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Service Line

MICHIGAN STATE VOLLEYBALL

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20th Reunion—1995 Final Four

As I'm sure you've already heard, we are pleased to welcome back all of our volleyball alums, in particular the 1995 team for a 20th reunion of their Final Four run. They will be recognized on the floor between games 2 & 3 of the match vs. Indiana on Friday night. The festivities will continue with a tailgate before the football game on Saturday from 9-11am out by the baseball field. Sideout Club Members are welcome to join and mingle with the 1995 teams and other Volleyball Alums.

Confirmed 1995 Team attendees include: Courtney DeBolt, Dana Cooke, Val Sterk-Kemper, Jenna Wrobel-Graves, Veronica Morales-Benoit, Andrea Pollard-Sims, Corie Richard-Kaniamos, Jenny Whitehead-Robinson, Julie Pavlus-Unruh, Kelly Pyke-Penny, Lindsey Clayton-Brown, Sarah Blakely-Uppal, Staphanie Friedland-Hall, Laura Bush, Sander Cohen, Doug Tully, and Chuck Erbe.

Other alums attending: Ally Karaba-Barker, Mandi Karaba, Amy Dentlinger, Amy Rauch, Cheryl Barea, Cheryl Vanderhorst-Brindley, Andrew DeLuca-Mahon, Connie Thomas-Gorno, Diane Spoelstra, Amy Schloss-Yates, Erin Hartley, Gina Kiefer, Jenilee Rathje, Jenny Rood-Bedford, Jess Hohl, Kelsey Kuipers, Kristine Durst-Walsh, Kristy Beckholt, Laura Peters, Lauren Wicinski, Laurie Kuna, Mary Jo Hardy, Megan Schatzle, Nicole Peter, Becca Zlabis, Sarah Smith-Simpson, Sharon Hekker, Taylor Galloway, and Valerie Wrenbeck-Schute.



B1G Player of the Week Awards

Congratulations to Megan Tompkins, Abby Monson, and Rachel Minarick for winning weekly awards from the B1G Conference.

Megan, named Defensive POW following the 3-0 weekend in New Hampshire averaged 2.0 Blocks per set and hit at a .628 clip over the course of the 3-match tournament. Megan's .846 (11-0-13) vs. Delaware was good for fifth all-time in the MSU History Books.

Abby was named Defensive POW following this past weekend's 2-0 sweet of UNC and Duke after averaging 5.86 digs per set throughout the road weekend. It was the sixth most in a 3-game match in MSU history.

Minarick was named Setter of the Week for her efforts vs. UNC and Duke. Rachel posted the first Triple Double for MSU since 2006 which included 25 Assists, 11 Kills, 10 digs to go along with 4 aces and 2 blocks. Her performance followed a weekend that earned her MVP honors in New Hampshire.



Coaches Talks at Hall of Fame Café

Luncheons – Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and Coach George speaks at 12:15pm.

Thursday, September 24 - Tuesday, October 20 - and Tuesday, November 10,

Luncheons are open to all, so bring a friend. Join the MSU Volleyball family and hear from Coach George and other guest speakers. Admission is free and a full lunch menu will be available for your purchase.

MICHIGAN STATE VOLLEYBALL

Kids Club

It's not too late to sign up for the MSU Volleyball Kids Club—there will be a sign up table at every home match just inside the Field House. Take advantage of our Kids' Court before home games which will have skill instruction from 6:30-6:50! Don't be late! This perk will only be available to our Kids' Club Members, so sign up soon. Membership grants you free admission to all home games including 1-free adult, and makes you eligible for prizes, giveaways, and special kids club events! Pass this info on to any kids 8th grade and younger. Sign up your kids, their friends, your nieces/nephews, grandkids, neighbors...



Spartan Champion Visits Practice

The Spartans got a special visit from former MSU Hockey standout and current Detroit Red Wings' Forward Justin Abdelkader during the preseason. Justin, who won a NCAA Championship in 2007 with the Spartan Hockey team, addressed the squad and talked about the hard work, preparation, and sacrifice it takes to be a champion. This was a special treat for all our players, especially Alyssa Garvelink, who is a dedicated Red Wings fan. Coach Mike, a diehard Chicago Blackhawks fan, elected not to be pictured.



Jam Jenison—September 30th, 7pm vs Michigan

It's time to JAM JENISON! For those of you that have been to this event in the past few years, you KNOW how electric the atmosphere will be in the Jenison Field House as we take on in-state rival Michigan in front of our fans.! Come early to secure your seat and keep in mind that the first *500 fans* through the doors will receive free t-shirts.

The event will also be our High School and Middle School night—so pass the word on to any high school or middle school teams in your area that would like to take advantage of free tickets. In order to be placed on the passlist, they need to contact Emily Wiegand wiegande@ath.msu.edu with an ALPHA-BETIZED roster of the team/coaches.



