

TEMPLE VOLLEYBALL



2021 WEEKLY NOTES

March 26-27, 2021: Temple vs. Cincinnati

MATCH INFORMATION

Opponent.....Cincinnati
Location.....Philadelphia, Pa.
Facility.....McGonigle Hall
Record vs. Cincinnati.....9-7
Streak.....Lost 3
Last Year.....0-2
Live Stats.....temple.statbroadcast.com
TV.....ESPN+
On the Call.....Kevin Copp

2021 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Jan. 23	vs. Morgan State	W, 3-2
Jan. 30	vs. UConn	W, 3-1
Feb. 5	vs. Coppin State	W, 3-0
Feb. 6	vs. St. John's	W, 3-0
Feb. 12	at USF	L, 2-3
Feb. 13	at USF	W, 3-1
Feb. 18	vs. UCF	L, 0-3
Feb. 19	vs. UCF	L, 0-3
Feb. 26	vs. Delaware	W, 3-2
Feb. 27	vs. Towson	L, 3-1
Mar. 7	vs. UConn	W, 3-1
Mar. 12	at ECU	L, 0-3
Mar. 13	at ECU	W, 3-1
Mar. 26	vs. Cincinnati	3:00 p.m.
Mar. 27	vs. Cincinnati	3:00 p.m.
Apr. 2	at AAC Semifinals (Cincinnati)	
Apr. 3	at AAC Championships (Cincinnati)	

Subject to change due to Covid protocols | Home meets in cherry

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COMMUNICATIONS

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THE MATCHUP



TEMPLE OWLS

8-5, 2-4 AAC

HEAD COACH

Bakeer Ganesharatnam (Queens '05)

10th Year

Overall: 163-119

at School: Same

LAST MATCH

W, 3-0 at ECU

(25-23, 27-25, 16-25, 25-17)

3/13/21



CINCINNATI BEARCATS

6-5, 4-2 AAC

HEAD COACH

Molly Alvey (Texas '07)

9th Year (12th Overall)

Overall: 207-156

at School: 145-125

LAST MATCH

L, 3-1 at UCF

(25-22, 25-20, 25-17)

3/13/21

QUICK SETS

- Temple closes out the regular season by hosting Cincinnati for a two-game series. The Owls and Bearcats will square off on Friday at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m., both matches on ESPN+.
- Temple is 8-5 on the season with a 2-4 mark in conference play. The Owls are looking for their first American Athletic Conference Tournament berth and need to win both matches to stay alive.
- Juniors Miray Bolukbasi (3.68 k/s) and Gem Grimshaw (3.44 k/s) lead Temple's offense, which is run by classmate Tyler Lindgren (10.06 a/s).
- Defensively, freshman Falanika Danielson averages 5.44 digs per set, which leads the American and is 19th in the nation. Classmate Taylor Davenport leads the Owls with 47 total blocks, 0.98 per set.
- Cincinnati is 6-5 overall with a 4-2 record in the American, the Bearcats started conference play at 4-0, but were swept by UCF in back-to-back matches in their last action.
- Maria Mallon leads Cincinnati with 3.35 kills per set, while the Bearcats' balanced attack has five other players averaging 2.50 kills per set or better. Ashley Kozer is the primary setter, dishing out 8.60 assists/set.
- Payton Frederick heads up the defense, leading Cincinnati with 4.75 digs per set. Adria Oliver is the top blocker with 29 stuffs on the year, including five solo.
- Temple owns the all-time series against Cincinnati, 9-7, but the Bearcats have won three straight, including a pair of sweeps last year.
- Temple Head Coach Bakeer Ganesharatnam is in his ninth season with the Owls, compiling a career record of 163-119.

2021 ROSTER

Name	Year	Pos	Ht	Hometown	High School
1 Kayla Spells	So.	MB	6-1	Cary, N.C.	North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
2 Peyton Boyd	Jr.	RS	6-4	Dumfries, Va.	Forest Park
3 Nikki Saito	So.	DS	5-3	Honolulu, Hawaii	Maryknoll School
4 Ilayda Dincer	Fr.	OH	6-0	Ankara, Turkey	Private Okyanus HS
5 Gem Grimshaw	Jr.	OH	6-1	Marco Island, Fla.	Seacrest Country Day
6 Falanika Danielson	Fr.	DS/L	5-5	Ewa Beach, Hawaii	Mililani HS
7 Xeryah Salanoa	Jr.	MB/RS	6-0	Honolulu, Hawaii	Punahou School
8 Nina-Symone Williams	Fr.	MB	6-1	Alpharetta, Ga.	Alpharetta HS
9 Selina Merfol	Sr.	S	5-10	Apeldoorn, Netherlands	CSC De HEEMGAARD
10 Nikki Shimao	Fr.	DS/L	5-5	Honolulu, Hawaii	'Iolani School
11 Tyler Lindgren	Jr.	S	5-11	Windsor, Colo.	Fossil Ridge
12 Katerina Papazoglou	Sr.	OH	6-1	Thessaloniki, Greece	Hellenic College
14 Taylor Davenport	Fr.	MB	6-0	Columbia, S.C.	AC Flora HS
15 Baleigh Jean-Philippe	Sr.	MB	6-1	Germantown, Md.	Seneca Valley
16 Miray Bolukbasi	Jr.	OH	6-1	Istanbul, Turkey	Anabilim College

