



PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

SIX-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

34 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES | 16 BIG TEN TITLES

2014 SCHEDULE & RECORD

Overall: 32-3 (Home: 18-1, Away: 10-2, Neutral: 4-0)

Big Ten: 18-2 (Home: 9-1, Away: 9-1)

NCAA Tournament: 2-0 (Home: 2-0, Away: 0-0)

AUGUST

Penn State Classic

29	vs. TCU	W, 3-0
30	vs. IONA	W, 3-0
39	vs. WILLIAM & MARY	W, 3-0

SEPTEMBER

Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge

5	at Stanford#	L, 3-2
6	vs. UCLA	W, 3-0

Villanova Classic

12	vs. American	W, 3-1
12	at Villanova	W, 3-0
13	vs. Yale	W, 3-0
13	vs. Kansas	W, 3-0

Penn State Alumni Classic%

19	vs. EASTERN ILLINOIS	W, 3-0
19	vs. DEPAUL	W, 3-0
20	vs. UIC	W, 3-0
20	vs. EAST CAROLINA	W, 3-0
24	at Wisconsin*#	W, 3-0
27	at Minnesota*#	W, 3-1

OCTOBER

3	at Nebraska*#	L, 3-1
4	at Iowa*	W, 3-0
8	vs. NORTHWESTERN*#	W, 3-0
11	vs. ILLINOIS*	L, 3-1
17	at Purdue*#	W, 3-2
18	at Indiana*	W, 3-0
24	vs. MICHIGAN*#	W, 3-0
25	vs. MICHIGAN STATE*	W, 3-0
28	vs. OHIO STATE*#	W, 3-0
31	at Ohio State*	W, 3-0

NOVEMBER

7	vs. RUTGERS*	W, 3-0
8	vs. MARYLAND*	W, 3-0
12	vs. IOWA*	W, 3-0
15	vs. MINNESOTA*	W, 3-0
19	at Michigan*	W, 3-0
22	at Maryland*	W, 3-0
26	at Northwestern*	W, 3-0
29	vs. NEBRASKA*#	W, 3-0

DECEMBER

5	vs. Siena	W, 3-0
6	vs. Dayton	W, 3-0
12	vs. No. 12 UCLA	7 p.m.
13	NCAA regional finals	Louisville, Ky.
18-20	NCAA Championship	Oklahoma City Okla.

Home matches played at Rec Hall in CAPS • All times EST and subject to change • * Indicates Big Ten match • # indicates match will be aired on TV

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

WVB Contact: Arielle Sargent
Email: ans26@psu.edu
O: (814) 865-1757 | C: (814) 321-8286
101-G Bryce Jordan Center
University Park, Pa. 16801

2014 NCAA TOURNAMENT: REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Friday, Dec. 12 2014 | Louisville, Ky. - KFC Yum! Center

NO. 5 PENN STATE (32-3)



NO. 12 UCLA (22-11)

NITTANY LIONS



Record: 32-3
Big Ten: 18-2
AVCA Poll Rank: #4
Head coach: Russ Rose
Overall Record/Yrs: 1,157-180/36

GAME DAY DETAILS

TV: ESPN3
Melissa Lee (play-by-play)
Missy Whittemore (analyst)
Radio: WRSC 103.1 FM
Live Stats: GoPSUsports.com
Twitter: @PennStateVBALL



BRUINS BREAKDOWN

Record: 22-11
Pac-12: 11-9
AVCA Poll Rank: #17
Head coach: Mike Sealy
Last Outing/Result: 9-6-14/PSU, 3-0

FIRST SERVE

» Fifth-seeded Penn State is set to make its 12th consecutive regional semifinal appearance, traveling to Louisville to take on No. 12 UCLA Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. in the KFC Yum! Center.

» Penn State advanced to the round of 16 with a pair of straight set victories against Siena and Dayton in the first and second rounds of the NCAA tournament last weekend. PSU's streak of 12 straight regional semifinal appearances is the longest stretch in DI.

» The win against the Dayton stretched the current Penn State winning streak to 16 consecutive matches. Having earned its last 15 straight by way of a three-set decision, PSU has also won its last 47 consecutive sets.

» Making their 34th appearance in the NCAA tournament, Penn State is one of just two programs, with Stanford being the other, to participate in every postseason event since 1981. The Nittany Lions hold an 86-26 all-time record in NCAA tournament action.

» Totaling 10 aces against Siena and Dayton, senior Micha Hancock served her way to the top of the Big Ten & the NCAA single-season record books with 119 aces on the year. [More: pg.3]

» Six Nittany Lions earned nine Big Ten postseason awards. Seniors Micha Hancock and Nia Grant earned unanimous All-Big Ten honors, while freshman Haleigh Washington picked up All-Big Ten, All-Freshman and Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors. Redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney and freshman Ali Frantti also earned All-Big Ten Honorable Mention honors.

» Penn State capped off the regular season win a dominant straight set victory against then-No. 10 Nebraska to move to 8-3 against teams ranked in the AVCA Top 25 this season.

» Averaging 1.05 aces per set, senior Micha Hancock has once again secured herself as the nation's leader in the category for the 13th consecutive week. With more aces than anyone in the NCAA standings (119) in 2014, her career total (373) ranks first all-time in both the Big Ten and Penn State record books.

» As a team, Penn State is averaging 2.00 aces per set, which ranks first nationally and leads the conference.

» Penn State's .355 hitting clip ranks first in the nation, while also leading the Big Ten. Hancock's also paced a trio of top Nittany Lion attackers to .365 or better hitting, led by senior Nia Grant's .453 hitting clip, which ranks second nationally and in the conference. Haleigh Washington's .492 hitting percentage leads the Big Ten, while redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney rounds out the group with a .362 hitting percentage, which is slotted third in the Big Ten standings. As a team, Penn State is out-hitting its opponents .355-.140.

» This year, PSU has matched up against 10 different teams that made this year's 64-team NCAA tournament bracket. In 12 outings, the Nittany Lions are 9-3 against the field of regular season NCAA tournament team opponents.

» Penn State remained No. 4 in the latest AVCA Top 25 Coaches Poll for the third straight week after spending three consecutive weeks slotted at No. 6.

» With 31 assists against the Buckeyes, senior Micha Hancock eclipsed the 5,000 career assists mark, making her the sixth Nittany Lion in program history to reach the milestone. She is the first to accomplish the feat since Alisha Glass (2006-09).

» The Nittany Lions are among six teams from the Big Ten to be featured in the AVCA Top 25 Coaches Poll and one of three within the top 10.

» With 1,157 wins, head coach Russ Rose is presently in sole possession of first place on the DI NCAA all-time wins list ahead of current Hawaii head coach Dave Shoji (1,151). The two active head coaches have traded the top spot throughout the season. Both Rose and Shoji are the only two NCAA DI head coaches to have more than 1,000 career wins.

» In his 36th season at the helm of the program, five-time AVCA DI National Coach of the Year Russ Rose returns four starters and 11 letterwinners from last year's NCAA national championship squad.

» The Nittany Lions welcome a highly talented class of eight newcomers in 2014, featuring four state Gatorade Player of the Year honorees. PrepVolleyball.com tabbed PSU's incoming class No. 1 nationally.



@PennStateVBALL



PennStateWomensVolleyball

GoPSUsports.com

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

PENN STATE AT A GLANCE

THE UNIVERSITY

Location: University Park, Pa. 16802
 Founded: 1855
 Enrollment: 44,112
 Colors: Blue & White
 Nickname: Nittany Lions
 Conference: Big Ten
 President: Dr. Eric J. Barron
 Director of Athletics: Sandy Barbour
 Associate AD/SWA Charmelle Greene
 Facility (capacity): Rec Hall (5,812)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STAFF

Head Coach: Russ Rose (36th season)
 Alma Mater: George Williams, 1975
 Overall Record (Yrs/Pct): 1,125-177 (35/.864)
 School Record: same
 Associate Head Coach: Salima Rockwell
 Assistant Coach: Stevie Mussie
 Director of Operations: Kevin Burch
 Volunteer Assistant Jay Goddu
 Office Phone: (814) 863-7474
 Office Fax: (814) 865-1746
 Office Address: 235 Rec Hall

2013 IN REVIEW

2013 Record: 34-2
 Home: 17-1
 Away: 11-1
 Neutral: 6-0
 Big Ten record (finish): 19-1 (1st)
 Final AVCA Ranking: No. 1
 Postseason Play: NCAA national champions
 First round: def. LIU-Brooklyn, 3-0
 Second round: def. Utah, 3-0
 Regional semifinal: def. Michigan State, 3-1
 Regional final: def. Stanford, 3-2
 National semifinal: def. Washington, 3-0
 National final: def. Wisconsin, 3-1

NITTANY LION HISTORY

First Year of Volleyball: 1976
 All-Time Record (Years): 1,176-220-4 (38)
 All-Time Big Ten Record: 407-53
 Years/Win Pct.: 23/.885
 Big Ten Titles: (16) '92, '93, '96, '97, '98, '99,
 '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '12, '13)
 NCAA Tournament Appearances: 33
 NCAA Tournament Record: 84-27
 NCAA National Championships: 6
 (1999, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013)

2014 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	SP	K/S	HIT %	A/S	SA/S	D/S	B/S
2	Lara Caraway	DS	5-4	Jr.	16	0.00	.000	0.06	0.06	0.44	0.00
3	Kendall Pierce	DS	5-6	Jr.	65	0.02	1.00	0.02	0.05	0.57	0.00
4	Dominique Gonzalez	L	5-6	Sr.	113	0.00	.000	0.73	0.22	3.59	0.00
5	Ali Frantti	OH	6-1	Fr.	110	3.27	.321	0.19	0.23	1.35	0.50
6	Nia Reed	OH	5-9	Fr.	0	0.00	.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Nia Grant	MH	6-2	Sr.	111	2.37	.453	0.08	0.14	0.53	1.12
8	Lainy Pierce	DS	6-2	Fr.	50	0.00	.000	0.08	0.22	0.32	0.00
9	Skylar Dykstra	DS	5-8	Fr.	5	0.00	.000	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
10	Carley Muller	DS	5-9	So.	14	0.00	.000	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.00
12	Micha Hancock	S	5-11	Sr.	113	1.14	.393	11.49	1.05	1.88	0.71
13	Taylor Krause	DS	5-6	So.	28	0.04	1.00	0.00	0.04	0.29	0.00
14	Aiyana Whitney	OH	6-4	RS-Jr.	112	2.88	.365	0.03	0.03	0.30	0.80
15	Haleigh Washington	MB	6-3	Fr.	65	2.72	.492	0.08	0.00	0.28	1.22
17	Megan Courtney	OH	6-2	Jr.	113	2.35	.295	0.51	0.07	2.18	0.69
19	Heidi Thelen	MB	6-2	Fr.	9	1.11	.364	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.78
21	Bryanna Weiskircher	S	6-1	Fr.	0	0.00	.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Simone Lee	OH	6-1	Fr.	61	2.02	.241	0.02	0.00	0.41	0.38
23	Kelly Robertson	MH	6-0	So.	6	0.50	.333	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.33
24	Laura Broerman	DS	5-4	So.	18	0.00	.000	0.00	0.11	0.17	0.00
33	Lacey Fuller	DS	5-6	Sr.	113	0.00	.000	0.15	0.09	1.58	0.00

PENN STATE

113 14.64 .355 13.29 2.00 12.40 2.66

OPPONENTS

113 9.96 0.14 9.44 0.48 10.37 1.46

Head Coach:

Russ Rose (George Williams, 1975), 36th year

Associate Head Coach:

Salima Rockwell (Penn State, 1994)

Assistant Coach:

Stevie Mussie (Washington, 2008)

Director of Operations:

Kevin Burch (Ohio State, 2011)

Volunteer Assistant:

Jay Goddu (Villanova, 2013)

