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Dustdevils add four volleyball players to open signing period

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Pictured left to right are TAMIU volleyball signees Yuliia Hupkovska, Lacy Asdourian, Leah McManus and Gabrielle Zamora.

The Texas A&M International volleyball team announced the signing of four players to kick off the spring signing period including a trio of junior college transfers.

“These initial additions to the program will blend nicely with the current players we have on the roster and add to creating the culture and chemistry in the gym that we look to have define Dustdevil

volleyball," TAMIU head coach **Susie Jangada** said. "The energy that these four bring will instantly raise the level of training and competitiveness in our gym which should result in an exciting product for fans to enjoy come game day. This is just the start of where we hope to take this program in the fall and with future additions we believe a turning point is coming for Dustdevil volleyball."

Lacy Asdourian, a libero from Redding, California, will bring her talents to Laredo this fall. Asdourian was named a member of the 2016 All-Regional Northern California team. She transfers from **Shasta College** where she led the nation with 670 digs. Asdourian ranked fourth nationwide in digs per game with 6.63. Additionally, Asdourian led the Golden Valley Conference in digs, digs per game and aces per game. After two seasons at Shasta, Asdourian picked up 1,163 digs.

"We're excited to be adding Lacy to our squad," Jangada said. "The level of ball control that she brings to the game will instantly impact our team's ability to stay in system and run a diversified offense. We also feel the aggressiveness with which she plays the game on the defensive side will allow us to extend rallies and wear teams down."

Yuliia Hupkovska is an outside hitter from Poltava, Ukraine. Hupkovska will join the Dustdevils after playing at **Ranger Junior College**. In 2016, Hupkovska was named to the All-North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Second-Team. Hupkovska will pursue a degree in psychology at TAMIU.

"As an international player, she brings a different level of experience and maturity to the team," Jangada said. "We believe that the weight with which she hits the ball will give teams in our conference trouble."

Leah McManus rounds out the junior college transfers. McManus comes to Laredo after playing at **MiraCosta College**. She is originally from Encinitas, California. The kinesiology major has a decorated history at MiraCosta. McManus was part of the 2013 and 2014 **Avacado East League** Championship teams and the 2013 Division I San Diego section Final Four. McManus earned Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Honorable Mention honors in 2015 and 2016.

"One of Leah's greatest strengths is her versatility and the numerous positions that she can play," Jangada said. "We feel this will allow her to have a greater impact on the team than a typical one-

dimensional player."

Gabrielle Zamora will become a Dustdevil this fall after a successful varsity volleyball career at **Heights High School** in Houston, Texas. Zamora was named first-team All-District in each of her four years at Heights. She was awarded MVP at the HISD Tournament all four years. Additionally, Zamora was team captain her senior year. On the basketball court, Zamora was named All- District in her first two seasons. A three-sport athlete, Zamora was also the captain of the Heights girls' golf team.

"Gabi's speed, athleticism, intelligence and ability to get off the floor quickly will aid her in making a smoother transition to the college game," Jangada said. "As she develops, she'll be able to impact the team in a variety of different ways. We believe she has a bright future ahead of her."

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