

Volleyball news from the MSU SideOut Club

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Letter from Cathy—Season Review

SideOut Club,

Entering the 2008 season, I was brashly able to predict that we could easily finish between 2nd and 10th in the Big 10. With so much youth and talent and so little collegiate experience, it was hard to know much more than that. We knew we had 7 players returning to the program and 6 incoming freshmen looking to fill some major roles. With an average age of 18.5, we knew it was going to be a process and take some patience, while at the same time we had to instill the principles of hard work and discipline that are the backbone for our program's success.

With so many new personalities on the starting side we worked early to develop a team chemistry that would allow us to perform optimally on the court. That chemistry was tested early as JR went down with an ACL tear and the team dynamic changed away from something we were just starting to grow accustomed to.

It's difficult to be satisfied with a "rebuilding year," but that's exactly

the kind of year we had. Each player exhibited a very elite level of ability at certain times as I'm sure you witnessed from the stands. However, it is consistency at high levels that will help bring our program to the next step. That is going to be a major focus during the spring and into next season.

We are excited to bring back so many players next season and look to welcoming our newcomers with open arms. This is a special group and we expect bigger things in 2009 as the team continues to mature and gel together.

I want to thank you all so much for your support throughout the season. The hard work and dedication of the SideOut club does not go unnoticed and the fan support was outstanding! I hope you will all join us at the Banquet on January 11.

Happy Holidays and Go Green!

Cathy George



Volleyball Team Banquet—January 11



Invitations have just recently been sent out for the 2008 Volleyball Banquet to be held at Walnut Hill Country Club on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 1pm! We hope you will join us as we highlight the accomplishments of the 2008 season and recognize the individual achievements of our student athletes. Please RSVP by January 4 to reserve place for you at this wonderful event. The banquet is open to any/all who would like to join us, so pass the word and bring a friend. Tickets are just \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. Questions can be directed to Carmen Jones at 517-353-1756 or vbops@ath.msu.edu. Invitations can also be found online, if needed.

King & Emro Garner All-Big Ten Honors

For their outstanding play during the 2008 campaign, Junior Middle Blocker Vanessa King and Freshman Setter Natalie Emro were recognized by the Big Ten Conference this week. Vanessa was awarded the high honor of being selected First-Team All Conference for her "king-sized" performance this year. Vanessa was one of only 12 players selected by Big Ten head coaches (of which Penn



State garnered 5 selections...) as being First-Team All Conference. Those of us that got a chance to see her play night in and night out find this as no surprise. Natalie Emro was one of 6 players named to the Big Ten Conference All-Freshman team for her major role of running the Spartan offense for the entire 2008 season. A unanimous selection (perhaps "hands down" would be appropriate), Natalie showed that Michigan State volleyball is "in good hands" for the next few years. Congratulations to both and we look forward to good things in 2009.



5 Spartans earn Academic All-Big Ten Honors

As many of you know, our team is very smart and works diligently in the classroom as well as the gym. It comes as no surprise to the staff that 5 players have earned Academic All Conference honors. Allyson Karaba (International Relations), Heather McDaniel (Kinesiology), Mischelle Nelson (Comparative Culture in Politics), Megan Schatzle (General Management), and Vineece Verdun (Interdisciplinary Social Sciences—Public Policy). To be eligible for the award, student athletes must letter in their sport, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, and be of Sophomore standing. (Note—JR Rathje was not awarded academic all conference honors because she did not letter in the 2008 season due to injury).



MSU INKS 4 IN 2009!

AMY DENTLINGER— 6'1" OH Arcadia, Iowa

Amy Dentlinger, an All-American selection at the AAU National Championships in 2008 comes to us from Kuemper Catholic High School in Arcadia, Iowa. As a club player, she competed for Top Ten 18 Elite and was trained by head coach Terry Gamble. Amy has also lettered in basketball and track. Not only does she excel on the court, but like other Spartan volleyball players, she does well in the classroom, ranking #1 in her class. Amy plans on majoring in pre-med and will bring stability and depth to the left side for the Spartans in 2009.

