*Oct 03	at Marshall	L 1-3	25-17,18-25,19-25,21-25	223
*Oct 09	at Tulsa	L 0-3	20-25,14-25,22-25	210
*Oct 10	at Tulsa	L 0-3	25-27,21-25,20-25	230
*Oct 15	RICE	w 3-2	25-18,24-26,24-26,25-19,15-13	157
*Oct 17	HOUSTON	L 0-3	19-25,20-25,17-25	173
*Oct 22	at UCF	L 2-3	25-16,20-25,26-28,25-23,12-15	419
*Oct 24	at UTEP	w 3-1	20-25,25-21,26-24,25-22	412
*Oct 29	TULANE	w 3-0	25-19,25-22,25-14	168
*Oct 31	SOUTHERN MISS	L 1-3	27-29,18-25,25-22,19-25	174
*Nov 05	at Houston	L 0-3	19-25,24-26,30-32	224
*Nov 06	at Rice	w 3-2	25-19,21-25,26-28,25-22,15-11	1197
*Nov 12	at Southern Miss	L 0-3	23-25,22-25,21-25	301
*Nov 14	at Tulane	w 3-0	25-23,25-23,25-13	0

Record in 3-set matches: 4-11  
 Record in 4-set matches: 1-6  
 Record in 5-set matches: 4-2