
THE SERVICE LINE

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club

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Plan Ahead for Best Seating

New for Fall '96—Season Tickets!

This fall, for the first time in the history of the program, MSU women's volleyball will be offering both reserved seating and season tickets. The ticket office is accepting orders now for season tickets, which will be delivered by August 15.

MSU SideOut Club members will be given priority in the purchase of season tickets, as long as they order by June 30. The ticket office will use the Club membership list for reference when filling orders, so you do not need to identify yourself as a SideOut Club member when placing your order.

According to Assistant Athletic Director Mark Hollis:

- The bleachers opposite the team benches will be used for reserved seating. The total number of seats reserved will depend on demand.
- A season ticket for one of these reserved seats will cost \$72 for adults or \$48 for youths of high-school age and younger. The ticket will be good for all fourteen regular season home matches (not including the alumni match).

- Any reserved seats that are not sold as season tickets will be available at the door for \$6 for adults and \$4 for youths.
- Season-ticket holders will be given priority for purchase of tickets for post-season play.
- There will be a new row of seats located on the court opposite the team benches, using the same type of padded folding chairs provided for the teams. For each \$200 contribution to volleyball through the Ralph Young Fund, fans will be eligible to purchase one courtside season ticket. The price of these tickets will be the same as for the regular reserved seats, but will also include parking privileges and other amenities.
- General admission ticket prices have not been set yet, but the Athletic Council is considering a proposal that would raise prices from the current \$3, possibly to \$5.
- The status of free general admission for MSU students, faculty and staff is still undecided. Currently, those affiliated with MSU get free admission to most sporting events; they pay only for football, men's basketball and hockey. It appears likely that volleyball will join these as the fourth all-pay sport, if not this year then soon.

To order your season tickets, visit the MSU Athletic Ticket Office in Jenison, call 517 355-1610, or, from outside the Lansing area, call 800 GO-STATE. Ticket Office hours are from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. There is a \$2 handling fee per order, and tickets can be charged to VISA or MasterCard. Be sure to order by June 30.

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Young Spartans' Pizza Party

The SideOut Club invites all its Young Spartan members to the annual pizza party at Jenison during the spring tournament on April 13 (see following article). It will be held at about 2:00 pm, immediately after MSU's scheduled 1:00 pm match against Minnesota.

There will be pizza, drinks, and other refreshments at the SideOut Club hospitality area, provided free to Young Spartans. Autographed team posters will be available for those who did not pick one up earlier in the year. Although the team will be quite busy during the tournament, 2 to 4 pm is their longest break of the day, so it is hoped that some of the players will stop by during the party.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Tournament

MSU will close out spring training by hosting the 3rd Annual Spartan Spring Classic on Saturday, April 13. Admission is free, with matches running all day long in Jenison Field House. The final match of the day may be of special interest, since it will use an experimental two-period live TV format (see the next article).

Volunteers are needed to help with the operation of the tournament, since MSU doesn't provide staffing for non-official competitions. This is the first time Coach

Erbe has asked the SideOut Club for a large number of volunteers for an activity, so please offer us whatever amount of time you can spare. Call Bob Alim-Young at 483-6020 and arrange to help on the court, at the pizza party, or behind the scenes

The visiting teams for the tournament are:

- Western Michigan University (WMU)
- Ball State University (Ball State)
- Miami University of Ohio (Miami)
- Northern Michigan University (NMU)
- Notre Dame University (ND)
- University of Minnesota (Minn)

Time	Court 1	Court 2
8 am	MSU vs. WMU	ND vs. Minn
9 am	NMU vs. Minn	Miami vs. Ball State
10 am	MSU vs. ND	WMU vs. NMU
11 am	Miami vs. Minn	WMU vs. Ball State
12 pm	MSU vs. Miami	Ball State vs. ND
1 pm	MSU vs. Minn	ND vs. NMU
2 pm	WMU vs. Miami	NMU vs. Ball State
3 pm	WMU vs. Minn	ND vs. Miami
4 pm	MSU vs. NMU	Ball State vs. Minn
5 pm	WMU vs. ND	NMU vs. Miami
6 pm	MSU vs. Ball State (experimental format)	

Live TV Format Up For Changes

Last season, the Big Ten boldly went where no conference had gone before, developing a special volleyball scoring format designed for live television coverage. The major goals were to make match lengths more predictable and to fit them into a two-hour time slot. One match, against Ohio State, was played under this format at MSU.

No one was entirely happy with the experimental format, so next year will see some changes. There are two primary alternatives under consideration. Both alternatives feature opening games played under a clock, along with possible match-deciding games that use rally scoring. Last year's cumulative scoring method has apparently been dropped.

The two-period proposal from Chuck Erbe is a non-traditional two-out-of-three format. The first two

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games each consist of two periods, with a play clock of seven minutes per period. For the second period, the teams submit new lineups and restart substitutions and timeouts, but scoring is continuous. If one team wins both of these games, the match is over. If the teams split the first two games, a rally-scoring game to 15 decides the match.

