
The Service Line

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club
Vol. VIII No. 2
October 2002

Fall Festivities Start Conference Season

Volleyball Tailgate Party

Come out to join fellow MSU fans who are planning the third annual Spartan Volleyball Tailgate Party on October 5, before the match against Indiana.

Join us on the green in the south parking lot of Jenison (in front of the main entrance) starting at 4 pm, until game time at 8. Grill, eat and drink with other volleyball fans. There is an exhibition hockey game at 7:00, so try to get into the parking lot by 4:00 before they close it for hockey parking.

SideOut Club Coach's Luncheons

Be sure to make your Spartan volleyball experience complete by coming to the SideOut Club Coach's Luncheons this year. Coach Erbe is known for his frank and candid commentary about our team, the Big Ten competition, and volleyball in general.

The first luncheon is scheduled for our home opening weekend of the Big Ten season, Saturday October 5, when we host Indiana.

This year the Club will also continue some Friday luncheons, to try to help those fans who are busier on Saturday. If Friday is a better day for you, be sure to make it to the Friday luncheons on October 25

CONTENTS

Volleyball Tailgate Party	1
SideOut Club Coach's Luncheons	1
Two Bus Trips Planned	1
Volunteers Needed	1
Big Ten Preview	2
President's Corner	2
Team Notes	3
Ticket Price Survey	4
SideOut Club Report	5
2002 Schedule and Results	6

and November 1. The last two luncheons will return to Saturdays, on November 16 and November 30.

The gatherings will take place at Buddies Grill in East Lansing at 11:30 am. This is in the Carriage Hills Shopping Center, at the corner of Hagadorn and Lake Lansing Roads. The cost to cover food and drink is \$8.00, plus a voluntary contribution for a tip.

Two Bus Trips Planned

Want to add to your enjoyment of the MSU volleyball season? Join us on either of two bus trips to away matches and you will have an exciting time with fellow enthusiasts. Both trips will depart and return the same day of the match.

The proposed bus trips are on Saturday, November 9 to Columbus, Ohio (departing at 12:30 PM) and Friday, November 22 to Champaign, Illinois (departing at 11:00AM). Both trip departure times allow early arrival at destination to eat dinner and watch the warm up. Return departure time is within an hour of the end of the match.

In order to run a bus on either of these occasions, we need to have at least 30 participants. The cost for the Ohio State trip is \$35 per person plus match ticket. The cost for the Illinois trip is \$43 per person plus match ticket. Sign up as soon as possible either with Julie Carmichael 676-5211 or at any home match at the SideOut Club table. GO GREEN!

Volunteers Needed

As always, we need lots of volunteers to sell merchandise and raffle tickets during home matches. We're seeing mostly the same names signing up, so we'd like to make a special appeal to new members and others who haven't yet volunteered. If you can spare some time to help out (and have some fun to boot) at one or more home matches, please call Jim Ellis at (517) 323-3566.

Big Ten Preview

The Big Ten race this year looks like it should be a close one, possibly as exciting as 2000 when the championship was decided on the final day of the season. This is borne out by the early-season polls, where five conference teams are in the top twenty, but no team has broken out from the others. The opening week already produced some surprising results, such as Indiana's victory over Ohio State and Illinois' defeat of Wisconsin. In this issue we preview two of the top contenders.

Ohio State

MSU should have a tough home opener facing the Buckeyes, who were the coaches' pick to win the conference this year.

Ohio State is led by 2001 All Big-Ten picks Katie Virtue at setter and Stacey Gordon at outside hitter. However, the team was hurt badly by the graduation of outside hitter Anne Botica. This means that Gordon will have to carry even more of the offense than she did last year. In fact, through their first 8 matches this year, Gordon was responsible for 38% of the team's kills compared with 27% for all of last season. Clearly the strategy for Big Ten opponents should be to stop Gordon and find out whether her teammates can step up their offense to compensate.

