

THE SERVICE LINE

MSU VOLLEYBALL @MICHSTVB



Volume XXIII, Issue 1

January 30th, 2017

Spring Schedule: Volley On!

**April 1st—KIVA Tournament
Louisville, KY**

The first weekend of April the Spartans will head to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in the annual college tournament at the Kentucky Indiana Volleyball Academy. Twelve teams are slated to appear with MSU going up against three.

**April 8th— Velocity Volleyball
Mokena, IL**

Former MSU Volleyball standout, Carli Weiler, is now the founder and director of Volley Chicago and partners with Velocity Volleyball Club in Mokena, Illinois. The Spartans will head to the big city to take on several other collegiate teams at the Velocity Volleyball Training Facility. Eight teams are slated to appear.

**April 12th— vs. UofM—Dakota HS
Warren, MI**

6:30pm  vs. 

**April 22nd—MIVCA Clinic—East Lansing HS
East Lansing, MI**

7:00pm  vs. 

*More information to follow as dates near.

Congratulations to the MSU Volleyball players that were selected to participate in the Women's National Team tryouts! Six Spartans will be heading to the Colorado Springs training facility in March.

Jamye Cox
Alyssa Garvelink
Brooke Kranda
Rachel Minarick
Lauren Swartz
Holly Toliver

The 2016 Campaign—That's A Wrap!



Michigan State Volleyball held its annual awards brunch on Sunday, Jan. 8. The brunch signaled the official end to the 2016 season for the Spartans -- a record-setting and productive campaign that saw MSU host NCAA matches at Jenison Field House to cap the year after shattering previous single-game and cumulative season attendance marks.

The 2016 Spartans finished the season with a 25-9 overall record, and went 13-7 for a fifth-place finish in the Big Ten Conference, their highest finish in the Big Ten since the 2007 season. MSU's 25-9 record tied for the most wins in the Cathy George era, while the squad's 13 Big Ten victories tied for the fourth-most Conference wins in a season in program history (and the most in the George era). Michigan State finished the season at No. 19 in the final American Volleyball Coaches (AVCA) National poll.

MSU made its 19th overall NCAA Tournament appearance in 2016, and earned its sixth consecutive at-large bid to the Championship, the second-longest streak in school history. MSU earned the tournament's overall No. 9 seed and hosted first and second-round matches at Jenison Field House. The Spartans won their first-round NCAA Tournament match for the sixth straight season, the longest streak in program history.

2016 Team Award Winners:

Most Inspirational: Autumn Christenson
Extra Mile: Allyssah Fitterer
Most Improved: Lauren Swartz
MVP: Alyssa Garvelink
Playmaker: Alyssa Garvelink
Kirkby Scholar Athlete: Rachel Minarick



From Left to Right: Alyssa Chronowski, Jamye Cox, and Meredith Norris.

Fresh Faces: Volleyball Welcomes Three Newcomers

For most of us the first day of college isn't in January, but for three volleyball freshmen their college career began just after the new year. Thrown right into the fire, they went through freshmen orientation on January 5th, attended the 2016 banquet on January 8th, and started classes on January 9th. That being said they've adjusted quite well and are now in the swing of college life. Let's introduce you to our three newcomers:

The Alyssa Chronowski File:

- 6' 3" Outside Hitter from Munster, IN
- She has a twin sister named Abby who is 5 inches shorter
- One of her favorite foods is Flaming Hot Cheetos
- She hates scary movies, but loves animals
- She would like to work in the medical field one day

What Coach George is Saying:

"Alyssa is extremely athletic with great size, leaping ability and quickness. Alyssa really blossomed over the last year and drew lots of attention, which was reflected in her Prep Volleyball rating this past spring. Her killer mentality is what initially drew us to her and is something we'll look for when she suits up for the Green and White."

The Jamye Cox File:

- 5' 6" Defensive Specialist from Oregon, OH
- Dreams of competing in the Olympics someday
- Is a former gymnast
- In the future she would like to be a clothing designer

What Coach George is Saying:

"Jamye has an incredibly high volleyball IQ and is extremely driven and competitive. She has an understanding of tactics and strategy that is well beyond her years. Her serve receive and defense have always stood out but her command on the court drew the attention of our coaching staff. Her play has provided her amazing opportunities to shine with USA volleyball, and those experiences have provided her a solid foundation for her transition to college volleyball."