ALPHABETICAL

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown/High School (College)
24	Laura Broerman	So.	DS	5-4	Colorado Springs, Colo./St. Mary's
2	Lara Caraway	Jr.	DS	5-4	Evans City, Pa./Home Schooled
17	Megan Courtney	Jr.	OH	6-2	Dayton, Ohio/Archbishop Alter
9	Skylar Dykstra	Fr.	DS	5-9	Redondo Beach, Calif./Redondo (UCLA)
5	Ali Frantti	Fr.	OH	6-1	Spring Grove, Ill./Richmond Burton
33	Lacey Fuller	Sr.	DS	5-6	San Diego, Calif./Torrey Pine
4	Dominique Gonzalez	Sr.	L	5-6	San Antonio, Texas/Sandra Day O'Connor
7	Nia Grant	Sr.	OH	6-2	Warren, Ohio/Howland
12	Micha Hancock	Sr.	S	5-11	Edmond, Okla./Edmond Memorial
13	Taylor Krause	So.	DS	5-6	Allentown, Pa./Parkland High
22	Simone Lee	Fr.	OH	6-1	Menomonee Falls, Wis./Menomonee
10	Carley Muller	So.	DS	5-7	Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa
3	Kendall Pierce	Jr.	DS	5-6	Eden, N.Y./Eden
8	Lainy Pierce	Fr.	DS	5-8	Eden, N.Y./Eden
6	Nia Reed	Fr.	OH	6-2	Fort Lee, N.J./Immaculate Heart Academy
23	Kelly Robertson	So.	MH	6-0	Allentown, Pa./Parkland High
19	Heidi Thelen	Fr.	MB	6-2	Edgewood, Ky./Notre Dame Academy
15	Haleigh Washington	Fr.	MB	6-3	Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty High School
21	Bryanna Weiskircher	Fr.	S	6-1	Rockford, Ill./Boylan Catholic
14	Aiyana Whitney	RS-Jr.	OH	6-4	Norwood, N.J./Northern Valley Regional

PRONUNCIATIONS

Aiyana	..... I-YAH-nuh	Broerman	..... BRO-er-man
Micha	..... MIKE-uh	Nia	..... NEE-uh
Muller	..... MULL-er	Thelen	..... Th-EE-len
Lacey	..... Lace-EE	Frantti	..... Fran-TEE
Lara	..... Lar-uh	Bryanna	..... Bree-yah-nuh
Dykstra	..... Dike-STRAH	Weiskircher	..... Weis-KIR-Ch-er

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

AROUND THE BIG TEN

BIG TEN STANDINGS

Team	Overall		Big Ten	
	Record	Pct.	Record	Pct.
Wisconsin*	30-2	.938	19-1	.950
PENN STATE	32-3	.912	18-2	.900
Illinois	26-7	.788	16-4	.800
Nebraska	22-9	.710	14-6	.700
Purdue	22-10	.688	12-8	.600
Ohio State	23-11	.676	12-8	.600
Michigan State	19-14	.576	11-9	.550
Minnesota	19-12	.613	9-11	.450
Michigan	13-17	.433	8-12	.400
Northwestern	16-15	.516	6-14	.300
Indiana	15-17	.469	6-14	.300
Iowa	14-17	.452	6-14	.300
Maryland	10-21	.323	3-17	.150
Rutgers	7-26	.212	0-20	.000

*Big Ten Champion

2014 PRESEASON BIG TEN POLL

1. PENN STATE

- Nebraska
- Wisconsin
- Illinois
- Purdue
- Michigan State
- Minnesota
- Michigan
- Ohio State
- Northwestern
- Iowa
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Rutgers

ALL-TIME RECORDS vs. 2014 OPPONENTS

NON-CONFERENCE

Team	W-L	Last
TCU	1-0	PSU, 3-0 (8/29/14)
Iona	1-0	PSU, 3-0 (8/30/14)
William & Mary	11-1	PSU, 3-0 (8/30/14)
Stanford	8-8	SU, 3-2 (9/5/14)
UCLA	5-7	PSU, 3-0 (9/6/14)
American	7-0	PSU, 3-1 (9/12/14)
Villanova	14-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/12/14)
Yale	9-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/13/14)
Kansas	1-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/13/14)
EIU	4-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/19/14)
DePaul	2-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/19/14)
UIC	7-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/20/14)
ECU	2-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/20/14)

BIG TEN

Team	W-L	Last
Wisconsin	44-7	PSU, 3-0 (9/24/14)
Minnesota	44-7	PSU, 3-0 (11/15/14)
Nebraska	10-14	PSU, 3-0 (11/29/14)
Iowa	47-0	PSU, 3-0 (11/12/14)
Northwestern	48-8	PSU, 3-0 (11/26/14)
Illinois	41-10	ILL, 3-1 (10/11/14)
Purdue	51-6	PSU, 3-2 (10/17/14)
Indiana	48-1	PSU, 3-0 (10/18/14)
Michigan	46-3	PSU, 3-0 (11/19/14)
Michigan State	40-7	PSU, 3-0 (10/25/14)
Ohio State	44-14	PSU, 3-0 (10/31/14)
Rutgers	26-9	PSU, 3-0 (11/7/14)
Maryland	20-5	PSU, 3-0 (11/22/14)

RE-WRITING THE RECORD BOOK

With seven aces in the win against Siena, senior Micha Hancock served her way to the top of the Big Ten single-season record book with 116 aces on the year to break the previous conference mark which was set by Minnesota's Sharon Oesterling in 1989. With three aces the next evening, Hancock moved into sole possession of first place on the NCAA single-season 25-point scoring format aces list with 119 aces, which passes the record (118) originally set by Christine Edwards (Jackson State) in 2012.

SIX NITTANY LIONS EARN NINE BIG TEN POSTSEASON AWARDS

Six Nittany Lions earned nine Big Ten postseason awards. The Nittany Lions were well represented on all three conference teams, while freshman Haleigh Washington has earned Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors.

Seniors Micha Hancock and Nia Grant earned unanimous selections to the All-Big Ten team while freshman Haleigh Washington joined the duo on the All-Big Ten squad. Redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney and freshman Ali Frantti picked up All-Big Ten honorable mention accolades. Frantti and Washington also earned unanimous spots on the All-Freshman team. Senior Lacey Fuller rounded out the group as Penn State's sportsmanship honoree.

Washington is Penn State's 12th Nittany Lion in program history to garner Freshman of the Year honors. PSU has claimed the individual honor in four of the last five years with current Nittany Lions Hancock and Courtney each earning the laurel in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Hancock earned her fourth consecutive postseason honor, as she's earned a spot on either the All-Big Ten team or the Big Ten All-Freshman squad each year. Grant, Whitney, Frantti and Washington all picked up their first career conference postseason accolades.

THAT'S SOME HEAVY HITTING

Senior Setter Micha Hancock has directed the Nittany Lions to a .355 hitting clip, which ranks first in the nation, while also leading the Big Ten. Hancock's also paced a trio of top Nittany Lion attackers to .365 or better hitting, led by senior Nia Grant's .453 hitting clip, which ranks second nationally and second in the conference. Haleigh Washington's .492 hitting percentage leads the Big Ten, while redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney rounds out the pair with a .362 hitting percentage, which is slotted fourth in the Big Ten standings.

PROTECTING THE HOUSE

Including an 18-1 mark in 2014, Penn State owns a 564-33 (.945) all-time record at home in Rec Hall. Following a dominant straight set victory in the regular season finale against No.10 Nebraska, the Nittany Lions improved to 257-18 (.935) all-time in Big Ten matches on the court in Rec Hall.

Only Ohio State has defeated the Nittany Lions on their home court more than three times, having topped PSU five times. Penn State has posted unblemished records in Big Ten play at home in seven of the last 10 years, winning 186 of 200 matches in the 10-year stretch. In the past five seasons, PSU has captured 90 wins in 100 total conference tilts with fewer than five league losses each year.

STRAIGHT SET SUCCESS

Penn State has earned 29 of its 32 (91%) victories this season in straight sets. Within those 29 sweeps, PSU has held seven teams (Iona, William & Mary, Eastern Illinois, DePaul, East Carolina, Rutgers and Siena) to less than 40 total points scored in a single match. Last season, the Nittany Lions earned 23 of their 34 victories in 3-0 sweeps. Additionally, Penn State has earned its last 15 consecutive wins by way of a straight-set decision, having won the last 47 straight sets since dropping two on the road in a thrilling five-set win at then-No. 14 Purdue, Oct. 17.

SSSS...BOOM!

Establishing herself as one of the top servers in the nation, senior Micha Hancock is presently averaging 1.05 aces per set, which ranks first nationally for the 13th consecutive week, while also ranking atop the Big Ten conference standings. Hancock closed out the last two weeks of the non-conference slate with back-to-back weeks featuring at least 21 aces.

Building on her PSU career record throughout the 2013 season, she moved into sole possession of first place on the Penn State all-time list with 254 aces on the year to surpass Ellen Hensler, who previously set the record in 1986. Since reaching the mark last year, Hancock has improved her total to 373, which also ranks first on the Big Ten all-time record list.

In the Big Ten standings, her 119 aces this year puts her into sole possession of first place on the Big Ten all-time single season record list, as she broke the record originally set by Minnesota's Sharon Oesterling in 1989. With one ace against Michigan earlier this season she earned her 92nd ace to reset the PSU all-time single-season record that she previously set in 2011.

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

AVCA TOP 25 COACHES' POLL

Poll #15 • Dec. 1, 2014

NO.	SCHOOL	PTS.	REC.	PW
1	Stanford (43)	1464	29-1	1
2	Wisconsin (10)	1422	28-2	2
3	Washington (5)	1389	29-2	5
4	PENN STATE (2)	1313	30-3	4
5	Florida	1259	25-3	6
6	Texas	1232	23-2	3
7	North Carolina	1131	26-2	7
8	Florida State	1080	28-2	8
9	Colorado State	1008	29-2	9
10	Illinois	957	24-7	11
11	Nebraska	843	20-9	10
12	BYU	827	25-4	12
13	Kentucky	735	26-5	15
14	Arizona	677	23-9	14
15	LBSU	626	26-4	16
16	Oregon	613	21-9	13
17	UCLA	492	20-11	17
18	Ohio State	444	21-11	20
19	Colorado	404	19-13	18
20	Utah	384	19-12	23
21	Duke	316	22-7	21
22	Arizona State	288	19-13	22
23	Hawaii	121	21-6	25
24	Purdue	111	22-10	19
25	Western Kentucky	99	30-5	24

RECEIVING VOTES: Kansas 85; Oregon State 62; Creighton 24; Southern California 15; Arkansas-Little Rock 14; Kansas State 11; Alabama 7; Oklahoma 5; Loyola Marymount 2

*2014 opponents in italics

PENN STATE PRESENCE IN THE COACHES' POLL

Aug. 11: #1 (preseason)	Oct. 20: #7
Sept. 1: #1	Oct. 27: #6
Sept. 8: #3	Nov. 3: #6
Sept. 15: #3	Nov. 10: #6
Sept. 22: #3	Nov. 17: #4
Sept. 29: #3	Nov. 24: #4
Oct. 6: #5	Dec. 1: #4
Oct. 13: #7	

SERVES UP!

Averaging 2.00 aces per set, Penn State's mark from the end line currently ranks first nationally and leads the Big Ten. PSU's 226 aces ranks third on the PSU all-time single-season list, while also marking the most team aces since rally scoring began in 2008.

Penn State All-Time Single-Season Service Aces

Rank	Aces	Year
1	254	1987
2	247	1988
3	226	2014
4	215	2006
5	209	2002 & 2011
6	201	2000
7	196	2012
8	194	2007
9	180	1990
10	176	1999

DOM CAN DIG IT!

Leading the team in digs in 29 of 35 matches this season, senior libero Dominique Gonzalez highlighted the 2014 conference season opener with her third 20-dig performance of the season against then-No. 5 Wisconsin, before following with a season-high mark of 26 digs in a 3-1 win at No. 17 Minnesota. Having broken into the conference standings early in the Big Ten portion of the schedule, her 3.62 digs per frame ranks 11th in the Big Ten.

ROSE ON TOP OF NCAA DI ALL-TIME WINS LIST

With 1,157 wins, head coach Russ Rose remains atop the NCAA DI all-time wins list with six more victories than current Hawaii head coach Dave Shoji (1,151). The two active head coaches have traded the top spot throughout the season. Both Rose and Shoji are the only two NCAA DI head coaches with more than 1,000 career wins. The two are also one of three active NCAA head coaches across all three divisions to have more than 1,100 career wins. Additionally, Rose owns the all-time record for NCAA DI career winning percentage, having posted a career clip of .864 in the past 35 seasons.

