
THE SERVICE LINE

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club
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Michigan State Opens NCAA Tournament December 7 at Jenison

MSU will start their third consecutive NCAA volleyball tournament on December 7 at 7:00 pm in Jenison Field House, playing the winner of the December 4 match between Texas A&M and Arkansas-Little Rock.

Tickets for the match are on sale now at the Jenison Ticket Office. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for youths. Season-ticket holders can buy tickets for their regular-season seats; all other seating will be general admission. Plan to buy tickets in advance or arrive early on Saturday in case of a sellout.

Texas A&M is probably the strongest tournament team that did not receive a first-round bye. In 1994, A&M spoiled the Spartans' first-ever NCAA tournament appearance by defeating them in the first round. "We can't afford to look more than one match ahead in this tournament" says Chuck Erbe. "We'll spend all week preparing for Texas A&M."

"Texas A&M is stronger than BYU, our second-round opponents last year", commented Chuck. "They play in one of the toughest conferences in the

MICHIGAN STATE
1995 **BIG TEN** 1996
BACK TO BACK
Champions
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nation, and they are very well coached. However, the home-court advantage is tremendous in the tournament, so we want them to see the biggest, loudest crowd in MSU history on Saturday."

Four Spartan Players Earn All-Big-Ten Honors

Val Sterk was unanimously chosen by Big Ten coaches as a member of the 1996 all-conference team, and she was joined by Dana Cooke and Jenna Wrobel, with an honorable mention going to Veronica Morales. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, Val did not win the Player-of-the-Year award that most MSU fans feel she deserves. This year she lost out by one vote to Vanessa Wouters of Ohio State.

The 1996 All-Big-Ten Volleyball Team

Val Sterk, MB, Michigan State*
Katrien DeDecker, OH, Minnesota*
Vanessa Wouters, OH, Ohio State*
Terri Zemaitis, MB, Penn State*
Jenna Wrobel, OH, Michigan State
Bonnie Bremner, S, Penn State
Dana Cooke, MB, Michigan State
Lauren Cacciamani, MB, Penn State
Angie Kammer, OH, Penn State
Laura Abbinante, S, Wisconsin
Brooke White, OH, Purdue†
Heather Dodaro, MB, Wisconsin†
Kelly Scherr, OH, Illinois†
Sherri Helman, OH, Ohio State†
*unanimous selection †tie

Honorable Mention: **Veronica Morales, Michigan State**; Mary Coleman, Illinois; Jennifer Webb, Iowa; Sarah Jackson, Michigan; Jen Boleyn, Ohio State.

Player of the Year

Vanessa Wouters, Ohio State

Freshman of the Year

Bonnie Bremner, Penn State

Coach of the Year

Russ Rose, Penn State

Big-Ten-Champions Apparel Available Saturday

The SideOut Club will be selling sweatshirts and T-shirts celebrating the 1996 Big Ten championship. The design is special this year, since it is similar to the shirts you saw the team receive last Saturday, but with some enhancements suggested to us by Dana Cooke. We will have these ready by the December 7 match, but the NCAA will not allow merchandise sales at the match.

Instead, we will be set up in the Trowbridge Shopping Center parking lot, on the south side along Trowbridge Road near the ATM, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm before the match. Please plan to pay by check, so that we don't have to handle cash and make change. There will only be a limited number of these available, so be sure to get one early!

Peaking at the Right Time

The Spartans seem to be all revved up for the tournament, judging by the way they dominated

their opponents at the end of the season. They didn't lose a game in their last six matches, and in thirteen of those eighteen games, MSU held their opponents to six points or fewer. This three-week streak included a 3-0 win at Wisconsin, where the Spartans had not won a match since 1988.

MSU finished in a tie with Penn State for the '96 Big Ten title, becoming the first MSU team in any sport to win back-to-back Big Ten Championships since the '78 and '79 men's basketball teams. They had a 19-2 record in the conference and 24-6 overall.

MSU Says Farewell to Best-Ever Senior Class

The final home match against Indiana was an emotional one, as Dana Cooke, Stephanie Friedlund, and Val Sterk were honored for their accomplishments at Michigan State. These were unheralded players who came into a unranked program and helped to create a championship team. Once here, their enthusiasm helped recruit the other top-level players who have followed them.

Of course you're familiar with the various All-Big-Ten, All-American and Player-of-the-Week awards won by Dana and Val, so we won't repeat those here. However, there are a few particularly noteworthy statistics.

Val and Dana lead all MSU players in total blocks, but the overall winner won't be decided until their post-season play is done. This is because, after four years of playing together, only one block separates the two in the standings! Val is number one with 566, while Dana is second at 565. Val is the all-time MSU leader in solo blocks with 124, while Dana leads MSU and is second-best ever in the Big Ten in block assists. Val is also number three on MSU's career list for total kills, while Dana is number five.

Val finished the regular season as the 1996 national leader in hitting percentage with a phenomenal .460. For her final weekend she had 28 kills and only a single error, for a percentage of .659. She is the all-time Spartan leader in this category, with a career .382, a record which is likely to stand for a long time.