Ohio State has also had more than their share of bad luck. Over a span of a few days they lost setter Virtue

to a broken hand and backup setter Schardt to a concussion. Fortunately Heather Whalen, their libero, had previously been a setter, having substituted for Virtue when she was injured in 2000. Incredibly, the team has suffered three other injuries, so they started the Big Ten season with five players benched, including two other starters.

The Buckeyes played a difficult pre-conference schedule, and struggled against the competition. In four matches against teams which have appeared in the top 25 this year, OSU earned only one victory, a five-gamer against Colorado, who has since dropped out of the top 25. They were blanked 3-0 by Hawai'i, UCLA and Texas.

Minnesota

Like Ohio State, Minnesota had a tough pre-conference schedule, but they came out of it looking much better than OSU. They started the season with a bang, upsetting Pepperdine 3-0, and hanging in with then-#1 Stanford for a 1-3 loss, outlasting the Cardinal in two of the three games and holding superstar Logan Tom to a .190 hitting percentage. Over the next few weeks, they also up-ended UCLA 3-0 and Santa Clara 3-1. Their only other loss was a five-gamer to nationally-ranked Northern Iowa.

Both setter Lindsey Vander Well and opposite hitter Cassie Busse were named Big Ten Player of the Week within the first month of the season. Busse leads the Big Ten in service aces. In addition, Paula Gentil, a freshman who was recruited from Brazil as a libero, leads the conference in digs.

The Service Line

©2002 by the MSU SideOut Club, the official support group of Michigan State University women's volleyball.

Published five times per year, in March, August, October, November and December

Newsletter Editor:	Chris Wolf	(517) 332-4353
President:	Jenny Bond	(517) 676-2676
Vice-president:	Julie Carmichael	(517) 676-5211
Secretary:	Ron Springer	(517) 203-0612
Treasurer:	Jim Ellis	(517) 323-3566

MSU SideOut Club, P.O. Box 80491, Lansing MI 48908
 Email: jimandeileenellis@prodigy.net
 Web site: www.msusideout.org

President's Corner

by SideOut Club Board President Jenny Bond

The Board welcomes renewing and new members of the SideOut Club! We are pleased that you have chosen to be part of our booster club. We hope that you will plan to participate in the club activities, including volunteering.

Consider the following avenues of service:

■ Bring a friend who is new to volleyball.

■ Talk about the benefits of your SideOut Club membership and encourage at least one other person

to join.

N Plan an outing to one of the matches for your group—family, church, work, service club, etc. Let us know the name of your group and when you will be attending so that we can work to get you recognized. This procedure seems to work for the Lugnuts and our volleyball team is a much better product—and more exciting.

N Purchase merchandise from the SOC table and wear it with pride at the matches and other times. As you probably know, profits of this activity go to support the program. I am surprised at the questions I get when I am wear my volleyball gear and the opportunities I have to tell others about volleyball at MSU—still one of the best kept secrets at MSU.

N Follow the team in the Lansing State Journal. Ricardo Cooney and LSJ staff already have had more write-ups about the 2002 team than they did all season last year, I think. Email or write the LSJ to let them know you want this coverage to continue. The most powerful tool in getting continued coverage is you, the reader.

N Plan to participate in the annual tailgate party. Get more information on this event in this newsletter. We had a very good time last year and it is good to get to know the MSU volleyball family.

N Definitely plan to attend a coach's luncheon and talk directly with Chuck Erbe. These are very informal and informative. You do not need to order food to participate—I know some of you have diet restrictions and cannot easily eat out.

N Plan to take at least one of the SOC bus trips and leaving the driving to the pros. I can assure you that the buses are comfortable and a bathroom is on board, the crowd is congenial and not exclusive—you should not hesitate to join us. Everyone will be welcome. You should not hesitate to come alone as there are always singles. Last year's team when they won at Ohio State gave much credit to those who took the SOC bus trip. The match was so exciting and I was really happy that I did not miss it.

