



Service Line

MICHIGAN STATE VOLLEYBALL

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Letter From Cathy

I hope this letter finds you well and that the holidays were good to you and your family! For the volleyball program, the Christmas season gives us a chance to reconnect with family and friends and get reinvigorated for the next semester. The coaches are excited to be back in the office setting the plans for the banquet and our non-traditional segment. As you may know, we can only train the team for 8 hours per week for the next two months. In 2016, we return a strong roster, unfortunately, so does the rest of the BIG Conference. The strides we make this spring will inevitably pay off in the fall. Our goal is to make the strength gains we need while improving our proprioception, balance, speed and agility while continuing to develop our team culture, chemistry and leadership.

Academically we were excited Maggie Halloran once again achieved a 4.0 to remain perfect through her senior year!! Overall we can be proud of two fall semester 4.0's from Maggie and Rachel and an overall 3.24 accumulative GPA for the team. This Thursday we welcome Olivia and Sarah, two new student athletes who are eager to begin their journey as Spartan volleyball players (see next page for more info). We look forward to seeing many of you this Sunday for our annual banquet! Thanks for your support and as always, Go Green!

Banquet—January 10

Don't forget that Sunday, January 10th is our Banquet to celebrate the achievements of the 2015 team as well as honor our three graduating seniors! The banquet will again be held at the Kellogg Center on Harrison Road at 11am (brunch at 11:30am).

If you haven't had a chance to reserve your tickets, please contact Emily Wiegand ASAP to RSVP at 517-353-1756 or wiegande@ath.msu.edu.

Payment for your tickets can be made in person on Sunday at the banquet. Tickets are \$35 each.



Betty L. Colby 1936-2015

MSU Volleyball extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Betty Colby (Perry, MI) after her passing in early December. Betty was an avid volleyball fan and Side-Out Club member and will be missed cheering on the Spartans in Jenison Field House. She is survived by her husband Bill of 59 years as well as four children.

Please join us in keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

Spartans Add Two for Spring Semester

We are proud to announce that we will be adding 2 new Spartans to the roster for the 2016 Spring Season: Olivia Bishop and Sarah Shafiq.

Olivia is a 6'2" middle blocker that comes from Traverse City, Michigan and will enroll a semester early to begin her collegiate career both academically and athletically. Olivia signed her national letter of intent in November—so you may remember reading about her. Although young, Olivia is a sponge for new information. She's a fast and explosive athlete that will add to the depth in the gym. She will be eligible to practice and play immediately this spring.



Sarah Shafiq is a 6'5" MB/RS from Winnetka, IL and is *technically* a transfer although she has yet to play volleyball collegiately. After committing to Cal prior to the 2015 season and attending a summer term, she realized she'd not be able to study the major of her choice. She transferred to DePaul (did not play volleyball) for the semester and will join our team this spring. Due to her transfer situation, Sarah will be ineligible to compete for one year—Spring & Fall of 2016. She will be able to practice and travel with the team.

We're excited to get them both in the gym to start training! Olivia and Sarah will be joined by Maggie Midgette, Lauren Swartz, and Sam McLean this summer to round out the roster for 2016. For more info about them, check out msuspartans.com

Awards and Hardware

Honorable Mention All-B1G Conference

Chloe Reinig

B1G Sportsmanship Award:

Halle Peterson

Honorable Mention AVCA All-North Region:

Chloe Reinig and Allyssah Fitterer



Awards voted on by the team will be handed out at the January 10th Banquet. Stay tuned for the Kirkby Scholar Athlete Award, Most Inspirational, Most Improved, Extra Mile, Playmaker, MVP as well as the SideOut Club Service Award.

SAVE THE DATE: Spring Tournament

We have recently decided that April 16th will be the date of our home spring tournament. The 9-team event will showcase teams from the region and provide an opportunity to see your 2016 Spartans in Jenison Field House. The event is free to fans and all the participating teams will play four opponents beginning at roughly 10am. Current teams committed include: Wright State, Toledo (former assistant Krista Rice coaches there), IPFW, Bowling Green, Findlay (OH), and Ferris State. We are still recruiting two others!

This is traditionally the date of the SideOut Club Annual Meeting. Time TBD based on MSU's Playing schedule in the tournament.