

THE SERVICE LINE

 MSU VOLLEYBALL
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Now that finals are over and summer is set to begin, we wanted to give you a quick re-cap of the Spring season. We had a great spring here in East Lansing! We played in two tournaments—KIVA and Volley Classic. KIVA was held in Louisville, KY and the Spartans won six of eight sets on the day against Kentucky, Belmont, Lipscomb, and Dayton, not dropping a match to anyone (all matches were two sets). The Volley Classic was put on in Oak Lawn, IL by former Spartan volleyball standout Carli Weiler. There the Spartans faced Loyola Chicago and Illinois State in two best of three matches winning five of the six sets played. The Michigan Volleyball Insider Showdown against Michigan was the main event of the spring. Held at Dakota High School, the Spartans downed the Wolverines in an exhilarating five set match. The Spartans closed out the spring season with a green versus white scrimmage in front of 300 high school coaches at the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association clinic held at East Lansing High School.

The girls will be returning this coming Monday to prepare for our trip to Italy on May 25th—read more about the trip on the reverse side. We'll also have a new team member joining us on Monday. We welcome Freshman middle blocker Julia Hatcher! Julia played for Lexington United and comes to us from Lexington Kentucky.

Around The League: Spring Competition All Wrapped Up

NR = not ranked, RV = receiving votes

 Seniors Lost: 7
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 L-Wisconsin
 W-Southern Illinois
 W-SIUe
 W-Illinois State
 W-Southern Illinois
 W-DePaul

 Seniors Lost: 4
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 W-Creighton
 W-KSU Purple
 L-KSU White
 Split-Iowa State
 W-Iowa Ice
 UNI
 Northern Illinois
 W-UIC
 W-Loyola
 W-Bradley
 W-DePaul
 UNI
 Drake

 Seniors Lost: 5
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 Pittsburgh
 IUPUI
 Ohio
 Southern Illinois
 W-Indiana State
 L-Purdue

 Seniors Lost: 3
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 UMES
 Seton Hall
 Temple
 Navy
 VCU
 W-UMES
 UMBC
 Hampton
 Chesapeake Tides

 Seniors Lost: 3
 Final 2016 Rank: 14
 W-WMU
 W-Oakland
 W-Xavier
 W-CMU
 W-Cleveland State
 W-Toledo
 W-BGSU
 L-MSU

 Seniors Lost: 4
 Final 2016 Rank: 5
 W-Illinois
 W-Creighton
 W-Green Bay
 W-Iowa State

 Seniors Lost: 6
 Final 2016 Rank: 3
 W-Hawai'i
 W-South Dakota
 W-Milwaukee
 W-Iowa State

 Seniors Lost: 5
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 W-DePaul
 Marquette

 Seniors Lost: 4
 Final 2016 Rank: 18
 Circle City Invitational
 W-Cincinnati
 W-Ohio
 W-Miami (OH)

 Seniors Lost: 2
 Final 2016 Rank: 10
 No spring competition information available.

 Seniors Lost: 1
 Final 2016 Rank: RV
 L-Butler
 Split-IUPUI
 W-Southern Illinois
 W-Indiana State
 L-Pittsburgh
 L-Kentucky
 W-Ball State
 W-Indiana
 Split-Notre Dame

 Seniors Lost: 4
 Final 2016 Rank: 4
 Participate in beach volleyball competition during spring.

 Seniors Lost: 3
 Final 2016 Rank: NR
 No spring competition information available.

*some scores/opponents not available

Bonjourno Italy!

In 2015 foreign tours were opened up to athletic teams by Athletic Director, Mark Hollis. The inaugural trip saw the men's basketball team heading to Italy and the following year the women's basketball team made stops in London, Paris and Rome. On May 25th, the volleyball program will have the opportunity to visit Italy as well.

In addition to taking in the sights and learning about the country and culture, the Spartans will play four matches abroad. One match will be played in Rome, two in Milan and the final match in Trieste.

Hot spots in Rome include visits to some of Rome's extraordinary landmarks—the Colosseum, Vatican City, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica. Located in Rome are many beautiful fountains and we'll be able to visit the Spanish Steps as well as the Trevi Fountain.

After Rome we'll head north to Milan which is the industrial and fashion center of Italy. There they will visit the Duomo di Milano as well as Lake Como where we're hoping for a George Clooney sighting! On the way to Trieste we'll stop in Verona to see the third largest Roman amphitheater in Italy and the setting for Romeo and Juliet's balcony.

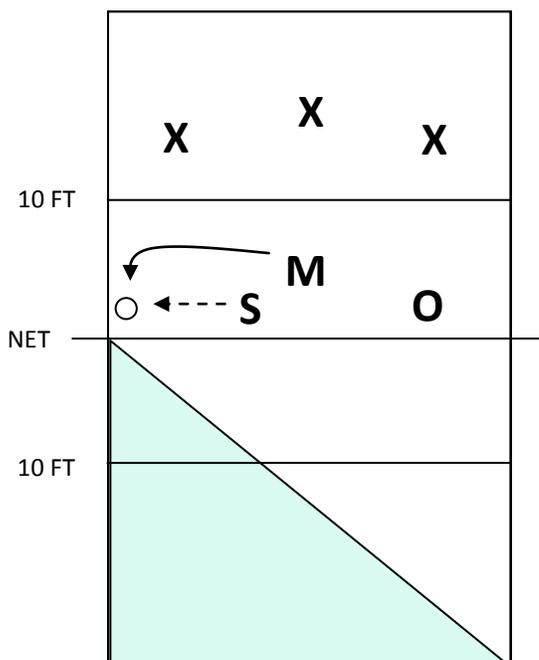
The third city of the tour features Trieste which has a heavy influence of both Hungarian and Slavic cultures. This area has also been known for trade due to its seaside location. The fourth match of the trip will take us just across the border into Slovenia. Also located in Trieste is the Grotta Gigante Cave—the world's largest naturally forming cave.

The last stop will be in the canaled city of Venice which is famous for gondola rides and brightly painted buildings. While there we'll have the opportunity to visit Piazza San Marco, St. Mark's Basilica, and the Rialto Bridge.

We will be abroad for ten days and are very much looking forward to the trip. Make sure to keep up with us on social media -Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. We also have plans to stream the games via Facebook live if at all possible (not sure how great the internet connection will be in some of these cities). We hope you'll follow the trip and look forward to sharing with you when we get back!



Play of the Month: The Slide



A slide is a very important offensive tool in the women's game. The attacker moves slow to fast, stays off the net, and drifts to the point of attack. The slide is hit behind the setter where the attacker approaches off of one foot.

The components of the slide are the approach, the take-off, and the arm swing. The approach—staying off the net allows the attacker to drift forward in addition to horizontally. The first step of the slide should always be the same, so the blocker on the other side of the net doesn't know what the attacker is running. The arm should be pumped quick and the arm swing must be fast in order to beat the block. The slide can be hit in a number of different locations on the net, varied by distance from the setter. Often times, the slide is run by the middle blocker. However, a right side player may run it as well. For example, former MSU Spartan Allyssah Fitterer has run the slide as both a middle and a right side.

To learn more about the slide visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9jQszwfiIE>