Letter from Cathy

Hi Everyone,

It’s hard to believe we are already 5 weeks into the season and ready to open the Big Ten this Friday! Of course, who better to open with than Nebraska? It was only a few years ago when our two teams met in the Sweet Sixteen. Once again Nebraska is ranked in the top ten and will be a force to be reckoned with. Saturday night we welcome Iowa who has been off to a strong start in the preseason. Although they are currently 0-2 in the Big Ten, they gave both PSU and OSU quite a run for their money. Along with the start of the Big Ten season come many new planned events. Friday begins the Kids Court! Former MSU player, Mary Jo Hardy, runs a free clinic for children 8th grade and under interested in learning how to play volleyball. Friday also gives us an opportunity to thank all those Spartan fund volleyball donors in the lobby at Jenison prior to the match. Lou Anna Simon will thank all the donors and give a special recognition to Bob and Julie Skandalaris for their very generous donation to the Jenison field house project.

As a member of the Side Out club there are always benefits to enjoy. Don’t forget that at all Saturday matches we will be hosting the Side Out Club pizza parties in the pipe and drape suite. This Saturday meet Hockey coach, Tom Anastos, MSU’s newest addition to the coaching family, as he will be on hand to meet and greet between 6:15 and 6:30! Wear your pajamas and get in free while showing your support and helping to raise awareness of childhood cancer!

We look forward to charging ahead in the Big Ten Season. Recognizing that it is a great challenge with 5 Big Ten teams currently ranked in the country’s Top 12, the Spartans continue to work hard and improve every day! If you watched us play in early September, come see us again as we have become stronger, tougher and a better team each day. The Spartans look forward to your boisterous support as we take on the nation’s finest in Jenison Field House!

Cathy
Volleyball Adopts Olivia

The volleyball program has joined with the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation and adopted Olivia (and her family)—a 9 year old girl from DeWitt that was diagnosed with cancer.

The Friends of Jaclyn Foundation matches a child in need of love, support and friendship with a college or high school sports team based in their geographical area and we’re blessed to be matched up with Olivia.

After the adoption is completed, the child becomes an extension of the team where a unique bond is formed between the team members, the child and the family. The benefit to all is a personal loving support network that creates a special bond. Additionally, Friends of Jaclyn has seen these relationships forge a closer bond among team members, magnifying the importance of a team operating as a single unit.

We met Olivia, her parents Jen and Rich, and her family during our preseason and brought the whole family laser tagging with the team and staff. Though it’s not important (lol, of course it’s important), the staff team which also had members of Olivia’s family—Jen, Rich and brothers were laser tag ringers—crushed the opposition. It was great to meet the entire family and have some fun. After two intense games—one in which Ryian Hubbard and Kori Moster had Cathy pinned to the ground begging for mercy—the family and team headed to Troppo for a delicious dinner.

The team is keeping in touch with Olivia via text messaging, emails, phone calls, facebook and twitter postings. We look forward to seeing Olivia and her family again at upcoming matches and spending more time getting to know them.

To learn more about the foundation visit www.friendsofjaclyn.org
Preseason Review

The Preseason culminated with a 3rd tournament championship as we took care of Ball State, Virginia Commonwealth, and Sacred Heart in the Spartan Invitational. The tournament concluded a successful pre-conference schedule and vaulted our record to 11-1. Many of the teams that we defeated will likely go on to do very well within their respective conferences. Ball State, Sacred Heart, VCU, and UCF will all likely vie for their respective conference championships which, in turn, will help our RPI (strength of schedule). The preseason also allowed the coaching staff the opportunity to try out several players in a variety of positions to gain invaluable experience that will be called upon throughout the rest of the season. Overall, we were pretty pleased with the development of the team throughout the 4 weeks of tournament play but know we must continually improve in order to succeed within the conference.

Big Ten Preview

As I’m sure you already are well aware—the Big Ten Conference is as competitive as ever this year with 5 teams in this week’s Top 12 (Illinois—#1). With every passing week, we are forced to adapt to different styles of play. The need to adapt has really expanded our learning. Here’s a small preview of the next 4 matches.

Nebraska—ranked #7 nationally, the Huskers are a solid team. They defeated Penn State the opening weekend of the season and are 2-0 in conference play. Their attack will spread our block from pin to pin and give us a good test. We look to show them how difficult it is to play on the road and we get ready to host them Friday night at Jenison Field House.

Iowa—They’re a better team than their 10-5 record would indicate. Though they lost both week 1 contests, they battled Ohio State and Penn State tough taking a game from the Buckeyes and pushing Penn State to 23-25 twice. We’ll have to play well and get at them with our serve and pass game.

Minnesota—With a lot of attention being paid to Illinois, Nebraska, and Penn State—the Gophers are the best team in the conference that few people talk about—currently ranked #10. They dropped a tough 5 set match to Illinois in week 1, but they are a savvy group of ballplayers that can attack in the middle and at the pins.

