

Service Line

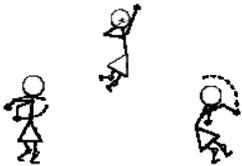
Volume XVIII Issue 3

October 10, 2012



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@MichStVB

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Letter from Cathy

Hi All,

It's hard to believe it is already October! We're glad to be returning home after 4 matches on the road and look forward to sleeping in our own beds for a change. The team has been training hard and focusing on the "little things" that make a big difference. With 2 of our losses coming in 5-sets to ranked opponents, we know we can play with the elite teams in the conference/ country. Our goal is to stay the course and continue to battle night in and night out. Our focus is continually on the next match and the next match only—there's no gimme's in the Big Ten! Three of our next four matches are at home—with the 1 road match being just down the road at UM (buy your tickets early for our matchup in Ann Arbor on Oct. 17). We hope you'll be there to cheer us on as we do everything in our power to climb higher Big Ten Standings and national rankings (Currently #25). Just a reminder that both matches this weekend will begin at 6:30pm in the Jenison Field House. I want to see all of you in pajamas on Friday Night as we raise awareness for Childhood Cancer! As always, thanks for your continued support.

Go Green!

Cathy



Upcoming Promos—

Pajama Night—6:30 October 12th

Alum Night—6:30 October 13th

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 17 @ Michigan, Oct 26 @ Indiana, Oct 27 @ Purdue,
Nov 16 @ Illinois, and Nov 17 @ Northwestern.

Cathy Gets Victory Number 500!



On September 29th, Cathy notched the 500th victory of her career vs. Iowa. It certainly is a monumental achievement which should not be overlooked—even though Cathy will downplay it every time we try to tell her what a big deal it is! The best part of the night, besides the final point, was when Cathy turned around and saw the crowd (made up of many parents, fans, and a whole lot of Dentlingers) holding up signs and posters that read “500!” The gesture caught Cathy completely off guard and even made her a little emotional thinking about all the players, coaches, administrators, and fans that have been a part of her storied career! We know how hard Cathy works for each and every victory she’s

ever gotten and extensive amount of time she’s devoted to deserve this wonderful honor! We’re very proud of Cathy and look forward to many more wins in her career!

Forever a Spartan—Jenilee Rathje

On September 21st, Michigan State Volleyball raised the 2011 All American banner of Jenilee Rathje immortalizing her among the program’s legends forever. The event, which preceded Purdue match included an award presentation by Cathy and SWA Shelley Appelbaum, a video tribute, and the ceremonial unveiling of JR’s



banner. Jenilee was accompanied by her parents John and Lori as well as the entire roster of Notre Dame Prep HS, which JR helps coach! It was great to have Jenilee back in the gym (although it feels like she played 6 seasons for us). She will forever be remembered for her tireless work ethic, discipline, and unmatched athletic ability! Congrats to Jenilee.



Big Ten Update

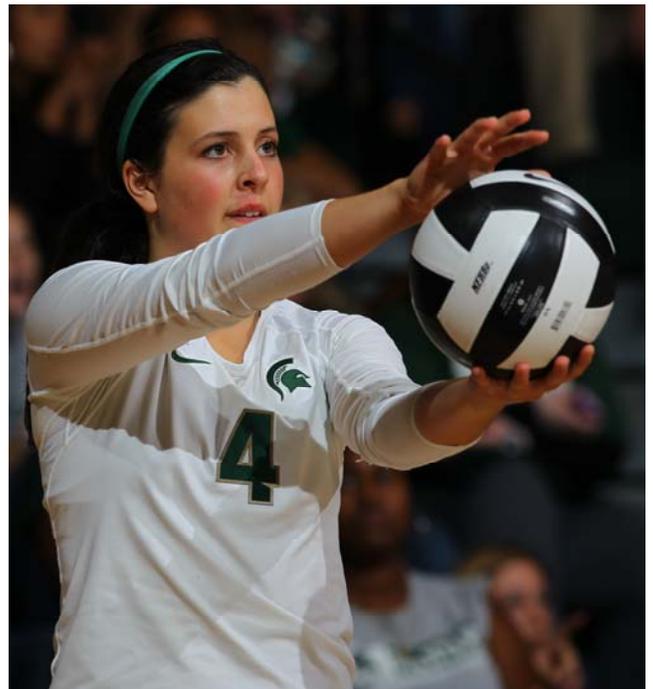


Like Mother—Like Daughter

If you've ever filled out an NCAA bracket, you know that it doesn't REALLY get exciting until upsets start screwing up what everyone THINKS will happen. That was the case this past weekend as Iowa defeated #12 Purdue in 3 straight sets in West Lafayette, IN and Indiana took Nebraska to 5 sets. Although Indiana did not finish the upset, it does show you the strength of the Big Ten from top to bottom! After 6 matches, only #1 Penn State remains unbeaten with big wins over #3 Nebraska and #10 Minnesota. Nebraska and Minnesota rest at 5-1 but will face off head to head this Sunday. #17 Purdue and #19 Ohio

