



The Service Line

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club
Vol. XI No. 4
October 2005

President's Message

by Jenny Bond, SOC President

Congratulations! You have made a good choice! Thank you for continuing your support of the MSU volleyball program with your membership renewal.

We welcome new members and lifetime members also. If you have not already done so, check by the merchandise table at the next match for your free SOC shirt. Check out the merchandise as well. It is not too early to think about gifts for the holiday season. Plus, you get a 10% discount as a member.

The season is in full swing and it was fun to have the team back in Jenison October 7 and 8. It was not the most fulfilling weekend in terms of the W-L column, but we surely saw some exciting volleyball. Can you believe all the digs "Cola" made, breaking a 16 year MSU record? Aren't you pleased to see Ashley Schatzle developing so well? I think we all stopped breathing for a few minutes when Katie went down Saturday night; hopefully, she will soon be going on all cylinders again. Now is the time when the team and coaches really need to know we are behind them, so I hope you are planning to be at the next home matches.

The pep band was at both matches and really added to the atmosphere. They definitely have learned more about volleyball since the Michigan game, Many observed that the presence of the Michigan band in Jenison

took away the home court advantage; they definitely knew when to play to rattle the MSU team.

Members who have attended the "chalk" talks presented by Cathy George have enjoyed them. We have had three interesting ones to date. All members, including the parents of team members, are encouraged to attend

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SOC Activities

October 21– Chalk Talk: The season's fourth "Chalk Talk" will be held on Friday, October 21 at 6:10 p.m. in Room 209 of Jenison. These events have been very popular with SideOut Club members, as Coach George fills us in on the key match-ups in that evening's match.

November 5– Awesome volleyball tailgate - See Cathy Caswell's article page 5 for additional details.

November 12—Alumni night will take place on November 12, with many Spartans of the past on hand and a special tribute planned for the tenth anniversary of MSU's appearance in the 1995 Final Four.

SOC Board Members Re-elected—Shirley Garrity, Jim Constandt and Kathy Lovell were re-elected to 3-year terms on the SideOut Club board at the annual meeting on September 21. Pam Sievers, who completed the term of Julie Carmichael, was also elected for a 3-year term. Congratulations to these hard workers!

Volleyball Banquet Plans—The 2005-06 year-end banquet will not be held during Thanksgiving weekend. A date in early 2006 will soon be announced. See article on page 5.

Past Issues of The Service Line Available—Chris Wolf kept copies of past issues of the newsletter. We plan to have these available for past players and SOC members at the event scheduled later in the season by Coach George and her team to honor former MSU players. Watch for more details to come!

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Meet the New Faces: Heather McDaniel

Some people fit nicely into preconceived notions and stereotypes. Heather McDaniel, a freshman outside hitter and middle from Madison Heights, isn't one of them. A perfect example is her favorite musical group, which is a Christian band ... a Christian *punk* band. "I know the words to 75% of Relient K's songs," she claims. This reporter wasn't sure whether to be more surprised by the combination of Christian and punk or to discover that punk songs have lyrics. After all, I had always assumed that 75% of the Ramones lyrics were 1, 2, 3.

But that is far from the extent of her eclectic musical tastes. Heather also enjoys classical and choral music and loves listening to recordings of the a cappella choir that her brother David performed in while a student at Bowling Green State University. She herself has won medals for her singing and long been a member of her church choir. She has a mischievous twinkle in her eye when she recounts how she and two other members of her high school choir wore their dodge ball jackets when fifty members of the choir went on a tour. "People thought we were traveling dodge ballers!" she says.

Perhaps you are wondering how one gets a dodge ball jacket in the first place. Heather explains, "Our church youth group thought it was a fun game, so we made a team. Then we needed someone to play so we tried to get other churches to play us. We got a league of twelve teams from a few churches going and then we had a tournament and we won these jackets."