The Meredith Norris File:

- 6' 3" Outside Hitter from Owosso, MI
- Her best friend is her golden doodle, Hank
- She loves binge watching Netflix
- She doesn't like winter or the cold
- Her favorite color is purple
- She grew up in a town surrounded by corn fields

What Coach George is Saying:

"Meredith has been playing volleyball for a long, long time. She's an incredibly well-rounded player who has experience in almost every position. Her 3,000 kills speak to her ability to terminate, but it is her overall skill set that drew our attention. Her experience with USA volleyball will aid her in a successful transition into the Big Ten."

Quick Look: Behind The Scenes of NCAA Tournament

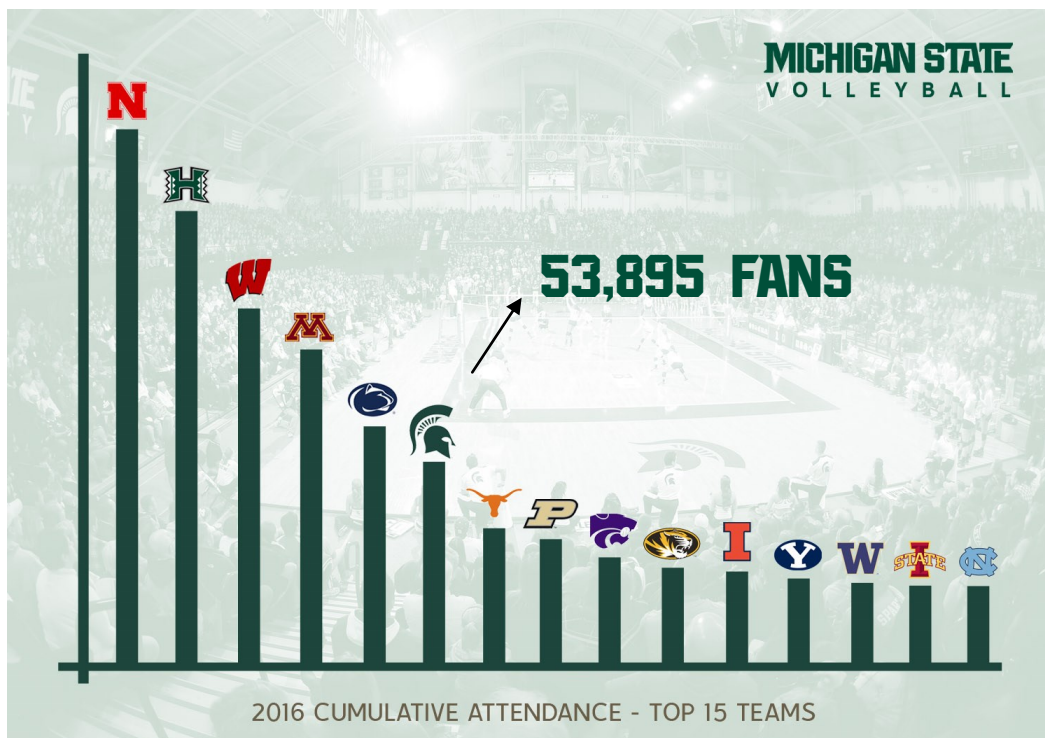
Contributed by Sarah Brushaber

When East Lansing showed up as a destination on the bracket on Selection Sunday, I could not have been more ecstatic for our team to have the opportunity to play in Jenison in front of a home crowd for the first and second rounds of the NCAA tournament. Moreover, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to be the tournament manager for this event.

In the weeks leading up to the selection show, the event management staff got a head start on planning this event. With the way our team was playing, we knew we had a good chance of hosting and we wanted to be sure that we put on the absolute best show for the teams and spectators. When it was finally announced that we were hosting, we were ready.

As the tournament manager, I was the primary contact with the NCAA, teams and officials. Working with the site representative, I made sure that teams and the overall event were compliant with NCAA tournament policies. I also managed and scheduled practices. Furthermore, I worked with the other support groups in our department such as facilities, sports management, athletic communications, ticket office, sales and marketing, concessions and our volleyball staff and made sure everyone was on the page. It truly is amazing just how many people are actually involved in pulling off an event like this.

My favorite part of my job is seeing all of the work that my coworkers and I put into an event come to life. From submitting the bid to host, to watching our team play in the NCAA tournament on their home court, I was able to watch this event evolve. Lastly, I am extremely proud of the way we ran this event and look forward to hosting NCAA volleyball in the future.



ON THE RISE

MSU Volleyball made a great leap this past season jumping from 9th in the country in overall attendance to 6th in the country in overall attendance. With the highest Big Ten finish since 2006, Spartan volleyball saw an average of over 3,000 people per game come through the doors. Thank you to our SideOut Club members for your support and attendance this year! We look forward to even more fans in 2017!