
The SERVICE LINE

Volleyball News from the MSU SideOut Club
Vol. IV No. 4
December 1998

Spartans Host Tournament Opener!

Michigan State's bubble floated to the top of the glass this week, as we were chosen the number 14 seed in the 1998 NCAA Division I women's volleyball tournament. This provides us the enormous advantage of playing the opening rounds of the tournament at home again, as in 1995 and 1996.

The tournament will start in Jenison on Thursday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. with North Carolina pitted against Oral Roberts. This will be followed at 8:00 p.m. by MSU's match against Pepperdine. The winners of these two matches will play Friday night at 6:00 p.m. for the right to travel to the regional championship the following weekend at Nebraska. Tickets for the tournament (both nights included) are \$10 for adults.

Pepperdine was 17-10 for the regular season, but played eight matches against top-25 opponents, including Long Beach, Hawai'i, USC and UCSB. The only top-25 opponents they defeated were Loyola Marymount and San Diego. The Waves and Spartans did not face any common opponents.

Oral Roberts (29-5) played an extremely weak schedule, and did not win a match against a top-25 opponent in five tries. However, they have been ranked around number 20 in the Sagarin ratings this year, because they have totally dominated most of their opponents. Their biggest victory came against Notre Dame 3-2. They ended the season with a loss to Long Beach State, 15-6, 15-4, 15-2.

North Carolina (28-7) finished second in the Atlantic Coast Conference, but played (and lost to) only one top-25 opponent. They also lost matches to both Iowa and Michigan 0-3.

The Big Ten has the strongest representation of any conference in the tournament. Four Big Ten schools—Penn State, Wisconsin, Michigan State and Illinois—earned top-16 seeds, and thus are hosting the first round. The Big West conference follows

closely in the top 16, with the inclusion of Long Beach State, Pacific and UCSB as host sites. From the Big Ten, Indiana and Ohio State also earned tournament nods. This gives the Big Ten a total of six overall berths, matched only by the Big 12 and the Western Athletic Conference.

Penn State continues their record as one of only four teams to have played in every NCAA tournament. Wisconsin, Ohio State and MSU have been regulars the last five or more years. Illinois is back in the tournament after a two-year absence, while Indiana is making only their second appearance.

The full tournament bracket is shown on page 5. The top sixteen teams, who will host the first- and second-round playoffs, are in boldface and have their seeds shown in parentheses.

1998 All-Big Ten Awards

Jenna Wrobel was named to the All-Big-Ten team for 1998, making her only the third player in conference history to earn this honor for four consecutive years. **Sarah Gustin** and **Christie Landry** also received honorable mention awards. Congratulations to our Spartans!

The awards were dominated by Penn State, with their entire starting lineup, as well as their coach, winning honors. Setter Bonnie Bremner was named Player of the Year for the second straight year (and let's not forget her Freshman of the Year award from 1996).

The 1998 All-Big-Ten Volleyball Team

Lindsay Anderson, OH, Penn State
Nicole Branagh, OH, Minnesota
Bonnie Bremner, S, Penn State
Lauren Cacciamani, MB, Penn State
Cristy Chapman, MB, Illinois
Christy Cochran, OH, Penn State

Ryann Connors, OH, Indiana
 Kelly Kennedy, MB, Wisconsin
 Tracey Marshall, OH, Illinois
 Colleen Neels, S, Wisconsin
 Rosie Snow, OH, Ohio State
Jenna Wrobel, OH, Michigan State

Honorable Mention:

Melissa Beitz, S, Illinois; Karen Chase, OH, Michigan;
Sarah Gustin, MB, Michigan State; Bev Krupa,
 OH, Purdue; **Christie Landry, S, Michigan
 State**; Sherisa Livingston, MB, Wisconsin; Carrie
 Schonveld, OH, Penn State; Betsy Spicer, MB,
 Illinois; Emily Stout, MB, Penn State; Julie Williams,
 OH, Iowa

Player of the Year

Bonnie Bremner, S, Penn State

Freshman of the Year

Sherisa Livingston, MB, Wisconsin

Coach of the Year

Russ Rose, Penn State

**Mark Your Calendar for the
 Volleyball Banquet**

The 1998-98 Spartan Volleyball Banquet will be held
 Sunday January 24 starting at 1:00 p.m. The

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 group of Michigan State University women's volleyball.*

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location will be the same as last year, the Hawk
 Hollow Golf Course on Chandler Road in Bath.

We hope all Spartan fans will come and join the fun
 as we review the past year, honor the team's seniors,
 and give out awards for everything under the sun.
 The banquet will also feature raffles and a last
 chance this season to buy MSU volleyball apparel.
 Ticket information will be sent to all SideOut Club
 members as soon as it's available.

