



The Service Line

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club
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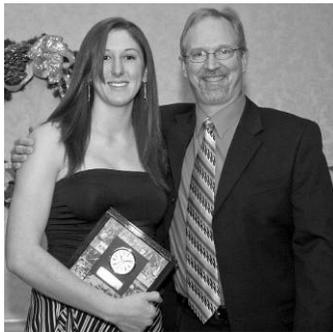
Congratulations, Spartans!

Congratulations to the following who were recognized at the recent year end banquet.



Playmaker Award – **Nicole Colaluca**

Kirkby Scholar Athlete Award – **Miken Trogdon** who has just completed her Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice in just 3 ½ years! The last semester, she had a 4.0 GPA. Miken is pursuing a second degree in Spanish. Mandy Chandler, Academic Coordinator for the Athletic Department, presented the award.



Rookie of the Year – **Vanessa King**



Coach's Award – **Allison Ianni**



Most Improved Player – **Jess Hohl**



Outstanding Offensive Players – **Ashley Schatzle and Katie Johnson**

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The banquet was a wonderful send off to the seniors, with heartfelt remarks by both Allison and Nicole. Though both were transfers into the program, it was clear they not only made a huge impact on the floor but with their teammates as well. Good luck to both Allison and Nicole.

Spring Tournament

Hold Saturday, **April 21**. This will be your chance to see the team in action as we host a spring tournament.

SideOut Club Service Award



The SideOut Club Service Award was presented to Dennis Eagle this year. Changes in Dennis' life have prevented him from being as involved recently, but he was a previous board member and could be counted on to help at the merchandise table on a very regular basis for many years. Dennis was even known to sing the National Anthem before matches previously. Congratulations, Dennis, and it was nice to see you!

Behind the Scenes—Lianna Hadden

In addition to the coaches, Lianna Hadden is instrumental in making sure the team is ready to play each match. Lianna is the athletic trainer who came to MSU to complete a Master's program in kinesiology, following her undergraduate work at Western Michigan. Originally, she wanted to pursue physical therapy, but her own sports injury piqued her interest in athletic training. As a high school senior playing basketball, she tore her ACL and rehabbed it back into shape. While she was playing intramural football at WMU, she re-injured it and tore her meniscus as well. Surgery was required. She feels this personal experience helps her design programs for the athletes that are not only functional but also not boring, so there is a better chance of success.



The majority of her time is preventing injuries, and strengthening the body is a major emphasis. Says Hadden "Volleyball is a complete body sport, but the biggest challenges are keeping the lower body strong, as well as the shoulder and abdominal area. As the season

goes, we tend to see more low back issues." She also feels the new wood floor has more absorbency than the sport court over concrete. As a result, MSU hasn't seen as many lower extremity issues in the past two years.

In addition to volleyball, she is also the trainer for men's and women's cross country and track. She and her husband, Brian, are looking forward to the birth of twins in April, their first children.

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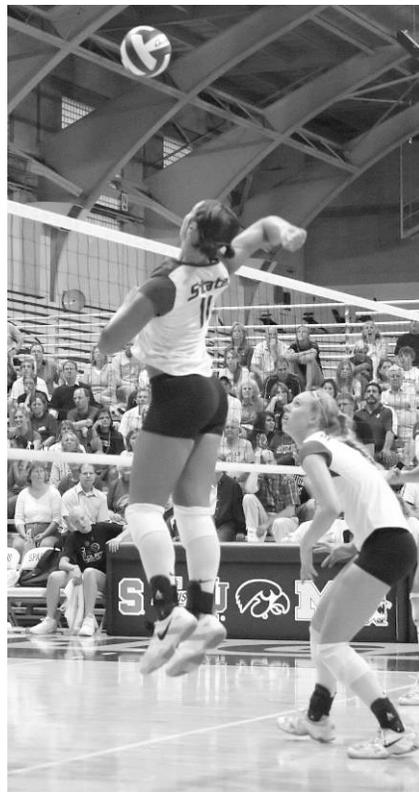
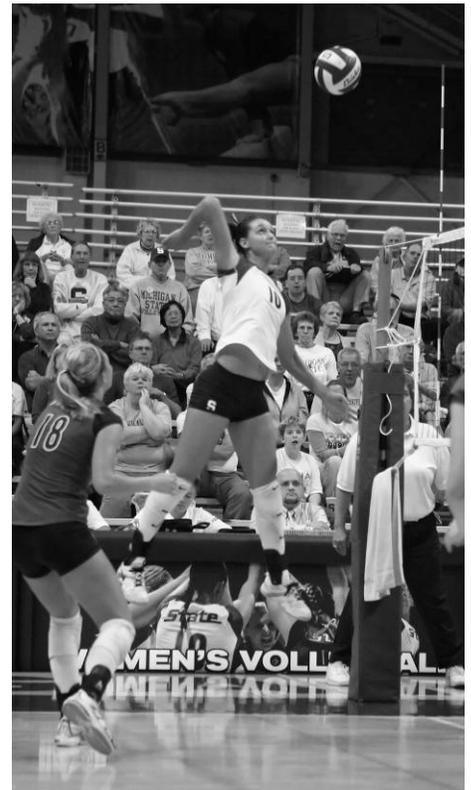
All photos in the newsletter are courtesy of Al and Renee Schmitzer

