



# Service Line

Volume XVIII Issue 5

April 30, 2013

## Letter from Cathy

Sideout Club,

It has been great seeing so many of you at our spring matches! All in all, it was a successful spring campaign! We challenged our team to raise their level and their versatility in practices and match play. We enjoyed a high level of competition against many talented teams (Purdue, Marquette, Dayton, Bowling Green, and Western Michigan) and remained undefeated. With thirteen players returning to our spring roster, it was a priority that we maintained our focus, improvement and growth rather than resting on our laurels. The graduation of Amy, Stef and Chelsey left some roles that needed to be filled by others and although we made significant progress this spring, we will once again be challenged with the introduction of five new freshmen this summer/fall. I am confident that the leadership will continue to push our squad during the summer months and continue to grow our culture and chemistry! Champions are made in the summer!!

Later in the newsletter you'll read about the USA Volleyball tryout for several of our players. This opportunity was made possible through the generous donations from the side out club and Spartan fund donors and we are all very grateful. The USA tryout provides an outstanding experience for our players to showcase their skills on the national stage while competing with and against the best this country has to offer. Representing Team USA and wearing red, white, and blue is an honor and a dream come true. Our athletes and staff thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another great season and after a little break will be ready to get back in the gym to start practice. Enjoy your summer and Go Green!

### In This Issue:



@MichStVB

- An Epic Adventure 2
- 20 Year Anniversary Tribute Series 3
- Academic Gala 4
- Who is Kristen Muir? 4
- Spartans in the Community 5



*Cathy*



## Colorado Springs—An Epic Adventure

From February 22-24, Michigan State Volleyball sent 5 players to Colorado Springs. Alexis Mathews, Lauren Wicinski, Kristen Kelsay, Kelsey Kuipers, and Kori Moster were among the 250 players that ventured to the Olympic Training Center for a tryout conducted by Karch Kiraly (Head Coach - USA National Team) and his staff. I, Assistant Coach Mike, also made the trip as a tryout volunteer. We took off early from Grand Rapids (6:30am) so we met at Jenison Field House around 4am to caravan two cars to the airport. The worsening weather was heading East Lansing's way and we were hoping to get out of town just before the blizzard—which we did in the nick of time although we traveled through sleet/hail/snow!

Once to the training facility, the players checked in and prepared for 2 full days of intense competition. While the gym heated up with competition, the snow was looming outside. Rumors of blizzards coming through the area were forcing a number of athletes to cancel flights. I was consistently on the phone checking flight updates for the group until the word finally came in—flight from Colorado Springs to Denver was cancelled! After speaking with our travel agent, I received the bad news—we couldn't leave for 48 hours. At that point we called Cathy and had a meeting of MSU Travelers to discuss our options. Option 1—stay at Olympic Training Center until Tuesday and miss 2 more days of classes and practice. Option 2—rent a van and road trip to Denver in the hopes of catching our flight home which was still on schedule. Option 2 seemed logical.

With safety as the primary concern, our trip became a series of "phases" to be completed with patience. We took the shuttle to the Colorado Springs Airport and rented the nicest Minivan (phase 1) money could buy for a trip to Denver. Turns out that there was a reason the flights were canceled as the roads were atrocious! Worst we'd ever driven on... While driving at a snail's pace, we listened to the MSU Basketball game while Alexis nodded off sitting shotgun—until she was startled by a splash of ice from a passing truck! Kristen kept me alive with her bag of almonds because I was so famished. Kuipers had to use the restroom so badly we had to let her jump out at the car rental return. Operation "find a restroom" became phase 1.5...Our journey was only partially finished as we still had to get to the airport aboard the rental car shuttle (phase 2), find food (phase 3), check in (phase 4) and cross our fingers that our flight would actually take off (phase 5).

We got in line for security and I started telling the team how important it was to get through security quickly so we could get food. Kuipers heeded my warning and stayed close to me while Kori and Kristen ventured to a line, that although shorter, was filled with families, kids, strollers and other clues that it was going to be awhile... rookies! Naturally, it turned into a race of who would get through the line first. Kuipers and I took the early lead and for a moment, it looked to be a landslide victory. Then the unthinkable—our metal detector broke and our line was forced to merge with another. Turns out our smack talk was a little premature as Kristen crushed all passengers. Patience really is a virtue.

After a dinner at Mexican restaurant, our flight was only delayed for an hour. We entertained ourselves by doing card tricks, watching the MSU Harlem Shake Video, returning the resounding "Go Green" chants of fellow passengers, and people watching frustrated travelers. We finally boarded the plane around 10pm, which meant we would be landing in Grand Rapids about 2am with the time changes. The 6 of us had the back row of the plane. We figured we would get some sleep before the early-morning drive from Grand Rapids to East Lansing. What we didn't know at the time is that we were aboard an "inferno plane" which was about 90 degrees. By the end of the flight, each player was in a t-shirt, had pants rolled up, no socks or shoes, and sweating... not a great way to start the morning!