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Bakeer Ganesharatnam (Queens '05) - 9th season
Assistant Coach: Ren Cefra (Hawai'i-West Oahu '13) - 5th season
Assistant Coach: Kait Kozak (Miami '06) - 1st Season
Director of Operations: Christie Cesarini

SUPPORT STAFF

Academic Advisor: Nick Plack
Athletic Trainer: Helen Gallagher
Strength & Conditioning Coach: Tim Teefy
Sport Administrators: Jessica Reo, Lauren Ferrett (Secondary)
Communications Contacts: Lauren Ferrett

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

#3 Nikki Saito: Sigh-TOE
#4 Ilayda Dincer - ILL-EYE-duh
#5 Gem Grimshaw: Jem
#7 Xeryah Salanoa: Zuh-RYE-uh Salla-NO-uh
#9 Selina Merfol: Suh-LEE-nuh Murr-FUL
#10 Nikki Shimao - SHIM-eye-oh
#12 Katerina Papazoglou: Kah-TA-ree-nuh Paw-PAWS-uh-glue
#15 Baleigh Jean-Philippe: BAY-lee Zhaun-FILL-eep
#16 Miray Bolukbasi: MEER-eye Bull-LICK-bosh-uh

Bakeer Ganesharatnam: buh-KEER GAH-nez-SHA-rat-nam
Ren Cefra: Ren SEF-ruh
Keisuke Tsukada: Kess-KAY SOO-cotta

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Freshmen (5): Danielson, Davenport, Dincer, Shimao, Williams
Sophomores (2): Saito, Spells
Juniors (5): Bolukbasi, Boyd, Grimshaw, Lindgren, Salanoa
Seniors (3): Merfol, Papazoglou, Jean-Philippe

Setters (2): Lindgren, Merfol
Defensive Specialists (3): Danielson, Saito, Shimao
Right Sides (2): Boyd, Salanoa
Outsides (4): Bolukbasi, Dincer, Grimshaw, Papazoglou
Middles (5): Davenport, Jean-Philippe, Salanoa, Spells, Williams

Colorado (1): Lindgren
Florida (1): Grimshaw
Georgia (1): Williams
Hawaii (4): Danielson, Saito, Salanoa, Shimao
Maryland (1): Jean-Philippe
North Carolina (1): Lindgren
South Carolina (1): Davenport
Virginia (1): Boyd
International (4): Bolukbasi (Turkey), Dincer (Turkey), Merfol (Netherlands), Papazoglou (Greece)

NEWS AND NOTES

END OF THE REGULAR SEASON

Temple closes out the regular season by hosting Cincinnati for a two-game series. The Owls and Bearcats will square off on Friday at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m., both matches on ESPN+.

OWL ABOUT TEMPLE

Temple is 8-4 on the season with a 2-4 mark in conference play. The Owls have two matches left in the regular season and are looking for their first American Athletic Conference Tournament berth. As a team, Temple ranks third in the conference, hitting .206, while holding opponents to a .202 attack.

Individually, juniors Miray Bolukbasi (3.68 k/s) and Gem Grimshaw (3.44 k/s) lead Temple's offense, while senior Katerina Papazoglou adds 2.70 kills per set. Junior Tyler Lindgren captains the offense to the tune of 10.06 assists per set. Defensively, freshman Falanika Danielson averages 5.45 digs per set, which ranks first in the conference and 19th nationally. Classmate Taylor Davenport leads the Owls with 47 total blocks, averaging just under 1.00 per set.

LAST TIME OUT: Temple 3, East Carolina 1 (25-23, 27-25, 16-25, 25-17)

Temple salvaged a split with a 3-1 victory on the road at East Carolina on March 13. Temple hit .235 to ECU's .230, and also held a slight 77-74 edge in digs. Four players recorded double-doubles for Temple, led by Miray Bolukbasi with 19 kills and 13 digs, while Katerina Papazoglou finished with 17 kills and 11 digs, adding a pair of blocks. Gem Grimshaw tallied 15 kills with 16 digs, while tying a career high with five blocks. Tyler Lindgren dished out 53 assists and added 16 assists and a pair of blocks. Falanika Danielson led the Owls with 19 digs.

