



Service Line

Volume XIX Issue 2

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Letter from Cathy

Wow!! What a weekend!! I have to admit, the Penn State and Ohio State weekend has been somewhat of a nightmare over the years... Thankfully that was not the case this weekend. The team did such a great job of staying tough and "in the moment." I am so proud of the grit and determination we had down the stretch. It was weird, but it was really hard for me to get too excited about the Penn State victory until after the Ohio State win!! It was as if I was holding it all in. It was nice to be able to share it with those of you that made the trip! Today, however it's back to the drawing board. Eighteen matches remain in the Big Ten and we have much left to accomplish. It is a long road in this conference and both Illinois and Northwestern will present great challenges weekend at home.

Also, keep in mind that we have a Coaches Luncheon on October 3rd at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café. There we'll talk more about Illinois and Northwestern! The luncheon is open to everyone including non-SideOut club members—so consider bringing some friends along!

We hope you can join us for both matches this weekend in the Jenison Field House as your support is always greatly appreciated!

Cathy

In The Next Issue:

Alexis Mathews' 500th block!



@MichStVB

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Get your 2013 Memberships in!
 Luncheon Dates
 October 3—Noon
 Oct 31—Noon
 Nov 21 (Dinner)



Big Ten Preview

It should come as no surprise to many of you that the Big Ten is again proving it's the best conference in the country. Many of last year's top teams return their elite level talent, and some teams that were thought to be "rebuilding" have made strides to put themselves in contention. Now that preseason has concluded, the conference has an overall record of 110-25 (.825 win %), and includes 8 teams in the AVCA Top 25 (Illinois is receiving votes). What does that mean for the conference season? Strap in folks, we're in for an exciting ride!

#5 Penn State (10-2 overall, 1-1 Big Ten) - Their lone preconference loss came vs. #2 Texas in the Nike Big Four challenge in 5 tough sets, while their best win has come vs. #3 Florida. The Nittany Lions are working stud right side hitter Ariel Scott back into the line-up after offseason knee surgery and return all of their starters from a year ago. They are big and physical, however will be challenged throughout the Big Ten schedule by other top teams. PSU Split week 1 of the Big Ten losing at home to your SPARTANS 3-2 (just the 3rd home conference loss for PSU since 2005) and defeating UM 3-1.

#8 Minnesota (14-1, 2-0) - Their lone loss came vs. #19 Kentucky in 5 sets. They have racked up a number of wins in their other tournaments with their top win being vs. Louisville. Like Penn State, they return a lot of talent from a year ago which include Tori Dixon, Ashley Wittman, and Daley Santana—while bringing in a crop of talented newcomers. Minnesota opened Big Ten play with 3-0 sweeps of Indiana and Purdue.

#9 Michigan State (13-1, 2-0) - The Spartans have quality preconference wins over #12 Oregon and Oregon State in front of a rowdy home crowd. Our only preconference loss came versus unranked Pacific at the Virginia Tech tournament while we were battered and bruised with some injury issues. The adversity gave the Spartans a chance to flash some depth throughout the preconference schedule and we were pleased with the contributions of Ryian Hubbard, Autumn Christensen, and Allyssah Fitterer as well as the returning starters from 2012. We have gotten Halle Peterson and Chloe Reinig back from the "disabled list" and will give a new look to conference opponents. Your Spartans had an outstanding weekend winning 3-2 at then #1 Penn State as well as a 3-0 sweep of #13 Ohio State.

#10 Nebraska (9-2, 2-0) - Their loss to #6 Texas in 5 sets was understandable, however the loss to unranked Auburn had the conference scratching their head a little. The Huskers are one of the few teams that replace A LOT from 2012—including both OH's, their setter, libero, and an injury to middle blocker Haley Thrumer. A few quality transfers (Kelsey Robinson & Mary Pollmiller) and some top recruits (Rohlfzen twins among others) have kept them in contention, but they will have a completely different look to them in 2013. The Huskers opened Big Ten play 2-0 with sweeps of Illinois and Northwestern.

#12 Ohio State (13-1, 1-1) - The only undefeated team entering Big Ten play is rolling as we head to Columbus this weekend. Two quality wins over #16 Western Kentucky and #15 Florida State helped show the conference that the Buckeyes aren't planning on conceding this year to "rebuilding." Kaitlyn Leary is going to be one of the top players in the conference as she averages 5.31 kills per set through preconference play and has a heavy arm. Ohio State was the only undefeated team left in the Big Ten before the Spartans rolled into town on Sunday! The Buckeyes defeated Michigan 3-1.