Dodge ball has been far from her only athletic triumph. At Lutheran Northwest, she was runner-up in the high jump at the state tournament as both a sophomore and senior and won the state championship as a junior. She was also a member of the 4x800 relay team that won the state meet and broke the Division 4 state record by 8 seconds! She anchored the 4x400 relay team to another school record. Paced by these marks, Lutheran Northwest was regional champion during her junior and senior years and fell a mere 2 points short of the state championship in the latter year.

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In basketball, she was a four-year letter winner for the varsity team and three-time team MVP. During her junior campaign, she broke the school record for charges taken in a career. That might seem like enough punishment for anyone, but Heather also broke her jaw that season while tackling a boy during a pickup game of tackle football. "Sure I would still play football again," she says without hesitation, before adding "but maybe I'd be a little more careful ... and not during volleyball season." She missed half the season and her team ended up below .500, which made it all the more satisfying when she led her school to a conference champion as a senior.

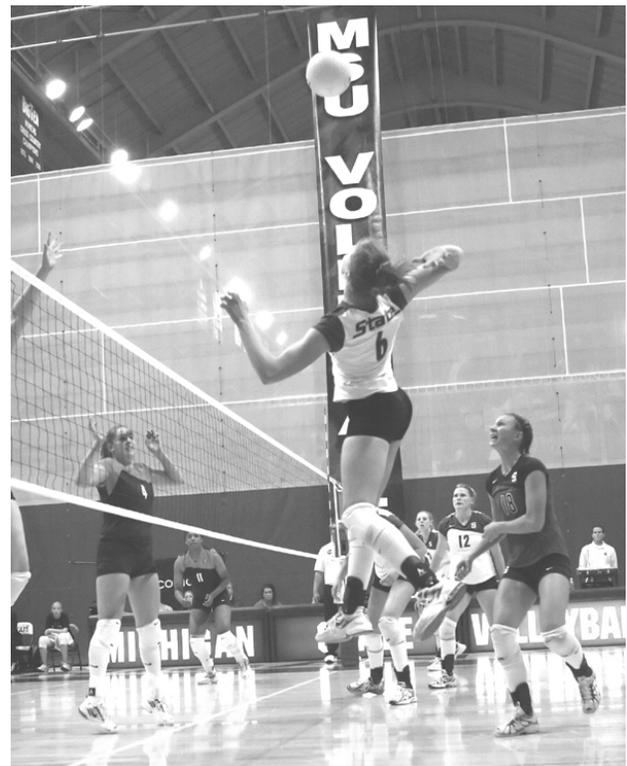


Photo: Al and Renee Schmitzer

In volleyball, she played outside hitter and was three-time Most Valuable Player of the varsity squad. She eclipsed the previous school record in virtually every statistical category and also found time to play two years of club volleyball. As a senior, she led the Michigan Elite squad to the championships of the 2005 Lakeshore and the Junior Olympic Girls invitational tournaments and was named MVP of the latter tournament.

Despite playing so many sports competitively, while also finding time for dodge ball and tackle football, Heather has stayed very injury-free. "Other than the broken jaw, I can't really think of anything," she remarks, "oh, except the x-rays that I had on my nose today. It might be broken." But who counts a broken nose?

—cont on page 6

President's Message — cont. from page 1

these. Light refreshments (enough to tide you over the match) are served. Cathy reviews the opposing teams strengths and how she has coached the team to respond to them. We are definitely better informed after her discussion. Future talks will be held at 6:10 p.m. (or as soon after the Jenison door opens) on the second floor of Jenison. Follow the signs or ask a SOC member for directions. **Put these dates on your calendar: October 21, November 4, November 12, and November 25 for the chalk talks.** If it is hard for you to make the Friday night ones, perhaps you can do Saturday, the 12th. I think you will enjoy them.

The annual volleyball tailgate will be held on Saturday, November 5 whatever the weather. We are a hardy group of fans ready for a party. (We had originally scheduled October 8 for the event, prior to learning that the MSU parade, Sparty dedication and Jay Leno event would be so close to Jenison at the same time that parking would be a zoo.) Bring a dish to share or \$\$ to contribute for plates, etc. and bring your friends. It is a wonderful time for the "volleyball family" to get together. Hopefully, some of the team can stop by for a few minutes, schedules permitting.