SCOUTING CINCINNATI

Cincinnati enters the final weekend of the regular season with a 6-5 overall mark. The Bearcats are 4-2 in conference play and are currently second in the AAC East Division. As a team, Cincinnati ranks second in the conference in serving, averaging 1.68 aces per set. Offensively, Cincinnati hits .178, while opponents hit .234.

Maria Mallon leads Cincinnati with 3.35 kills per set, while the Bearcats' balanced attack has five other players averaging 2.50 kills per set or better. Ashley Kozer is the primary setter, dishing out 8.60 assists/set. Payton Frederick heads up the defense, leading Cincinnati with 4.75 digs per set. Adria Oliver is the top blocker with 29 stuffs on the year, including five solo.

LAST TIME THEY MET: Cincinnati 3, Temple 0 - 11/1/19 at Cincinnati

The Temple dropped a 3-0 road match at Cincinnati falling 25-13, 25-14, 25-18 to the league-leading Bearcats. Temple was held to just a .101 attack, while Cincinnati hit a massive .365. Peyton Boyd led the Owls with nine kills, while Gem Grimshaw picked up six kills with six digs. Cincinnati was led by All-American Jordan Thompson's 15 kills, while Adria Oliver added 12 and Maria Mallon, 10.

TEMPLE VS. CINCINNATI

Temple owns the all-time series against Cincinnati, 9-7, but the Bearcats have won three straight in the match-ups. Last season, Cincinnati won both matches, sweeping Temple 3-0 both home and away.

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT BERTH ON THE LINE

Conference tournament berths are on the line for both teams. Temple can clinch a berth with a pair of wins, plus one USF loss to UCF. Two Temple wins would give the Owls and Cincinnati both 4-4 records, but Temple would hold the tiebreaker against Cincinnati.

Cincinnati can clinch the second berth from the East Division with one win, which would ensure the Bearcats finish with at least five wins. Even if USF beats UCF twice to finish at 5-3, Cincinnati swept the season series against the Bulls and would get the second tournament spot due to the tiebreaker.

AMERICAN PRESEASON POLL

EAST DIVISION

Team	First-Place Votes	Points
1. UCF	10	46
2. Cincinnati	1	37
3. Temple		26
4. East Carolina		16
4. USF		16

WEST DIVISION

Team	First-Place Votes	Points
1. SMU	7	52
2. Tulane	2	45
3. Houston	2	41
4. Wichita State		26
5. Tulsa		21
6. Memphis		11

PROGRAM INFORMATION

ALL-TIME

Overall record: 923-635 (1975-2019)

NCAA Appearances: 4 (1997, 1998, 1999, 2002)

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Bakeer Ganesaratnam

..... Phone: (215) 204-0476

..... E-Mail: ganesb@temple.edu

..... Career Record (Years): 155-114 (9 seasons)

..... Record at TU (Years): Same

Assistant Coach: Ren Cefra

..... Phone: (215) 204-6289

..... E-Mail: renwick.cefra@temple.edu

Assistant Coach: Kait Kozak

..... Phone: (814) 386-3661

..... E-Mail: kaitlin.kozak@temple.edu

Volunteer Assistant Keisuke Tsukada

Director of Operations Christie Cesarini

..... Phone: (215) 204-6289

..... E-Mail: templevb@temple.edu

THE OWLS

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/3

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/2 + libero

Newcomers: 5

2019 Overall Record: 12-15

2019 American Record: 3-13

2019 American Finish: 5th (East Div.)

2019 Postseason: n/a

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Location: Philadelphia, Pa.

Founded: 1884

Enrollment: 42,400

President: Richard M. Englert

Interim Director of Athletics: Fran Dunphy

Nickname: Owls

Colors: Cherry (201c) and White

Home Court: McGonigle Hall (3,900)

SENIOR SENDOFF

Temple will say goodbye to its three members of the Class of 2021 in a ceremony following Saturday's match. Baleigh Jean-Philippe, Selina Merfol, and Katerina Papazoglou will all play their final matches as Owls on Saturday. Philippe and Papazoglou are four-year members of the team, while Merfol has been an Owl for two seasons, transferring in from NAIA power Columbia College.

CONFERENCE CLASHES

Friday, February 12 marked the conference opener for Temple. The Owls are 79-57 all-time in the American Athletic Conference since joining the league for the 2013 season. Temple is 3-5 all-time in American Conference openers.