The 3+2 proposal from Jo Elyn Vrazel of Purdue is a less radical, three-out-of-five format. The first three games are played with a six- to seven-minute clock, while the fourth and fifth games, if needed, use rally scoring to 15.

Many fans will prefer the 3+2 format because it is closer to traditional volleyball, but it may result in too much variation in match length for broadcasters to accept. Under the 3+2, the shortest and longest matches will differ by two rally-scoring games. With a rally-scoring game averaging around 16 to 18 minutes (including TV timeouts), this difference could amount to 35 minutes or so.

The other problem with the 3+2 is that it has an "unbalanced" aspect to it, in that a team could win a match by winning two short rally-scoring games, even though their opponents won two longer standard games. It took fans a while to accept the use of rally scoring in the deciding game; they may find it even harder to accept a rally-scoring game victory as equal to a standard game victory.

On the other hand, the two-period format is the more drastic change from standard volleyball, simply because of the introduction of periods. The games in this format will also be much longer on average than fans are used to seeing, which could make it hard to maintain excitement.

After some use of the formats during spring training, followed by further discussion, the conference will select one of these formats or some variation for use in televised matches next season.

Team Notes

■ MSU played its first of four spring tournaments at Illinois State University on March 23. Coach Erbe

reports that the team was dominant all day, going undefeated and overcoming Notre Dame in the final.

The Spartans didn't fare quite as well at Purdue on March 30, losing an opening match to Ball State 3-0, before regrouping to beat Purdue and Wisconsin 3-0 in front of a substantial crowd. All matches at Purdue were played in the experimental 3+2 format.

MSU's next tournament will be at Kentucky on 4/6.

■ During spring training the team has been working on back-row hitting as a new weapon. "The goal is to have every player capable of hitting from the back row", says Erbe. "This isn't seen much in women's play, so it can really keep the defense off-balance." Fans should watch for this during the spring tournament.

■ Jenny Whitehead has recovered from her shoulder surgery, but Julie Pavlus, MSU's new starting setter, is being hampered by a reinjury of the finger that she broke last season. A bone specialist has approved her for play, but she is still experiencing pain.

■ At the end of winter semester, Robin Ill transferred to play volleyball at Central Michigan University

Team Awards

The following awards were presented at the Spartan Volleyball Banquet on February 25:

- Goff Most Valuable Player Courtney DeBolt
- Andrea DeLuca Spirit Award Lindsey Clayton
- Hitting Efficiency Val Sterk
- Captain's Award Courtney DeBolt
- Top GPA Julie Pavlus
- Outstanding Service Award Fumie Noma
- "Over the Net" Award Walt and Ellie Goff

Spartans Look to the Future

MSU has signed two outstanding athletes to national letters of intent to play volleyball next season.

Allison Ross, a 6-1 left-handed setter from Imperial, Calif., earned first-team All-California Interscholastic

Federation honors in 1994 and 1995. She was a three-time, first-team all-league selection and was named the league's most valuable player twice.

"Allison's height and being left-handed gives us a setter for the future", Erbe said. "She can also play a role on the right side, but will primarily be trained as a setter."

Ross earned All-Valley honors her junior and senior years at Imperial High School. She also lettered three times as center on the basketball team and played first base in softball. In 1994 and 1995, Ross was recognized as the Pepsi Cola Woman Athlete of the Year and was named to the San Diego Union Tribune All-Academic team. She played for I.V. Heat in Imperial Valley and the San Diego Volleyball Club.

Tammy Vonderheide, a 5-8 outside hitter from Stewardson, Ill., is a two-time All-American and all-state honoree whose Twin City club team finished third at nationals in 1994 and fifth in 1995. She also lettered and won awards in both softball and track.

"Tammy is a tremendous all-around athlete with a lot of experience at winning," Erbe said. "She gives us depth on the left side and has great back court skills."

While at Stewardson-Strasburg High, Vonderheide helped the Comets to a 128-26 record, including a 37-4 mark and a No. 3 ranking in the state her senior season. The three-time all-conference selection had the team's highest hitting efficiency in 1995 (.419) and 1994 (.391). Off the court, she is a member of the National Honor Society.

Move or Remodel?

A growing family often finds itself forced to choose between remodeling their home and buying a new one. Following the tremendous growth in attendance the past year, the MSU volleyball program finds itself in exactly this situation.

The dilemma is whether to move home matches to the Breslin Student Events Center or to try to accommodate the hordes of new fans in Jenison. Both options have been considered for next season.

For the last two seasons, there has been a curtain

dividing Jenison into areas constituting approximately one-third and two-thirds of the total space. The playing court has been on the south side of the curtain, in the smaller of the two areas.

To get greater seating capacity, current plans call for the court layout in Jenison to be altered for next season. The playing court will move to the north side of the curtain, and be rotated ninety degrees to use the same orientation as the original Jenison basketball court. This is expected to provide seating for nearly 7,000 fans.

There has been some discussion of holding big matches in Breslin, but Coach Erbe dismisses this for now. "We have something very special at Jenison, and we simply cannot create the same environment at Breslin." The original schedule for 1996 showed the U-M, Penn State and Ohio State matches planned for Breslin, but now Erbe says "I would not hold matches of that importance in Breslin."

