After two years as the star outside hitter for the men’s volleyball team, Mitch Paulus is now serving as the head coach and has led the team through a successful fall semester. Paulus has had an impressive career considering he began six years ago.

After growing up in Wisconsin, Paulus attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) where he received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. At MSOE he walked on to the tennis team his freshman year. He tried out for the NCAA varsity volleyball team his junior year and made it with no formal experience. Paulus says that when he first attended an open gym “it was rough, but they must have saw some potential because they continued to invite me back.” Mitch was immediately drawn to the sport. “I loved the team aspect of volleyball and the huge momentum swings that can happen during a match, in contrast to tennis which was a much more tame individual sport.” He spent a couple years as a middle blocker for the team until finally finding his spot as an outside hitter his first year of graduate school and started for the team. He was also voted Co-Captain by his teammates and dubbed “Old Man Mitch”, which later turned in to “Grandpa Mitch” at A&M.

Paulus came to A&M in the fall of 2012 to pursue his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and quickly got plugged in with the club volleyball team. Mitch became an integral part of the A&M offense and helped lead the team to two straight SIVA Conference Championships. Last year he was named the SIVA Conference MVP. He owes his success at A&M to his coach and former varsity libero, Megan Pendergast, as well as his setter, Brandon Potter. Now that his eligibility has run out, Paulus has stepped into the role of head coach to help ease the transition of losing almost every starter. He wishes he could still represent A&M on the court but is thankful for the opportunities he had. “I already thought I was done playing 3 years ago, and not many people can say they were able to play for their respective college until they were 25.” Transitioning to coaching has been difficult in some areas and easy in some. “I’ve always had my own visions for how the game should be played in terms of philosophy and strategy. I’ve played against and been taught by some of the best in the country, including our own Laurie and John Corbelli, so knowing what I want to convey to the team has been easy.” Despite losing all but one starter, Mitch has led the team to two tournament championships in the fall semester.

Paulus doesn’t know where he’ll end up after A&M but he hopes he can find a volleyball community to join. He also plans on playing less indoor and more beach and grass volleyball going forward for the sake of saving his body. Mitch is grateful for the opportunity to have played at A&M and for the friendships he has developed.

**Aggies-Horns Challenge!**

So far the Aggies hold the lead in this year’s Aggies-Horns Challenge! On November 7th, club volleyball played head-to-head matches against Texas at the A&M Rec Center. The women’s team lost two close sets, while the men’s team beat the Longhorns in three sets. Men’s Rugby also beat Texas in November with a 26-17 victory in Austin, TX. Cycling finished above Texas, winning the South Central Collegiate Cycling Conference!
Meet the Executive Committee: Tres Summerlin

Howdy! My name is Tres Summerlin and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee this year and give back to Sport Clubs. I am a class of 2015 Agricultural Systems Management major from Devine, Texas. I graduated this December and am currently furthering my education here at Texas A&M with a Masters degree in Food Technology. I joined the Trap and Skeet club my freshman year in 2011. I have been shooting competitively since the age of 12 on many platforms including 4-H, FFA, and the NSCA. One of my most recent accomplishments is a NSCA National Championship in AA class in the main event. I had my eyes set on competing on a collegiate level since I received my acceptance letter for A&M. Since joining, I have stayed very involved in the club holding a merchandise, treasurer, and now advisor position. With the help of Keith, Jessica, and the entire Sport Clubs Association, several officers and I have lifted up the Trap and Skeet club and are very proud of where it is today.