N Plan to attend the year end banquet on Sunday, December 1. If you will be away for the

Thanksgiving holiday, plan ahead to return by Sunday noon to participate. We are already making plans for it and are negotiating for a less expensive children's plate option so that more families may participate. MSU Volleyball apparel may be substituted for suits and ties.

N Watch for email from the SOC with late breaking news during the season. If your email address changes, notify John Bond at jbond@msu.edu.

The 2002 team is ready for the Big Ten season. The SideOut Club is ready to support the team in many ways. Let me know what ideas, suggestions, or even concerns you may have. Go Green!



Sara Villwock: Coca-Cola Classic MVP

Photo: Chris Wolf

Team Notes

N Five Spartans won tournament honors in the first three weeks of the season. Sara Villwock was MVP of the Coca-Cola Classic, Nikki Colson was all-

tournament at the Coca-Cola Classic and the WMU Invitational, Angela Morley was all-tournament at the Coca-Cola Classic and the South Florida Invitational, Kyla Smith was all-tournament at South Florida, and Emmy Miller at WMU. The last time we had this many individual pre-conference award winners was the Big-Ten championship year of 1995!

Nikki Colson will probably climb a couple of notches on the Spartan career assists list this weekend. On Friday she will almost certainly move into the number 6 spot, surpassing Julie Pavlus' 2028 assists. Depending on how long the two matches are, on Saturday she will probably take over the number 5 spot from Gina Conroy by exceeding 2,096 career assists.



Kyla Smith will be responsible for a bigger share of blocks at her new position on the right side *Photo: Chris Wolf*

N As the conference season starts, it looks as though the lineup is pretty well set for the year, barring changes necessitated by injuries. The exception might be the libero, where both Emmy Miller and Marley Bellwood got playing time the opening weekend. Sara Villwock had an injured foot, so didn't play against Iowa, prompting Chuck to try both Emily Engel and Michelle Kopka in the front row. Other than that we have Jenny and Angela in the middle, Nikki setting, Kyla opposite and Kim in the other left-side role.

Ticket Price Survey

A survey of volleyball ticket prices in the Big Ten shows that this year's price increase has put MSU at the top of the conference in this area. Early-season attendance is right in line with last year, so it's not apparent that the hike has hurt ticket sales.

Each institution defines prices for different categories of fans, but overall the lowest general-admission single-match prices are at Indiana, Michigan and Penn State. (Prices from Iowa were not available.)

Indiana Adults-\$4; 8th grade&under-\$2; IU student- Free

Michigan Adults-\$4; children/seniors-\$2; UM students/faculty/staff-Free

Penn State Adults-\$4; 18&under/60&over-\$2; PSU students-Free

Then in a group of similar, but approximately increasing, prices we have:

Wisconsin Adults-\$5; youth/senior/UW students-\$2

Illinois Public-\$5; faculty/staff-\$4; students-\$2

Northwestern Adults-\$5; under17 or non-NW students-\$3; NW students-Free

Ohio State Public-\$5; students-\$3

Purdue Adults-\$6; students-\$3

At the top of the conference (highest prices) are:

Minnesota Adults-\$7; child/senior/student-\$5

Michigan State Adults\$8; youth/senior/MSU students/faculty/staff-\$5; 8&under-Free

Of course, many schools, including MSU, offer season tickets at a lower per-match price. MSU has also announced the availability of a \$10 pass for MSU students, faculty and staff, that covers admission to all home games for both women's volleyball and women's basketball. For ticket information, call 1 800 GO STATE.

SideOut Club Report

At the August membership meeting, four incumbent directors were re-elected to the Board. At the September Board meeting, the Board unanimously re-elected all current officers to their posts. Also at that meeting Kay Schmid resigned from the Board. The current Board is as follows:

Jenny Bond (term expiring '04)	President
Julie Carmichael ('05)	Vice-President
Jim Ellis ('03)	Treasurer
Ron Springer ('04)	Secretary

Jim Constandt ('05)
Dennis Eagle ('04)
Kathy Lovell ('05)
Dave Martz ('04)
Dave Pike ('03)
Bob Potter ('03)
Diana Priebe ('05)

The Board will be filling the vacant seat soon; if you are interested in serving, please contact Jenny Bond at jbond@msu.edu. Another Board member has announced he will be leaving at the end of the season, so there will be at least one more opening soon.