Head Coach Cathy George during a "Chalk Talk"

Photo: Al and Renee Schmitzer

Many of you have told me how much you enjoy the features on the team members written by Peter Morris. We are fortunate to have Peter and Kathy Lovell working so hard to make the newsletter an outstanding one. And once again, many of you have told me how much you appreciate the board with standings and results which Chris Wolf revises for every home match. If you have not seen it, look for it at the end of Jenison near the merchandise table.

We still need volunteers for 50/50 sales, etc. Check at the merchandise table to sign up.

Go State!

Jenny T. Bond

Honors College

One of the traditions of Spartan volleyball that many fans may not be aware of is a disproportionately high participation in Honors College. All three seniors on last year's team were members of the Honors College, as are at least three of the players on this year's squad – Brooke Langston, Miken Trogdon and Heather McDaniel. That is an impressive number considering that acceptance to the Honors College is limited to students who were in the top five percent of their high school graduating class and also posted high ACT or SAT scores. The advantages of Honors College include smaller class sizes, more classroom interaction, easier access to high demand classes, substitution of nonstandard courses to fulfill college and major requirements, and more opportunities for independent study, with the latter two being especially beneficial to players dealing with the constraints of the Big Ten volleyball schedule. Brooke explains that it offers the same sort of competitive atmosphere as the players' athletic endeavors: "Because we are surrounded by people that are very high achievers, we are pushed everyday in the classroom to perform to our best ability. Honors College was a challenge to me, and I am always up for a challenge." Miken notes that Todd Dagenais stressed the benefits of Honors College when she was being recruited and that it is something that the current players continue to emphasize to recruits who meet the stringent academic requirements. That is what makes Honors College one of the important traditions of the MSU volleyball program.

Kathy Lovell--Multi-talented SOC Board Member

by Jenny Bond

In response to SOC members comments about the previous introductions to SOC board members, I am pleased to feature Kathy Lovell. She is another of the hard-working SideOut Club members who has never told me “no” when I have asked her to contribute to the program. You may catch her working the merchandise table or selling 50/50 tickets. During the last year she has been invaluable as the individual who does the layout for the newsletter and helps with the printing and mailing. She and Peter Morris work together to make the newsletter the best one on campus. We owe her a vote of thanks for her efforts.

Kathy’s mother was born in eastern North Carolina in the county adjoining the one where I born. Kathy, however, was born in Pueblo, CO. She attended Colorado College and majored in physics. She met her husband Bob when she was his physics lab assistant. Kathy realized she did not want to continue in physics, and came to MSU as a graduate student in the Biophysics Dept. She did decide that Bob was the one, and he became a graduate student in the Department of Statistics & Probability. Kathy received her Ph.D. in Biophysics with a strong interest and background in neuroscience. By that time, Bob had a job working for the state, and the Lovells did not want to move. Kathy received a postdoctoral fellowship to do research with a neuropathologist in the Pathology Dept. After that she was fortunate to get a faculty position in the department. About five years ago she moved to the Dean’s office in the College of Human Medicine (CHM) as her primary appointment and transferred to the Department of Neurology/Ophthalmology.

In the CHM Office of Academic Programs, she is Director of the Year I Curriculum and Director of Preclinical Academic Computing. She works with faculty who teach the Year 1 basic science courses and interacts with first-year medical students from various perspectives. She wrote “I try to facilitate the use of computer technology into the curriculum to improve teaching and learning. I also teach neuroscience and neuropathology for second-year medical students, and have developed computer-based self-instructional units to supplement the course material. I am interested both in the mechanism of neurological diseases and neuroscience explanations of emotion and stress.”

So how did this smart scientist get involved with the MSU volleyball program? She said “I started playing volleyball after Bob and I came to MSU for graduate school. I was on an intramural team initially and learned the basics. After that I played on women’s teams in local recreational leagues, and we played together on co-ed teams. One year our team came in second in the state recreational tourna-

ment (not because of my playing). Also we both played in MARVA (Michigan Area Recreational Volleyball Association) outdoor tournaments. We started attending MSU volleyball matches occasionally when the team played in the Men’s IM building (now IM West). We became more interested when Chuck Erbe came and the program improved..” Fortunately for the MSU program both Kathy and Bob have been strong supporters since.