Recapping Player Honors

Congratulations to Ashley Schatzle who was named to the All-Big-Ten team, Katie Johnson who earned an Honorable Mention, and Vanessa King who was chosen for the All-Freshman team. In addition, Ashley and Vanessa were joined by Nicole Colaluca in being named “players of the week” throughout the Big 10 season this year.

Ashley Schatzle also received Honorable Mention, American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Mideast Region accolades. The award is the first such honor of her career, and marks the first Spartan AVCA post-season honoree since the 2004 campaign.

Congratulations Ashley, Katie, Vanessa and Nicole!



Pictures: top: Ashley Schatzle; far left: Vanessa King; near left: Katie Johnson; bottom left: Nicole Colaluca.

NCAA Tourney

Despite a loss to Utah in the opening match of the first round of the NCAA tournament, the team played strong and battled to the bitter end. After dropping the first game, they came back and took games 2 and 3 before losing 30-28 in the fourth game. Utah won the final game of the match, 15-11.

“This was a hard-fought match, and it shows that our team is taking the necessary steps to have the opportunity to compete in the NCAA Tournament every year,” Spartan head coach Cathy George said. Despite losing two key starters from this year’s team, this experience will certainly help the team next year as they prepare for a deeper run in the tournament.



The Recruiting Process

Every fall, the MSU volleyball team welcomes a new group of recruits to the team. Special thanks to assistant coach Russ Carney for taking time to answer some questions on the recruiting process.

How do you learn of prospects?

There are basically two paths that occur.

1. In the first path, a player contacts us. It may be through an email, a letter or through a recruiting service they've contracted with. They are trying to market themselves because they want to attend MSU. The Big 10 is the Cadillac of volleyball conferences so lots of players want to find a home in the Big 10.

2. The second path involves kids we see, primarily through high school and club tournaments, or coaches we know may contact us.

What kind of communications are you allowed with the prospect?

We are allowed to send only one letter to high school freshmen and sophomores, and it's generally a rather generic response, and every athlete gets a response.

We can begin the official process with full communication stating September 1 of an athlete's junior year in high school. Official visits (48 hours on campus) cannot start until a player's senior year, and a player is allowed 5 official visits. They can have an unlimited number of unofficial visits which means the athlete pays their own cost for a visit.

Who is responsible for the recruiting process at MSU?

All of the coaching team is involved, though Cathy is the final voice. NCAA limits us to 2 people off campus at anyone time recruiting, and 80 off campus recruiting evaluations for clubs tournaments and club practices, etc per year, therefore an efficient recruiting plan is important so the staff stays within the 80 off campus evaluations.

Are there recruiting hot beds you look at?

Our first goal is to always get the best players in Michigan to come to MSU. The Chicago area has the highest caliber of club play in the country, and northwest Ohio and Colorado have lots of talent. The level of play continues to get better all over the country,

Most of the scholarship money is already committed by the time an athlete starts her senior year because athletes are making unofficial visits during their sophomore and junior year in high school. Unofficial are visits to campus that the athlete pays the cost of the visit but it helps the athlete get to know what the university has to offer on and off the court. Therefore when a scholarship offer is made the athlete is prepared to accept an offer of a scholarship prior to their senior year in high school. Consequently, recruiting has become much more regional since athletes must pay for their unofficial visits which may keep athletes closer to home.

How many scholarships are available?

We have 12 scholarships, and they are good for one year. If we learn of a senior in high school who is a strong prospect, but we have no more scholarships available, she may be considered for a preferred walk-on position.

What do you look for in a recruit?

Everyone looks for something different. Some schools want players that are very fast off the floor and athletic; others may just go for size – they want the height. We look for a combination of athleticism (quickness) and height, but we also pay close attention to their academics, work ethic and level of commitment. The work ethic will be huge in college because these athletes are living such independent lives for the first times.

What can you tell us about the athletes coming in the fall?

Megan Schatzle, (6'1", MB/RS), Monroe, MI; named team captain for the 2005-06 season, posting a team-high 413 kills; garnered all-region honors in '06; has competed for the Toledo Volleyball Club for the last three years; younger sister of Spartan junior outside hitter Ashley Schatzle; was selected to the 2005 USA Youth National A3 Team that trained in Colorado Springs, Colo; garnered Academic All-State honors during junior campaign; National Honor Society member.