STRONG SLATE

The Owls have unveiled a 15-game regular season schedule in a season that is unconventional. Temple's slate includes 11 home contests and four road games, with eight conference matches and seven non-conference. The Owls will face off against only the AAC East Division this regular season, with the teams playing two-match series' at one location.

PRESEASON POLL

Temple was picked to finish third in the American Athletic Conference East Division after a vote of the league's coaches. UCF was picked to finish atop the East with 10 first place votes, while Cincinnati was picked to finish second, with one first place vote. East Carolina and USF ranked fourth and fifth in the rest of the divisional poll.

In the West Division, SMU was tabbed the preseason favorite with seven first place votes. Tulane and Houston followed, with each of them garnering two first place tallies. Wichita State, Tulsa, and Memphis rounded out the poll.

BOYD EARNS PRESEASON HONORS

Temple junior Peyton Boyd was named to the 2021 Preseason All-Conference Team. Boyd, a second team All-AAC selection a year ago, emerged as a six-rotation player for the Owls. She averaged 2.82 kills and 1.60 digs per set, tallying 41 total blocks while hitting a team-best .294 in 2019.

SEASON OPENER

After the fall season was pushed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Owls opened play on January 23 against Morgan State on ESPN+. Temple's 3-2 win started the untraditional spring season on a high note.

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN

Serving a team captains for the Owls this season are senior Baleigh Jean-Philippe, junior Tyler Lindgren, and sophomore Kayla Spells. All three saw significant playing time last season.

NEW FACE ON THE SIDELINES

The Owls will have a new member of the coaching staff on the bench on Saturday, as newly hired assistant coach, Kait Kozak, will make her first appearance in Cherry & White. Kozak comes to Temple after a three-year stint at Goucher College, where she turned a five-win team into a 14-win team in just one year. Prior to her role at Goucher, she spent five years as an assistant coach at the U.S. Naval Academy alongside head coach Larry Bock - the winningest coach in NCAA volleyball history.

TOURNAMENT THOUGHTS

2019 marked the first ever American Athletic Conference Volleyball Tournament in the league's eight year history. Prior to last year's tournament, the regular season standings determined the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. A fifth place East Division finish last season kept the Owls out of the tournament, so the team will be looking for its first ever berth to the event. The 2021 AAC Tournament is scheduled for April 2 and 3 on the campus of last season's champion, Cincinnati.

IT'S A PLUS

In the offseason, Temple and the American Athletic Conference secured a 12-year media rights extension with ESPN. Under the agreement of the extension, hundreds of additional American Athletic Conference sports events annually will be distributed on the ESPN+ digital platform. The deal means that most of the Owls' home matches will appear on ESPN+, a subscription service available nationwide.

NIKE X TEMPLE VOLLEYBALL

The Temple Athletics Department made the switch to Nike, beginning with the 2020-21 seasons. The three-year agreement makes Nike the exclusive athletic footwear, apparel and accessories provider for each of the Owls' 19 varsity sports.

SEASON AND CAREER HIGHS

#1 KAYLA SPELLS

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	13, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	13, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Assists:	1, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	1, vs. Towson (2/27/21)
Digs:	3, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	4, vs. ECU (10/11/19)
Blocks:	4, at ECU (3/13/21)	7, at Tulane (11/10/19)
Aces:	-	1, vs. ECU (10/11/19)
Double-Doubles:	-	-

#2 PEYTON BOYD

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	13, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	16, vs. ECU (10/11/19)
Assists:	-	3, at UConn (11/8/19)
Digs:	3, vs. St. John's (2/6/21)	22, at Tulane (11/10/19)
Blocks:	4, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	5, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Aces:	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	2, vs. Tulsa (10/25/19)
Double-Doubles:	-	2

#3 NIKKI SAITO

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Assists:	5, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	5, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Digs:	17, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	17, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Blocks:	-	-
Aces:	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	3, vs. Houston (10/6/19)
Double-Doubles:	-	-

#4 ILAYDA DINCER

	2021 Season/Career
Kills:	10, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Assists:	2, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Digs:	10, vs. UCF (2/18/21)
Blocks:	3, vs. UCF (2/19/21)
Aces:	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Double-Doubles:	-

#5 GEM GRIMSHAW

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	18, vs. UCF (2/18/21)	20, vs. Ohio (9/6/19)
Assists:	2, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	2, vs. Towson (2/27/21)
Digs:	13, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	16, vs. Radford (9/13/19)
Blocks:	5, at ECU (3/13/21)	5, at ECU (3/13/21)
Aces:	2, at USF, (2/13/21)	3, at UCF (9/29/2019)
Double-Doubles:	8	12

