Lowe’s Senior Class Award Finalist—Kori Moster

Kori Moster is among the ten NCAA women’s volleyball student-athletes who excel both on and off the court were selected as finalists today for the 2014 Senior CLASS Award in collegiate volleyball. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence – community, classroom, character and competition. These are all traits that stand out in Kori.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

The finalists were chosen by a media committee from the list of 30 candidates announced in September. Nationwide fan voting (link listed below) begins immediately to help select the winner. Fans are encouraged to vote on the Senior CLASS Award website through December 8. Fan votes will be combined with media and Division I head coaches’ votes to determine the winner.

The Senior CLASS Award winner will be announced during the 2014 NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship in December.

Spartan Fans—we need your help in voting for Kori! @MichStVB tweets all the time about voting—or you can go to the link listed below. I believe you can vote once a day per device so vote early and vote often—and help spread the word to others! Thanks to all of those people who have already taken the time to vote and we hope you’ll continue through December 8.

Congratulations to Kori on her nomination and best of luck to her in the voting process!

www.seniorclassaward.com/vote/volleyball_2014
Spartan Fund Endowment Winners

The Spartan Fund Announced it’s 2014 Endowment winners and we were pleased to have three volleyball players among the recipients. Endowment scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the Athletic Department to those student athletes who meet specific criteria and are already receiving athletic aid. The endowment dollars offset the cost of their scholarship dollars for the volleyball program and free those funds to be used for other projects/needs.

Jazmine White was awarded the Michael and Anna Miller Family Athletics Endowed Scholarship. Jazmine was recognized for her quality academic standing. This particular Endowed Scholarship was open to all athletes on campus regardless of sport.

Chloe Reinig was awarded the E. Mackey and Mary Lu King Athletics Scholarship. Chloe was recognized for her work in the classroom and won the award that was specifically designed to give opportunities to athletes in sports other than Football and Basketball.

Taylor Galloway was awarded The Holcomb Family Athletics Scholarship Endowment. Taylor was recognized for her academic achievement and stood out to the committee. This endowment was open to all athletes in Softball, Basketball, Hockey and Volleyball.

Congratulations to all of the Endowment winners and thank you so much to the Individuals and Families who have donated the appropriate funds to make these scholarships possible.

Kori Surpasses 2,000 digs

Congratulations to Kori Moster as she surpassed 2,000 career digs in the match vs. Penn State. The feat has only been done by a handful of people in Big Ten Volleyball history and is a tribute to her tireless work effort as well as longevity at the position. Kori currently sits in 6th place on the All-Time Digs list and has the ability to push as high as second place before season’s end. The All-Time leader, Paula Gentil from Minnesota (2001-2004), set the mark at 2,791—although it should be noted that she played her entire career in the 30-pt. Rally Scoring Era as a libero which translates to quite a few more defensive opportunities over the course of a 4 year career.

Kori has already secured the Michigan State Volleyball Career record.
Richard Alban Memorial

We wanted to pass along some information that a few people have been asking about since the passing of Richard Alban. His daughters have let us know that his memorial is scheduled for November 15th, at 3PM. The memorial will be hosted by The Brunch House (1040 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing Charter Township, MI 48912). It was his favorite diner and restaurant. If you can attend, order the Lebanese Salad. He told us it was the best thing on the menu and we all ordered one in his honor after his passing. It’s now my favorite salad and I think of Richard each time I get it. We hope that many of you that knew Richard will be able to attend as it’s the same day that we take on Indiana (7pm).
Letter From Cathy George

November has quickly approached and we find ourselves right in the middle of the Big Ten standings. With 7 of the 10 first round matches being on the road, we are happy to finally get some home cooking! The team is hosting Minnesota and Wisconsin in this weekend and the stakes are high as usual. We are pleased with our continual improvement but know we must play solid and together to put ourselves in good position for the NCAA tournament. Friday night is scheduled for 6:30 as the Men’s Basketball team plays at 8:00, so get here early and make it a double header. Sunday we feature #4 Wisconsin at 1:00p.m. This is the first time we have hosted on a Sunday but we are expecting a great turnout! It is always so exciting to have such great competition in Jenison Field House! Both teams are very good so we are calling on your support for both matches!! Also, please cast your votes for Kori Moster who is a finalist for the NCAA Senior Class Award!! (Information on voting is included in this newsletter).

Thanks again for all your support!

See you soon!

Cathy

Minnesota
Friday, November 7
6:30 pm ET

The Gophers sit at 4-8 in conference play through 12 matches which is not the Minnesota squad that Spartan fans have seen over the past 10 years. Make no mistake about it, the Gophers have physicality and talent to rival many of the elite teams in the conference; however, like many other B1G teams, they’ve struggled to find the consistency they need to perform night in and night out. They’re a dangerous team when they are all in sync.

The Spartans are going to have to serve tough to eliminate their strong middle attack which can get rolling and be a challenge to stop as well as manage the big Gopher block with smart shots and relentless coverage to extend rallies. A balanced attack by the Spartans will spread the block apart and create more opportunities to score for all of our attackers. We’ll need to be on our toes and ready to defend off speed out-of-system swings as Hugh McCutchen as been known to teach a low-risk, low-reward mentality to his team.

*Note that Men’s Basketball plays at 8pm following our match—so prepare to park in a lot other than Jenison (Kellogg Center would be a good option). Friday will also be Fan Appreciation Day for volleyball—all tickets are FREE so bring a friend and help expose them to our sport. Season ticket holders will still have their seats reserved.

#4 Wisconsin
Sunday, November 9
1 pm ET

The #4 Badgers are playing about as well as any team in the B1G right now and sit atop the conference at 11-1 through 12 matches. The Badgers are efficient and balanced with their attack led by All-American setter Lauren Carlini. They are a veteran team that returns a lot from a year ago and are savvy on both offense and defense.

To find success, the Spartans are going to have to win the serve and pass battle and stay in system offensively. The Badgers are undersized (although skilled) at the net. If the Spartans can stay “in system,” we can keep the pressure on them. Also, we’ll have to limit the amount of free points we give them on our errors and match their typical high-efficiency style. The Badgers are unafraid to keep the ball in play during long rallies as they rely on their excellent defense to get the ball back. We’ll need to match their defensive intensity and win the long, emotional rallies to get the crowd going! They’re a good team—but so are we.

*Note that match time is at 1pm on Sunday afternoon due to the Saturday night football game vs. Ohio State and although there is a Home Women’s Basketball game at 4pm on Sunday, we do not anticipate parking conflicts. The match will also be Military Appreciation Day as well as a Junior Class Meet & Greet following the matinee game.