#14 Michigan (10-3, 0-2) - Lost a tough preconference match in 5 sets versus a strong #16 Florida State team, but have a couple of significant wins over #12 Oregon, #24 Ohio, and Texas A&M. Returning a lot of the 2012 Final Four squad and adding 6'5" freshman Abby Cole has made them a well rounded team that's playing well going into Big Ten Play. Visiting teams are going to have to handle a quality one-two punch as they travel to play in East Lansing and Ann Arbor. Michigan opened Big Ten play 0-2 with losses on the road to Penn State and Ohio State.

#23 Wisconsin (13-1, 2-0) - With new coach Kelly Sheffield at the helm in Madison, the Badgers are looking to return to their success of seasons past. Two good wins over #17 Louisville and Pepperdine and a handful of other wins have fans in Wisconsin optimistic. Their lone loss was in 5 sets to Kansas. Like MSU, Wisconsin was hit with the injury bug early in the year but is bouncing back. Top 2013 recruit Lauren Carlini is back in the line-up after missing a few matches. If they're really the seventh or eighth best team in the conference, as the poll suggests, it's going to be a dogfight of a year. The Badgers opened up Big Ten play 2-0 with wins over Indiana and Purdue.

#24 Purdue (9-4, 0-2) - It's tough to get a great read on Purdue right now. Their two preconference losses were against their two toughest opponents in #4 USC and #21 Western Kentucky, while all 9 of their wins comes against unranked teams. The Boilermakers are looking to replace Ariel Turner (we affectionately called her "Midas" because everything she touched turned to gold) who graduated of last year's squad and carried a heavy offensive load for them. Purdue opened Big Ten play at 0-2, losing to Minnesota and Wisconsin.

(RV) Illinois (5-7, 1-1) - The toughest preconference schedule by far in the Big Ten has the Illini licking their wounds heading into Big Ten play. Big wins have come vs. #18 Florida State, #17 Kentucky, #14 Iowa State, and Arizona State. Tough losses have come against #11 San Diego, #6 Washington, #2 Texas, Long Beach State, and Duke. The Illini have seen their share of quality competition and will be ready to play against top teams. Look for Jocelyn Birks and Elizabeth McMahon to play a big offensive role all year. Note: McKenna Kelsay, Kristen Kelsay's younger sister, is a freshman on the Illinois Volleyball team). The Illini split the opening weekend—defeating Northwestern and dropping their match vs. Nebraska.

Northwestern (9-5, 1-1) - Headed into conference play winning 4 in a row, but has lost it's matches against top teams in the preconference including #10 Hawaii, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Western Michigan. Don't count out the Wildcats though! They have always been a deceptively good team in the Big Ten conference and consistently knock off a couple of top teams in conference play. Their stud is STILL (Geez, I thought she graduated 2 years ago) outside hitter Stephanie Holthus. Northwestern split the opening weekend by defeating Iowa and dropping to Nebraska

Indiana (8-5, 0-2) - Similar to Northwestern, Indiana has lost its matches versus top opponents including #15 North Carolina, Duke, and College of Charleston. However, the Hoosiers return players from the 2012 team and have added a transfer in the offseason that will help give a boost. The beginning of the conference schedule will give us a better idea of where Indiana fits. Indiana dropped matches to Minnesota and Wisconsin to open up the 2013 conference season

Iowa (9-5, 0-2) - The Hawkeyes have dropped 3 matches including: #25 Iowa State, Ball State, and Valparaiso in the preconference campaign. The roster is highlighted by a few Michiganders in Erin Leppek, Alex Lovell, and Alexandra Dietz who all fill a big role. Iowa opened up Big Ten play 0-2 after losing matches to Illinois and Northwestern.



Lauren Wicinski—2,000+ Kills

Senior Outside Hitter Lauren Wicinski eclipsed 2,000 career kills on Friday night vs. MAC opponent Eastern Michigan. As the 3rd player in green and white to accumulate 2,000 kills throughout a career, Lauren etches her name in volleyball history. NCAA records indicate that fewer than 50 players have ever accomplished the feat in the history of women's volleyball. To make the feat even more impressive—Lauren has accomplished 2,000 kills completely in the 25-point rally scoring era which moves games along at a faster rate than sideout scoring (“serve-to-score”).