Big Ten Preview—2015

Penn State (11-0) - The Nittany Lions are the preseason conference favorite for good reason. They are the last B1G Team that remains undefeated and have posted quality wins over Stanford and Colorado in the preseason. PSU returns quite a bit from their 2014 NCAA Champion season including OH Megan Courtney, RS Aiyana Whitney, and standout sophomores Haleigh Washington and Ali Frantti, but will have a new setter at the helm.

Ohio State (11-1) - The Buckeyes' only blemish came in the first match of the season to Wyoming, but since then have reeled off 11-straight including wins over Arizona and Florida State (x2).

Michigan (10-1) The Wolverines' hot start hit a speed bump in Chapel Hill when they were swept by UNC. The Wolverines do have quality wins over Duke and Ohio. The Wolverines return many players from a year ago, but did lose setter Lexi Dannemiller to graduation. MB Abby Cole and OH Caroline Knop look to lead the offensive attack.

Nebraska (9-1) - The Cornhuskers have notched quality wins over Oregon and Iowa State, but dropped their match vs former Big 12 rival Texas. The huskers lost setter Mary Pollmiller to graduation, but still return the Rolfzen sisters as well as bringing in freshman Mikaela Foecke, who is already contributing in a big way in Lincoln.

Indiana (10-2) - The Hoosiers' biggest win came against Virginia Tech and have faltered only twice this preseason (vs. UTSA and Cleveland State). With many returners back in 2015, Indiana looks to rebound from a tough B1G record a year ago. The Hoosiers will open up their season on the road in East Lansing!

Illinois (9-2) - The Illini have 3 quality wins thus far (Louisville, Kentucky, and Colorado) but have dropped close matches vs. two Pac-12 teams in Arizona State and Stanford. Freshman setter Jordan Poulter is a big addition for them and Jocelyn Birks is always a force on the Outside.

Purdue (9-2) - The Boilermakers' top wins this preconference have been against Ohio and LSU. Their only losses came at the expense of NCAA 2014 Runner-Up BYU and Miami. Lefty RS Annie Drews is their big gun and taking on a lot of the offensive load so far in 2015.

Minnesota (8-2) - The Gophers have been on a roll since going 0-2 in the opening weekend vs. Stanford and Texas A&M. They carry an 8-match winning streak into B1G play including wins against Louisville and North Carolina.

Wisconsin (8-2) - The Badgers bookended their preconference schedule with losses on both sides—vs. Western Kentucky on opening night and again by Arkansas in the final match of the preconference. Sandwiched in between was an 8-match winning streak including wins vs. Louisville, North Carolina, and Kansas State. Wisconsin returns All American setter Lauren Carlini for her Junior season.

Iowa (10-3) - The Hawkeyes are looking to have a break-out 2015 campaign and have already notched wins against in-state rival Iowa State as well as Texas A&M this preseason. The Iowa roster was improved with 3 transfers from a year ago. Their losses have come at the hands of Hawaii, UCLA, and Northern Illinois.

Northwestern (8-3) - The Wildcats have wins over perennial NCAA Tournament teams Lipscomb and Missouri State but were bit by the state of Idaho in 2 of their 3 preconference losses—Idaho State and Boise State. Their only other loss came at the hands of Western Kentucky.

Maryland (10-4) - The Terrapins had a hot start to 2015, winning 10 of their first 11 matches—including a win over Texas Tech. This past weekend, the Terps went 0-3 vs. USC, Oklahoma, and Washington.

Rutgers (3-9) - The Scarlet Knights have struggled to find their rhythm this year and have only managed 3 preconference wins vs. Colgate, Howard, and UC Riverside.

Special Events

This August, we hosted a Student Section Grass Tournament as well as an Athletic Department Staff Grass Tourney! Both events were held on Munn Field and featured music, pizza, and prizes. The Staff Tournament included teams from Marketing, Athletic Training, Spartan Fund, Event Management, Baseball/Softball, and Student Athlete Support Services. We wanted to say thank you to all the athletic department staff that work with our program every day. We were able to play some volleyball and let them know how much we appreciate them! Our winners were the Event Management team with a close championship match. Fun was had by all!



Not two weeks later, we held the Student Section Tournament where we had over 18 teams participate—nearly 90 students! For each tournament, our players were coaches of each team and had the opportunity to really get to know the students and other athletic department employees. The student's voted on a new student section name and won some pretty neat MSU Volleyball apparel and knick knacks! We are excited to see the student section grow and hope to make both of the grass tournaments annual events.



We also hosted a Media Day bowling tournament at Spare Time Entertainment Center! We invited our local media personalities to come enjoy some time bowling with our Spartans volleyball players, staff, and coaches. This was an opportunity for the media to really go to know our players and staff before they were interviewed. Our media guests had a blast – as well as our players! “Best Bowler” on the MSU Team? Brooke “Smooth” Kranda. Check out our social media pages for more pictures of the events!

