



Service Line

Volume XVII Issue 4

November 22, 2011

Letter from Cathy

Happy Thanksgiving to all!! This season gives us so much to be thankful for! We are truly blessed as we reflect on all that we have been given. First, we are thankful that our team has worked so hard throughout the year and has regrouped when they were pushed. They have stuck together and have learned what being a team truly means☺ We are thankful to the University and to the Athletic Administration for our opportunity to represent MSU with class. We are thankful to you, the SideOut Club, it's directors and fans who have been supportive of us throughout the year and through thick or thin. And last but not least we are thankful that Brandon Carney is on his way to a full recovery☺

We hope you will all join us this Saturday as we take on the four-time defending National Champion, Penn State. Saturday also provides a platform to recognize our five seniors in their final home match immediately following the game. These five seniors have given us many great memories and I thank you in advance for joining us in celebrating their time with us. Once the regular season concludes, our focus will shift to the NCAA Tournament—that crazy time of year that gives me goosebumps just thinking about it. Sunday at 6pm we learn of our fate. ESPN U will telecast the selection show and tell us what our path is to the Final Four☺

Cathy



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@MichStVB

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Remaining Home Schedule

November 26
vs. #9 Penn State
6:30pm



MSU—2nd Half Review



The Spartans 2nd half run in the Big Ten Conference saw a streak come to an end this past weekend when we hosted #7 Illinois and Northwestern. However, the streak was broken in the sweetest way. Until last weekend, the Spartans had split the first EIGHT weekends of Big Ten play and had a record of 8-8 headed into the final 4 matches. The weekend sweep of a talented Illinois squad (3-1), coupled with the 0-2 comeback victory over a pesky Northwestern team catapulted the Spartans to 10-8 record and sole possession of 5th place in the Big Ten Conference with 2 to play. Peter Morris and Chris Wolf tell me that it was the only 0-2 deficit ever overcome in Jenison Field

House by the Spartans! Thanks to all those fans that were able to come out and support us despite some parking troubles on Friday Night.

The final 2 matches of the regular season will be emotional. On the front end, we travel to Ann Arbor to take on UM in the 2nd half of the State Pride series. The AVCA has Michigan STILL ranked #22 (up from #23 last week after splitting vs. Illinois/NW) despite their 7-11 record heading into the matchup. However, we all know that rankings and records go out the window when MSU/UM square off in just about anything. On the back end, we have 4-time defending NCAA Champion Penn State coming into our house for Senior Night. This will be the only time this season that the Spartans have a chance to take down the Nittany Lions as the 2011 schedule is an incomplete double round robin. The young PSU team has been playing well as of late, but so are the Spartans—this one will more than likely be a slugfest!

The next big question is in regards to the NCAA tournament... At this point we feel our body of work throughout the season has us in the field of 64 without question. We can only guess where we might be sent or who we might play. The selection committee will avoid having conference teams play each other in rounds 1 and 2, which is good considering that we play in such a tough league. However, there are a number of other tough regional teams out there! Typically, the NCAA tries to keep teams within 400 miles of their campus to minimize travel costs, but then again, UM was sent out to Seattle last year, so it's certainly not a given that we will be close. Our administration has submitted a bid to the NCAA to host the 1st and 2nd rounds at Jenison Field House, but that announcement will not be made until the selection show Sunday afternoon (6pm ET, ESPNU). The team/staff will get together for a little selection show party to learn our fate and then will feverishly scramble to put together travel itineraries, scouting reports, practice times, etc... It will be a good time!

B1G Conference—2nd Half Review

As I stated in the last newsletter, it wouldn't surprise me if the conference champion has 2-3 losses.

Nebraska, who was 10-0 in the first half, is now leading the league at 16-2 and has secured at least a share of the Big Ten title. The Huskers have played some really great volleyball—but showed weakness in their losses to Penn State, Purdue, and a 5 set thriller in East Lansing. They'll look to make a run deep into the NCAA tournament and are a tough matchup for ANY team in the country when they are clicking on all cylinders. The Huskers have matches versus Iowa and Northwestern on the schedule, and will win the conference outright, barring a miracle.

Penn State, Purdue, and Illinois are all tied for 2nd with a 14-4 record and it's unfortunate that none of them square off in week 10—so much for conference drama. Purdue, who has been playing the most consistent volleyball this year plays Indiana and Wisconsin, while Illinois plays Northwestern and Iowa. Penn State on the other hand, hits the road to play Ohio State and the Spartans. We hope to give them fits and knock them out of 2nd!

Minnesota—perhaps the most up and down team in the Big Ten on nights they are not playing Michigan State—sits in the 6th spot with two final matches against Wisconsin and Indiana. Only time will tell how the Gophers might fare in the NCAA tournament. They could get bounced in the first round, or they could make a run at the Final Four, it's been that kind of year for them!