She is just 1 of 2 players in the top 50 who have an entire career in the 25 point rally score era. (SideOut scoring through 2000, 30-pt rally score 2001-2007, 25-pt rally scoring 2008-present). We hope that Lauren has plenty more kills in her future as a Spartan!



Letterman's Jacket Presentation

A letterman's jacket is a special thing. It symbolizes all the hard work and sacrifice a student athlete makes to represent themselves, their team, and their school! On September 12th, the Volleyball athletes that earned their first letter in 2012 (Maggie Halloran, Halle Peterson, and Lauren Wicinski) were honored in an evening presentation that coincided with the Hall of Fame inductions. Sophomore Ebony Scott will receive her letterman's jacket following the 2013 season due to her 2012 Redshirt season. The event, which was started in

2011, is a first class way the athletic department recognizes the first time letter winners as well as honor the legends of Green and White.

On a side note, Jazmine White was able to meet Morris Peterson (inducted into the HOF alongside Jenna Wrobel), who she idolized as a member of the Toronto Raptors. She was star struck as Cathy introduced them briefly before the ceremony! It's a good thing there was a camera ready!

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"I remember the day Vince Carter touched my hand running into the locker room and today I got a picture w/ Mo Pete. My childhood is complete." @jazzzwhite



Jenna Wrobel-Grave

MSU Hall of Fame Class of 2013

MSU Volleyball is honored to have many accomplished student athletes in its history. Only a few of them have had the honor of being entered into the Michigan State Athletics Hall of Fame. On September 12th, MSU honored the 4th volleyball player into its elite group. Jenna Wrobel-Grave joined Val Sterk-Kemper, Dana Cooke, and Diane Spoelstra as the only former MSU Volleyball players to be recognized. It was such an honor for the team and staff to have a chance to meet with Jenna, her husband Tim, and her folks as they came back to East Lansing for the first time since Jenna's graduation. As the MSU Staff showed her around campus, it was fun to hear old stories—some things haven't changed at all while others couldn't be any more different.



Jenna had a chance to stop by and see the team practice as well as offer some words of wisdom on how to be a great team. It was great for the team to be able to meet her as they have seen her name in the rafters as well as her picture around the team room! She reiterated to them that Michigan State was a special place for her and that even as the top-ranked recruit along with Misty May-Treanor, she felt that MSU was on the brink of greatness. When asked what the biggest difference was between MSU and Hawaii (MSU defeated the Wahine IN HAWAII after being down 0-2 to go to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament), Jenna said conditioning. She told the team how hard they used to work in the offseason and throughout the Big Ten Conference season to insure that they were in peak physical shape.

Jenna's whirlwind of a day ended as she was honored by Mark Hollis and the Athletic department in a ceremony at the Wharton Center. Her speech was something that Cathy did not want to team to miss—so much so that Cathy delayed the bus ride to Indianapolis and arranged the whole team be there to share in the celebration. Jenna, now lives in Orange County, CA, enjoys being a teacher and a mom to her 2 1/2 year old daughter Addison. We hope that she'll be back to visit us more often and are proud of the way she continues to represent Michigan State Volleyball. It was awesome to be able to share in her special day!



Volleyball Tailgate Party - October 26, 2013

Come out to join fellow MSU fans for the 14th Annual SideOut Club Volleyball Tailgate on Saturday, October 26, 2013 before the match against Indiana. We will start around 3:30 pm and continue until game time at 6:30. Please bring a dish or grillable item to share.

NEW LOCATION: Due to the new configuration of the parking lot on the south side of Jenison Field House, the tailgate will be moved to the west side of the Field House beside the building.

Also needed are grills and folding tables. If you can bring a grill or folding table, or if you have any questions, please contact Cathy Caswell at 332-4353 or at caswell@msu.edu.



SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

MICHIGAN STATE VOLLEYBALL



Don't Forget Your Sideout Club Perks:

- Pick up your SOC Pin at the Merchandise table.
 - 2013 Volleyball Media Guide
- Also, enter to win courtside seats in each Friday night drawing!

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The Service Line

MSU SideOut Club, P.O. Box 80491, Lansing MI 48908

Website: www.msusideout.org

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