"Athletically, she brings with her a lot of potential. She has a lot of athleticism and leaping ability. She has also competed at a very high level, earning All-American honors at the AAU Championships in Florida. One thing that stands out is that she is very competitive and there is really no limit to what she can bring to our program."



ELIZABETH "Bizl" EGERER— 6'0" OH/RS Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

Elizabeth, better known as Bizl, is Wisconsin's all-time leader in kills (2,225) for a career as a member of Sheboygan County Christian High School under head coach Maggie VerVelde. An all-state selection in 2007 & 2008, Bizl led her team to the state tournament for the first time in school history in her senior year. As a member of Fox Cities Elite Volleyball Club, Elizabeth was able to make the USA Volleyball Badger Region High Performance Team in 2004, 2005, and 2007. Bizl plans on majoring in graphic design and advertising at MSU. We look forward to Bizl adding a little swagger to MSU Volleyball.



"She is unbelievably competitive and plays with a lot of fire. She is a very dominating offensive player that knows how to terminate points; she is the all-time kill leader in the state of Wisconsin. Her passion for the game and her fire to compete only makes her better. When you have someone that is as physically dominating as she is, combined with her competitiveness, you have the potential for a great player."

ALEXIS MATHEWS— 6'3" MB Detroit, Michigan

Alexis comes to us from Renaissance High School under head coach Louis Mitchell. As a high school player, Alexis led her team to a Detroit Public School Championship in 2007 and helped them earn runner-up honors in 2008. She was named all-area and all-region in 2008 and was the team's Most Outstanding Player. Alexis also competes for the Victors Volleyball Club. Alexis' physical ability will put her in a different class than a lot of players in the Big Ten Conference and we look forward to seeing what she'll do in Green & White.



"She's tall, 6'3", and she has the potential to be a dominating athlete. She is very gifted and has a good mind for the game. The best thing about Alexis is that potential is her biggest upside. With her height, if you get a skill set developed for her, there is really no limit to what she can do for us in the future."

NICOLE PETER— 5'11" S Grand Rapids, Michigan



Nicole comes to us from Grand Rapids Community College where she was named the 2008 Regional Player of the year and helped set her team to the National Championship Tournament in Wisconsin under the tutelage of head coach Chip Will. In her sophomore season, Nicole ranked #4 nationally in assists per game for the 2008 season. Nicole will bring some age and maturity to a young MSU Squad. Nicole is a graduate of Forest Hill Central in Grand Rapids and we welcome her to our squad this January.

"Nicole brings experience to our program. Her work ethic and leadership skills will give us added depth and dimension for the next 2 years. Having her join us in the January will really help her get acclimated to Big Ten Volleyball before the fall season."



**Volleyball news from
the MSU SideOut Club**

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SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

Senior Night—Heather McDaniel

Well, I thought I'd save the back page for Heather McDaniel. As the lone senior on the 2008 roster, Heather will be missed both for her on-court efforts and off-court shenanigans. Her leadership and commitment to the team will be forever remembered. During her time with Michigan State, Heather trained as an Outside, Middle, Right Side, Defensive Specialist, and even setter for a short time in 2005 when we didn't have a back-up for Mickey Davis. In 2007, Heather played an important role in helping the Spartans to the Sweet Sixteen as a defensive specialist. She has never complained about her role, even though it changed multiple times. Heather was a perfect example of what it means to be a team player.



Heather was awarded the Sportsmanship Award by the Big Ten Conference for her positive attitude during the 2008 season. We'll miss her uncanny ability to play any game (especially mafia, cribbage, ultimate frisball, and battle ball...) or reference a variety of movies. We wish her the best

of luck and know she'll be great at whatever she chooses to do.



<i>President:</i>	<i>Carole Brogan</i>
<i>Vice-president:</i>	<i>Cheryl Bartholic</i>
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The Service Line

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