However, Breslin is almost certain to be under consideration again for post-season play, and if regular-season attendance continues to increase, it could even outgrow the remodeled Jenison. In that event it might be time to call the real estate agent and the moving van.

Over The Net Club

MSU volleyball will soon have not one, but two support groups. Under development is the Over the Net Club, an organization whose primary function will be fund raising. The new club will be designed to attract the large donors that are needed to support a first-class volleyball program at Michigan State.

Over-the-Net-Club members will automatically become members of the SideOut Club. Membership information will be sent to SideOut Club members as soon as it is available. If you have questions about Over the Net, call Chuck Erbe at 355-4750.

1996 NCAA Championship

Cleveland State University is taking orders for tickets for the NCAA women's volleyball final four on 12/19 and 12/21. Call 216 687-4848 for information.

SideOut Club Report

New Board Members and Officers

At the annual membership meeting on February 25, Tim Chamness, Jim Constandt, Mike Ward, and Cindy Ziesemer were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. In March, the Board appointed Michelle Fuller to fill a vacancy resulting from a resignation.

At its March meeting, the Board also elected officers:

Dean McCracken - President
 Bob Alim-Young - Vice-president
 Dave Pike - Treasurer
 Tim Chamness - Secretary

Financial Summary - February 1996

Revenue

1995 Balance brought forward	\$913.78
Membership dues	2,250.00
Merchandise sales	7,282.55
50/50 raffle	2,292.00
Final-Four bus trip receipts	4,585.00
Credit union dividends	46.91
Total revenue	\$17,370.24

Expenses

Office supplies, copying, postage	\$334.19
Charter member pins	319.22
Cost of goods sold (shirts, etc.)	4,159.33
50/50 raffle costs (tickets, prizes)	1,305.76
Final-four bus trip expenses	4,241.23
Filing fees (IRS and others)	495.00
Credit Union fees	9.00
Total expenses	\$10,863.73

Contributions to MSU Volleyball

Cash (to Ralph Young Fund)	\$1,250.00
Merchandise	403.16
Total contributions	\$1,653.16

Balance \$4,853.35

From its remaining balance, the Club will be making further contributions to MSU volleyball this spring.

towards such items as awards banners for Jenison, computers for the team, and other needs.

Message from the Board

Greetings fellow Spartan Volleyball Fans! Your Board is hard at work preparing for the upcoming season. Many things are in the works as of this writing which you may find interesting. A calendar of SideOut Club sponsored events is being developed, and your input is encouraged. We are making preparations for the first annual Spartan Volleyball Golf Scramble and cookout in August. Other possible events include luncheons with the Coach, a rules workshop with a match referee, tailgate parties, and YOUR suggestions—let us know what they are!

Merchandise development is a constant topic, and now is no exception. New apparel designs as well as new kinds of products are being considered. Pins, window stickers, license plate frames, coffee mugs, you name it, we're considering it. What would YOU like to see the Spartan name emblazoned on? Should we enter the mail-order arena? How about charge-card capability? Sales via the Internet? If you have experience in these areas, give us a call! The bookstores and others may sell their own designs, but the profits don't go to the volleyball program as ours do.

Speaking of profits, the Club is expecting IRS recognition shortly as a tax-exempt, charitable organization. This will make certain contributions to the Club tax-deductible for you. More to come on this.

A primary purpose of this club is to provide support to the MSU Women's Volleyball Program. This support takes many forms, from the purely financial, to behind-the-scenes work in producing the annual banquet or spring invitational tournament. Most important to our mission is fostering a community of supporters, YOU! A wide range of opportunities exists for individuals willing to spend a few minutes or a few hours to help out the Team. Get in touch with me or any board member to become involved!

Dean McCracken
 517 694-6669, or vball@sojourn.com

Tentative 1996 Schedule

(All home matches will be played in Jenison Field House)

			10/25	MINNESOTA	7:00 pm
			10/26	WISCONSIN	7:00 pm
8/24	ALUMNI	7:00 pm	10/30	NORTHWESTERN	7:00 pm
8/30-9/1	GOFF/MSU VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC (hosting Stanford, Texas & Houston) 5&7 pm		11/1	@Michigan	
9/6-7	@Nebraska		11/8	@Ohio State	
9/13-14	@Cleveland State Cleveland State Invitational (teams TBA)		11/9	@Penn State	
9/20	KENTUCKY	7:00 pm	11/15	ILLINOIS	7:00 pm
9/27	@Indiana		11/16	IOWA	7:00 pm
9/28	@Purdue		11/22	@Minnesota	
10/2	@Northwestern		11/23	@Wisconsin	
10/4	MICHIGAN	7:00 pm	11/29	PURDUE	7:00 pm
10/11	PENN STATE	7:00 pm	11/30	INDIANA	7:00 pm
10/12	OHIO STATE (Homecoming)	7:00 pm	12/4	NCAA 1st round	
10/18	@Iowa		12/7	NCAA 2nd round	
10/19	@Illinois		12/13-14	NCAA Regionals	
			12/19-21	NCAA Championships Cleveland State University	



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