

Service Line

Volume XVIII Issue 2

September 16, 2012



In This Issue:

- Great Things



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Preseason Review	2
Big Ten Preview	3
All American Nights	4
Tailgate info	4
Donor Event	5

Letter from Cathy

Hi All,

Welcome to all the new Side Out members and thanks to all who have renewed their memberships once again this season! We are just finishing our pre-conference tournaments and are ready to kick off the Big Ten season!! Over the past four weeks we have been working diligently to improve each day to prepare for what looks to be another competitive year in the conference. We are optimistic about the year and are ready for the challenges ahead.

This weekend we host Purdue and Indiana and then head off to Nebraska on Wednesday for our first TV match of the season! This Friday night we will recognize Jenilee Rathje for her Academic All American and All American honors while on Saturday we will have a moment of silence and recognize long time friend of volleyball John Bond, who passed this last spring. We hope you can make your way over to Jenison Field house this weekend to kick off the season as you're attendance does make a difference!! Thanks again for your support, Go Green!

Cathy

Upcoming Promos—This Friday is Dorm Night (entertainment between games 2 & 3 as well as attendance prizes!)

This Saturday is High School and Middle School Night—send in your rosters to vbops@ath.msu.edu.

BTN.com has announced they will be streaming our following road matches—so you can cheer us on from afar! Double check start times and remember the time changes!

Oct 6 @ Minnesota, Oct 17 @ Michigan, Oct 26 @ Indiana, Oct 27 @ Purdue, Nov 16 @ Illinois, and

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Preseason Review—Undefeated!



The preseason was a success for our program. Not only did we manage to go undefeated, but we consistently made improvements to our game on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. A big focus for us has been playing at OUR level, OUR speed, and with a high level of execution. We set the bar high, not only in our outcome goals, but in the process goals as well. If you had the chance to see us play, I think you'll agree that this

is a special group. Their resolve, poise, and chemistry has guided us to a tremendous start. Some high points in the preseason include: 4 tournament championships, 4 Tournament MVP's—(Lauren Wicinski had 3 and Kori Moster had 1), 8 All Tournament Selections (Alexis Mathews—3, Kori Moster—2, Lauren Wicinski—1, Amy Dentlinger—1, Kelsey Kuipers—1), finished preseason ranked in top 3 of FIVE statistical categories within the Big Ten Conference: Hitting %, Opponent hitting %, Aces, Kills, and Assists, and contributions from all members when their number was called. We showed the ability to maintain focus on the road as we traveled to UCONN and College of Charleston. The best match of the preseason was against IPFW at home on September 7th. The back and forth match tested us mentally and physically, but we grinded out the match to a thrilling 5-set victory. IPFW, Albany, and College of Charleston are all picked to win their respective conferences, so cheer them on this year (it helps our RPI when they win!) Now that the preseason has ended, we shift our focus to the Big Ten Conference! We're excited to get started and hope to see you Friday Night!



Big Ten Preview



The Big Ten Conference is a grind each year and this season is no different. Within the preseason we have seen some Big Ten teams play extremely well, and at other times, very inconsistent. The top 3 teams in the conference are likely Penn State, Nebraska, and Minnesota—in no particular order. They all have had significant wins in the preseason (Penn State over Texas and Stanford, Nebraska over UCLA and Kentucky, and Minnesota

over Texas and Dayton). After that, there's a logjam. Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Northwestern (still undefeated) have all played well this preseason, but a few hiccups here and there have people questioning how consistent they'll be able to perform throughout the season.—so I guess we'll see how that'll shake out over the next few weeks! Iowa and Indiana had a rough preseason, but we all know that Big Ten teams are always dangerous.

Where does MSU fit? We think our "good" is as good as anyone in the conference and look forward to squaring off against anyone and everyone. Our balanced attack and improved ball control will have to be pillars of stability for our success. We continue to work with our blocking efficiency and will try to serve tough enough to eliminate our opponent's ability to counter attack. We look to start off strong this weekend at home vs. Purdue and Indiana before heading off to Lincoln, NE for a Wednesday game (Live on BTN). The team is excited to start conference play and was already itching to get back in the gym on our way home from the airport Sunday afternoon!



Kyndra / Jenilee All American Nights

The Spartans are fortunate enough to be able to honor 2 special Spartan alums in 2012. On Sept 7th, Kyndra Abron's All American (2009) Banner was unveiled for the first time to



Spartan fans prior to the match versus Georgia! The ceremony welcomed Kyndra, as well as her parents Cass and Joe, back to center court for the unveiling. Kyndra was presented her framed All American award by Cathy George and recognized with a video highlight film on the jumbotron.



On September 21st, the Spartans will unveil yet ANOTHER banner. Jenilee Rathje's (2011) All American banner will be revealed before the start of the match vs. Purdue (7pm match time). We hope you'll be there to help us honor Jenilee's 2011 accomplishments as a 3rd Team All American and Academic All American.

JR and Kyndra's careers were one for the record books and it is a great moment to see their names hang with the other greats of MSU Volleyball!

Side Out Club Tailgate—October 20

Come out to join fellow MSU fans for the 13th Annual SideOut Club Volleyball Tailgate on Saturday, October 20, 2012 before the match against Ohio State. We will start around 3:00 pm at the usual location in front of the south entrance to Jenison Field House and continue until game time at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish or grillable item to share.

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.

Spartans in Charleston, SC!

Following a 4-set victory over the College of Charleston—a match in which the Spartans shut down the Cougars including former Penn State standout Darcy Dorton—the team headed to a local restaurant to watch the 2nd half of the Michigan State vs. Notre Dame football game. However, it wasn't just any restaurant! We went to the same restaurant that the Charleston MSU Alumni Chapter was hosting a get together for the game! Although the game didn't end how we all would have liked it to, it was great to get to know the Spartans in the south. They welcomed us with a round of applause, chants of Go Green—Go White, as well as a group sing along of the fight song! It was cool to see that they still Bleed Green! They really were excited to have the opportunity to meet the team and Cathy and took many pictures! They were less excited to see Russ and I. Cathy addressed the group and let them all know what a great time it is to be a Spartan. They couldn't agree more.



Spartan Fund Donor Event—Sept 21

The Women's Volleyball Program is honored to have such loyal fans and donors. On September 21st, Cathy George welcomes all of our Spartan Fund Donors and SideOut Club members to a private pre-match event. The Event, catered by Troppo, will include a short program with speakers Roy Simon, Mark Hollis, David Kirkby, Jenilee Rathje, and Cathy George, and will conclude with each guest receiving a small token of our appreciation for your support. All attendees will have plenty of time to get their seats for the Big Ten Opener vs. Purdue!

If you have yet to RSVP to the event, or need more information, please contact Sarah Skilling, Director of Donor Activities and Events - skillin3@ath.msu.edu .



SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

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Alum Updates:

Our thoughts and Prayers are with Linda Wallin—
Megan Wallin's (2005) mother—who is battling
cancer.

Nikki Colson (2003) moved to Siesta Key, FL

Emily Engle and Kelley Penny-Pyle stopped by the
office over the summer and are doing well!



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| <i>President:</i> | Cheryl Bartholic |
| <i>Vice-president:</i> | Marge Bossenbery |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Julie Morgan |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Shirley Garrity |
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| Jim Constandt | Pete Cronk |
| Susan Epple | DeAnna Fenech |
| Dave Martz | Cathy Richter |
| Lynda White | Tim Salinas |
| Carole Brogan | Eileen Ellis |

The Service Line

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