

# Professional goalkeeper Whitworth joins soccer staff

## Former Auburn standout to tutor Blue Raider keepers

August 17, 2011 · Athletic Communications

**MURFREESBORO, Tenn. –** Middle Tennessee head soccer coach Aston Rhoden has announced the hiring of professional goalkeeper Allison Whitworth to his staff as an assistant coach for the 2011 campaign.

“Allison is a fantastic addition to our staff,” Rhoden said. “She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge having trained and competed at a high level as a goalkeeper. She will certainly help our current and future keepers get to the next level and will improve the overall efficiency of our staff.”

Whitworth, a Birmingham, Ala., native and 2007 graduate of Auburn, recently completed her third season in the Women’s Professional Soccer league, suiting up for the Atlanta Beat. She was originally drafted in 2009 by FC Gold Pride in the eighth round (54th overall), becoming the first Auburn player ever drafted into a professional soccer league.



“I am really excited to come to Middle Tennessee,” Whitworth said. “When I came to campus, I just fell in love with the school.

“I feel this position is a great fit for me career-wise. There is an opportunity here to grow as a coach and as a person. Where the university and program are headed presented an exciting opportunity. It

is an amazing first step for me into the coaching world and I look forward to helping out as much as I can.”

She capped her Tiger career by setting a school record with 356 saves, including another standard and SEC-high of 132 during her senior campaign. The 356 saves place her third in the league record book. She registered 22 career shutouts, including eight during each of her junior and senior years, and tying for eighth in SEC history. Her 1.02 goals-against average as a senior helped her garner First Team All-SEC honors, her second league accolade after picking up a Second Team nod as a junior.

Whitworth was chosen as a SEC Defensive Player of the Week in each of her last three seasons, including three times as a senior. She saw action in 73 career matches, posting a 1.13 career goals-against average.

All her accomplishments have not been on the field. She was named to the 2008 NSCAA/adidas Women's Collegiate Scholar All-America Third Team and the Southeastern Conference's Soccer Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Whitworth was a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District IV Team member, earning First Team recognition in 2008 and a Third Team spot in 2007.

She was Auburn's women's sports nominee for the H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete Post-Graduate Scholarship, presented since 1986 to the SEC's top female scholar-athlete.

She added academic honors such as the SEC Academic Honor Roll and an Auburn University Top Tiger four times throughout her collegiate career.

Whitworth was a member of numerous honor societies, including Phi Beta, Delta Epsilon Iota, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, Cardinal Key, Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the National Collegiate Athlete Honor Society.

She volunteered in the Auburn community with Habitat for Humanity, Read Across America, the Auburn Food Bank and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund Walk. She helped collect food and toiletries for the Abused and Battered Women's Shelter and was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Auburn in December 2007 with a 3.89 grade-point average and a bachelor's degree in psychology. She then pursued her master's degree in health promotion, owning a 4.0 grade-point average.

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*Printed on July 31, 2014*

*Original URL: <http://www.goblueraiders.com/content.cfm/id/54255>*