Kathy tells me that she likes family history stories and was the editor for a booklet about her mother’s family life in Duplin County, NC in the early 1900s. Her main interests now are music and stained glass. She plays the marimba and vibraphone, and has played in the jazz ensemble at Lansing Community College. Do you think we could convince her to entertain us at the banquet? She has also made several stained glass pieces for her home.

Multi-talented and more—that is Kathy Lovell. She reinforces what I heard Chuck Erbe say a number of times—volleyball is a thinking person’s sport. Kathy, thanks for all that you do.

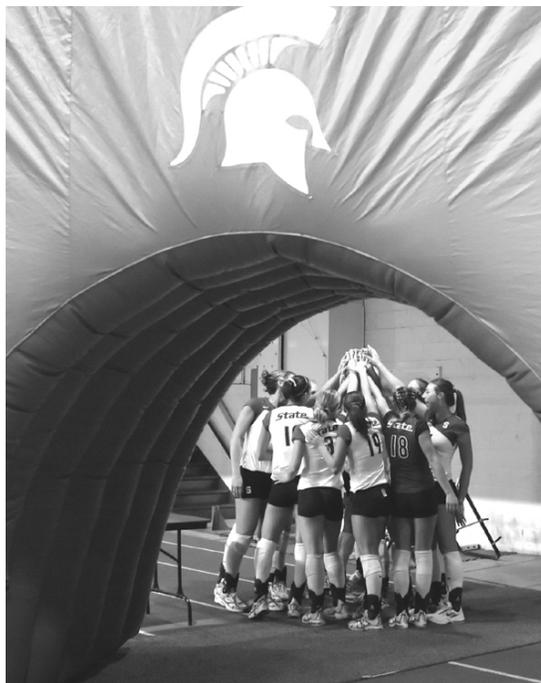


Photo: Al and Renee Schmitzer

It’s All Related— Obscure Trivia Question:

When Diana Steplyk and Kim Schram played their first match as Spartans, who was the opposing team’s setter? (Answer on page 7)

Sixth Annual Volleyball Tailgate - November 5

By Cathy Caswell

Come out to join fellow MSU fans for the 6th Annual Spartan Volleyball Tailgate Party on **Saturday, November 5, before the match against Minnesota.**

Join us on the green in the south parking lot of Jenison (in front of the main entrance) **starting around 3:30 p.m. and continuing until game time at 7.** Bring a dish or grill-able items to share, grill, eat, and drink with other volleyball fans.

If you can bring a grill and charcoal, or a folding table, please contact Cathy Caswell at caswell@msu.edu or 332-4353.



Alumni News and Notes

Sarah Gustin is an assistant volleyball coach at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Sarah's younger sister Laura now plays volleyball for the University of Iowa and there is a strong resemblance between them.

Jenny Whitehead is a volleyball coach for Stellar Sports Club in Colorado Springs

Sara Villwock works for the Stryker Corporation in Kalamazoo. Coincidentally, Sara's father was transferred from Colorado to Fort Wayne, Indiana, bringing the family closer together.

Stephanie Knopp is now teaching a third grade class in Berkley, Michigan. Every placement and internship that she received involved third graders, so she feels that she was destined to work with that age group.

Volleyball Banquet Plans

By Jenny Bond

The 2005-06 year-end banquet will not be held during Thanksgiving weekend. A date in early 2006 will soon be announced. At the present time it is anticipated that the banquet will be held on campus in the new facility adjacent to the football stadium. A number of SOC Board members were in the "banquet room" for the mandatory compliance meeting recently. The room is spectacular, and that is not a word I use often. There are a number of tv screens attached at ceiling level, so we will all have an excellent view of a highlight film. Watch for exciting details to come!