State sit at 4-2 and are both paced by strong attacking from the left side. We are ranked #25 and are 3-3 heading into weekend four, with two of those losses being versus ranked opponents in 5 games. Wisconsin, Michigan (RV), #22 Illinois and Iowa are all 2-4, Northwestern is at 1-5, and Indiana is 0-6.

If we've learned anything from the Big Ten Conference, it's that it can be unpredictable. Our goal is to continue to grind throughout October which gets tough with exams, sore bodies, nagging injuries, reoccurring travel, and seeing teams that know you VERY well. Then again, those challenges plague every team in the conference—so we just have to suck it up! We talk every year about October being a time to separate yourself from the pack and establishing the team as an elite power within the conference. This October will be no different. We hope to capitalize on some home cookin' this weekend as we welcome feisty Northwestern and Illinois squads to the Jenison Field House.



"Bermuda Triangle Offense"



As coaches consider what kind of offense their team should use, they have to take into account several factors: strengths of attackers, experience of setters, as well as the ability to stay "in system" with quality first-contacts. Our offense is affectionately called the "Bermuda Triangle Offense" because of its ability to get the opposing blockers lost and confused. The basis of the offense is two-fold; speed and balance. By running 2 out of 3 attackers on a quicker tempo set, and 1 attacker from the back row, we put pressure on opposing blockers to make decisions faster than normal, even sometimes forcing them to guess what we are going to do and when we are going to do it. The balance aspect has to do with the amount of times we set each player. Although all of our players have different attacking strengths, the power of the Bermuda Triangle lies with our ability to set any player at any time for kills. The contributions from each position protect the other positions from being double-teamed. The offense is only possible with good passing and consistent setting, which we have had thus far.

Look for the Bermuda Triangle at an upcoming match and see if you can see what we're looking to execute. We know our offense can beat elite level teams with big blockers because of its speed and balance! It's a continuing work in progress and beautiful to watch when done well!



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 in the Jenison Field House lot. 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.



Homecoming / Alum Weekend

This weekend, Michigan State will be celebrating Homecoming Weekend. We have quite a few volleyball alums that will be returning to campus for the match vs. Northwestern, football game (vs. Iowa—noon), tailgates, and volleyball match vs. #22 Illinois. The alums will also be recognized between games 2 & 3 (Friday night), invited to our pre-match meal, as well as signing autographs after the match. Confirmed attendees are Maren Witzel-Chan, Diana Steplyk-Friess, Amy Eilert-Lyman, Natalie Emro, Nicole Peter, Ashley Schatzle, Allison Ianni-Cironi, Megan Schatzle, Mandi Karaba, Carli Weiler, Gina Kiefer, Becca Zlabis, Jenilee Rathje, Allison Karaba, and Kayleen Grand. We look forward sharing old stories and connecting our current program to the teams of the past. My guess is that some alum parents will also be dusting off the grill to join us for another weekend of festivities!



If you see familiar faces around the gym, please stop and say hello!

If you know of any alums that would like to be included, please let have them contact our office as we have done our best to update their ever-changing information.

Pajama Night— 6:30pm October 12th vs. Northwestern

On Friday night, the Spartans will host an event that is very near and dear to the hearts of the Volleyball Family. The Third Annual Pajama Night is a unique event used to raise awareness for Children with Cancer. All fans are being asked to come to the match dressed in their pajamas in support of the thousands of children in our nation who are being treated for cancer. Fans in pajamas will be admitted FREE! Children with cancer spend months to years in treatment, and they spend a considerable amount of this time in their pajamas. Through this event, fans will be reminded about the amount of time that children with cancer must spend in their pajamas while fighting cancer and they will show their support for these children and their families in a very symbolic way.





SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

MICHIGAN STATE
VOLLEYBALL



If you are planning on attending the match vs. Michigan in Ann Arbor on October 17...

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY

A sellout is expected and it's not that big of an arena!

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

The Service Line

UM Ticket office— 734-764-0247

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

Website: www.msusideout.org

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