#6 FALANIKA DANIELSON

	2021 Season/Career
Kills:	-
Assists:	9, vs. Coppin St. (2/5/21)
Digs:	27, vs. UCF (2/18/21)
Blocks:	-
Aces:	3, at USF, (2/12/21)
Double-Doubles:	-

#7 XERYAH SALANOA

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	3, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	3, vs. Towson (2/27/21)
Assists:	2, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	3, at UConn (11/8/19)
Digs:	17, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	17, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Blocks:	4, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	4, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Aces:	1, vs. Towson (2/27/21)	2, at UConn (11/8/19)
Double-Doubles:	-	-

#8 NINA-SYMONE WILLIAMS

	2021 Season/Career
Kills:	4, vs. St. John's (2/6/21)
Assists:	-
Digs:	1, vs. Towson (2/27/21)
Blocks:	5, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Aces:	-
Double-Doubles:	-

#9 SELINA MERFOL

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	-	3, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Assists:	-	48, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Digs:	-	10, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Blocks:	-	3, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Aces:	-	3, vs. Tulsa (10/25/19)
Double-Doubles:	-	1

#10 NIKKI SHIMAO

	2021 Season/Career
Kills:	10, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Assists:	2, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Digs:	8, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Blocks:	1, vs. UConn (1/30/21)
Aces:	1, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Double-Doubles:	-

SEASON AND CAREER HIGHS

#11 TYLER LINDGREN

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	5, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	5, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Assists:	57, vs. UConn (3/7/21)	57, vs. UConn (3/7/21)
Digs:	17, vs. UConn (3/7/21)	19, at Winthrop (9/6/19)
Blocks:	2, at ECU (3/13/21)	3, vs. Houston (10/6/19)
Aces:	1, at ECU (3/13/21)	2, at USF (9/27/19)
Double-Doubles:	4	18

#12 KATERINA PAPAZOGLOU

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	17, at ECU (3/13/21)	22, vs. UConn (10/4/19)
Assists:	2, vs. UConn (3/7/21)	3, vs. ECU (10/11/19)
Digs:	14, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	27, vs. Indiana (9/1/18)
Blocks:	4, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)	4, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Aces:	5, at USF, (2/12/21)	5, at USF, (2/12/21)
Double-Doubles:	3	24

#14 TAYLOR DAVENPORT

	2021 Season/Career
Kills:	11, vs. UConn (3/7/21)
Assists:	1, vs. Coppin St. (2/5/21)
Digs:	3, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Blocks:	8, vs. Delaware (2/26/21)
Aces:	5, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Double-Doubles:	-

#15 BALEIGH JEAN-PHILIPPE

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	-	7, vs. Princeton (9/15/18)
Assists:	-	1, vs. Tulsa (10/25/19)
Digs:	-	10, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Blocks:	-	2, vs. USF (11/1/18)
Aces:	-	1, at UConn (11/21/18)
Double-Doubles:	-	-

#16 MIRAY BOLUKBASI

	2021 Season	Career
Kills:	23, vs. UConn (1/30/21)	23, vs. UConn (1/30/21)
Assists:	2, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)	2, vs. Morgan St. (1/23/21)
Digs:	13, at ECU (3/13/21)	15, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Blocks:	2, at USF, (2/13/21)	4, vs. USF (11/16/19)
Aces:	1, vs. Coppin St. (2/5/21)	3, vs. LMU (8/25/18)
Double-Doubles:	3	5

