Hart Named Recreational Sports Director at ABAC

TIFTON – Stoney Hart has never seen a Georgia pine tree up close and personal. In fact, he has never seen many trees of any shape or size in the section of Oklahoma where he has lived his entire life.

But on Aug. 5, Hart left his Rocky, Okla., home and traveled to Tifton, Ga., to begin his position as Recreational Sports Director in the School of Human Sciences at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
“I have never lived anywhere except Oklahoma so this is a new adventure for me,” Hart said. “My wife, Melissa, is originally from Louisiana but has family in Georgia so she is really excited about the move. We are both really looking forward to exploring our new surroundings. Georgia has trees and beautiful scenery, something we don’t have in southwest Oklahoma.”

Hart has been the assistant director of facility operations and intramural/club sports at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) since 2009. He also served as an athletic department intern in 2010. In 2008, Hart taught physical education at Boone-Apache High School in Apache, Okla.

An avid hockey player and fan, Hart coached hockey players from junior high to the adult level in Oklahoma City, Okla., from 2006-2011.

“I’ve been playing in a recreational hockey league for about 17 years,” said Hart. “My father is from northern Nevada, and he’s the one that got me playing. I’m also a big fan of boxing.”

Hart earned his B.S. in education degree with a major in health, physical education, and recreation and his M.Ed. in sports management/parks and recreation degree at Southwestern Oklahoma. His thesis, “The formation of an amateur hockey team”, was published in 2011.

He is a member of several professional organizations including the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Kappa Delta Phi, the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (OAHPERD) Teaching Organization, and the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association.
In the community, Hart has been a volunteer firefighter since 2009, and served as a USA Hockey Referee and a USA Hockey Level 3 Coach and Player. He is a certified official with the National Federation of State High School Associations in basketball, softball, and soccer.

Knowledgeable in the care and prevention of athletic injuries, Hart is certified in both CPR and First Aid, and AED certified in Blood borne Pathogens. He has also taken courses in aquatics and medical terminology.

Hart seems excited about his move to Georgia and is looking forward to what the state and ABAC have in store for him. He is also anxious to get the ABAC intramurals program underway.

“I feel excited, and I can’t wait to get intramurals going,” Hart said. “I like the positive, upbeat attitude of the staff I have met so far, and I’m looking forward to getting to know everyone and making ABAC intramurals great.”

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