

Deutsch joins athletic department

Written by Todd Marver, Daily Vidette Senior Staff
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Former Illinois State gymnast Hannah Deutsch culminated her career with a second-straight appearance at the NCAA Regionals April 2, 2011.

However, it was not Deutsch's last experience as part of Redbird gymnastics.

Deutsch made the transition from being an ISU student-athlete to becoming a graduate assistant in the athletic department at the beginning of the fall semester.

"[Being a graduate assistant] is different," she said. "My work has now taken the place of athletics, but it is nice to still be involved and I still see a lot of the girls when they come into the study center. I know that my time is done and it's time to move on, but I like it though."

Although Deutsch's ISU gymnastics career is over, she still has a role at the gymnastics meets, serving as an online broadcaster for Redbird All-Access.

"It is nice because I get to watch the meets, but as a public relations major I feel like it is good experience being able to do broadcasting," Deutsch said.



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Deutsch also works with social media, in addition to student-athlete targeting at the Karin L. Bone Athletics Study Center.

“At the study center, I meet with the freshmen on men’s cross country, some of the men’s jumpers, a couple men’s golfers, and a couple of the gymnasts twice a week for about a half an hour each time,” she said. “I make sure they stay on track with their homework, tests, schedule, and anything having to do with academics, athletics, [and] their personal lives. I am also an assistant in the career development program, so I look at interviews and résumés for after college.”

Looking back on her gymnastics career at ISU, Deutsch is satisfied with her personal accomplishments, as is head coach Bob Conkling.

“Gymnastics-wise, [Deutsch] will probably go down as one of the most consistent gymnasts we have ever had,” Conkling said. “We were trying to figure out how many times she made mistakes in routines throughout the four years she was here, and I think we had one on each event and that was it. Competing in three events almost every single meet for four years and only having one fall on each of those events is really something. I can’t say enough good things about her.”

Conkling believes Deutsch made an impact on the younger members of the team coming up through the ranks and leading by example.

“I think leadership-wise what the team saw [from Deutsch] is the possibilities for doing well on the team,” Conkling said. “They could see her style of gymnastics, the nice stance that she had, the nice form that she had, and the consistency that she showed throughout every practice and meet. She was a good gymnast, she scored high for us, and she really helped the team to move forward and progress to a higher level.”