2020-21 AWARDS

AAC Preseason All-Conference

Peyton Boyd

AAC Offensive Player of the Week

Tyler Lindgren, 2/8/21

American Weekly Honor Roll

Tyler Lindgren, 3/8/21

Falanika Danielson, 2/29/21

Falanika Danielson, 2/22/21

Gem Grimshaw, 2/15/21

Miray Bolukbasi, 2/1/21

Miray Bolukbasi, 1/25/21

Nike/Owlsports.com Athlete of the Week

Miray Bolukbasi, 2/1/21

2020-21 STATISTICS



2020-21 Temple Women's Volleyball Overall Individual Statistics All games

Page 1/1
as of Mar 15, 2021

Game Records

Overall	Conference	Home	Away	Neutral
8 - 5	2 - 4	6 - 3	2 - 2	0 - 0

Team Box Score

#	Player	SP MP-MS		Attack					Set				Serve				
				K	K/S	E	TA	PCT	A	A/S	TA	PCT	SA	SA/S	SE	TA	PCT
1	Spells, Kayla	27	9-7	53	1.96	17	127	.283	2	0.07	10	.200	0	0.00	0	6	1.000
2	Boyd, Peyton	14	4-3	35	2.50	11	67	.358	0	0.00	4	.000	1	0.07	0	4	1.000
3	Saito, Nikki	5	1-0	1	0.20	0	1	1.000	5	1.00	18	.278	1	0.20	0	19	1.000
4	Dincer, Ilayda	19	7-2	32	1.68	13	91	.209	3	0.16	12	.250	1	0.05	5	37	.865
5	Grimshaw, Gem	48	13-11	165	3.44	66	434	.228	7	0.15	52	.135	13	0.27	13	177	.927
6	Danielson, Falanika	45	12-0	0	0.00	0	3	.000	54	1.20	169	.320	10	0.22	5	204	.975
7	Salanoa, Xeryah	26	9-4	9	0.35	8	49	.020	4	0.15	20	.200	3	0.12	2	81	.975
8	Williams, Nina-Symone	28	9-6	21	0.75	12	71	.127	0	0.00	2	.000	0	0.00	0	0	.000
10	Shimao, Nikki	7	5-0	0	0.00	0	0	.000	6	0.86	18	.333	0	0.00	0	9	1.000
11	Lindgren, Tyler	50	13-13	29	0.58	5	93	.258	503	10.06	1450	.347	4	0.08	5	162	.969
12	Papazoglou, Katerina	30	9-7	81	2.70	25	260	.215	9	0.30	33	.273	9	0.30	9	123	.927
14	Davenport, Taylor	48	13-13	72	1.50	35	207	.179	2	0.04	17	.118	10	0.21	18	143	.874
15	Jean-Philippe, Baleigh	1	1-0	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0	.000
16	Bolukbasi, Miray	44	13-12	162	3.68	79	447	.186	9	0.20	52	.173	6	0.14	12	148	.919
TEMPLE		50	13-13	660	13.20	271	1850	.210	604	12.08	1857	.325	58	1.16	69	1113	.938
Opponents		50	13-13	666	13.32	278	1880	.206	622	12.44	1894	.328	71	1.42	91	1105	.918

			Receptions			Dig		Blocking								
##	Player	SP	RE	TA	PCT	DIG	DIG/S	BS	BA	TOTAL	BLK/S	BE	BHE	PTS	PTS/S	
1	Spells, Kayla	27	0	2	1.000	11	0.41	2	11	13	0.48	1	0	60.5	2.24	
2	Boyd, Peyton	14	0	0	.000	6	0.43	1	9	10	0.71	0	0	41.5	2.96	
3	Saito, Nikki	5	2	23	.913	17	3.40	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	2.0	0.40	
4	Dincer, Ilayda	19	3	50	.940	30	1.58	1	4	5	0.26	0	0	36.0	1.89	
5	Grimshaw, Gem	48	18	283	.936	133	2.77	5	19	24	0.50	2	0	192.5	4.01	
6	Danielson, Falanika	45	16	274	.942	245	5.44	0	0	0	0.00	0	1	10.0	0.22	
7	Salanoa, Xeryah	26	1	2	.500	57	2.19	0	6	6	0.23	0	0	15.0	0.58	
8	Williams, Nina-Symone	28	0	2	1.000	3	0.11	2	16	18	0.64	3	2	31.0	1.11	
10	Shimao, Nikki	7	1	1	.000	6	0.86	0	0	0	0.00	0	1	0.0	0.00	
11	Lindgren, Tyler	50	0	5	1.000	134	2.68	2	12	14	0.28	0	4	41.0	0.82	
12	Papazoglou, Katerina	30	3	151	.980	76	2.53	1	9	10	0.33	1	0	95.5	3.18	
14	Davenport, Taylor	48	0	2	1.000	18	0.38	6	41	47	0.98	5	1	108.5	2.26	
15	Jean-Philippe, Baleigh	1	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.0	0.00	
16	Bolukbasi, Miray	44	15	205	.927	92	2.09	0	13	13	0.30	0	0	174.5	3.97	
-	TEAM	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TEMPLE		50	71	1013	.930	828	16.56	20	140	90.0	1.80	12	9	808.0	16.16	
Opponents		50	58	1044	.944	791	15.82	17	185	109.5	2.19	19	14	846.5	16.93	



HEAD COACH **BAKEER GANESHARATNAM**

10th Season Queens '05

Baker Ganesharatnam has turned Temple volleyball into a high-level program at the top of the American Athletic Conference, since his arrival on North Broad Street in 2011.

Over Ganesharatnam's tenure, Temple has continually surpassed expectations and has now proven itself as a top team in a strong conference. In nine seasons, he's compiled an overall record of 156-114, including a conference mark of 86-57.