Big Ten Final Standings

The Big Ten coaches proved themselves clairvoyant
 this year, at least in predicting the top finishers in the
 conference. All four of the top pre-season vote-
 getters—Penn State, Wisconsin, MSU, and
 Illinois—finished exactly as predicted last August.
 Those four were also the only teams to wind up
 above the .500 mark in conference play, in contrast
 with last year when six teams accomplished this.

Ohio State, Northwestern, and Iowa also finished
 exactly as predicted, while Indiana and Minnesota
 swapped places between fifth and eighth, as did
 Purdue and Michigan between seventh and tenth.

Probably the biggest 1998 disappointment belonged
 to Michigan, who tied for third in the 1997 season
 and made their first NCAA tournament appearance.
 They were picked seventh by the coaches for 1998,
 but ended the year in tenth place.

1998 Finish	School	Big 10	Overall	Preseason Poll	1997 Finish
1	Penn State	20-0	30-0	1	1
2	Wisconsin	17-3	27-4	2	1
3	MSU	15-5	23-6	3	5
4	Illinois	13-7	20-10	4	7
5	Indiana	9-11	16-13	8	8
5	Ohio State	9-11	16-13	6	3
7	Purdue	8-12	14-15	10	10
8	Minnesota	7-13	17-14	5	5
9	Northwestern	5-15	15-17	9	9
10	Michigan	4-16	12-18	7	3
11	Iowa	3-17	9-20	11	11

The national coaches' poll wasn't quite as accurate when it came to Big Ten teams. The preseason poll had Penn State, Wisconsin, and MSU pegged pretty well at first, seventh, and seventeenth in the nation, but over-estimated Ohio State's capabilities, placing them thirteenth.

More Milestones for Jenna

Jenna Wrobel continues "killing" MSU's opponents. Next in sight for her is the Big Ten record for career kills. At the end of the regular season, she was 39 kills away from the all-time mark of 2,300, set by Katrien DeDecker of Minnesota from 1993 to 1996. She is also in second place in kills among active players in the NCAA, 31 kills behind the leader, Lauren Mackey of Morehead State.

Jenna led the nation for 1998 in kills per game and led all hitters on both teams in kills in 26 of the 29 regular-season matches. At Wisconsin, she tied the MSU match record of 36 kills, and set a new MSU record of 102 attempts. Whew!!

Thanks to the Volunteers

Although Club membership was down this year, we still had a good turnout of volunteers. We would like to extend our thanks to those listed below, who contributed their time this season. (Our records are not complete, and I couldn't read some of the handwriting, so please excuse any omissions or misspellings. Not included are the Board members, many of whom work for the Club at matches in addition to the many hours they put in as Board members.)

Kara Eagle	Marv Thomson	Thom Law
Cathy Caswell	Shirley Garrity	Rita Richardson
Chris Wolf	Dean Johnson	Mike Tillman
Kay Schmid	Andy Kurtz	Amy Slonim
Jeff McDonald	C.W. Riley	Kim Vanstratt
Ron Springer	Dave Pike	Rosemary Carlson
Carl Carlson	Keith Willard	Jim Johncox
Pam Badders	Kathy Lovell	Eileen Ellis
Jim Pifer	Betsy Pifer	Amy Clark
Thurm Brown	Donna Schultz	

The success of the merchandise and raffle fund-raising programs owes more than usual to Board member Jim Ellis this year. Jim not only managed the volunteer sign-up lists, but was at virtually every match, where he could be seen at the SideOut Club counter taking care of one matter or another.

In addition, there was more than one occasion when Jim took over merchandise- or ticket-selling duties when there was a shortage of volunteers. Fortunately, Jim and Eileen were able to find friends and relatives to sit in their court-side seats, so they didn't go to waste! We hope you get to use them a little more yourself next year, Jim!

Spartans Sizzle in Champaign!

The SideOut Club sponsored a one-day bus trip, organized by a group of Club members, to attend the match at Illinois on Saturday, November 14. Two members contribute their accounts of the trip:

First...from Julie Carmichael...

It was the unified spirit of the MSU volleyball fans from the 1995 Amherst trip to the Final Four that motivated me to organize a bus trip to a sure-to-be dogfight against the Fighting Illini. My committee of three consisted of Jack Carmichael, Donna Schultz, and myself. We faced two obstacles: a home game for the football team coming off the win at Ohio State, and the opening of deer-hunting season.

We wanted to be there in Champaign to support the team and cheer them on in a hostile environment. The trip down took roughly seven hours, arriving about two hours before the match. We had time for dinner and we were ready for the match by 7 pm.

