

Pickens grad to try out for national volleyball team Experience at Ole Miss helps Morgan

By Bob Castello - bcastell@greenvilleonline.com

Kara Morgan has made her way from Pickens High School to the Southeastern Conference. On deck: the national stage.

Morgan, a sophomore at the University of Mississippi, has been invited to attend the USA Volleyball Women's National Team Open Tryout Feb. 10-12 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.



Ole Miss coach Joe Getzin informed Morgan of her selection earlier this month.

“He had mentioned it to me, and that was obviously one of our goals, to make me a better player until I could compete with girls who are at a higher level than I’m at right now,” Morgan said.

“But nothing was ever set in stone, so when he called me, it was really exciting and just a surprise to me.”

Through the tryout, USA Volleyball will fill out rosters for the Women's National Team, which will represent the United States in the Olympics, and the Women's Senior A2 Teams, which are comprised of current college players only. Those of age may also be chosen for the Women's Junior (under 20) National Team.

No Olympic spots have been secured, although veterans have a leg up because of their international experience, according to USA Volleyball spokesman Bill Kauffman. He added that most players will be looked at for the other national teams.

Last year, Morgan's Ole Miss teammate, Allegra Wells, made the A2 team, “which is a pretty big honor,” Morgan said.

Morgan, a Class AAA all-state selection all four years at Pickens, started 22 of 30 matches as a freshman at Ole Miss and all 28 matches this past season.

As a sophomore, she led the team in service aces (24), was second in kills (266) and third in digs (233).

“I absolutely love (Ole Miss),” said Morgan, a biology major with hopes of attending medical school. “Not many people can say on their first try they found where they're meant to be, but I'm definitely where I'm supposed to be. I've made such close friends that I always keep in touch with, even though some of them have graduated. I just love it here. It's really good for me.”