Ohio State and Michigan are the final two teams in the conference with NCAA hopes. Some would consider them "bubble" teams going into the final weekend of play, but a couple big wins by the Wolverines in the preseason, strong RPI, and a year long AVCA ranking—excuse me, I just got a little queasy—will likely send them to dance regardless of their final weekend results. Ohio State's big win of the year came vs. Minnesota (we are bummed we didn't get a crack at them in Jenison Field House) and likely needs another win this weekend vs. Michigan or Penn State to completely secure their spot in the Big Dance—without it, they'll cross their fingers and pray on

Team	Big Ten		Overall	
	Record	Pct.	Record	Pct.
1. Nebraska	16-2	.889	23-3	.885
2. Purdue	14-4	.778	25-4	.862
Illinois	14-4	.778	25-4	.862
Penn State	14-4	.778	21-7	.750
5. Michigan State	10-8	.556	21-9	.700
6. Minnesota	9-9	.500	16-11	.593
7. Ohio State	8-10	.444	18-13	.581
Wisconsin	8-10	.444	16-14	.533
9. Michigan	7-11	.389	19-11	.633
10. Northwestern	6-12	.333	15-14	.517
11. Iowa	1-17	.056	11-20	.355
Indiana	1-17	.056	9-21	.300



Spartans Ink 3 in 2012

Halle Peterson—5'10" Setter—Rockford, MI

Halle is coming off a high school season that had her lead Rockford to a Class A state title vs. Lake Orion in 3 straight sets! As a finalist for Ms. Volleyball, Halle's passion, work ethic, and competitive drive come through each and every day she steps out on the court. We are very excited to have a player of Halle's caliber join us for 2012!

"Playing at MSU is the biggest honor anyone could ask for. It was always a dream of mine to become a Spartan. Being able to play for Cathy George and the Volleyball Program is such a privilege and I am excited for this opportunity." -Halle



Maggie Halloran—6'2" OH—Ann Arbor, MI

Maggie will help replace some of the size and athleticism that we're losing in our senior class. Maggie earned All American honors at the 2011 National AAU Tournament after she led her team to a 2nd place finish. Plucked straight out of Wolverine country, Maggie is 100% Spartan!

"Becoming a part of Michigan State Athletics is an absolutely amazing honor. Playing in the Big Ten is a great reward in its own, and to represent such a great school and program means so much to me. Getting the opportunity to play at this level for such a great time is indescribable, and I can't wait to live out my dream as a Spartan!" - Maggie

Hadley Orr—5'11" OH—Forest, IN

Hadley's speed, quickness, and competitive fire are what drew us to her from the first time we saw her. Hadley comes from a volleyball family and has been playing forever. We'll look to that experience to help solidify us in the front and back row.

"Being a Spartan at Michigan State means I have all the means to achieve my dreams and become whomever I want to be. I have the opportunity to play and compete with the best conference in the nation and discover what I'm truly capable of. I will be pushed to the limit, while at the same time never left alone with the support of a well established and competitive program." Hadley



Congratulations

- Congrats to Kori Moster on being named Freshman of the Week for her efforts in Beating #7 Illinois and Northwestern.

November 26, 2011

Match vs. #9 Penn State 6:30pm

Senior Night—Recognition of seniors on their last home game.

SideOut Club Board Appreciation Night

SOC Pizza Party

Post-Match Senior Autographs

Branden Carney—In his own Words

"My name is Branden Carney (Son of Associate Head Coach Russ Carney) and I am a part of the MSU Men's Hockey team. Around two weeks ago, I broke my neck during a drill in one of my practices. I fractured my C1 and C2 vertebra and I have to be put in a halo for 3 months. I was in the hospital for a week and am recently staying at my home in Battle Creek for the time being. I am able to walk around and I have been able to get out of the house. I am hoping to be back to the dorms at the latest by next semester, but hopefully sooner than that. Until then, I am keeping up with my class work via the internet. I am hoping for a short recovery but am just blessed that the injury that happened to me was not as serious as it could have been. I am working towards recovery every day and am currently feeling the best that I have since the injury. Even though it will be a long recovery, I feel I am ready to get back on campus and get myself back into my normal routine; even though many things will be different for me. My family and I would like to thank the entire MSU Community for their prayers, thoughts, and kind words. Go Green!"





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SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

Thank You Seniors

The entire Volleyball Program would like to thank Jenilee, Kyndra, Natalie, Becca, and Carli and their families for making the last four/five years truly memorable! The best is yet to come!



<u>President:</u>	<i>Cheryl Bartholic</i>
<u>Vice-president:</u>	<i>Marge Bossenbery</i>
<u>Treasurer:</u>	<i>Julie Morgan</i>
<u>Secretary:</u>	<i>Shirley Garrity</i>
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<i>Lynda White</i>	<i>Tim Salinas</i>
<i>Carole Brogan</i>	<i>Rachel Walsh</i>

The Service Line

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