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1996 NCAA Playoff Brackets

Below are the complete Division I playoff brackets by region. Matches in the leftmost column are played December 4. Second-round matches (middle column) are played December 7 or 8. Within each region, the four teams that remain after the second round (indicated by the rightmost column) will play on December 13-15 to determine the four regional champions. These four will travel to Cleveland, Ohio for the Final Four tournament on December 19-21.

In Cleveland, the Mountain region winner will play the Central region and the Pacific will play the East in the two semi-finals.

The tournament committee only seeds eight teams, (numbers in parentheses on the chart). No. 4 seed Nebraska was moved out of the Mountain region (where they would have faced No. 3 Hawai'i) to the East, where there was no top-four team. MSU did not earn one of the eight seeds, but was ranked somewhere between 9 and 16, so they still have a bye in the first round..

Central Region

Florida (2)	_____	_____
Illinois State	_____	_____
Miami (Ohio)	_____	_____
Notre Dame	_____	_____
Hofstra	_____	_____
Ohio State	_____	_____
Michigan State		
Texas A&M	_____	_____
Arkansas (Little Rock)	_____	_____
Central Florida	_____	_____
Minnesota	_____	_____
Long Beach State (7)	_____	_____

Mountain Region

Hawai'i (3)	_____	_____
Colorado	_____	_____
Oral Roberts	_____	_____
San Diego State	_____	_____
Sam Houston	_____	_____
Texas	_____	_____
Brigham Young Univ.		
Washington	_____	_____
Texas Tech	_____	_____
San Diego	_____	_____
Arizona	_____	_____
Pacific (6)	_____	_____

Pacific Region

Stanford (1)	_____	_____
Houston	_____	_____
Colorado State	_____	_____
Southern Cal.	_____	_____
S.E. Missouri State	_____	_____
South Florida	_____	_____
Loyola Marymount		
UC Santa Barbara	_____	_____
Northern Illinois	_____	_____
Cal State Northridge	_____	_____
Kansas State	_____	_____
Washington State (8)	_____	_____

East Region

Nebraska (4)	_____	_____
Rhode Island	_____	_____
Arkansas	_____	_____
Louisville	_____	_____
Brown	_____	_____
Maryland	_____	_____
George Mason		
Wisconsin	_____	_____
Colgate	_____	_____
Coastal Carolina	_____	_____
Georgia Tech	_____	_____
Penn State (5)	_____	_____

1996 Schedule and Results

(All home matches are played in Jenison Field House)

8/30	L	TEXAS	15-10, 14-16, 8-15, 15-10, 15-17
8/31	W	HOUSTON	10-15, 15-8, 15-13, 15-4
9/1	L	STANFORD	14-16, 8-15, 4-15
9/6	L	Nebraska	7-15, 11-15, 15-13, 15-11, 13-15
9/7	L	Nebraska	11-15, 8-15, 7-15
9/13	W	Niagara	15-2, 15-1, 15-6
9/13	W	West Virginia	15-0, 15-10, 15-8
9/14	W	Loyola	15-13, 15-8, 16-14
9/14	W	Cleveland State	15-1, 15-3, 15-4
9/20	W	KENTUCKY	15-2, 15-7, 15-8
9/27	W	Indiana	13-15, 15-7, 15-1, 15-8
9/28	W	Purdue	15-6, 15-2, 14-16, 15-6
10/2	W	Northwestern	19-4, 18-13, 10-8
10/4	W	MICHIGAN	10-15, 15-3, 15-6, 15-11
10/11	W	PENN STATE	9-15, 15-7, 15-7, 9-15, 15-12
10/12	W	OHIO STATE	15-9, 17-15, 12-15, 15-6
10/18	W	Iowa	15-5, 15-11, 15-4
10/19	W	Illinois	15-4, 13-15, 15-3, 15-10

10/25	W	MINNESOTA	15-9, 15-13, 15-7
10/26	W	WISCONSIN	15-5, 15-11, 15-11
10/30	W	NORTHWESTERN	15-7, 15-3, 15-7
11/2	W	Michigan	15-12, 15-6, 15-9
11/8	L	Ohio State	15-12, 5-15, 12-15, 13-15
11/9	L	Penn State	9-19, 14-10, 10-18, 13-17
11/15	W	ILLINOIS	15-12, 15-4, 15-3
11/16	W	IOWA	15-6, 15-12, 15-5
11/22	W	Wisconsin	18-16, 15-5, 15-9
11/23	W	Minnesota	15-4, 15-4, 15-11
11/29	W	PURDUE	15-4, 15-3, 15-3
11/30	W	INDIANA	15-1, 15-3, 15-5

12/4	NCAA 1st round	bye
12/7	vs. Texas A&M/ Arkansas-Little Rock winner	7:00 pm
12/13-14	NCAA Regionals	probably at Florida
12/19	NCAA Semifinals	Cleveland State University
12/21	NCAA Championship	Cleveland State University



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