

# 2006 IN REVIEW





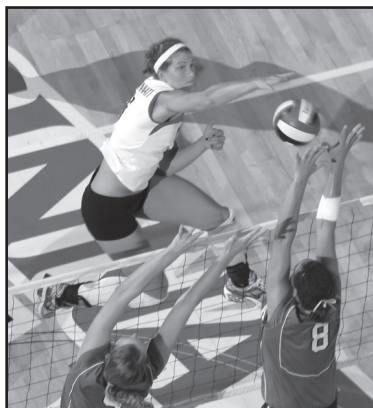
# 2006 IN REVIEW

## Bearcats Win 20 Matches For 12th Straight Season

The 2006 season for the University of Cincinnati will be remembered as a successful one. Despite a disappointing finish, the Bearcats posted a 22-7 record, finishing tied for third in the BIG EAST. Even while fielding a young team—four starters had one year or less of significant experience—head coach Reed Sunahara guided his charges to the program's 12th consecutive 20-win season.

### Home Court Heroics

Cincinnati has enjoyed a strong home court advantage since the opening of Fifth Third Arena in 1989. In the 17 years the building has been in existence, the Bearcats have posted a 148-58 (.718) record at home and are 83-11 (.883) over the past eight seasons. During the program's time in Fifth Third, it has enjoyed two lengthy win streaks, including a school-record 23 match string that ended in 2004. At the time the streak was snapped, it represented the third-longest active streak in the nation. UC's loss to Notre Dame in the BIG EAST Championship on Nov. 17 snapped the Bearcats' 10-match home court win streak. The Bearcats ended the year with a 13-2 home mark.



### No Sophomore Slump

As a redshirt freshman in 2005, Jessie Nevitt was outstanding, earning first team All-BIG EAST honors and winning the league's rookie of the year award. One year later, Nevitt was even better, again earning first team All-BIG EAST honors and ranking first in the conference in blocks per game (1.68) and second in hitting percentage (.367). Nevitt was a force both offensively (double figure kills 18 times) and defensively (at least five blocks 21 times) during an outstanding sophomore campaign.

The Kennesaw, Ga. native finished the season on a tear, averaging 3.74 kills and 1.82 blocks per game, while hitting .409 in the last 14 matches of the year.

### Bearcats Earn BIG EAST Honors

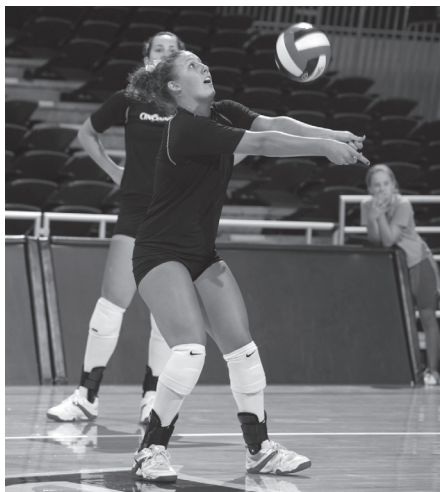
Led by Jessie Nevitt's first-team selection, a trio of Cincinnati players were named to the all-BIG EAST squads. Nevitt was joined on the all-BIG EAST teams by seniors Myanna Hellsten and Noel Olson, who both received second-team laurels. Nevitt became just the sixth UC player ever to earn first team all-conference honors twice during her career. Hellsten was an all-conference selection for the second time in her career, with Olson being honored for the first time.

### Keeping Up The Tradition

Cincinnati continued to build on its lengthy tradition, as its Nov. 10 win over Georgetown extended the program's streak of 20-win seasons to 12. UC will enter next season, just one victory shy of the 750th win in program history.

### The Young Get Younger

When Natalie Dossman was lost for the season in the third match of the year, an already young Bearcats' squad got younger with freshman Jaime Frey assuming the starting libero position. The Cincinnati native held her own, averaging a BIG EAST-best 5.38 digs per game. She was even better in BIG EAST matches, averaging a league-leading 6.10 digs per game in conference play. Frey recorded at least 20 digs in eight of 14 BIG EAST matches to set a league record for most 20+ dig performances in league play. After a career-best 37 dig performance against Notre Dame on Nov. 19, Frey now holds or shares the UC records for most digs in a three-game (33 vs. Notre Dame, Oct. 28), four-game (35 vs. Dayton, Oct. 31) and five-game (37 vs. Notre Dame, Nov. 17) match. She was also named the BIG EAST Rookie of the Week on Oct. 30.



*Jaime Frey led the BIG EAST in digs per game as a true freshman in 2006.*

### In Good Hands

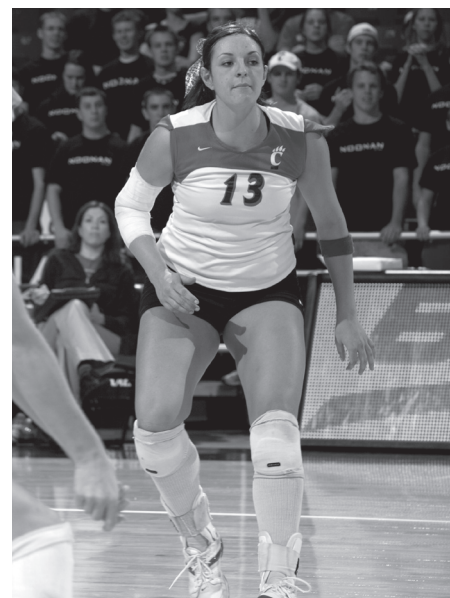
Senior setter Noel Olson wrapped up a strong career with a season to remember in 2006. The second-team all-BIG EAST selection showed steady improvement each year, averaging a BIG EAST-best 12.71 assists per game in 2006. Olson finished as one of the top setters in program history, as she ranks among the leaders in school history in career assists (2nd- 4,345) and assists per game (5th-9.57).

### In Good Company

Myanna Hellsten joined an elite club on Oct. 31 against Dayton, registering the 1,000th kill of her career. Hellsten is just the 12th Bearcat ever to reach the milestone. With a total of 1,071 to her credit, Hellsten finished her career ranked ninth on UC's career kills list.

### The New Kid In Town

Sophomore Jessica Elley is on the fast track to stardom after her play in 2006. Following in the footsteps of previous outside hitters, Julie DuPont and Maria Pongonis, Elley led the team with 3.54 kills per game, while adding 3.37 digs and 0.99 blocks per game. She had a career-best 24 kills at Pittsburgh on Nov. 3 and recorded a career-high nine blocks on Nov. 10 vs. Georgetown. She also posted the first 15 double-doubles of her career. Elley was named to the all-tournament team at the State Farm Bearcats Invitational and was tabbed the MVP of the Radisson Hotel Invite, along with a BIG EAST Player of the Week award on Sept. 2.



*Jessica Elley had a breakout season in 2006, leading the Bearcats in kills per game.*



### Bearcats' Block Party

Cincinnati hosted a season-long block party in 2006, ranking near the top of the BIG EAST (third) and national (ninth) leaderboards with 3.41 blocks per game. The duo of Jessie Nevitt and Myanna Hellsten led the charge, averaging 1.68 and 1.37 blocks per game, respectively. Nevitt held the top spot in the BIG EAST, taking over a position Hellsten held most of the season.

Three times during 2006, UC set or matched several blocks records. On Sept. 2 at Bradley, Hellsten posted an individual record 12, while the team set marks for most total blocks (22.0) and block assists (36) in a three-game match. On Oct. 20 vs. Seton Hall, Nevitt set four-game records for block assists (12) and total blocks (14), with the second mark equalling the highest in any match by a UC player. Nevitt did it against vs. Georgetown on Nov. 10, tying the three-game match record with 13 total blocks.

### Custer's Contributions

Junior Jenny Custer was a solid contributor to UC's success this season, ranking third on the team with 3.02 kills per game and adding 2.43 digs. An improvement in blocking was also key, as Custer averaged a career-best 1.00 per game. She turned in the biggest outing of her career on Sept. 1 against Austin Peay, tying a then-school record with 10 block assists in a three-game match. Custer was at her best with a career-high 22 kills at Syracuse on Sept. 24, including six during the final nine points of UC's deciding Game 4 victory. She also finished the season ranked third in the BIG EAST with 0.51 service aces per game.

### Noting the Bearcats

- The Bearcats posted a 22-7 record and finished in a four-way tie for third in the BIG EAST at 10-4. UC fell in the quarterfinals of the BIG EAST Championship to Notre Dame.
- Cincinnati's win over Georgetown on Nov. 10 handed the Bearcats their 12th consecutive 20-win season.
- Jessica Elley led a balanced Bearcats offense, averaging a career-best 3.54 kills per game and adding 3.37 digs and 0.99 blocks per game.
- Jaime Frey ranked first in the BIG EAST in digs per game with 5.43, while averaging 6.10 digs per game in league play to also rank first. Three times, Frey made her mark in the UC record books, setting the mark for digs in a three-game and five-game match and matching the four-game record. She has also established a BIG EAST record for most league matches collecting at least 20 digs with eight.
- The Bearcats ranked ninth nationally with 3.41 blocks per game. Sophomore Jessie Nevitt led three players averaging over a block per game, ranking sixth in the nation at 1.68 per game.
- The Bearcats set or matched a total of seven different single-match individual or team blocks records.
- Cincinnati held a 13-2 record at home, losing only to No. 10 UCLA and in the BIG EAST Championship quarterfinals to Notre Dame. In between, UC won 10 straight in Fifth Third Arena.
- The Bearcats held a record of 7-2 against regional rivals, including the program's first-ever win over Notre Dame.
- The Bearcats participated in the Dig for a Cure program on Nov. 12, raising over \$900 for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

### 2006 Individual Honors



**Jenny Custer**

- Radisson Hotel, Colorado Invitational All-Tournament Teams



**Jessica Elley**

- BIG EAST Player of the Week
- MVP Radisson Hotel Invitational
- Bearcats Invitational All-Tournament Team



**Jaime Frey**

- BIG EAST Rookie of the Week
- Team Co-Best Defensive Player



**Myanna Hellsten**

- All-BIG EAST second team
- Team co-best defensive player
- Stephanie Rosfeld Memorial Award



**Jessie Nevitt**

- AVCA All-America honorable mention
- All-BIG EAST first team
- AVCA All-Region
- Bearcats Invitational, Radisson Hotel Invitational All-Tournament Teams
- BIG EAST Player of the Week (2x)
- Team Best Offensive Player



**Noel Olson**

- All-BIG EAST second team
- Team MVP

### Talented Seniors Say Good-Bye

The Bearcats bid farewell fairwell to another strong senior class in 2006 as Myanna Hellsten and Noel Olson wrapped up their collegiate careers. A look at the duos accomplishments both individually and collectively:

- Helped UC to a record of 91-36 during their careers.
- Hellsten was a two-time all-conference selection and the 2003 Conference USA and AVCA Regional Freshman of the Year.
- Olson captured second team all-BIG EAST honors in 2006.
- Hellsten is ranked among the UC career leaders in kills (9th), hitting percentage (T-9th), blocks per game (8th), blocks assists (2nd) and total blocks (2nd).
- Olson is listed second in UC history in career assists and fifth in assists per game.



**Laurie Weber**

- Team Most Improved Player



# 2006 STATS/RESULTS

## 2006 Statistics

Overall: 22-7			BIG EAST: 10-4			Home: 13-2			Away: 5-5			Neutral: 4-0			Game Record: 73-29			
Player	MP	GP	Attack					Set		Serve			Dig		Blocking			
			Kills	K/G	Err	TA	Pct.	Ast	A/G	SA	SE	RE	Digs	D/G	BS	BA	BT	B/G
Jessica Elley	29	102	361	3.54	174	1015	.184	26	0.25	17	18	28	344	3.37	10	91	101	0.99
Jessie Nevitt	29	102	331	3.25	66	722	.367	6	0.06	0	0	0	15	0.15	19	152	171	1.68
Jenny Custer	29	102	308	3.02	104	824	.248	60	0.59	52	45	3	248	2.43	4	98	102	1.00
Myanna Hellsten	29	102	300	2.94	99	703	.286	10	0.10	36	35	0	94	0.92	16	124	140	1.37
Lindsey Peterson	23	78	151	1.94	98	525	.101	10	0.13	2	15	9	125	1.60	3	41	44	0.56
Katey Schroeder	19	47	74	1.57	36	239	.159	0	0.00	7	12	0	25	0.53	1	30	31	0.66
Noel Olson	29	102	56	0.55	14	152	.276	1296	12.71	30	31	3	216	2.12	0	52	52	0.51
Jami Torok	7	8	2	0.25	1	5	.200	0	0.00	0	2	0	1	0.12	0	1	1	0.12
Jaime Frey	29	102	3	0.03	2	14	.071	22	0.22	13	19	37	554	5.43	0	0	0	0.00
Laurie Weber	21	68	0	0.00	1	1	-1.000	2	0.03	17	15	0	28	0.41	0	0	0	0.00
Erin Maldo	11	41	0	0.00	0	2	.000	3	0.07	0	0	11	48	1.17	0	0	0	0.00
Natalie Dossman	3	8	0	0.00	0	0	.000	2	0.25	0	3	2	45	5.62	0	0	0	0
TEAM												17						
CINCINNATI	29	102	1586	15.55	595	4202	.236	1437	14.09	174	195	110	1743	17.09	53	589	347.5	3.41
Opponents	29	102	1449	14.21	808	4358	.147	1361	13.34	110	217	174	1753	17.19	46	389	240.5	2.36

## 2006 Results

Date	Opponent	Scores	W/L	Att	Rec	BIG EAST	Kill Leader	Dig Leader
Aug. 25	WESTERN MICHIGAN\$	27-30, 30-25, 30-25, 30-28	W, 3-0	281	1-0	---	Nevitt - 17	Elley - 21
Aug. 26	MAINE\$	30-21, 30-14, 30-18	W, 3-0	173	2-0	---	Custer - 12	Dossman - 22
Aug. 27	UCLA\$	24-30, 31-29, 27-30, 21-30	L, 1-3	766	2-1	---	Elley - 21	Frey - 26
Sept. 1	vs. Austin Peay%	30-28, 30-21, 30-15	W, 3-0	---	3-1	---	Nevitt - 12	Elley - 10
Sept. 2	vs. Western Illinois%	30-21, 30-24, 30-17	W, 3-0	---	4-1	---	Elley - 18	Frey - 16
Sept. 2	at Bradley%	30-16, 30-15, 30-20	W, 3-0	561	5-1	---	Elley - 13	Frey - 13
Sept. 7	at Colorado^	24-30, 30-32, 20-30	L, 0-3	525	5-2	---	Elley - 9	Elley - 12
Sept. 8	vs. Southern Miss^	30-19, 30-17, 30-17	W, 3-0	45	6-2	---	Custer, Hellsten - 11	Frey - 8
Sept. 9	vs. Central Connecticut St.^	30-13, 30-21, 30-23	W, 3-0	332	7-2	---	Elley - 13	Three tied - 7
Sept. 12	MOREHEAD STATE	30-32, 30-19, 30-16, 30-23	W, 3-1	163	8-2	---	Elley - 19	Frey - 17
Sept. 19	at Western Kentucky	30-26, 30-27, 30-19	W, 3-0	473	9-2	---	Elley - 14	Frey - 9
Sept. 22	at Marquette*	21-30, 33-31, 30-28, 25-30, 10-15	L, 2-3	266	9-3	0-1	Custer - 18	Frey - 25
Sept. 24	at Syracuse*	25-30, 30-19, 30-16, 30-23	W, 3-1	---	10-3	1-1	Custer - 22	Frey - 29
Sept. 29	at Connecticut*	30-26, 26-30, 30-25, 30-24	W, 3-1	363	11-3	2-1	Custer - 17	Frey - 29
Oct. 1	at St. John's*	37-39, 18-30, 20-30	L, 0-3	185	11-4	2-2	Hellsten - 15	Frey - 22
Oct. 7	VILLANOVA*	30-21, 30-20, 30-25	W, 3-0	291	12-4	3-2	Nevitt - 11	Elley - 12
Oct. 8	RUTGERS*	30-19, 30-16, 30-22	W, 3-0	326	13-4	4-2	Elley - 16	Elley, Peterson - 11
Oct. 14	at Louisville*	23-30, 27-30, 21-30	L, 0-3	496	13-5	4-3	Nevitt - 11	Frey - 16
Oct. 17	IUPUI	30-14, 30-20, 30-21	W, 3-0	278	14-5	---	Hellsten - 13	Frey - 19
Oct. 20	SETON HALL*	30-17, 29-31, 30-24, 30-17	W, 3-1	509	15-5	5-3	Nevitt - 21	Frey - 22
Oct. 28	NOTRE DAME*	30-20, 30-28, 30-22	W, 3-0	382	16-5	6-3	Three tied - 13	Frey - 33
Oct. 29	DE PAUL*	30-17, 30-16, 30-17	W, 3-0	156	17-5	7-3	Three tied - 11	Frey - 19
Oct. 31	DAYTON	30-27, 28-30, 30-25, 30-23	W, 3-1	231	18-5	---	Custer - 15	Frey - 35
Nov. 3	at Pittsburgh*	30-16, 25-30, 28-30, 30-28, 13-15	L, 2-3	527	18-6	7-4	Elley - 24	Frey - 30
Nov. 5	at West Virginia*	30-27, 30-25, 30-26	W, 3-0	85	19-6	8-4	Nevitt - 12	Frey - 24
Nov. 10	GEORGETOWN*	30-21, 31-29, 30-24	W, 3-0	113	20-6	9-4	Nevitt - 16	Frey - 17
Nov. 12	USF*	30-24, 30-18, 30-17	W, 3-0	161	21-6	10-4	Custer - 12	Elley - 16
Nov. 17	NOTRE DAME@	28-30, 30-25, 30-28, 26-30, 9-15	L, 2-3	507	21-7	---	Nevitt - 20	Frey - 37
Nov. 24	KENTUCKY	28-30, 30-17, 26-30, 31-29, 15-13	W, 3-2	587	22-7	---	Nevitt - 18	Frey - 32

\* - BIG EAST Matches \$ - State Farm Bearcats Invitational (Fifth Third Arena) % - Radisson Hotel Invitational (Peoria, Ill.)

^ - Colorado Invitational (Boulder, Colo.) @ - BIG EAST Tournament (Fifth Third Arena)