Wisconsin—The Badgers have the talent to do very well this year, but their inconsistent play has plagued them early in this season. We’ll look to put pressure on them early in the match to get at the inconsistency but know this one will be a dogfight if both teams play well.
As we did last year, the Volleyball Program will sponsor a very cool awareness night to raise childhood cancer awareness. All fans are being asked to come to the match dressed in their PJ’s in support of children who have been diagnosed with cancer. There are thousands of children in treatment for cancer in the United States. These children spend months to years in treatment, and they spend a considerable amount of time in their pajamas. Through this event, fans will show their support for these children and their families in a very symbolic way. All fans that wear their pajamas will be admitted FREE to the match—so bust out your flannel long johns, robes, slippers, and footy pajamas and support the fight against childhood cancer!

Taylor Galloway Back in Action!

We welcomed back Taylor Galloway to practice this past week as she had previously been sidelined with sickness. Though her recovery is not 100% complete, she is building her strength and conditioning level back to where it needs to be so she can be called upon to contribute. We missed having her in the gym and look forward to seeing what she’ll do in Green and White!

Spartans in Statistical Rankings

It’s 5 weeks into the 2011 season and the Spartans are holding strong in several statistical categories! Keep in mind there are 320 Division 1 programs—and over 2,500 athletes!

- The team ranks #1 NATIONALLY with a .321 Hitting Percentage.
- The team ranks #9 NATIONALLY with 3.01 Blocks per set.
- The team ranks #13 NATIONALLY with 14.31 Kills per set.
- The team ranks #13 NATIONALLY with 13.36 Assists per set.
- Alexis Mathews ranks #10 NATIONALLY with 1.49 Blocks per set and #12 NATIONALLY with a hitting percentage of .411.

WAY TO GO SPARTANS!
Letter from the Board—Cheryl Bartholic

Your Board is being fiscally responsible. Below is a list of reporting items that we complete.

1) No longer have 50/50 raffle so that eliminates license risk and cash handling risk.

2) We file Form 990-N with the IRS. This is an e-filing just to confirm our standing as a 501(c)(3).

3) We file Annual renewal with the State of Michigan Dept. of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth. This is a filing to confirm with the State of Michigan our standing as a Michigan nonprofit corporation.

4) We file an Annual sales tax return with the State of Michigan for our merchandise sales. Also, over the past year we have been filing quarterly because our annual sales in 2010 exceeded $12,500.

5) We do not have our financials audited by an outside accounting firm. Financial statements are reviewed at each club meeting by the Club’s Board of Directors. Detailed financial records are independently reviewed by a Board Member on an annual or semi-annual basis. We have a dual control system when receiving cash.

6) We file an Annual Compliance Report with MSU Athletic Department.

Let us know if you ever want to see the SOC financial statements or have questions on any of these reporting requirements.

A big thanks to Chuck Riley for his many years of service on the SOC Board. Welcome to Rachel Walsh and Tim Salinas, new board members. We are looking for another board member and a Treasurer if anyone is interested, please contact Marge Bossenberry.

Membership Update: We are nearing the end of our membership drive for 2011 and need your help with recruiting additional SOC members. We had 88 members in 2009, 122 members in 2010, and so far this year we have ....... 97 members. Our goal is to have 140 SOC members and we can still do it! There are still about 40 members from last year that have not yet renewed and if we can get your help with asking a friend to join, we will be at our goal before we know it.

Thanks for being a Sideout Club member and promoting and supporting MSU Women’s Volleyball.

Donor Reception—September 30th

The invitations have been sent, the party is about to begin! Friday, September 30 not only kicks off the Michigan State home Big Ten Season, but it also marks the celebration of our donors, who make so many opportunities into realities for the volleyball program. Starting at 5:30pm in the Jenison lobby, we will be welcoming and thanking those who have given to the Spartan Fund on behalf of volleyball this year. The reception and program will be emceed by Associate Athletic Director Shelley Appelbaum and Spartan Fund liaison Erin Clark and will include remarks by President Simon, Trustee Foster, and Coach Cathy George. The Spartan Fund is the fundraising arm of the Michigan State Athletic Department. Donations of any size may be specifically allocated for volleyball and 100% of these funds directly benefit our program. For more information, please visit www.msuspartans.com/spartanfund. Thank you to all who have given!

SideOut Club Tailgate—October 8th

Join us on the green in the south parking lot of Jenison (in front of the main entrance) for the 12th Annual Volleyball Tailgate Party at 3:30pm before the match against Minnesota. Bring a dish or grillable items to share with other volleyball fans. This is a great way to meet and mingle with other members of the SideOut Club. If you can bring a grill, charcoal, or a folding table, please contact Cathy Caswell at 517-332-4353 or caswell@msu.edu.
SIDEOUT CLUB NEWS

Thank You BCP!

A big thanks to Blohm Creative Partners for donating the graphic design and layout services for the SOC membership application.

Important Dates to Remember

October 8th—SideOut Club Tailgate

Pre-Game Pizza Parties—10/1, 10/29, 11/19, 11/26

Coach Luncheon— NOON—Hall of Fame Café—9/29, 10/27, 11/17

Admission to Luncheon is free, full lunch menu available for purchase. Bring a friend.

President: Cheryl Bartholic
Vice-president: Marge Bossenbery
Treasurer: Pam Ruth
Secretary: Shirley Garrity
Board Members:
Jim Constandt
Susan Epple
Dave Martz
Lynda White
Cheryl Bartholic
Marge Bossenbery
Pam Ruth
Shirley Garrity
Pete Cronk
DeAnna Fenech
Cathy Richter
Tim Salinas
Rachel Walsh

The Service Line

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