Coach George on Schatzle:

"Megan is an athlete with very smooth movements who has quick jumping abilities and a very fluid arm motion. She brings in a great deal of experience at both the high school and especially the club level. Her movements and poise mirror those of her sister Ashley. Megan will join our team with high skill levels in most areas of the game and should excel early in her career."

Jenilee Rathje – (5'11", OH/RS), Mt. Pleasant, MI; Currently a finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award; received first team all-league honors during sophomore and junior volleyball campaigns; helped team to Saginaw Valley League title during junior season en route to league Most Valuable Player honors; earned Most Valuable Offensive Player during sophomore and junior seasons, also garnered Mt. Pleasant Dream Team Area Player of the Year and Honorable Mention All-State accolades during junior season where she tallied 505 kills, 328 digs, and 104 blocks; also an outstanding basketball player and track athlete; National Honor Society member.

Coach George on Rathje:

"Jenilee is an extraordinary athlete who has very dynamic jumping abilities. She has great quickness and is stronger than most high school and club athletes making the transition to the collegiate game. Jenilee has an excellent work ethic and strong will to succeed."

SideOut Club Contribution

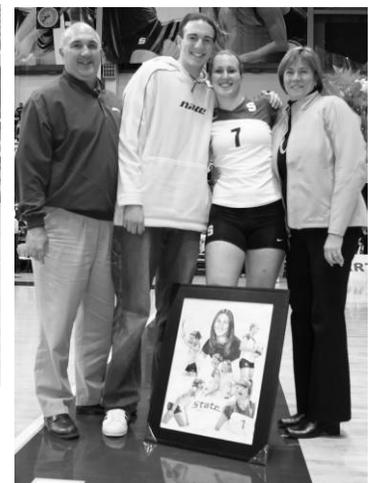
Kathy Lovell, Vice President of the SideOut Club, was happy to present a check for \$8000 to Coach Cathy George at the recent banquet. This is the result primarily of merchandise sales and raffle ticket purchases. Sideout Club members Jim Constandt, Susan Epple and Jim Ellis no doubt work harder than any of the other members to coordinate these efforts - job well done!



End of the Season



Team at the Banquet



Seniors Nicole Colaluca (above) and Allison Ianni (right) with family members

From the SideOut Club Board of Directors

Thank you to everyone for your support of the SideOut Club activities this year. Whether it was selling raffle tickets, working at the merchandise table or participating in the tailgate party, thank you. Here's wishing everyone a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Thanks to the Court Crew

Thank you to the Court Crew, shown at right, for all their dedication and hard work at the home matches.



FALL SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Opponent-Big Ten	Time/Result
Fri	09/22/2005	PURDUE	L,2-3
Sat	09/23/2006	INDIANA	W,3-1
Fri	09/29/2006	@Wisconsin	L,0-3
Sun	10/01/2006	@Minnesota	L,2-3
Fri	10/06/2006	ILLINOIS	W,3-0
Sat	10/07/2006	NORTHWESTERN	L,2-3
Wed	10/11/2006	@Michigan	W,3-0
Sat	10/14/2006	IOWA	W,3-0
Fri	10/20/2006	@Ohio State	L,0-3
Sat	10/21/2006	@Penn State	L,0-3
Fri	10/27/2006	@Northwestern	W,3-0
Sat	10/28/2006	@Illinois	W,3-0
Fri	11/03/2006	MINNESOTA	L,0-3
Sat	11/04/2006	WISCONSIN	L,1-3
Fri	11/10/2006	@Indiana	W,3-0
Sat	11/11/2006	@Purdue	W,3-1
Fri	11/17/2006	PENN STATE	L,3-0
Sat	11/18/2006	OHIO STATE	L,0-3
Wed	11/22/2006	MICHIGAN	W,3-0
Fri	11/24/2006	@Iowa	W,3-0

Non-Conference Schedule

8/25-8/26—Ball State Nike/Active Ankle Weekend, Muncie IN

8/25 MSU vs IPFW—W,3-1

8/26 MSU vs Xavier—W, 3-0

8/26 MSU vs Ball State—W,3-0

9/1-9/2—MSU Invitational—home

9/1 MSU vs Eastern Michigan—W,3-0

9/2 MSU vs Miami (Florida)—W,3-0

9/2 MSU vs Villanova—W,3-0

9/8-9/9 @ Columbus, Ohio

MSU vs Arizona State—L,0-3

MSU vs Tennessee Tech—W,3-0

9/12 (Tues) - Oakland—home—W,3-0

9/16 (Sat) - Toledo—home—W,3-0

12/1 Utah (NCAA First Round) - L,2-3

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



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