MSU SideOut Club Financial Summary - Year Ending June 30, 2002

	Income	Expense	Net Income
Cash on hand 7/1/01			\$4,169.95
Value of merchandise on hand 7/1/01			\$1,774.95
Membership dues	3,740.00		3,740.00
Member Benefits			
Courtside seat raffle		141.00	(141.00)
Newsletter		849.23	(849.23)
Spring tournament and fall picnic	265.75	389.94	(124.19)
Pins, decals and memo boards		152.00	(152.00)
Young Spartan gift memberships		110.00	(110.00)
Total Member Benefits	265.75	1,642.17	(1,376.42)
Donations to buy banners	402.69		402.69
Donations to Club	36.00		36.00
Merchandise sales	9,643.76	3,743.80	5,899.96
50/50 raffle	2,976.00	1,870.09	1,105.91
Bus Trip	1,005.00	996.00	9.00
Coach's luncheons	802.75	750.25	52.50
Credit union interest, fees	120.65	2.00	118.65
Gifts		272.00	(272.00)
Other office supplies, copying, postage		420.74	(420.74)
Taxes		521.16	(521.16)
Web site fees		240.00	(240.00)
Miscellaneous income and expenses	170.00	10.00	160.00
Contributions to MSU Volleyball			
Program Support		10,500.00	(10,500.00)
Banquet Table Sponsorship		300.00	(300.00)
Ralph Young Fund		105.00	(105.00)
Total Contributions to MSU Volleyball	0.00	10,905.00	(10,905.00)
Total income and expenses	\$19,162.60	\$21,373.21	(\$2,210.61)
Balance as of 6/30/01			\$1,959.34
Value of merchandise on hand 6/30/01			\$3,308.00
Net worth as of 6/30/01			\$5,267.34

2002 Schedule and Results

(All home matches are played in Jenison Field House. All times listed are Eastern.)

8/30	W	Georgetown	30-25, 30-13, 30-24	10/18	@Wisconsin	8:00 pm
8/30	W	Oakland	30-24, 30-20, 30-18	10/19	@Northwestern	8:00 pm
8/30	W	South Carolina	20-30, 31-29, 33-31, 34-32	10/25	PURDUE	8:00 pm
9/6	W	Western Michigan	30-21, 30-27, 30-28	10/26	ILLINOIS	3:00 pm
9/7	W	Depaul	30-25, 30-17, 30-20	10/30	MICHIGAN	7:00 pm
9/7	L	Wright State	30-26, 25-30, 30-25, 22-30, 11-15	11/1	PENN STATE	8:00 pm
9/13	L	Georgia Tech	22-30, 32-30, 28-30, 23-30	11/8	@Indiana	7:00 pm
9/14	W	Kansas State	31-29, 30-25, 22-30, 30-27	11/9	@Ohio State	7:00 pm
9/14	W	South Florida	27-30, 35-33, 30-23, 30-24	11/15	IOWA	7:00 pm
9/20	W	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	30-20, 30-25, 30-19	11/16	MINNESOTA	8:00 pm
9/27	L	@Minnesota	23-30, 27-30, 28-30	11/22	@Illinois	7:00 pm
9/28	W	@Iowa	30-26, 30-25, 19-30, 30-27	11/23	@Purdue	7:00 pm
10/4		OHIO STATE	7:00 pm	11/29	NORTHWESTERN	7:00 pm
10/5		INDIANA	8:00 pm	11/30	WISCONSIN	7:00 pm
10/9		@Michigan	7:00 pm	12/6-12/7	NCAA 1 st & 2 nd round	
10/12		@Penn State	7:00 pm	12/13-14	NCAA Regionals	
				12/19-21	NCAA Championships in New Orleans, LA	



**P.O. Box 80491
Lansing MI 48908**