Most recently, he led his 2019 squad to the best start in program history, as the Owls rattled off nine wins to open the season.

Ganesharatnam's 2017 squad made history as the first Temple team to qualify to post-season play in 15 years. The Owls finished 20-10, advancing to the second round of the National Invitational Volleyball Championship. Temple finished second in The American, going 15-5 in conference play.

Individually, the Owls placed four on the All-Conference team, including Temple's first ever unanimous first-team American player, Izzy Rapacz. Senior Kyra Coundourides, junior Iva Deak, and redshirt freshman Dana Westfield also appeared on the American Athletic Conference teams. Temple racked up a program-record 11 American Weekly Honor Roll selections, while junior Mia Heirakuji was named Defensive Player of the Week, and Rapacz earned both Offensive and Defensive POTW nods during the season.

In 2016, Ganesharatnam led his team to their third-straight 20-win season, including the 100th win of his career. The 2016 Owls finished 22-8 overall with a 15-5 record in American Athletic Conference play. For the third-straight season, Ganesharatnam's team defeated every opponent in The American, at least once during the year, including road wins over SMU and Cincinnati. The Owls also captured the 2016 Philadelphia Big 5 title.

Individually, the 2016 Temple team had three All-Conference selections in senior Kirsten Overton and juniors Izzy Rapacz and Irem Asci. During the season, seven Owls combined to win 11 weekly awards from the conference, including American Offensive Player of the Week (Izzy Rapacz), and American Defensive Player of the Week (Mia Heirakuji).

Ganesharatnam's 2015 squad recorded a 24-8 overall record, including a 15-5 mark in the American Athletic Conference. The Owls finished alone in second in the conference, having defeated each conference opponent at least once during the season, while also recording seven-straight wins to close the season. The 2015 squad tied the 2014 team for wins, the program's best record since 2002.

Ganesharatnam's stellar 2015 campaign was built off of success the team had during a record-setting 2014 season. The Owls finished 24-8 overall, tying for second place in the American Athletic Conference, and compiling the program's best record in 12 years. The Owls had a number of big wins in 2014, including knocking off conference champion and NCAA team, UCF.

As far as individual accolades, Temple earned a conference and program record five All-Conference sections in 2014. Sydlik was named to the first team, while sophomore Tyler Davis, senior Jennifer Iacobini, Overton, and freshman Dara Peric earned second-team honors. Temple also boasted the American Athletic Conference Setter of the Year in Sydlik and the American Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year in Peric. Sydlik later went on to earn the program's first All-Region mention since 2002.

In 2013, Temple finished at 18-12 overall to mark its second-straight season with a winning percentage of .600 or better. After being picked to finish seventh in the newly-created American Athletic Conference, the Owls bettered that by one and placed sixth with a record of 9-9. Ganesharatnam's senior right side hitter, Gabriella Matautia, was a standout all season long and earned American Athletic Conference First Team honors.

The Owls had a seven-match win streak early in the 2013 season, and later won five straight matches early in the conference season to establish themselves in the league. Temple won the George Mason Patriot Invitational in early September, and finished the non-conference season at 9-3.

Ganesharatnam's 2012 squad finished at 19-11 overall and advanced to the semifinals of the Atlantic 10 Tournament after not earning a spot in the tournament since 2009. The improvement from an 8-20 season in 2011 to a 19-11 season in 2012 ranked as the seventh-best differential among all NCAA Division I volleyball teams. Perhaps most impressive was the similarity in personnel between the teams of 2011 and 2012, as five of seven starters returned.

Chelsea Tupuola was named the A-10 Libero of the Year, while Matautia earned A-10 First Team honors. The team was largely underestimated prior to the season, getting picked to finish 11th of 12 teams in the conference. The Owls proved that placement to be undeserved, as they went on to finish fifth in the league.

Among other highlights in a strong season, the Owls recorded 17.90 digs per set to rank 15th among all NCAA Division I teams, and Temple won its first-ever Big 5 Tournament in the event's four-year history, defeating Penn and La Salle and taking Villanova to five sets.

The success of 2012 followed a more moderate but important step in Ganesharatnam's first season. The 2011 Owls finished at 8-20 overall, a marked improvement over the season before his arrival. The team served up 78 aces in A-10 matches to lead all teams, and then-sophomore Elyse Burkert led all players individually with 18 aces. As a team, Temple ranked third in the league for conference matches in digs with 15.76 digs per set. Then-freshman setter Tiffany Connatser was named to the A-10 All-Rookie Team after her debut season under Ganesharatnam.