That night, the streaking Spartans sizzled in front of an awestruck Illinois season-high crowd of nearly 2,600. We were among about 60 MSU fans sitting in a block. The team was very determined and very spirited throughout the match. It seemed like the team and the Spartan fans fed off each others' adrenaline. The defense at the net and the back court were the most improved aspects of the game from this spectator's point of view.

At the conclusion, approximately sixty Spartans were screaming, hugging and kissing. The Spartan team members could not keep from smiling. Even Coach

Erbe was in high spirits and celebrated with wife Becky! We were all able to visit with the team before climbing back on the bus for the return ride home.

We arrived back at the Park-and-Ride lot in Okemos at 5:30 am, tired but very happy. Many said they would like to go on the next bus trip.....!!

And ... from Kate Weldon...

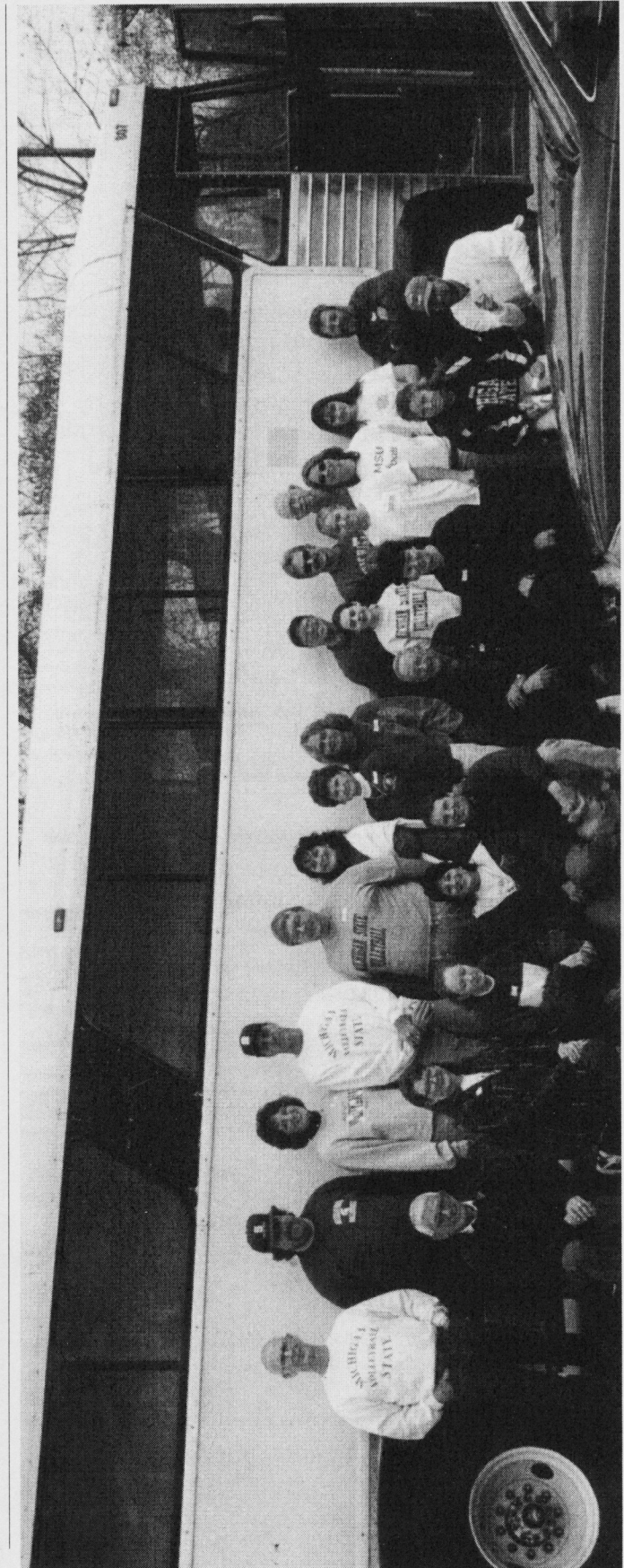
On Saturday, November 14, an enthusiastic and spirited group of MSU volleyball fans set out in support of their beloved Spartans as they took on the Fighting Illini of Illinois. It was quite impressive as the starting lineups were introduced, with spotlights circling and sound system thundering (Are we at a Chicago Bulls' game?) and the teams took the court.

The match itself was exciting and very competitive. Led by All-Universe Jenna Wrobel and excellent performances by Christie Landry and Jenny Whitehead, the Spartans prevailed 3-1 and captured their ninth win in a row. It was truly a fine team effort, and the MSU fans were a visible presence too! With towels waving and ACE/ROOF cards flashing, we cheered our team on to an important victory.