Nevertheless we kept our attitudes positive (at least we weren't stuck in Colorado Springs for 48 hours). We gassed up our cars outside the airport and drove back to East Lansing through some heavy rain and fog. Our trip really was a meteorologist's dream! We arrived back on campus around 3:15 safe and sound. Phase 6 complete.

It truly was an epic adventure for everyone involved. Oh, and how did the tryout go? Keep an eye out for a release on [msuspartans.com](http://msuspartans.com) once teams are selected and solidified!





## 20 Years of the SideOut Club—The Beginning

MSU Volleyball is grateful for the contributions of the SideOut Club Pioneers. As a tribute to the 20 years of the SideOut Club, we are going to write a series of articles on the history/growth of the club. We thought you all would enjoy this blast from the past which is from a 2004 newsletter commemorating the 10th anniversary of the club written by loyal SideOut Club member Chris Wolf. While many of you may remember the beginning first-hand, we're sure new members would love to know the story of how it all began. The strength of the club is in the hardworking people that volunteer their time and money to give our athletes opportunities that would otherwise not be afforded. We are proud of how far the club has come in its 20 years and are excited to see where its headed in the next 20!

*Taken from November 2004 Newsletter—by Chris Wolf*

*"My involvement with the SideOut Club starting in the spring of 1993, when I answered a phone call in my office and found myself talking to Chuck Erbe, who had been hired as MSU's volleyball coach just months earlier. He explained that he was trying to make contacts in the local volleyball community, with the ultimate goal of starting a booster group for the program. I told him I was thrilled to see signs that the Athletic Department was trying to build a first-class volleyball program, and that I'd be happy to help him meet people. However, I warned him I was not a "booster-group" type of person. I told him in no uncertain terms that I really was not interested in becoming a Board member or in organizing or running a club.*

*Skipping ahead to the summer, Chuck, Ivan Bartha and I arranged a get-together at Ivan's house for fifteen or twenty volleyball enthusiasts who were interested in hearing more about his plans for the program. My main memory of that night is Chuck giving an inspirational talk about the future of MSU Volleyball. He would up by telling us that his three-year goal was to win a Big Ten title. Of course, those of us who had been following MSU Volleyball thought he was out of his mind.*

*At the beginning of the 1993 season, Chuck called me again and said he'd had some T-shirts made up, and needed some people to sell them at matches. That fall, Cathy Caswell and I, with occasional help from a few others, essentially were the SideOut Club (although we had no name at the time). We set up a table at matches to sell the T-shirts, and also had a sign-up sheet to collect names of people who would be interested in forming a club.*

*Skipping ahead again, the organizational meeting of the SideOut Club was held on March 30, 1994. The attendees were Dianna Kaplinski, Mick Kelly, Tim Chamness, Dee Telman, Cathy Caswell, Bob Alim-Young, and Mac Ezell. I don't know what got into me, but I found myself volunteering not only for the Board of Directors, but also to become an officer. The main discussion item at that first meeting was to hold a team awards banquet.*

*Cathy and I printed flyers and mailed them out to the thirty or so fans who had signed up at the table during the season. The banquet was held on April 24, 1994, in a conference room at the Breslin Center. The total attendance was around sixty or seventy people, mostly made up of Board members and the players/relatives. It was modest and low-key, without any of the trappings we have today, but it was a nice, successful event.*

*The next year, Chuck delivered on his promise of a Big Ten title and added a trip to the Final Four for good measure. As a result, the SideOut Club has grown dramatically in the past ten years and now has more members and sponsors more events than any of us anticipated. However, it remains at heart a grass-roots effort by people who want to support MSU Volleyball in any way they can!"*

## Academic Gala

This year's Academic Gala was moved to the Breslin Center to accommodate the number of students, families, and donors! The yearly black-tie event, which features a selected talent portion, guest speaker, and academic awards for teams and individuals not only unique but a first class opportunity to celebrate our student athletes. This year's guest speaker was Chris Fowler—host of ESPN's College Game Day. In order to be invited to the Gala, students (sophomore standing or higher) must hold a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. This year, five members of the volleyball team were recognized including: Chelsey Probst, Stefanie Shiramizu, Amy Dentlinger, Kristen Kelsay and Kori Moster. Kristen Kelsay took home the volleyball team honors of having the highest team GPA for 2012-2013. The event, regularly attended by the entire coaching staff, is one of the



things that makes Michigan State

Athletics truly special. We look forward to it every year as it's an opportunity to support our student athletes in their quest for academic excellence. The volleyball team boasts a cumulative team GPA of 3.24 which is a commendable mark amongst college sports teams. Congrats to all of our honorees and we look forward to seeing more in the future!