Proving that he is as committed to his student-athletes' success in the classroom as he is to their success on the court, the team's grade-point-average has improved significantly since Ganesharatnam's arrival. In the fall of 2010, the semester GPA for the team was 3.02. Ganesharatnam took over the reins in the spring of 2011, and by the end of his first fall semester, the team posted a GPA of 3.14. During the second season of competition under Ganes, the Owls posted a GPA of 3.32, and in the spring of 2013 it jumped all the way up to 3.45, showing more than a four-tenths' improvement in two years. In 2014, the Owls had the highest GPA of any American Athletic Conference squad.

Prior to his arrival at Temple in January, 2011, Ganesharatnam spent five years as an assistant coach at West Virginia University. He served for three seasons as a full-time assistant with the Mountaineers after two prior years as a graduate assistant coach. As an assistant, Ganesharatnam served as the recruiting coordinator and worked with the players on skill development, as well as dealt with scheduling responsibilities.

One year after Ganesharatnam's transition to full-time assistant, the 2009 Mountaineers finished with their best overall record in five years, 17-13, and won six Big East games which ranked as the most since 1998. In 2010 the team finished 15-15 and took the title at its own WVU Classic early in the season with a perfect 4-0 record.

Before his stint at WVU, Ganesharatnam served as an assistant coach at Cedar Valley College in Grand Prairie, Texas, for one season. He helped the Suns reach their co-conference championship in the 2005-06 season. His duties included assisting the head coach with all aspects of the program, including recruiting, practice and competition preparation, summer camps and travel arrangements, as well as alumni outreach and fundraising.

In addition to his duties as an assistant coach at CVC, Ganesharatnam also served as the head coach of the 17's ACE Elite Team at Arlington Courts in Dallas, Texas.

He completed his bachelor's degree in political science with minors in economics and German from Queens College in 2005. He played four years of volleyball there while pursuing his degree. While having a standout career at Queens, he was also a four-year letterwinner and helped the Knights to two conference championships.

Ganesharatnam was born in Sri Lanka, but moved to Germany when he was five. He has been playing volleyball since he was nine. In Germany, he competed on a very successful club team from 1990 to 2000, VfL Sindelfingen, winning the regional championship and the state championship many times. Ganesharatnam and his team also made numerous appearances at the national championship.

Ganesharatnam received his master's degree in athletic coaching education in 2007 from WVU.

Ganesharatnam, his wife Jennifer, and their two children, reside in the Fairmount neighborhood of Philadelphia.

TV ROSTER



#1 KAYLA SPELLS

SO | MB | 6-0
CARY, N.C.



#2 PEYTON BOYD

JR | RS | 6-3
DUMFRIES, VA.



#3 NIKKI SAITO

SO | DS/L | 5-3
HONOLULU, HAWAII



#4 ILAYDA DINCER

FR | OH | 6-0
ANKARA, TURKEY



#5 GEM GRIMSHAW

JR | OH | 6-1
MARCO ISLAND, FLA.



#6 FALANIKA DANIELSON

FR | DS/L | 5-5
EWA BEACH, HAWAII



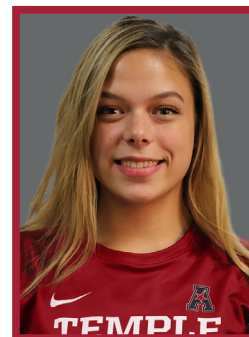
#7 KERYAH SALANOA

JR | RS/MB | 6-0
HONOLULU, HAWAII



#8 NINA-SYMONNE WILLIAMS

FR | MB | 6-1
ALPHARETTA, GA.



#9 SELINA MERFOL

SR | S | 5-10
APELDOORN, NETHERLANDS



#10 NIKKI SHIMAO

FR | DS/L | 5-5
HONOLULU, HAWAII



#11 TYLER LINDGREN

JR | S | 5-11
WINDSOR, COLO.



#12 KATERINA PAPAZOGLOU

SR | OH | 6-1
THESSALONIKI, GREECE



#14 TAYLOR DAVENPORT

FR | MB | 6-1
COLUMBIA, S.C.



#15 BALEIGH JEAN-PHILIPPE

SR | MB | 6-1
GERMANTOWN, MD.



#16 MIRAY BOLUKBASI

JR | OH | 6-1
ISTANBUL, TURKEY



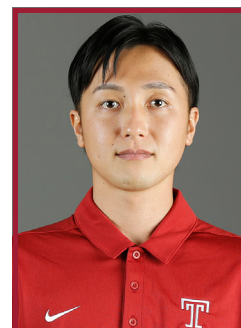
BAKEER GANESHARATNAM
HEAD COACH



REN CEFRA
ASSISTANT COACH



KAIT KOZAK
ASSISTANT COACH



KEISUKE TSUKADA
VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT