

VOLLEYBALL NEWS

Apr/May 2001

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New Recruits

[by Coach Rose/Michael Schall]

Ashley Pederson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota has signed a letter of intent to join the Penn State Women's Volleyball Team in the fall of 2001. Pederson led Roosevelt High School to the South Dakota State Championship in volleyball in 2000 and a runner-up finish in 2001 as a middle blocker. She was a four year starter for the Rough Riders as well as a key member of the basketball team, which won four straight state basketball titles along with 83 consecutive victories.

Ashley received first team all-state honors in her sophomore, junior, and senior years in volleyball and holds the school records in kills, aces and single season hitting percentage. She was also chosen to participate in the 1998 Colorado Olympic Training Camp and was a Youth National Team alternate in 1998 and 1999. She plays for the Southwest Minnesota Juniors Volleyball Club.

Syndie Nadeau, a 6'1" outside hitter, has also signed a national letter of intent to compete for the Nittany Lions in the fall of 2001. Syndie will graduate from Cegep Beauce-Appalaches in Quebec, Canada. She competed for the Condors Elites de Beauce club program and was coached by Annie Beauchemin.

Syndie is a two time all star of the AAA Collegial League and an all star for the Canadian Eastern Cup. In 1999, she was selected as the best rookie of the Quebec Volleyball Federation and was a member of the provincial team.

Coach's Corner

[by Coach Rose]

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

The 2001 season is going to have a number of new looks as the rules of the game have changed and the roster changes throughout the conference make for an interesting and challenging 2001 collegiate women's season.

The rule changes as discussed by Mike in his article points out the differences, but the impact of the changes are going to take some time to understand and trust me in saying that I have been spending lot of time talking to with as many coaches as possible who have extensive experience in the new scoring format.

The challenge for the staff will be to try and find the opportune method of exposing our strengths and hiding our weaknesses-you might think that has always been the goal but I have felt at times that we had a good enough side out game that we could settle down and prevent the opponent from scoring. Now with rally scoring-a few errors or scarier yet a few lapses in confidence and an opponent may have a big enough

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lead that may force you to take chances-and volleyball in my previous mind set has not been about taking chances.

We did have the chance to experiment with the new rules as we hosted a tournament with Virginia, Juniata, Army, and Rhode Island as well as traveled to Las Vegas and played against UNLV, Kansas State, Oregon State, Northern Arizona, and Pac 10 Champion Arizona. We won all of our matches in the spring up to our Championship match with Arizona. They were just a little more physical and experienced-especially as we were starting three first year players. Arizona showed the returning players that there are other teams out there in the collegiate landscape that have good skills and a fighting spirit-and will be in the mix when next years champion is decided.

I think we will have some opportunities to see where we stack up in the national picture as we play both Stanford, Long Beach as well as a continuing improving Big Ten Conference. In conference, I would think that with the arrival of rally scoring and the depth of the teams in the conference that the conference champion may have up to five losses. I hate to predict order of finish as it exposes me to underestimating some of our opponents and providing bulletin board material but I like the chances of Wisconsin-following their National Runner-up finish, and the experience that players gain from making a NCAA tournament run. Ohio State and Michigan return very experienced teams and veteran setters and will be buoyed by the conferences' best outside hitter recruits in my opinion and Minnesota and Wisconsin were both assisted by the transfer of experienced players from the University of Texas.

I could make a case for each of the teams to be considered as a key match but the opposite is true in that our opponents have to be concerned with the returning players that we have as well as the development that we saw from both freshmen Jess Hayden and Cara Smith in the spring. The summer will

give us a chance to see how the players are addressing some of the challenges that were placed on their plates, and hopefully we'll have the type of team that we can all be proud of in 2001.

I want to thank all of you for your support and even though we lost one of our dearest supporters just recently in I.B. Sinclair-our hearts will be heavy but I know that I'll hear his "Sideout-Penn State" in my ears and hopefully his spirit will keep the program striving to do all Penn Staters proud. See you in the fall and feel free to stop by if you are in town to check on the progress of the future of the program.

Coach

2001 Penn State Women's Volleyball Schedule

AUGUST

**Penn State Invitational Tournament
(August 31-September 1)
31 VILLANOVA 7:30 p.m.**

SEPTEMBER

**Penn State Invitational Tournament
(August 31-September 1)
1 LOYOLA COLLEGE 10:00 a.m.
NORTH CAROLINA 7:00 p.m.
4 STANFORD 7:30 p.m.**

**Penn State Classic Tournament
(September 7-8)
7 GEORGE MASON 7:30 p.m.
8 UNC-ASHEVILLE 10:00 a.m.
RUTGERS 7:00 p.m.
15 at Long Beach State 7:00 p.m.
16 Cal-Irvine at Long Beach 3:00 p.m.
21 INDIANA 7:00 p.m.**

22 ILLINOIS 7:00 p.m.
26 at Ohio State 7:00 p.m.
29 PURDUE 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

5 at Wisconsin 7:00 p.m.
6 at Northwestern 7:00 p.m.
12 MINNESOTA 7:00 p.m.
13 IOWA 7:00 p.m.
19 at Michigan State 7:00 p.m.
20 at Michigan 7:00 p.m.
26 NORTHWESTERN 7:00 p.m.
27 WISCONSIN 7:00 p.m.
31 OHIO STATE 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

2 at Purdue 7:00 p.m.
9 at Illinois 7:00 p.m.
10 at Indiana 7:00 p.m.
16 MICHIGAN 7:00 p.m.
17 MICHIGAN STATE 7:00 p.m.
23 at Iowa 7:00 p.m.
24 at Minnesota 7:00 p.m.