THREE EARN BIG TEN WEEKLY AWARDS

Penn State nearly swept the Big Ten weekly awards, with three Nittany Lions earning honors after a 2-0 week at home. Redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney was selected Player of the Week, while senior Micha Hancock earned Setter of the Week honors and freshman Haleigh Washington picked up her second-consecutive Freshman of the Week award.

Whitney's Player of the Week award is the first conference award of her career. Leading the team in kills last week, she totaled 33 kills averaging 5.50 per frame on .698 hitting. Hitting .682 or better in both matches, she opened the week with a match-high 16 kills against Iowa before registering a match-high kills 17 against Minnesota.

Hancock's Setter of the Week nod is her fifth of the season. She paced the team to a .387 hitting efficiency during the undefeated week at home, averaging 12.00 assists per set. She directed the Nittany Lion offense to a .457 hitting percentage in a 3-0 win against Iowa before leading the team with a match-high four aces in a straight-set win against Minnesota.

Washington's award marks her second consecutive freshman of the week honor. She closed out the week ranked second on the team in both kills (21) and blocks (7), while also posting a .500 overall hitting clip. She highlighted the week with double-digit kills (12) against Iowa on .667 hitting and a team-high six blocks against Minnesota.

WASHINGTON REELS IN BIG TEN ROOKIE OF THE WEEK AWARD

After helping the team to a pair of wins at home last weekend, freshman Haleigh Washington has earned Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors. The award is the second consecutive weekly honor for the rookie middle blocker. Washington highlighted a 2-0 weekend at home with back-to-back double-digit kill performances. Against Rutgers, she led the team with 13 kills on .688 hitting, adding two blocks, one ace and one dig. The next night, she returned to the court to finish tied for second on the team with 10 kills on 13 errorless swings, while also finishing second the team with five blocks.

Averaging a team-high 3.83 kills per set, she also led the squad with 23 kills. Defensively, she finished tied for third on the team with 1.17 blocks per set on the week. Since earning her way into the starting lineup on the road at Iowa (10/4), Washington's recorded nine consecutive multi-block performances, amassing at least five blocks in five of the last 10 matches.

GONZALEZ, HANCOCK PICK UP BIG TEN WEEKLY HONORS

After opening the 2014 conference slate with wins against two top-20 teams, seniors Micha Hancock and Dominique Gonzalez both collected Big Ten weekly accolades. Hancock was selected as the Big Ten Setter of the Week while Gonzalez was tabbed the Defensive Player of the Week. Gonzalez earns her first career Big Ten Weekly honor while Hancock's is the 14th Setter of the Week nod of her career.

Gonzalez led the team with 6.71 digs per set in a 2-0 week on the road that featured wins against fifth-ranked Wisconsin and No. 17 Minnesota. She posted back-to-back 20-dig performances during the week. After logging 21 digs in a straight set win against the Badgers, she set a season-high mark with 26 digs in the victory against the Gophers, marking the fourth match of the season that she's recorded 20 or more digs.

Hancock guided the Nittany Lions to a .273 overall hitting clip during the week, averaging 12.57 assists per set. Individually, she hit .542 during the week without a single attack error. Hancock put down a career-high nine kills on 12 perfect swings for a .750 hitting clip against the Badgers, while also tallying a double-double with 38 assists and 10 digs.

2014 HONORS & ACCOLADES

ALI FRANTTI

- All-Big Ten Honorable Mention & All-Freshman
- Big Ten Freshman of the Week (9/1, 9/8, 10/27)
- Penn State Classic Most Outstanding Player
- Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team

MEGAN COURTNEY

- Preseason All-Big Ten
- Penn State Classic All-Tournament team

MICHA HANCOCK

- Unanimous All-Big Ten
- Preseason All-Big Ten
- AVCA DI National Player of the Week (9/30)
- Big Ten Setter of the Week (9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/27, 11/17)
- ESPNW Volleyball Player of the Week (12/1)
- Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team
- Villanova Classic Most Outstanding Player

NIA GRANT

- Unanimous All-Big Ten
- Preseason All-Big Ten
- Big Ten Player of the Week (9/15)
- Villanova Classic All-Tournament Team

DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ

- Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team
- PSU Alumni Classic All-Tournament Team
- Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week (9/29)
- ESPNW Volleyball Player of the Week (9/29)

AIYANA WHITNEY

- All-Big Ten Honorable Mention
- Big Ten Player of the Week (11/17)
- Villanova Classic All-Tournament Team
- PSU Alumni Classic Most Outstanding Player

HALEIGH WASHINGTON

- Big Ten Freshman of the Year
- All-Big Ten & All-Freshman
- Big Ten Player of the Week (11/3)
- Big Ten Freshman of the Week (11/10, 11/17)

LACEY FULLER

- Penn State Big Ten Sportsmanship Award

BIG TEN PLAYER OF THE WEEK NOTES -

Three different Nittany Lions have earned Big Ten Player of the Week honors in 2014, marking the first time the Nittany Lions have had at least three different honorees in a single season since 2009.

From 2005- 2009 PSU had at least three Nittany Lions earn Player of the Week honors. The honor was first awarded at the start of the 2005 season.

DOUBLE-DOUBLE TRACKER

MICHA HANCOCK (30 CAREER)

- at Stanford, 9/5/14 (57 assists, 13 digs)
- vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/19/14 (30 assists, 10 digs)
- at Wisconsin, 9/24/14 (38 assists, 10 digs)
- at Purdue, 10/17/14 (58 assists, 10 digs)

ALI FRANTTI (1 CAREER)

- at Stanford, 9/5/14 (22 kills, 11 digs)

MEGAN COURTNEY (11 CAREER)

- at Michigan, 11/19/14 (10 kills, 10 digs)

TOUGH DEFENSE

Penn State has limited its opponents to .140 hitting this season, which ranks first in the Big Ten standings and fourth nationally. PSU has held 26 teams to .200 or lower hitting on 27 occasions in 2014. The Nittany Lions have limited seven squads to hitting clips between .201-.250. Only one team (Illinois/.315) has posted a .300 or better hitting percentage. The Nittany Lions held their first five consecutive Big Ten opponents to less than .200 hitting, while also limiting Rutgers to a Big Ten-match low -.039 attacking percentage. In 20 conference matches, only the Illini were able to hit higher than .250 against Penn State.

FORCE OF THE FROSH

Six freshman have made their collegiate debuts for Penn State this season, including Ali Frantti, Heidi Thelen, Simone Lee, Lainy Pierce, Haleigh Washington and Skylar Dykstra.

All ranked within PrepVolleyball.com's top 10, Frantti, Lee and Washington have established themselves as solid contributors this season. Averaging a team-high 3.27 kills per set on .321 hitting, Frantti has started every match for the Nittany Lions. Lee ranks seventh on the squad with 123 kills on the year, while Washington is fifth with 177. All three have each recorded more than 100 kills in their rookie campaigns. Despite missing two weeks early in the season, Washington's averaging 2.72 kills per set on .492 hitting, while also averaging a team-high 1.22 blocks per set, which ranks seventh in the Big Ten standings.

Frantti's highlighted the season with a double-double performance at then-No. 2 Stanford with 22 kills and 11 digs. Lee also capped off a productive weekend in Palo Alto, Calif. with her second double-digit kill performance of the season with 11 kills against UCLA. She followed that with a team-high 12 kills in the Big Ten opener at Wisconsin. Washington posted a career-high performance with 14 kills on .583 hitting, while also tallying a team-high seven blocks against then-No. 15 Illinois. She also notched a career-high nine blocks on the road in a straight-set win at then-No. 17 Ohio State.

HANCOCK GARNERS SECOND BIG SETTER OF THE WEEK HONOR

Following an undefeated weekend at home, senior Micha Hancock earned her second consecutive Big Ten Setter of the Week honor. Hancock shared her 13th career Setter of the Week award with Wisconsin's Lauren Carlini.

Hancock directed the Nittany Lion offense to a .490 overall team hitting percentage over the weekend as Penn State picked up wins against Eastern Illinois, DePaul, UIC and East Carolina to earn the Penn State Alumni Classic title. Totaling at least 21 aces for the second straight week, Hancock highlighted the weekend with two or more aces in every match this weekend. Averaging 1.83 aces per set with 22 aces on the week, she matched a season-high mark with eight aces against DePaul and East Carolina.

GRANT, HANCOCK COLLECT BIG TEN WEEKLY HONORS

After helping PSU claim the Villanova Classic title, senior Nia Grant was selected as the Big Ten Player of the Week, while senior Micha Hancock was tabbed Setter of the Week. Grant powered the Penn State offense with a team-high .618 hitting percentage during the undefeated weekend on the road. She posted double-digit kills in three-of-four matches, recording errorless hitting performances in back-to-back matches against Villanova and Yale. In addition to Villanova Classic All Tournament team honors, Grant also set a career-high mark with an .846 hitting efficiency against the Bulldogs.

Hancock directed the Nittany Lions to a .351 team hitting clip during the week, averaging 11.60 assists per set. On her way to Villanova Classic Most Outstanding Player honors, she logged 21 service aces in the tournament, highlighting the event with a season-high eight aces against American. Averaging 1.62 aces per set for the week, she also tallied six aces against both Villanova and Kansas.

HANCOCK EARNS AVCA NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARD

Following her third consecutive Big Ten Setter of the Week honor, senior setter Micha Hancock was selected as the AVCA DI National Player of the Week. Hancock's national recognition is the second of her career and the 10th time that a Penn State women's volleyball student-athlete has been selected as the AVCA DI National Player of the Week.

Hancock helped the Nittany Lions to wins against a pair of top-20 teams including victories on the road at No. 5 Wisconsin and No. 17 Minnesota. She directed the offense to a .273 hitting percentage on the week, while registering a .542 individual hitting clip.

DUO NAMED BIG TEN/PAC-12 CHALLENGE ALL-TOURNAMENT

Senior Dominique Gonzalez and freshman Ali Frantti earned Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament team honors. Gonzalez highlighted the weekend with her fourth career 20+ dig match against the Cardinal, while Frantti logged her first career double-double with 22 kills and 11 digs.

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE L'VILLE REGIONAL

PENN STATE VS. UCLA

Series: UCLA leads, 5-7

Last Three

Date	Site	Result
9/6/14	N	PSU, 3-0 (25-19, 27-25, 25-17)
12/9/11	N	UCLA, 3-0 (20-25, 22-25, 21-25)
8/30/08	N	PSU, 3-0 (25-22, 25-21, 25-13)

By the Numbers

At neutral sites	4-5
NCAA tournament matches	1-5
Current streak	W1

Tale of the Tape

PSU	Stat	UCLA
32-3	Record	22-11
14.64	K/S	15.07
.355	Hitting %	.264
13.29	A/S	14.20
12.40	D/S	14.07
2.66	B/S	2.03
2.00	SA/S	1.08

PENN STATE VS. OHIO STATE

Series: Penn State leads, 44-14

Last Three

Date	Site	Result
10/31/14	A	PSU, 3-0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-18)
10/28/14	H	PSU, 3-0 (25-15, 25-22, 25-12)
11/27/13	A	PSU, 3-0 (25-12, 25-14, 25-8)

By the Numbers

At neutral sites	3-1
NCAA tournament matches	1-1
Current Streak	W16

Tale of the Tape

PSU	Stat	OSU
32-3	Record	23-11
14.64	K/S	13.51
.355	Hitting %	.231
13.29	A/S	12.75
12.40	D/S	13.38
2.66	B/S	2.25
2.00	SA/S	1.15

PENN STATE VS. WISCONSIN

Series: Penn State leads, 44-7

Last Three

Date	Site	Result
9/24/14	A	PSU, 3-0 (25-17, 25-21, 25-22)
12/21/13	N	PSU, 3-1 (25-19, 26-24, 20-25, 25-23)
11/15/13	A	PSU, 3-0 (25-23, 27-25, 25-16)

By the Numbers

at neutral sites	3-0
NCAA tournament matches	3-0
Streak	W6

Tale of the Tape

PSU	Stat	WIS
32-3	Record	30-2
14.64	K/S	14.64
.355	Hitting %	.287
13.29	A/S	13.64
12.40	D/S	16.47
2.66	B/S	2.53
2.00	SA/S	1.31

TRIO EARNS PENN STATE CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM HONORS

Following back-to-back double-digit kill performances in her first two collegiate matches, freshman Ali Frantti earned Penn State Classic Most Outstanding Player honors. Senior Micha Hancock and junior Megan Courtney each earned spots on the All-Tournament team for their performances during an undefeated opening weekend at home. Hancock directed the Nittany Lions to a conference-high .436 hitting clip during the week, while also pacing Frantti (.482) and Courtney (.500) to a pair of Big Ten top-five hitting clips. Hancock's 11.33 assists per set ranks third in the league.

ROAD WARRIORS

Penn State moved to 9-1 in Big Ten matches on the road after sweeping past Northwestern in straight sets in the final road test of the regular season. PSU is 10-2 on the road this year.

The Nittany Lions opened the 2014 Big Ten slate with a challenging four-match road swing that featured matches against a trio of top-25 opponents. The Nittany Lions posted a 3-1 mark in the first two weeks of conference play picking up wins against No. 5 Wisconsin, No. 17 Minnesota and Iowa, despite a four-set loss to then-No. 8 Nebraska.

MORE BIG TEN WEEKLY HONORS FOR FRANTTI

Following a weekend of team-high performances in Palo Alto, Calif., freshman Ali Frantti was tabbed the Big Ten's Freshman of the Week for the second consecutive week. She opened the weekend with her first collegiate double-double against then-No. 2 Stanford, posting a match-high 22 kills on .405 hitting, adding 11 digs and two blocks. The next evening, she returned to the court to lead the offense with her fourth double-digit kill performance of the season, putting down 14 kills on .619 hitting, adding five digs in a straight set victory against UCLA.

WELCOME BACK!

In conjunction with Penn State's 50 years of Women in Sport celebration, all four opposing head coaches in the Penn State Alumni Classic were former Nittany Lions, including Eastern Illinois' Kate Price (2008), DePaul's Nadia Edwards (2001), University of Illinois-Chicago's Katie Shumacher-Cawley (2002) and East Carolina's Julie Torbett (1990).

PENN STATE TABBED BIG TEN PRESEASON FAVORITE

Penn State earned the No. 1 ranking in the 2014 Big Ten Preseason Coaches' Poll, which is decided by the league's 14 head coaches. The top-ranking marks the ninth time in the last 10 years that the 16-time defending Big Ten champion Nittany Lions have been voted No. 1 the preseason standings.

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN NITTANY LIONS

PSU is well represented on the All-Big Ten Preseason Team, with more honorees than any other conference team in the league for the second consecutive year. Senior setter Micha Hancock highlights a trio of 2014 honorees as a unanimous selection. She's joined by senior middle Nia Grant and junior outside Megan Courtney. The nod is the second consecutive for both Hancock and Courtney and the first career for Grant.

HANCOCK NOMINATED FOR 2014 ESPY AWARD

Penn State's Micha Hancock was one of two PSU student-athletes to be nominated for a 2014 ESPY Award, presented by ESPN. Hancock was nominated for Best Female Collegiate Athlete. Hancock's nomination marks the third time a PSU women's volleyball student-athlete has been up for an ESPY. Megan Hodge earned a nomination in 2010, following the '09 season, while Blair Brown was selected in 2011 following the '10 season.

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, ICE CREAM!

Earlier this summer Penn State's renowned Berkey Creamery unveiled a new "hall of fame" ice cream flavor named after legendary Nittany Lion women's volleyball head coach, Russ Rose. For the first time in more than 20 years, the flavor, Russ "digs" Roseberry, joins the creamery's lineup of "hall of fame" permanent flavors. The ice cream variety is made with black raspberry puree, red raspberry sauce and pure Wilbur's chocolate in a strawberry base.

NITTANY LIONS EARN TOP RANKING IN AVCA PRESEASON POLL

Penn State women's volleyball earned the No. 1 overall ranking in the 2014 AVCA Preseason Coaches' Poll. This year's poll features more Big Ten teams than any other conference, with the Nittany Lions among seven other league teams to be ranked within the top 25 and one of four to be within the top 10. Since 2004, Penn State has been ranked within the top five in every AVCA preseason poll, having earned a top-ranking five times (2008-11 & 2014).

Earning 32 of a possible 60 first-place votes, PSU claimed the top spot ahead of No. 2 Texas, No. 3 Stanford, No. 4 Washington and No. 5 USC. The Big Ten is also well represented in the lower half of the top 10 rankings with Wisconsin, Nebraska and Purdue in spots six through eight, consecutively. BYU and Florida rounded out the last spots at No. 9 and No. 10.

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

WHERE WE RANK ...

ALL-TIME NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

1. PENN STATE - 6

Stanford - 6

3. UCLA - 4

ALL-TIME NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE MATCHES

1. Stanford - 14

2. PENN STATE - 9

UCLA - 8

ALL-TIME NCAA NATIONAL SEMIFINAL APPEARANCES

1. Stanford - 18

2. Nebraska - 13

3. UCLA - 12

4. PENN STATE - 11

5. USC - 10

ALL-TIME TOTAL NCAA TOURNAMENT VICTORIES

1. Stanford - 106

2. Nebraska - 93

3. PENN STATE - 86

4. UCLA - 83

5. Hawaii - 75

NCAA TOURNEY SERIES RECORDS

TEAM	W-L	TEAM	W-L
Albany	1-0	Minnesota	2-1
American	1-0	Nebraska	3-6
Ball State	1-0	Niagara	1-0
Baylor	1-0	Northern Illinois	2-0
Binghamton	3-0	Northwestern	1-0
Bowling Green	1-0	Notre Dame	3-1
Bucknell	1-0	Ohio State	1-1
BYU	4-0	Oklahoma	1-0
California	4-0	Oregon	0-1
Cincinnati	1-0	Pacific	1-2
Clemson	1-0	Pennsylvania	2-0
Colorado	2-0	Pittsburgh	1-0
Colorado State	1-0	Providence	1-0
Dayton	1-0	Purdue	2-1
Delaware	1-0	Robert Morris	2-0
Duke	1-0	Stanford	4-2
Fairfield	1-0	Siena	2-0
Florida	2-1	Temple	0-1
Georgia Tech	2-0	Tennessee	0-1
Hawaii	1-0	Texas	2-0
Illinois	0-1	UCLA	1-5
James Madison	1-0	USC	0-1
Kansas State	1-0	Utah	1-0
Kentucky	1-0	Virginia Tech	1-0
Liberty	1-0	Washington	1-1
LIU Brooklyn	3-0	Washington State	1-0
Long Beach State	0-2	Wisconsin	3-0
Louisville	1-0	Western Michigan	1-0
Maryland	1-0	Wyoming	1-0
Michigan	1-0	Yale	1-0
Michigan State	1-0		

NITTANY LIONS IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

With an 86-26 all-time record in the NCAA tournament, Penn State has totaled 10 national final appearances ('93, '97, '98, '99, '07, '08, '09, '10, '12, '13), 11 trips to the national semifinals ('93, '94, '97, '98, '99, '07, '08, '09, '10, '12, '13) and six national championships ('99, '07, '08, '09, '10, '13).

REGIONAL SEMIFINAL SNIPPETS

Making their 12th consecutive trip the NCAA regional semifinals this weekend, the Nittany Lions' streak of appearances in the round of 16 is the longest active DI stretch. Last year, Penn State outlasted Michigan State in four sets in the Lexington Regional semifinals.

SUCCESS IN THE SECOND ROUND

Penn State improved to 20-5 all-time in round two of the NCAA tournament after posting a 3-0 win against Dayton. The win against the Flyers also marked Penn State's 12th consecutive second-round victory, since 2002, when Temple knocked PSU out of the tourney.

FIRST ROUND FACTS

PSU hosted the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament for the 28th time since 1981, welcoming a trio of tournament teams to Rec Hall last week for the 24th consecutive year. With the win against Siena, Penn State improved to 29-5 all-time in opening matches of the tourney, stretching its streak of 3-0 victories in the first round to 25 straight.

NCAA TOURNAMENT NOTES

- Penn State hit .436 or better in each of the opening two rounds of the NCAA tournament, posting a .436 (47-6-94) hitting clip against Dayton in round two.
- The Nittany Lions snapped Siena's nine-match winning streak in the opening round of the tournament, while also limiting All-MAAC first-teamer Meghann Wright to -.032 hitting (7-8-31).
- In the win against Dayton, Penn State held A10 Player of the Year Alaina Turner to just .148 hitting (9-5-27). While Turner ranked sixth nationally with 0.51 aces per set, she did not have any aces against the Nittany Lions.

RECORD BOOK WATCH: MICHA HANCOCK & NIA GRANT

With 31 assists against Ohio State (10/28), senior Micha Hancock eclipsed the 5,000 career assists mark, making her the sixth Nittany Lion in program history to reach the milestone. With 116 aces on the year, she's the just the second-student athlete in Big Ten history to amass 100 aces in a season.

Ranked second on the team and 11th in the conference with 1.12 blocks per set, senior Nia Grant moved improved her career blocks total to 448 after posting three blocks in the second round of the NCAA tournament against Dayton. The mark is tied for 12th on the PSU career list and puts her just 52 blocks shy of becoming the ninth Nittany Lion to reach the 500 career blocks plateau.

WHITNEY, GONZALEZ NAB PSU ALUMNI CLASSIC ALL-TOURNEY HONORS

Redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney and senior Dominique Gonzalez earned Penn State Alumni Classic all-tournament honors this weekend. Whitney was selected as the most outstanding player while Gonzalez earned a spot on the all-tournament team. Whitney posted a team-high .600 hitting clip during the undefeated weekend, registering a career-high two aces against DePaul and a squad-best 13 kills on 18 errorless swings against UIC. Gonzalez continued her steady play from the backrow, averaging a team-high 2.50 digs per set across four matches. She highlighted the weekend with 10 digs against UIC.

HANCOCK HIGHLIGHTS VILLANOVA CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT SQUAD

Penn State dominated the Villanova Classic All-Tournament team as senior Micha Hancock highlighted a trio of honorees with MVP honors. Senior Nia Grant and redshirt junior Aiyana Whitney each earned All-Tournament team laurels. Hancock led the way from the service line, notching 21 aces on the weekend, while Grant powered the Penn State offense with a team-high .618 hitting percentage during the undefeated road test. Whitney highlighted the weekend with a season-high 13 kills and a career-high six blocks vs. No. 24 Kansas (9/13).

WHAT'S NEXT?

Should the Nittany Lions defeat UCLA, Penn State will advance to the Louisville regional finals Saturday, Dec. 13th, taking on the winner of the Ohio State-No. 4 Wisconsin match, which begins at 5 p.m. ET in the KFC Yum! Center. A regional semifinal appearance for the Nittany Lions would mark the seventh showing for PSU in the round of eight in the last eight years. Last year, Penn State outlasted Stanford in the Lexington regional finals to move on to the national semifinals.

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

CAREER COUNTDOWN!

KILLS

MILESTONE	NAME	# TO GO
200 kills	Simone Lee	21
	Haleigh Washington	23
400 kills	Aiyana Whitney	48
	Ali Frantti	40
500 kills	Micha Hancock	7
900 kills	Nia Grant	80
	Megan Courtney	89

DIGS

MILESTONE	NAME	# TO GO
100 digs	Aiyana Whitney	41
200 digs	Nia Grant	17
600 digs	Lacey Fuller	53
1,000 digs	Megan Courtney	216
1,500 digs	Dominique Gonzalez	132
	Micha Hancock	426

ASSISTS

MILESTONE	NAME	# TO GO
5,500 assists	Micha Hancock	99

BLOCKS

MILESTONE	NAME	# TO GO
100 blocks	Haleigh Washington	21
200 blocks	Aiyana Whitney	97
300 blocks	Micha Hancock	11
	Megan Courtney	34
500 blocks	Nia Grant	52

CAREER RECORD BOOK WATCH

ASSISTS

#	RECORD	NAME
1.	6,596	Michelle Jaworski, 1987-90
2.	6,087	Sam Tortorello, 2002-05
3.	5,911	Bonnie Bremner, 1996-99
4.	5,800	Alisha Glass, 2006-09
5.	5,455	Salima Davidson, 1991-94
6.	5,401	Micha Hancock, 2011-Pres.
7.	4,774	Ellen Hensler, 1983-86

ACES

#	RECORD	NAME
1.	373	Micha Hancock, 2011-Pres.
2.	235	Ellen Hensler, 1983-86
3.	183	Vida Kernich, 1983-86
4.	175	Lori Barberich, 1981-84
5.	163	Michelle Jaworski, 1987-90
6.	155	Noelle Zientara, 1987-90
7.	151	Elizabeth Ramirez, 1986-89
8.	146	Alyssa D'Errico, 2007-10
9.	134	Roberta Holehouse, 2005-08
10.	127	Nicole Fawcett, 2005-08

WASHINGTON EARNS B1G PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONOR

Following a pair of career-high performances in two victories against No. 17 Ohio State, Haleigh Washington has earned Big Ten Player of the Week honors. The award is the first of Washington's career and the second time a Nittany Lion has been selected as the Big Ten Player of the Week during the 2014 season.

Washington led the team with a .444 hitting percentage in a 2-0 week, hitting .429 or higher in back-to-back straight set wins against Ohio State. Defensively, she led the Nittany Lion blocking unit with 16 total blocks (4 BS, 12 BA), averaging 2.67 per set during the undefeated week.

SERVING UP A PROGRAM RECORD

Penn State served up 15 aces in a straight set victory against DePaul last weekend to match a PSU program record. The Nittany Lions originally set the record for the most amount of aces in a three set match in 2002, posted 15 aces against Fairfield Sept. 7th.

PENN STATE POSTS 38TH 20+ WINS SEASON

Following a straight-set victory against Michigan State, the Nittany Lions posted their 20th victory of the season, marking the 38th time in program history that PSU has reached 20 wins in a season. Penn State has reached the mark every year since the inaugural women's volleyball season in 1976.

NITTANY LIONS MONTH - BY- MONTH

Penn State is 40-5 (.889) all-time during the month of August, after notching a trio of victories against TCU, Iona and William & Mary last weekend. The Nittany Lions' first two losses came during the inaugural NACWAA in 1995 when Nebraska swept PSU, and in the 1999 NACWAA when Florida outlasted Penn State, 3-2, in the opening round. The Nittany Lions have not dropped a season opening match since losing to Oregon in 2011.

Penn State is 369-57-4 (.866) all-time during the month of September. The Lions are 194-18 (.915) during September dating back to the 1995 season and 52-9 (.852) within the last six years.

PSU is 394-69 (.851) all-time during the month of October. Penn State has posted a 93-13 (.877) mark in October across the last 10 seasons, and a record of 58-5 (.921) in the last five years, without losing a match during the month from 2007 to 2010.

Penn State is 294-57 (.838) all-time during the month of November, including a 97-8 (.924) mark across the last 10 seasons. The Nittany Lions posted a six-year streak from 1995-2000 where they did not lose a match in the month, and in the last five seasons, Penn State has a 53-3 (.946) mark in November.

In 2013, the Nittany posted unblemished records in three months, going 2-0 in August, 8-0 in October and 10-0 in November. The Nittany Lions compiled an 8-0 mark this year in the month of November.

QUICK SETS

From Oct. 16, 1996 to Nov. 9, 2001, Penn State won 139 consecutive matches when taking a 2-0 lead. Since joining the Big Ten in 1991, Penn State has played in 800 total matches, winning 741. Across the last seven years, Penn State has earned 180 of its 229 victories in three sets (79%), including 37-of-38 (98%) in 2008 and 32-of-38 in 2009 (84%).

In the last 15 years, the Lions have only lost 61 matches. And of those 22 teams that defeated the Lions – BYU, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Long Beach State, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska, Northwestern, Ohio State, Oregon, Oregon State, Purdue, USC, Stanford, Temple, Tennessee, Texas, UCLA, Washington and Wisconsin – only nine of these teams (Nebraska, Stanford, Ohio State, Illinois, Wisconsin, UCLA, Minnesota, Michigan State and Florida) have been able to beat Penn State a third time. The Lions have compiled a 288-61 mark in the last 15 years versus these teams.

vs. Michigan	29-2	vs. Stanford	5-6
vs. Northwestern	30-2	vs. MSU	27-3
vs. Wisconsin	26-6	vs. Ohio State	27-5
vs. Florida	4-3	vs. UCLA	4-3
vs. Nebraska	6-5	vs. Minnesota	27-6
vs. LBSU	0-1	vs. USC	2-1
vs. Illinois	26-6	vs. Temple	2-1
vs. BYU	3-1	vs. Tennessee	0-1
vs. Purdue	32-1	vs. Indiana	31-1
vs. Washington	0-1	vs. Texas	9-2
		vs. Oregon	0-2
		vs. Oregon State	0-1

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

NCAA RPI TOP 30

Updated: Dec. 1, 2014

NO.	SCHOOL	CONF.	REC.	RD.	NEU.	HOME
1	Stanford	Pac-12	29-1	12-1	2-0	15-0
2	Texas	Big 12	23-2	11-0	2-0	10-2
3	Florida St.	ACC	28-2	12-2	1-0	15-0
4	Washington	Pac-12	29-2	10-2	4-0	15-0
5	UNC	ACC	26-2	10-2	2-0	14-0
6	Wisconsin	Big Ten	28-2	12-1	4-0	12-1
7	Florida	SEC	25-3	11-1	1-0	13-2
8	Illinois	Big Ten	24-7	9-4	3-2	12-1
9	PENN ST.	BIG TEN	30-3	10-2	4-0	16-1
10	Oregon	Pac-12	21-9	6-6	2-0	13-3
11	Kansas	Big 12	22-8	6-4	4-1	12-3
12	Colorado St.	Mt. West	29-2	12-1	3-0	14-1
13	Nebraska	Big Ten	20-9	7-4	2-0	11-5
14	Kentucky	SEC	26-5	9-2	2-0	15-3
15	Iowa St.	Big 12	18-9	5-6	2-0	11-3
16	Arizona	Pac-12	23-9	7-5	4-0	12-4
17	BYU	W. Coast	25-4	11-2	2-1	12-1
18	UCLA	Pac-12	20-11	6-6	7-1	7-4
19	Texas A&M	SEC	21-8	8-3	3-0	10-5
20	Oklahoma	Big 12	20-10	5-8	4-0	11-2
21	Duke	ACC	22-7	8-5	1-0	13-2
22	USC	Pac-12	15-15	6-7	5-1	4-7
23	Kansas St.	Big 12	22-8	8-3	5-1	9-4
24	Creighton	Big East	25-8	8-4	5-1	12-3
25	Marquette	Big East	24-8	10-4	3-1	11-3
26	LBSU	Big West	26-4	9-1	2-2	15-1
27	Colorado	Pac-12	19-13	6-6	1-3	12-4
28	Miami (FL)	ACC	21-8	6-5	2-2	13-1
29	Illinois St.	Miz. Valley	26-5	11-2	5-3	10-0
30	Alabama	SEC	25-7	7-5	6-1	12-1

PENN STATE'S RECORD WHEN ...

Playing at home.....	18-1
Playing on the road	10-2
Playing at a neutral site	4-0
Current winning streak	W16
Big Ten matches.....	18-2
Non-conference matches	14-1
In three-set matches.....	29-0
In four-set matches	2-2
In five-set matches.....	1-1
When winning the first set.....	30-2
When losing the first set.....	2-1
Hitting .300 +	25-1
Hitting .200 -.299	7-1
When winning the second set.....	31-1
When losing the second set	1-2
Out-hitting a team	31-1
Out-hit by a team.....	1-2
Playing a ranked team	8-3
Playing an unranked team.....	24-0
On TV.....	7-2
In August.....	3-0
In September.....	11-1
In October	8-2
In November	8-0

WHO'S BACK

Two-time first team AVCA All-American Micha Hancock leads a solid group of four starters from last year's NCAA national championship squad. Hancock directed the Nittany Lion offense to a .305 hitting clip in 2013, which concluded the season ranked fifth nationally.

AVCA Honorable Mention All-America Nia Grant and starting outside Megan Courtney are two of Hancock's top attackers who return to the court. Having ranked within the top of the Big Ten and national standings throughout the season, Grant's .350 hitting clip closed out the year ranked second best on the team and fifth in the final conference standings. Courtney, who picked up 2014 Preseason All-Big Ten honors, finished the year with 297 kills, averaging 2.47 per set on .272 hitting. Her 2.51 digs per frame and 0.73 blocks per set ranked third on the squad.

Defensively, the Nittany Lions also return two-year starting libero Dominique Gonzalez, who has proved to be a steady leader in the back row. Averaging 3.28 digs per set in 2014, she amassed 416 digs on the year, posting double-digit digs in 23-of-36 matches in 2013.

EXPERIENCED SENIOR CORE

Comprised of four, this year's senior class features Lacey Fuller, Dominique Gonzalez, Nia Grant and Micha Hancock. Along with back-to-back Big Ten titles in 2012 and 2013, the veteran class holds a 14-2 (.875) mark in postseason play with a 2-0 mark in the 2014 NCAA tournament along with two consecutive NCAA national semifinal appearances in 2012-13 as well as the 2013 NCAA national title.

SPOTS TO FILL

Penn State has entered the 2014 season without a trio of standout student-athletes who were instrumental in the Nittany Lions' fifth national crown in the last seven years. 2013 Graduating seniors Deja McClendon, Katie Slay and Ariel Scott combined for 10 AVCA All-America honors during their four-year careers on the court, guiding both the 2010 and 2013 teams to a pair of NCAA national titles.

McClendon highlighted the 2013 All-America class as the only player to be honored as a four-time All-American. A true multi-faceted student-athlete, The Nittany Lions will have to replace McClendon's ability to pass, block, defend and attack. PSU will also need to replace Scott, a three-time AVCA All-American opposite who consistently served as the Nittany Lions' go-to hitter. Defensively, Slay departs Penn State as one of the most prolific blockers in program history, having earned three consecutive All-America honors to go along with her 627 career blocks, which ranks sixth all-time.

FRESHMAN INFLUENCE

Regarded by PrepVolleyball.com as "a class that rivals the best ever," Penn State's incoming freshman class features eight newcomers who will all be competing for spots on the court in 2014. Along with four state Gatorade Player of the Year honorees, five Nittany Lion newcomers were ranked within PrepVolleyball's top 15 in the nation, while three ranked among the top three.

Skylar Dykstra » Transferred from UCLA after redshirting her freshman indoor season.

Alli Frantti » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 2 recruit in the nation ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America ... Helped club team (Fusion) to back-to-back AAU titles, collecting MVP honors in 202 ... Led Richmond Burton (HS) to 2013 Illinois state title ... Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year.

Simone Lee » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 8 recruit in the nation ... Played on the same club team as Frantti (Fusion) ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America ... Guided Menomonee (HS) to Wisconsin state title in 2013 ... Wisconsin Gatorade Player of the Year.

Lainy Pierce » Led Eden (HS) to New York state title in 2013.

Nia Reed » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 12 recruit in the nation ... Helped Immaculate Heart (HS) to four straight non-public state titles ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America ... New Jersey Gatorade Player of the Year from 2011-13.

Heidi Thelen » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 61 recruit in the nation ... 2013-14 Under Armour Honorable Mention All-America.

Haleigh Washington » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 1 recruit in the nation ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America ... Two-time Colorado Gatorade Player of the Year (2012-13) ... Led Doherty (HS) to 2012 Colorado state title ... 2013 VB Magazine Player of the Year.

Bryanna Weiskircher » Ranked PrepVolleyball's No. 13 recruit in the nation ... Played on the same club team as Frantti and Lee (Fusion) as the starting setter ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America.

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

RUSS ROSE AT A GLANCE ...

- 2007 AVCA Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2005 USA Volleyball All-Time Great Coach Honoree
- 2000 US Olympic Committee Coach of the Year
- Five-time AVCA Coach of the Year
1997, 1999, 2007, 2008, 2013
- Six-time AVCA Midwest Region Coach of the Year
1996, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012
- Three-time Volleyball Monthly Coach of the Year
1990, 1993, 1999
- Seven-time Midwest Region Coach of the Year
1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2007, 2008, 2012
- 14-time Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year
1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 (co), 1998, 2003 (co),
2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013
- 1996 District II Coach of the Year
- Six-Time Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year
- Five-time Northeast Region Coach of the Year
- National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame
- 2010 USAV Leader in Volleyball

BY THE NUMBERS ...

1999, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2013
NCAA National Championships

NO. 1

All-Time Winning Percentage (.864) among active DI coaches

1,157

Career wins in 36 seasons, the highest win total ever for a Penn State head coach

3

Number of active coaches in NCAA Division I history with 1,000 career wins

33

Straight NCAA Tournament appearances

16

Big Ten titles in 23 years

8

Consecutive Atlantic 10 titles

159

Academic All-Big Ten selections in 23 years

21

Conference Players of the Year in last 28 years

At least **1** All-American in 34-of-35 seasons

NEW YEAR, NEW STAFF

Fresh faces on the court are not the only new additions this year, as a new staff joins Rose for the 2014 season. Following the departure of five-year assistant coach Kaleena Davidson, Stevie Mussie joins Penn State as an assistant coach after serving as in the same role at the University of Virginia.

Penn State women's volleyball gained more momentum shortly after Mussie's hiring as former All-American and Nittany Lion assistant coach Salima Rockwell re-joined the staff as associate head coach after spending five seasons at Texas.

LEADING LIONS

Seniors Nia Grant and Dominique Gonzalez have been selected as 2014 team captains. Senior Micha Hancock will also serve as the 2014 floor captain.

SUCCESS IN THE SEASON OPENER

Penn State improved to 30-6 all-time in season-openers after sweeping TCU in the first match of the Penn State Classic. The win against the Horned Frogs marked the Nittany Lions' third consecutive season-opening victory.

THE LAST TIME A NITTANY LION ...

Had 30 or more kills31 - Nicole Fawcett vs. Cal Poly (8/31/07)
Had 10 or more blocks 10 - Katie Slay vs. Stanford (12/14/13)
Had eight or more aces 8 - Micha Hancock at Maryland (11/22/14)
Had 30 or more digs..... 35 - Alyssa D'Errico at Minnesota (11/27/10)
Had 80 or more assists82 - Samantha Spink vs. Illinois (11/24/95)
Hit .800 or better (min. 12 kills)929 (13-0-14) A. Wilson vs. St. Francis (9/19/09)

THE LAST TIME PENN STATE ...

VS. NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS (REGULAR-SEASON MATCHES)

Won a matchvs. East Carolina, 9/20/14 (25-11, 25-17, 25-10)
Lost a match.....at Stanford, 9/5/14 (25-18, 23-25, 22-25, 25-16, 10-15)
Won at homevs. East Carolina, 9/20/14 (25-11, 25-17, 25-10)
Lost at homevs. Oregon, 8/26/11 (25-16, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22)
Won 3-0 at home.....vs. East Carolina, 9/20/14 (25-11, 25-17, 25-10)
Lost 3-0 at home.....vs. UC-Santa Barbara, 9/18/86 (1-15, 7-15, 13-15)
Won 3-0 on the roadvs. Kansas, 9/13/13 (25-10, 27-25, 25-23)
Lost 3-0 on the roadvs. Stanford, 9/11/10 (26-28, 12-25, 18-25)

VS. BIG TEN OPPONENTS (REGULAR-SEASON MATCHES)

Won a matchvs. Nebraska, 11/29/14 (25-21, 25-15, 25-16)
Lost a match.....vs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won at homevs. Nebraska, 11/29/14 (25-21, 25-15, 25-16)
Lost at homevs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won 3-0 at home.....vs. Nebraska, 11/29/14 (25-21, 25-15, 25-16)
Lost 3-0 at home.....vs. Minnesota, 10/18/03 (26-30, 18-30, 21-30)
Won 3-0 on the roadat Northwestern, 11/26/14 (25-20, 25-23, 25-23)
Lost 3-0 on the roadat Illinois, 11/11/11 (21-25, 23-25, 26-28)

ALL MATCHES

Won a match vs. Dayton, 12/7/14 (25-20, 25-18, 25-16)
Lost a match.....vs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won at home vs. Dayton, 12/7/14 (25-20, 25-18, 25-16)
Lost at homevs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won 3-0 at home..... vs. Dayton, 12/7/14 (25-20, 25-18, 25-16)
Lost 3-0 at home.....vs. Minnesota, 10/18/03 (26-30, 18-30, 21-30)
Won 3-0 on the roadat Northwestern, 11/26/14 (25-20, 25-23, 25-23)
Lost 3-0 on the roadat Illinois, 11/11/11 (21-25, 23-25, 26-28)

STREAKING!

Penn State holds the top three winning streaks in Big Ten history. Penn State's most recent streak of 65 consecutive matches began on Nov. 11, 2006 and ended on Sept. 24, 2010 at Illinois. It is the longest streak in league history. Penn State's other two conference winning streaks were 49 matches and 41. Illinois owns the fourth (40) and fifth (25) longest conference winning streaks.

TOP FIVE BIG TEN STREAKS

65 - Penn State (11/11/06 - 9/18/10)
- snapped at Illinois (9/24/10)
49 - Penn State (11/1/97 - 11/27/99)
- snapped at Wisconsin (9/22/00)
41 - Penn State (10/22/04 - 10/21/06)
- snapped at Wisconsin (10/27/06)
40 - Illinois (11/15/85 - 11/20/87)
- snapped at Purdue (11/27/87)
25 - Illinois (10/2/92 - 10/9/93)
- snapped vs. Penn State (10/15/93)

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

2014 PENN STATE SUPERLATIVES

THREE SETS.....	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	17, 2x last - Ali Frantti vs. Nebraska (11/29).....	54 - vs. Villanova (9/12)
Attacks:	29 - Ali Frantti at Ohio State (10/31).....	125 - vs. Wisconsin (9/24)
Attack Percentage*:	846, 2x (11-0-13) - Nia Grant last vs. Iowa (11/12)	586 (38-4-58) - vs. DePaul (9/19)
Assists:.....	47- Micha Hancock vs. Villanova (9/13)	52 - vs. Villanova (9/12)
Aces:.....	8, 3x last - Micha Hancock at Maryland (11/22)	15 - vs. DePaul (9/19)
Digs:.....	21 - Dominique Gonzalez vs. Wisconsin (9/24).....	59 - vs. Wisconsin (9/24)
Solo Blocks:.....	3 - Haleigh Washington vs. Ohio State (10/28).....	4, 2x last - vs. Siena (12/6)
Block Assists:.....	9 - Nia Grant at Michigan (11/19).....	23 - at Michigan (11/19)
Total Blocks:	10 - Nia Grant at Michigan (11/19).....	19.0 - vs. UCLA (9/6)

FOUR SETS	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	19 - Ali Frantti at Nebraska (10/3)	67 - vs. Illinois (10/11)
Attacks:	45 - Megan Courtney at Nebraska (10/3).....	158 - vs. Illinois (10/11)
Attack Percentage*:	571 (10-2-14) - Nia Grant vs. American (9/12)	310 (67-18-158) - vs. Illinois (10/11)
Assists:.....	53 - Micha Hancock vs. Illinois (10/11)	56, 2x last - vs. Illinois (10/11)
Aces:.....	8 - Micha Hancock vs. American (9/12).....	14 - vs. American (9/12)
Digs:	26 - Dominique Gonzalez at Minnesota (9/27)	59, 2x last - at Nebraska (10/3)
Solo Blocks:.....	2, 2x last - Megan Courtney vs. Illinois (10/11).....	4 - vs. Illinois (10/11)
Block Assists:.....	6, 2x last - Haleigh Washington vs. Illinois (10/11).....	25 - at Minnesota (9/27)
Total Blocks:	8 - Nia Grant at Minnesota (9/27).....	15.5 - at Minnesota (9/27)

FIVE SETS	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	22 - Ali Frantti at Stanford (9/5)	71 - at Stanford (9/5)
Attacks:	48 - Ali Frantti at Purdue (10/17)	173 - at Stanford (9/5)
Attack Percentage*:	429 (12-3-21) - Nia Grant at Purdue (10/17)	243 (71-29-173) - at Stanford (9/5)
Assists:.....	58 - Micha Hancock at Purdue (10/17)	69 - at Stanford (9/5)
Aces:.....	6 - Micha Hancock at Purdue (10/17).....	11 - at Purdue (10/17)
Digs:	20 - Dominique Gonzalez at Stanford (9/5).....	73 - at Stanford (9/5)
Solo Blocks:.....	1 - Simone Lee & Ali Frantti at Stanford (9/5)	2 - at Stanford (9/5)
Block Assists:.....	8 - Haleigh Washington at Purdue (10/17)	23 - at Purdue (10/17)
Total Blocks:	8 - Haleigh Washington at Purdue (10/17)	14 - at Stanford (9/5)

2014 OPPONENT SUPERLATIVES

THREE SETS.....	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	20 - Karsta Lowe, UCLA (9/6)	47 - Michigan (11/19)
Attacks:	42 - Karsta Lowe, UCLA (9/6)	122 - Wisconsin (9/24)
Attack Percentage*:	560 (14-0-25) - Stephenee Yancy, UIC (9/20)	247 (36-13-93) - Michigan State (10/24)
Assists:.....	34 - Julie Consani, UCLA (9/6).....	43 - Michigan (11/19)
Aces:.....	2, 2x last - Santana Daly, Minnesota (11/15)	6 - UCLA (9/6)
Digs:	14, 2x last - Bobbi Lin Kalama, Siena (12/6)	47 - Wisconsin (9/24)
Solo Blocks:.....	2 - C. Kieffer-Wright, Michigan (11/19)	2, 3x last - Northwestern (11/22)
Block Assists:.....	6 - Jazmine White, Michigan State (10/25)	16 - Michigan State (10/24)
Total Blocks:	6 - Jazmine White, Michigan State (10/25)	9.0 - Michigan State (10/24)

FOUR SETS	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	19 - Jocelynn Birks, Illinois (10/11).....	61 - Illinois (10/11)
Attacks:	45 - Sarah Wilhite, Minnesota (9/27).....	143, 2x last - Illinois (10/11)
Attack Percentage*:	472 (19-2-36) - Jocelynn Birks, Illinois (10/11).....	315 (61-16-143) - Illinois (10/11)
Assists:.....	47 - Alexis Viliunas, Illinois (10/11)	58 - Illinois (10/11)
Aces:.....	3 - Brandi Donnelly, Illinois (10/11).....	4, 2x last - Illinois (10/11)
Digs:	20 - Annika Albrecht, Nebraska (10/3)	64 - Nebraska (10/3)
Solo Blocks:.....	2 - Meghan Haggerty, Nebraska (10/3)	2 - Nebraska (10/3)
Block Assists:.....	6 - Hannah Tapp, Minnesota (9/27)	18 - Minnesota (9/27)
Total Blocks:	7 - Meghan Haggerty, Nebraska (10/3)	9.0, 2x last - Nebraska (10/3)

FIVE SETS	INDIVIDUAL	TEAM
Kills:	23 - Annie Drews, Purdue (10/17).....	65 - Purdue (10/17)
Attacks:	66 - Annie Drews, Purdue (10/17).....	165 - Purdue (10/17)
Attack Percentage*:	385 (14-4-26) Inky Ajanaku, Stanford (9/5)	242 (65-25-165) - Purdue (10/17)
Assists:.....	53 - Val Nichol, Purdue (10/17)	61 - Purdue (10/17)
Aces:.....	1, 3x last - Ashley Evans & Annie Drews, Purdue (10/17)	2, 2x last - Purdue (10/17)
Digs:	19, 2x last - Amanda Neill, Purdue (10/17)	64 - Purdue (10/17)
Solo Blocks:.....	1 - Danielle Cuttino, Purdue (10/17)	1 - Purdue (10/17)
Block Assists:.....	7 - Danielle Cuttino, Purdue (10/17)	20, 2x last - Purdue (10/17)
Total Blocks:	8 - Danielle Cuttino, Purdue (10/17)	11.0 - Purdue (10/17)

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER MATCH-BY-MATCH HIGHS

DATE	OPPONENT	KILLS	ATTACKS	ASSISTS	DIGS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Aug. 29	TCU	Frantti - 13	Frantti -24	Hancock - 37	Frantti - 7 Hancock - 7 Gonzalez - 7	Frantti - 4
Aug. 30	Iona	Frantti - 11	Frantti - 20 Whitney - 20	Hancock - 30	Gonzalez - 11	Thelen - 3
Aug. 30	William & Mary	Lee - 10	Lee - 17	Hancock - 35	Courtney - 7	Courtney - 4 Frantti - 4
Sept. 5	Stanford	Frantti - 22	Courtney - 43	Hancock - 57	Gonzalez - 20	Courtney - 5
Sept. 6	UCLA	Frantti - 14	Frantti - 21	Hancock - 37	Gonzalez - 7	Grant - 7
Sept. 12	American	Frantti - 12	Frantti - 39	Hancock - 35	Gonzalez - 21	Grant - 5 Whitney - 5
Sept. 12	Villanova	Courtney - 14	Frantti - 26	Hancock - 47	Gonzalez - 10	Grant - 2
Sept. 13	Yale	Frantti - 11 Grant - 11	Courtney - 20	Hancock - 35	Gonzalez - 19	Grant - 2 Hancock - 2
Sept. 13	Kansas	Whitney - 13	Whitney - 21	Hancock - 34	Gonzalez - 12	Whitney - 6
Sept. 19	Eastern Illinois	Grant - 10 Lee - 10	Courtney - 19	Hancock - 30	Hancock - 10 Courtney - 10	Grant - 5
Sept. 19	DePaul	Frantti - 9	Frantti - 14	Hancock - 27	Hancock - 6 Gonzalez - 6	Whitney - 3
Sept. 20	UIC	Whitney - 13	Courtney - 19	Hancock - 38	Gonzalez - 10	Hancock - 1 Grant - 1
Sept. 20	East Carolina	Frantti - 10 Courtney - 10	Courtney -17	Hancock 33	Gonzalez - 5	Grant - 2 Hancock - 2
Sept. 24	Wisconsin	Lee - 13	Courtney - 25	Hancock - 38	Gonzalez - 21	Whitney - 6
Sept. 27	Minnesota	Grant - 14	Lee - 33	Hancock - 50	Gonzalez - 26	Grant - 8
Oct. 3	Nebraska	Frantti - 19	Courtney - 45	Hancock - 40	Gonzalez - 17	Grant - 5
Oct. 4	Iowa	Grant - 11 Courtney - 11	Frantti - 22	Hancock - 33	Gonzalez - 8	Washington - 1 Whitney - 1
Oct. 9	Northwestern	Whitney - 12	Frantti -26	Hancock - 30	Gonzalez - 10	Whitney - 7
Oct. 11	Illinois	Whitney - 15	Frantti - 34	Hancock - 53	Courtney -13	Washington -7
Oct. 17	Purdue	Whitney - 18	Whitney -44	Hancock - 58	Gonzalez - 16	Washington - 8
Oct. 18	Indiana	Courtney - 9	Frantti - 16	Hancock - 32	Hancock - 5	Grant - 5
Oct. 24	Michigan	Frantti - 15	Frantti - 28	Hancock - 34	Courtney - 9	Grant - 4 Washington - 4
Oct. 25	Michigan State	Whitney - 12	Frantti - 22 Whitney - 22	Hancock - 33	Gonzalez - 14	Washington - 3
Oct. 28	Ohio State	Frantti - 8 Whitney - 8 Courtney - 8	Courtney -20	Hancock -31	Gonzalez - 8	Grant - 7 Washington - 7
Oct. 31	Ohio State	Frantti - 14	Frantti - 29	Hancock - 32	Gonzalez - 15	Washington - 9
Nov. 7	Rutgers	Washington -13	Washington - 16	Hancock - 36	Gonzalez - 11	Grant - 5
Nov. 8	Maryland	Frantti - 13	Frantti - 27	Hancock - 38	Gonzalez - 12	Hancock - 7
Nov. 12	Iowa	Whitney - 16	Frantti - 25	Hancock - 41	Gonzalez - 10	Grant -6
Nov. 15	Minnesota	Whitney - 17	Whitney - 22	Hancock - 31	Gonzalez -14	Washington - 6
Nov. 19	Michigan	Whitney - 12	Courtney - 25	Hancock - 43	Gonzalez - 13	Grant - 10
Nov. 22	Maryland	Frantti - 9	Whitney - 21	Hancock - 32	Gonzalez - 9	Grant - 8
Nov. 26	Northwestern	Courtney - 9	Frantti - 19	Hancock - 36	Courtney - 11	Grant - 7
Nov. 29	Nebraska	Frantti - 17	Frantti -28	Hancock - 33	Gonzalez - 10	Washington - 4
Dec. 5	Siena	Washington - 9	Frantti - 17	Hancock - 33	Gonzalez - 11	Washington - 6
Dec. 6	Dayton	Courtney - 11	Courtney - 25	Hancock - 36	Gonzalez - 8 Hancock - 8	Grant - 3
TOTALS (INCLUDING TIES)		Frantti - 15 Lee - 3 Courtney - 7 Grant - 4 Whitney - 10 Washington - 2	Frantti - 17 Lee - 2 Whitney - 6 Courtney - 10 Washington - 1	Hancock - 35	Frantti - 1 Gonzalez - 29 Hancock - 5 Courtney - 5	Frantti - 2 Courtney - 2 Thelen - 1 Grant - 18 Whitney - 6 Hancock - 4 Washington - 10

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

2014 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	SET SCORES	SITE	ATT.	RECORD	TIME
Aug. 29	TCU	W	3-0	25-10, 25-17, 25-17	University Park, Pa.	2,809	1-0	1:22
Aug. 30	Iona	W	3-0	25-13, 25-14, 25-11	University Park, Pa.	3,354	2-0	1:02
Aug. 30	William & Mary	W	3-0	25-13, 25-12, 25-9	University Park, Pa.	3,354	3-0	1:10
Sept. 5	#2 Stanford	L	3-2	25-18, 23-25, 22-25, 25-16, 10-15	Palo Alto, Calif.	3,685	3-1	2:32
Sept. 6	UCLA	W	3-0	25-19, 27-25, 25-17	Palo Alto, Calif.	412	4-1	1:37
Sept. 12	American	W	3-1	24-26, 25-8, 25-14, 25-16	Villanova, Pa.	387	5-1	1:37
Sept. 12	Villanova	W	3-0	25-19, 25-12, 25-15	Villanova, Pa.	1,239	6-1	1:24
Sept. 13	Yale	W	3-0	25-14, 25-15, 25-15	Villanova, Pa.	673	7-1	1:14
Sept. 13	#24 Kansas	W	3-0	25-10, 27-25, 25-23	Villanova, Pa.	933	8-1	1:27
Sept. 19	Eastern Illinois	W	3-0	25-10, 25-9, 25-17	University Park, Pa.	2,467	9-1	1:03
Sept. 19	DePaul	W	3-0	25-8, 25-10, 25-13	University Park, Pa.	2,467	10-1	1:04
Sept. 20	UIC	W	3-0	25-18, 25-13, 25-16	University Park, Pa.	3,337	11-1	:59
Sept. 20	East Carolina	W	3-0	25-11, 25-17, 25-10	University Park, Pa.	3,337	12-1	1:05
Sept. 24	#5 Wisconsin	W	3-0	25-17, 25-21, 25-22	Madison, Wis.	6,012	13-1	1:40
Sept. 27	#17 Minnesota	W	3-1	27-29, 25-13, 25-15, 25-22	Minneapolis, Minn.	5,028	14-1	2:05
Oct. 3	#8 Nebraska	L	3-1	25-12, 22-25, 20-25, 23-25	Lincoln, Neb.	8,585	14-2	2:15
Oct. 4	Iowa	W	3-0	25-15, 25-14, 25-11	Iowa City, Iowa	1,738	15-2	1:17
Oct. 9	#24 Northwestern	W	3-0	25-20, 25-17, 25-17	University Park, Pa.	1,663	16-2	1:39
Oct. 11	#14 Illinois	L	3-1	24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25	University Park, Pa.	3,594	16-3	2:07
Oct. 17	#15 Purdue	W	3-2	26-24, 23-25, 22-25, 25-23, 15-9	West Lafayette, Ind.	2,415	17-3	2:40
Oct. 18	Indiana	W	3-0	25-11, 25-19, 25-15	Bloomington, Ind.	1,236	18-3	1:20
Oct. 24	Michigan	W	3-0	25-18, 25-16, 25-16	University Park, Pa.	4,622	19-3	1:19
Oct. 25	Michigan State	W	3-0	26-24, 25-17, 25-21	University Park, Pa.	2,282	20-3	1:19
Oct. 28	#17 Ohio State	W	3-0	25-15, 25-22, 25-12	University Park, Pa.	1,702	21-3	1:21
Oct. 31	#17 Ohio State	W	3-0	25-13, 25-16, 25-18	Columbus, Ohio	2,918	22-3	1:19
Nov. 7	Rutgers	W	3-0	25-11, 25-12, 25-10	University Park, Pa.	2,239	23-3	1:07
Nov. 8	Maryland	W	3-0	25-11, 25-18, 25-15	University Park, Pa.	3,473	24-3	1:14
Nov. 12	Iowa	W	3-0	25-14, 25-12, 25-21	University Park, Pa.	1,702	25-3	1:15
Nov. 15	Minnesota	W	3-0	25-20, 25-12, 25-23	University Park, Pa.	5,569	26-3	1:27
Nov. 19	Michigan	W	3-0	25-19, 25-23, 27-25	Ann Arbor, Mich.	1,503	27-3	1:30
Nov. 22	Maryland	W	3-0	25-15, 25-18, 25-14	College Park, Pa.	4,522	28-3	1:21
Nov. 26	Northwestern	W	3-0	25-20, 25-23, 25-23	Evanston, Ill.	2,052	29-3	1:31
Nov. 29	#10 Nebraska	W	3-0	25-21, 25-15, 25-16	University Park, Pa.	5,327	30-3	1:31
Dec. 5	Siena	W	3-0	25-17, 25-10, 25-5	University Park, Pa.	1,720	31-3	1:08
Dec. 6	Dayton	W	3-0	25-20, 25-18, 25-16	University Park, Pa.	1,959	32-3	1:25