### Welcome #3 Kristen Muir

Many of you have asked, "Who's #3?" when attending some of our spring events. Fair question. We would like to introduce everyone to our newcomer, Kristen Muir. You may have seen Kristen around Jenison on match day as she was helping run our Kids Court behind the bleachers. Kristen had a try-out early in the semester and joined the team for the spring season. She contributed in our final spring match vs. Dayton, getting 3 aces out of her 5 serves. Having graduated two senior defensive specialists, Stefanie Shiramizu and Chelsey Probst, she brings a welcomed defensive presence to our squad. Cathy commented that Kristen, a.k.a. "Muirsky" has added a great deal of fire to our gym. "She is a very talented player that will add a competitive level to our team." Muir, a Plymouth, MI native attended Canton HS and she has one sibling, Brendan who also attends MSU. Muir is the 10<sup>th</sup> person in 3 generations of her family to attend MSU. She is majoring in Marketing with a specialization in Sales Communication. Muir will be a redshirt freshman on our roster this fall! So the next time you see her around, introduce yourself and help welcome her to the volleyball program.

## Spartans in the Community

Your Spartans have been busy bees in the spring season both on the court and off! The team recently filmed a PSA for the United Way entitled "Hats off to You" that was a Thank You to all the volunteers across Mid-Michigan. Kristen Kelsay was featured in a MSU video for her leadership and Mission Trip to South Africa over spring break with Athletes in Action—a Christian athlete group. The videos were both posted to our twitter account if you're interested in viewing (@MichStVB). The team recently participated in a Relay for Life event held at Jenison Field House along with many other athletes and students on campus. The walk, which supports the American Cancer Association went all night long and raised a lot of money! The Spartans have been volunteering with YMCA Volleyball by



providing instruction and coaching to young players from the Area. Cathy and Kristen Kelsay were keynote speakers at the CAAC Scholar Athlete Award Banquet which honored area student athletes that excel in the classroom as well as the court. Cathy will once again be the honorary Co-Chairperson of the EVE (End Violent Encounters) Golf Outing on May 16th, and will be participating in the Hidden Key Fashion Show hosted by the Aitch Foundation to benefit cancer research done at Michigan State University on May 17.



## 2013 Preseason Schedule

After wrapping up an undefeated spring season, we are looking forward to starting up in August. Before we even start the fall campaign we have a big match against the Alumni—which Jenilee Rathje assures Cathy that they have a top-notch team ready to take us down. The current alum team consists of Jenilee Rathje, Ally Karaba, Nicole Peter, Allison Ianni, Ashley Schatzle, Megan Schatzle, Mischelle Nelson, and Heather (McDaniel) Lower. Any Alum interested in playing should contact JR or the volleyball office! We have a competitive pre-season schedule kicking off in a 5-team tournament at Virginia Tech, where we will face the Hokies, Pacific (20-11 in 2012), Towson (25-4), and St. Francis of Pennsylvania. In our 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend we will be hosting NCAA National Runner-up Oregon (30-5), as well as Oregon State. This tournament will give us a good opportunity to face off against the 2<sup>nd</sup> best conference—the Pac 12. Going into our 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend, we will travel to Butler University to play the Bulldogs, Illinois State, and IPFW (25-7). In our final preseason weekend we will host our annual Spartan Invitational with Duquesne (22-11), EMU, and Cincinnati in attendance. The schedule, which was crafted to be both challenging and "RPI friendly" will provide us with a chance to prepare for the Big Ten Conference schedule as well as the NCAA Tournament. We look forward to seeing you in the gym!

August 24	MSU vs. Spartan Alumni Team
August 30-31	@ Virginia Tech (VT, Pacific, Towson, St. Francis)
September 6	vs. Oregon
September 7	vs. Oregon State
September 13-14	@Butler (Illinois State, IPFW, Butler)
September 20-21	Spartan Invitational (Eastern Mich, Cincinnati, Duquesne)



## SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

### MSU Volleyball Summer Camps

- July 9-11 Kids Camp
- July 13 All Skills Day Camp
- July 15 Serve/Pass Camp
- Defense Camp
- July 16 Setting Camp
- Competitive Games
- July 17 Attacking Camp
- Blocking Camp
- July 18-20 All Skills Overnight
- July 22-24 Competitive Team Camp



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

### The Service Line

For more information, pricing, or to enroll online... go to [www.sportcamps.msu.edu](http://www.sportcamps.msu.edu)

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

Website: [www.msusideout.org](http://www.msusideout.org)

Website: [www.msusideout.org](http://www.msusideout.org)