Record Breaker

Junior libero Nicole Colaluca, who rewrote the St. John's University record book during her two seasons there, is proceeding to do the same to the Michigan State record book. Jill Krumm's school record of 36 digs had stood since 1988 and only one player had ever come within 4 digs of it – until "Cola" shattered the old standard by compiling 45 digs against Sacramento State! Then against Purdue she broke another of Jill Krumm's records by posting 28 digs in a three-game match. Nicole is also on pace to break Veronica Morales' record for digs in a season and Marley Bellwood's record for digs per game.



Photo: Al and Renee Schmitzer

Heather McDaniel—cont from page 2



Heather is the youngest of four children of Mark and Cynthia McDaniel, whom she credits with being very supportive parents who set a good example. “They made a lot of sacrifices to give us all a Lutheran education,” she notes, “and I’m very grateful that they did.” Having three older siblings was one of the things that pushed her to excel in sports: “I’ve always liked playing with the big guys because it makes me better.” When she was in sixth grade, one of her brothers was playing pickup basketball and some of his high school friends didn’t want to let her join them. She thus took considerable satisfaction in proving them wrong and explains, “When someone tells me I can’t do something, it makes me want to work ten times harder to prove them wrong.”

She has an easygoing, fun-loving disposition, but athletics bring out a passionate side in her. “Sports motivate you to do the best you can,” she observes. “My philosophy is that if I’m not working my hardest, I haven’t accomplished anything. The one thing that makes me angry is when someone isn’t giving their all.” Yet by the same token, being a member of a team where everyone is committed to the same goal is an amazing feeling.

Sports have played such an important role in her life that Heather comments, “I can’t imagine what I would be doing if I didn’t play sports ... I always have to be doing something.” Yet she does find time for a wide range of other activities and throws herself into them with a similar zest.

Academics top the list, as Heather maintained a grade point average over 4.0 throughout high school and is enrolled in Honors College at Michigan State. She is taking psychology, calculus and honors linguistics this term and plans to major in kinesiology and perhaps become an occupational therapist. “I like to be able to physically help people and I love working with kids,” she says, “and I hope to have a job where I can do both of those things.”

When asked her goals for this year, she gives a thoughtful response: “to stay close with God and study the Bible.” She observes that being away from her church and family will be a difficult transition, so “I’m working hard to find time for devotions and to keep close with my family.”

So far she has adapted smoothly to Michigan State. Being one of 500 people in her psychology class is a novel experience for someone from a graduating class of 75, but she’s taking that in stride. Her teammates and coaches have played a big role in easing the transition: “I love my new teammates and it makes the game so much more fun that we have such a good time together.” Brooke Langston is her “big sister” and Heather reports that it is comforting to know that, “I can talk to her about anything.”

Heather’s family members have always been MSU fans and her face lights up as she remarks: “It’s hard to believe that I’m playing here. It seems like a miracle.” As a result, just wearing the Green and White has been a dream come true for her. She fondly recalls going into the office of equipment manager Malinda Hudkins and picking out uniform number 6. As she tried it on for the first time she looked at the stacks of new equipment and was amazed that, “this is all going to be handed to me.” An equally special memory is running out of Jenison’s inflatable tunnel (see picture below) for the first time onto the court and hearing the cheers of the Spartan faithful: “I can’t stop smiling about that.”

Cathy George comments, “Heather has done an outstanding job in improving every skill. She does not have a tremendous amount of experience but has done everything we have asked her to do. She is very even-keeled and sincere in her effort to get better.”



All photos: Al and Renee Schmitzer

Did You Know?