It was great fun to experience a little bit of another Big-Ten college town and interact with some of the Illini fans. Many of the Spartans had friends, family, former teachers, and even babysitters in the stands. (Did you know Laura Bush Farina is still second on the Illini career service aces list?)

Of course, taking such a trip is much more than just riding down, attending the match, and riding back. It's the camaraderie you share and the new friends you meet. Like Jack, whose wife went to Vegas, so he went to Champaign! And Randy, whose first MSU volleyball match was Wisconsin, and who is hooked for good now.

It's making a wrong turn, and getting back on track. (Thank you, Laura Willard!) It's trying to convince those high school girls who had driven from St. Louis to cheer for our side. It's posing for pictures with team members and fans. It's being able to sleep instead of driving home. Above all, it's knowing that the team truly appreciates your support. It's something we can do to give back to them. Thank you Jack, Julie, and Donna for making it happen. Let's do it again! GO GREEN!



Long Beach St. (1)

Southern

Arizona

Fresno State

Colorado

San Jose State

SW Texas State

Illinois (16)

Texas (9)

Wisconsin-Milwaukee

South Carolina

Colorado State

Notre Dame

Eastern Washington

SE Missouri State

Stanford (8)

Hawai'i (5)

Brown

Nevada

Miami (Ohio)

Northern Iowa

Indiana

New Hampshire

Arkansas (12)

USC (13)

UMBC

Texas A&M

Temple

Ohio State

Texas Tech

Chattanooga

Florida (4)

1998 NCAA Division I Tournament

Mountain Region

Central Region

East Region

Pacific Region

Penn State (2)

Bucknell

Fairfield

Clemson

Florida State

Northern Illinois

American

Louisville (15)

Pacific (10)

Florida Atlantic

Cal State Sacramento

Houston

Kansas State

Georgetown

Coastal Carolina

BYU (7)

Wisconsin (6)

Arkansas Little Rock

South Florida

San Diego

Virginia

UCLA

Santa Clara

UCSB (11)

Michigan St. (14)

Pepperdine

North Carolina

Oral Roberts

Utah

Illinois State

Morgan State

Nebraska (3)

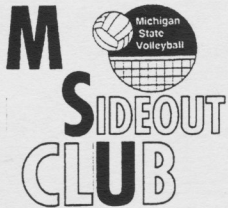
1998 Schedule and Results

(All home matches are played in Jenison Field House)

9/4	W	Eastern Michigan	15-6, 15-7, 15-11
9/5	W	Central Michigan	15-5, 15-5, 15-9
	W	Pittsburgh	15-13, 15-3, 11-15, 15-4
9/11	L	Louisville	15-13, 4-15, 4-15, 15-9, 10-15
9/12	W	Murray State	15-5, 8-15, 15-4, 15-9
		MCSA Russia (exhibition, loss 0-3)	
9/18	W	Utah	15-12, 15-9, 16-14
9/19	W	New Hampshire	15-7, 15-4, 15-10
9/19	W	Notre Dame	15-6, 15-13, 15-11
9/25	L	ILLINOIS	7-15, 14-16, 15-11, 2-15
9/26	W	PURDUE	15-12, 15-7, 15-7
10/2	L	@Indiana	12-15, 15-11, 13-15, 13-15
10/3	W	@Northwestern	15-7, 15-8, 15-4
10/7	W	@Michigan	15-10, 15-12, 15-5
10/10	W	MINNESOTA	15-10, 15-5, 15-13
10/16	W	@Ohio State	15-9, 15-10, 14-16, 15-9
10/17	L	@Penn State	3-15, 7-15, 6-15

10/23	W	IOWA	15-11, 15-9, 15-8
10/24	W	WISCONSIN	9-15, 15-13, 5-15, 15-13, 15-12
10/28	W	Western Michigan	15-9, 15-9, 15-7
10/30	W	NORTHWESTERN	15-7, 9-15, 15-4, 15-10
10/31	W	INDIANA	15-7, 5-15, 15-7, 15-12
11/4	W	MICHIGAN	15-8, 15-3, 10-15, 8-15, 15-9
11/6	W	@Minnesota	15-7, 15-7, 10-15, 15-4
11/12	W	@Purdue	15-7, 15-6, 17-15
11/14	W	@Illinois	15-12, 8-15, 15-8, 15-10
11/20	L	PENN STATE	6-15, 7-15, 13-15
11/22	W	OHIO STATE	15-12, 15-12, 15-13
11/27	L	@Wisconsin	11-15, 12-15, 15-12, 11-15
11/28	W	@Iowa	15-9, 15-11, 15-13

12/3	PEPPERDINE	8:00 p.m.
12/4	NCAA second round	6:00 p.m.
12/10-13	NCAA Regionals	
12/17-19	NCAA Final Four in Madison, Wisconsin	



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