*Capital letters indicate a home match played in Rec Hall.
All times are local to site.*

East Coast Tournament

[by Booster Club Board]

Volunteers will be needed for the East Coast Volleyball tournament. Please contact Lynn Palmer at lhpal142nb.net. The tournament involves high schools from all over the East Coast and is one of the larger fund raisers for the year for the Penn State Women's Volleyball Booster Club. Volunteers are needed to sell t-shirts at several locations during the tournament weekend.

This is a club tournament for teams from all parts of the country although mostly the East and Canadian east. Age groups from 12 to 18 and approximately 500 teams come to play over three days.

Rule Changes for 2001-2002 Season

[by Michael Schall]

For those of you who keep a pulse on the volleyball world during the "off-season," the following rule changes may come as no surprise. However, to many of you, this article is important to read if you want to be current on the happenings of women's college volleyball. Below, I will highlight the significant rule changes that affect the play of the game.

The first major change in the rules is in the scoring format itself. Rather than traditional, sideout scoring to fifteen, a women's college volleyball match will now consist of best three out of five games to thirty points (in games one through four) using rally score and a fifth game to fifteen points using rally score if necessary. All games must be won by two points. In our spring tournament and in practices, we have found that a typical thirty point rally score game lasts between twenty and twenty-five minutes.

Another significant change is the let serve rule, which allows a served ball to hit the net and go over the net and still be considered in play. Also related to serving, a server is no longer allowed to toss the ball and let it drop and then serve again. No re-toss will be permitted and the ball must be served within eight seconds after the official beckons for service.

An experimental rule that may create some excitement is the addition of Rule 9.6.1. I should note that if either coach elects not to play by the modified rule, the rule will not be used. Rule 9.6.1 states that after a team's first contact, a ball that has passed completely beyond the center line over or outside the antenna may be retrieved if it is returned to that team's playing area over or outside the antenna.

You will now be the most knowledgeable volleyball enthusiast around the water cooler!

Mike

Booster Feedback/Request for Articles

[by Newsletter Editor/Daryl Hoffman]

If you have any topics, suggestions or comments about the format of the Penn State Women's Volleyball Booster Club Newsletter, please email them to daryl.hoffman@psualum.com or send them via snail mail to:

Daryl Hoffman
RR1 Box 293-7
Montrose, PA 18801

The Convergence of the ...

[by Roger Dietz]

With apologies to Thomas Hardy we had a convergence of athletic ability and determination when a member of the women's team broke out of the pack. Interestingly it was April 14, 1912 that the ice connected with the Titanic. It was April 14, 2001 when "ICE" broke out for the fans to see. Erin Iceman demonstrated for the few fans in attendance during the spring tournament the promise that Russ saw in her two or three years ago. During her first two years on the squad Erin played very little but with her power hitting, blocking and overall fine play we can expect to see more of her in the coming seasons.

This year's spring event had teams from The University of Virginia, University of Rhode Island, Juniata College and the U.S. Military Academy. The format was two games of 30 points and a third game of 15 always played despite the results of the first two. The serve net rule was employed with rally scoring but no LIBERO. The event began at 9AM and concluded about 4:30PM with a long lunch break. There were perhaps 100 people in the stands with many of the familiar Rec.

Hall volleyball crowd in attendance. A new fan made his appearance late in the day along with his mother: Welcome, Mr. Justin Appelman!

Although score was kept for all the games the event is designed to allow the players to compete against someone other than their teammates. Consequently substitutions were frequent and maybe rotations were allowed some flexibility. In any event the Women of Penn State seemed to dominate most of the teams with competitive fire evident when they played Juniata. Is it the location? The Lady coach who is the wife of Penn State's Men's team? Friendships? or what? Who knows but the team seemed to be more together and determined against this opposition. To me the surprise was the ability of the team from the University of Virginia. They had a solid chemistry and two women who were very talented creating good blocks and making some very skilled. . They stirred up the Penn State women with some very solid play. It was rumored that Russ had considered these two as possible recruits.

If it matters I think Penn State lost only one game and that was to the team from West Point. This was the first match and our ladies seemed to have dropped some incentive after the second game win. Playing down to competition is a characteristic that this team cannot afford given their schedule. As mentioned many substitutions were used with the entire squad, except for the red shirts, playing. Miss Jessica, (Someone called her "Mustang" and that seems appropriate) had a good day with accurate sets and putting some balls on the floor that stayed down.

Katie "the Schu", raised some "Ooh Yah"s" along with Miska when they created heat. Hilary (Twitch) Sexton was very quick and burning ozone despite having a below average day in the passing department. Shannon (Chicken) Bortner had a couple of

good back row kills and made several assisted blocks. I think the blocking was better than we saw most of last year. I cannot evaluate the blocking against this kind of competition but suspect that with Iceman, Levy and Schumacher and then Cara and Nadia filling those holes we may see better Big Ten numbers.

Daffodils, forsythia and now the spring event, can the season be far behind?

Summer/Fall Picnic Information

[by Booster Club Board]

The picnic will be held Sunday, August 12, 2001. The picnic will be held at Sunset Park in State College from 12-4. Information and further details will follow in the July newsletter.

Pop's Scholarship Update

[by Booster Club Board]

Anyone who is a member of the Nittany Lion Club may earmark their donation to the NLC to the Pop's Scholarship. If you wish to do this, or already have done so, please contact Coach Rose, or Linda Echard the Booster Club Treasurer to insure that the donation is made to the desired Scholarship.

Note: Any donations made to the NLC are deposited into the general scholarship fund if not specified.

Booster Luncheons with Coach Rose

[by Booster Club Board]

Luncheons are currently scheduled for Friday's on the following dates: August 31; September 21; October 12; and November 16.

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