- ▶None of the courtside seats at Jenison provide as close a view of the action as the one that Brooke Langston's mother Beth enjoyed during her college days. Beth was a cheerleader for Purdue when Jenison was still the home of MSU basketball!
- ▶In the fifty-year history of Sports Illustrated, the magazine has featured a wide range of sports and activities on its cover, including archery, skydiving, badminton, mountain climbing and even bridge. However, there has never been a volleyball player on the cover.
- ▶When Marley and Tracy Bellwood's father Tom was growing up in Battle Creek, he competed in various sports against two local men who have gone on to become prominent volleyball coaches – Jim Stone of Ohio State and Mick Haley of USC
- ▶When the Transcontinental Railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, Central Pacific President Leland Stanford was asked to commemorate the event by driving a ceremonial spike. He took a mighty swing and missed altogether. Although he was a failure as a spiker, the school named after him has done alright, as has the alumna mentioned in the next entry.
- ▶Beach volleyball's dominant pair of Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor both have ties, albeit not very close ones, to the Lansing area and the same year. When Walsh was at Stanford, she competed in the 1996 Coca Cola/MSU Invitational at Jenison and was named to the All-Tournament team. That same year, Misty May's husband, Matt Treanor, was the catcher for the Lansing Lugnuts during their inaugural season.
- ▶One of Cathy George's players at Western was a 5'4" defensive specialist who struck her as "always having had that star quality about her. She was an incredible competitor who was feisty and fiery and got our teams to compete at a high level." That young woman became a three-time captain for Cathy at Western and led them to the MAC championship in 2000. After graduation, on a whim, she tried out for a reality television show called "The Bachelorette" and the world became familiar with Kelly Jo Kuharski's star quality. (Your editor is a bit foggy on the world of reality t.v., but the premise of this show apparently was to have a man on one side of the net and fifteen women on the other side. Passes were then exchanged at a fast and furious rate until a pass went outside the antenna. Roses were also given out from time to time, and these were somewhat akin to the roof/ace cards.)



New banners in Jenison:

Photo: Al and Renee Schmitzer

Answer to trivia question:

Mickey Davis' sister Christie

FALL BIG TEN SCHEDULE

| Day | Date | Opponent | Time | Result |
|-----|------------|---------------------|---------|--------|
| Wed | 09/21/2005 | MICHIGAN | 7:00 PM | L 2-3 |
| Fri | 09/23/2005 | @Indiana | 7:00 PM | W 3-1 |
| Fri | 09/30/2005 | @ Minnesota | 7:00 PM | L 3-0 |
| Sat | 10/01/2005 | @Iowa | 7:00 PM | W 3-2 |
| Fri | 10/07/2005 | PURDUE | 7:00 PM | L 0-3 |
| Sat | 10/08/2005 | ILLINOIS | 7:00 PM | L 2-3 |
| Fri | 10/14/2005 | @Ohio State | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 10/15/2005 | @Penn State | 7:00 PM | |
| Fri | 10/21/2005 | WISCONSIN | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 10/22/2005 | NORTHWESTERN | 8:00 PM | |
| Fri | 10/28/2005 | @Illinois | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 10/29/2005 | @Purdue | 7:00 PM | |
| Fri | 11/04/2005 | IOWA | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 11/05/2005 | MINNESOTA | 7:00 PM | |
| Wed | 11/9/2005 | @Michigan | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 11/12/2005 | INDIANA | 8:00 PM | |
| Fri | 11/18/2005 | @Northwestern | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 11/19/2005 | @Wisconsin | 7:00 PM | |
| Fri | 11/25/2005 | PENN STATE | 7:00 PM | |
| Sat | 11/26/2005 | OHIO STATE | 7:00 PM | |

Non-Conference Schedule

Sat. 8/27—Kent State—W 3-0

9/1-9/3 **MSU Invitational—home**9/1 **MSU vs Wichita State—W 3-0**9/2 **MSU vs S. Florida—W 3-0**9/3 **MSU vs Ball State—W 3-0**

9/9-9/10 @ University of Kansas Tournament

MSU vs Kansas—L 3-0

MSU vs VCU—W 3-2

9/16-9/17 @ University of Miami (Florida) Orange and Green Challenge

MSU vs Louisville—L 3-2

MSU vs Miami—W 3-1

MSU vs Sacramento State—L 2-3

NCAA tournament starts Dec. 1

NOTE: In the schedule at left, home games are in bold capital letters. All home games are at Jenison Fieldhouse.



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