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

TEAM MATCH-BY-MATCH STAT COMPARISON

DATE	OPPONENT	SETS	KILLS	HITTING %	ACES	DIGS	TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS	TOTAL PTS SCORED*
Aug. 29	TCU/PSU	3	29/48	.125/.429	0/2	27/35	4.0/8.0	33.0/58.0
Aug. 30	Iona/PSU	3	12/40	-.075/.329	1/4	22/35	3.0/5.5	16.0/49.5
Aug. 30	W&M/PSU	3	17/45	-.056/.576	0/4	13/30	3.0/8.5	20.0/57.5
Sept. 5	Stanford/PSU	5	54/71	.237/.243	2/4	62/73	10.0/8.0	66.0/83.0
Sept. 6	UCLA/PSU	3	42/43	.183/.442	6/5	33/34	1.0/10.0	49.0/58.0
Sept. 12	American/PSU	4	33/49	.105/.269	4/14	46/53	4.0/11.0	41.0/74.0
Sept. 12	Nova/PSU	3	27/54	.200/.416	0/7	30/38	1.0/4.0	28.0/65.0
Sept. 13	Yale/PSU	3	26/45	.108/.419	2/3	36/43	1.0/4.0	29.0/52.0
Sept. 13	Kansas/PSU	3	32/43	.134/.319	4/6	35/34	6.0/9.0	42.0/58.0
Sept. 19	EIU/PSU	3	28/46	.138/.440	0/6	34/43	3.0/7.5	31.0/59.5
Sept. 19	DePaul/PSU	3	19/38	.069/.586	0/15	12/22	2.0/6.0	21.0/59.0
Sept. 20	UIC/PSU	3	32/51	.217/.500	1/6	27/32	1.0/3.0	34.0/60.0
Sept. 20	ECU/PSU	3	17/45	.034/.466	1/12	15/23	5.0/5.0	23.0/62.0
Sept. 24	Wisconsin/PSU	3	35/53	.148/.288	0/2	47/59	7.0/9.0	42.0/64.0
Sept. 27	Minnesota/PSU	4	59/42	.090/.261	2/7	63/59	9.0/15.5	53.0/81.5
Oct. 3	Nebraska/PSU	4	53/53	.196/.191	1/5	64/56	9.0/9.0	63.0/66.0
Oct. 4	Iowa/PSU	3	20/44	.134/.376	0/11	19/34	5.0/1.0	25.0/56.0
Oct. 9	Northwestern/PSU	3	33/42	.110/.340	2/4	37/40	7.0/8.0	42.0/54.0
Oct. 11	Illinois/PSU	4	61/67	.315/.310	4/6	63/54	8.0/13.0	73.0/86.0
Oct. 17	Purdue/PSU	5	65/65	.242/.216	2/11	64/59	11.0/11.5	78.0/87.5
Oct. 18	Indiana/PSU	3	31/42	.208/.500	2/6	18/21	3.0/8.0	36.0/56.0
Oct. 24	Michigan/PSU	3	32/47	.160/.443	1/5	30/36	4.0/8.0	37.0/60.0
Oct. 25	MSU/PSU	3	36/42	.247/.258	0/7	35/40	9.0/5.0	45.0/54.0
Oct. 28	Ohio State/PSU	3	33/39	.109/.372	1/5	31/28	2.0/12.0	36.0/56.0
Oct. 31	Ohio State/PSU	3	29/37	.065/.321	1/7	28/37	5.0/11.0	25.0/55.0
Nov. 7	Rutgers/PSU	3	14/46	-.039/.467	0/6	16/40	5.0/10.0	19.0/62.0
Nov. 8	Maryland/PSU	3	25/45	.044/.474	4/6	21/36	5.0/12.0	34.0/63.0
Nov. 12	Iowa/PSU	3	26/53	.102/.457	3/2	24/38	2.0/8.0	31.0/63.0
Nov. 15	Minnesota/PSU	3	29/45	.080/.315	2/7	26/38	7.0/9.5	38.0/61.5
Nov. 19	Michigan/PSU	3	47/49	.371/.218	1/1	30/43	5.0/13.5	53.0/63.5
Nov. 22	Maryland/PSU	3	26/38	.373/.108	0/9	22/28	3.0/9.5	29.0/56.6
Nov. 26	Northwestern/PSU	3	34/42	.146/.277	3/5	33/38	5.0/15.0	42.0/62.0
Nov. 29	Nebraska/PSU	3	33/42	.133/.2578	0/8	45/41	5.5/7.0	38.5/57.0
Dec. 5	Siena/PSU	3	22/38	.011/.415	1/9	31/38	2.0/11.0	25.0/60.0
Dec. 6	Dayton/PSU	3	32/47	.217/.436	3/9	37/39	2.0/5.0	37.0/61.0

* indicates total points scored by a team (kills, aces, blocks), not the cumulative total game scores, which also take into account opponent errors

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



LACEY FULLER

SENIOR | DS
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Has started 20 matches this season in the back row ... Highlighted the Penn State Classic with four digs against TCU (8/29) and one ace against William & Mary (8/30) ... Posted her first double-digit dig performance of the season with 10 at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) ... Posted at least two digs in every match at the Villanova Classic, highlighting the event with eight digs in a four-set victory against American (9/12) ... Recorded at least three digs in all three matches of the Penn State Alumni Classic, highlighting the weekend with six digs against Eastern Illinois (9/19) ... Posted five digs in the Big Ten opener at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24) ... Notched her third double-digit dig performance of the season, matching a career-high mark with 13 digs at No. 8 Nebraska (10/3) ... Recorded double-digit digs against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) ... Set a season-high mark with two aces against Michigan State (10/25).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in all 36 matches, seeing action in 118 sets ... Closed out the 2013 season ranked fifth on the team in digs with 141, averaging 1.19 per set ... Posted eight digs in back-to-back NCAA tournament matches against Utah (12/7) and Michigan State (12/13) ... Recorded a season-high nine digs in the NCAA regional final match against Stanford (12/14) .. Had one dig and one ace in the NCAA national semifinal match against third-seeded Washington (12/19) ... Totaled five digs in the NCAA national championship match against No. 12 Wisconsin (12/21).

PERSONAL » Born Lacey Fuller on Aug. 26, 1992 in San Diego, Calif. ... parents are Donald and Mary Ann Fuller ... has one brother, Blake and two sisters, Loni and Kim.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4	0
Iona	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
William & Mary	0	0	0	.000	1	1	2	0
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	1	0	10	0
UCLA	0	0	0	.000	1	0	5	0
American	0	0	0	.000	2	1	8	0
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	0	0	5	0
Yale	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Kansas	0	0	0	.000	0	0	6	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	1	0	6	0
DePaul	0	0	0	.000	3	0	5	0
UIC	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4	0
East Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	.000	0	0	5	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	3	0	8	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	0	0	13	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	0	1	5	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4	0
Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	10	0
Purdue	0	0	0	.000	1	0	6	0
Indiana	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Michigan22	0	0	0	.000	0	1	6	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	.000	0	2	5	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	5	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	1	7	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	.000	1	0	4	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Minnesota	0	0	2	.000	1	1	7	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	5	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	0	1	5	0
Siena	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0
Dayton	0	0	0	.000	0	1	4	0

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
N/A	Kills	N/A
2 vs. Minnesota (11/15)	Attacks	2 vs. Minnesota (11/15/14)
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
3 vs. DePaul (9/19)	Assists	3 vs. DePaul (9/19/14)
2 vs. Michigan State (10/25)	Aces	2, 5x, last vs. Michigan State (10/25/14)
13 at Nebraska (10/4)	Digs	13, 2x at Nebraska (10/4/14)
N/A	Blocks	N/A

FULLER'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2011	30-67	0	0	0	.000	4	6	56	0	0	0	0.00	0.06	0.10	0.88	0.00
2012	36-119	0	2	4	-.500	16	22	192	0	0	0	0.00	0.13	0.16	1.42	0.00
2013	36-118	0	0	0	.000	9	12	141	0	0	0	0.00	0.08	0.10	1.19	0.00
2014	35-113	0	0	2	.000	17	10	178	0	0	0	0.00	0.15	0.09	1.58	0.00
CAREER	137-417	0	2	6	-.333	45	48	547	0	0	0	0.00	0.11	0.12	1.31	0.00

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ

JUNIOR | DS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Her 3.59 digs per set ranks first on the squad and 11th in the Big Ten, while her 0.25 aces per set is tied for second on the team ... Highlighted the Penn State Classic with double-digit kills against Iona (8/30), posting a team-high 11 ... Notched her fourth career 20+ dig performance with a match-high 20 digs at No. 2 Stanford (9/6) ... Led the team with seven digs against UCLA (9/6) ... Posted double-digit digs in four consecutive matches at the Villanova Classic ... Recorded her second 20+ dig performance with a season-high 21 digs against American (9/12), while also tallying a career-high three aces ... Matched a career-high mark with three aces against DePaul (9/19) and UIC (9/20), while also notching double-digit digs against the Flames (10) ... Totaled 21 digs at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24) for her third match of the season with more than 20 kills ... Set a season-high mark with a match-high 26 digs against No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) ... Led the team with 14 digs against Michigan State (10/25) ... Notched a match-high 15 digs at Ohio State (10/31).

2014 HONORS » Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week (9/29) ... Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team (9/6) ... Penn State Alumni Classic All-Tournament Team (9/20).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Started all 36 matches at libero ... Concluded the season ranked first on the team in digs (416), averaging a squad-best 3.28 per set ... Posted double-digit digs in 23-of-36 matches, including three matches with 20 or more digs ... Matched a career-high mark with two aces against Yale (9/22) ... Totaled a season-high 24 digs against Northwestern (11/22) ... Registered four consecutive double-digit dig matches during the 2013 NCAA tournament with 18 against Michigan State (12/13), 15 against Stanford (12/15), 13 against No. 3 Washington (12/19) and 20 in the national championship match against No. 12 Wisconsin (12/21).

2013 HONORS » Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team (9/21)

PERSONAL » Born Dominique Shavawn Gonzalez on July 11, 1993 in San Antonio, Texas ... Parents are Roger and Debra Gonzalez ... Has two sisters, Jaci Gonzalez Barrientes and Nicki ... Sister, Jaci, played volleyball and softball at the University of Houston and sister, Nicki, played volleyball at UT Brownsville ... majoring in kinesiology.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	0	0	0	.000	3	0	7	0
Iona	0	0	0	.000	3	0	11	0
William & Mary	0	0	0	.000	2	0	3	0
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	4	1	20	0
UCLA	0	0	0	.000	1	1	7	0
American	0	0	0	.000	1	3	21	0
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	4	0	10	0
Yale	0	0	1	.000	2	0	19	0
Kansas	0	0	0	.000	1	0	12	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	6	0	9	0
DePaul	0	0	0	.000	4	3	6	0
UIC	0	0	0	.000	4	3	10	0
East Carolina	0	0	0	.000	2	2	5	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	.000	4	0	21	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	26	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	4	0	17	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	4	2	9	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	3	0	10	0
Illinois	0	0	0	.000	2	0	12	0
Purdue	0	0	0	.000	1	2	16	0
Indiana	0	0	0	.000	1	1	4	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	2	0	7	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	.000	1	1	14	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	8	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	1	2	15	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	.000	1	1	11	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	1	0	12	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	4	1	10	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	3	1	14	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	2	0	13	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	4	0	10	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	1	1	10	0
Siena	0	0	0	.000	0	3	11	0
Dayton	0	0	0	.000	4	0	8	0

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
N/A	Kills	1, 6x last vs. Minnesota (10/9/13)
N/A	Attacks	2, 2x, last vs. DePaul (9/8/12)
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
4, 2x - last vs. Iowa (11/12)	Assists	7, 2x last vs. Texas (9/7/13)
3, 3x - last vs. UIC (9/20)	Aces	3, 3x last vs. UIC (9/20/14)
26 at Minnesota (9/27)	Digs	29 at Nebraska (10/29/12)
NA	Blocks	N/A

GONZALEZ'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2011	29-84	0	0	4	.000	18	4	117	0	0	0	0.00	0.23	0.10	1.46	0.00
2012	36-125	5	1	14	.286	110	29	503	0	0	0	0.04	0.77	0.21	3.66	0.00
2013	34-129	1	2	8	-.125	93	18	422	0	0	0	0.01	0.73	0.13	3.19	0.00
2014	33-107	0	0	2	.000	83	25	406	0	0	0	0.00	0.73	0.22	3.59	0.00
CAREER	136-449	6	3	28	.107	289	77	1,402	0	0	0	0.01	0.64	0.17	3.12	0.00

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



NIA GRANT

SENIOR | MH
WARREN, OHIO

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Her .458 hitting percentage ranks second nationally and second in the Big Ten ... Totaled seven kills on 13 errorless swings, adding two aces, two digs and two blocks in her senior season debut against TCU (8/29) .. Had nine kills on .467 hitting against UCLA (9/6), tallying a match-high seven blocks and two aces ... Posted double-digit kills in three-of-four matches at the Villanova Classic, setting a career-high mark with an .846 hitting clip against Yale (9/13) ... Registered a team-high 10 digs on 16 errorless swings against Eastern Illinois (9/19) ... Tallied seven kills at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24), while also ranking second on the team with three blocks ... Led the team in kills (14) and blocks (8) at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27), setting two season-high mark ... Tied for first on the team with 11 kills on .625 hitting at Iowa (10/4) ... Matched a season-high mark with a .846 hitting clip against Iowa (11/12), tallying 11 kills and a team-high six blocks ... Led the team with a career-high 10 blocks at Michigan (11/19).

2014 HONORS » All-Big Ten (unanimous) ... Preseason All-Big Ten ... Big Ten Player of the Week (9/15) ... Villanova Classic All-Tournament Team.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Selected to the AVCA All-Northeast Region team and earned AVCA All-America honorable mention honors ... Played in 35 games this season, starting 33 matches ... Finished fifth on the team with 208 kills ... Her .350 hitting percentage ranked second on the team and fifth in the Big Ten ... Tallied 23 aces in 2013, which ranked second on the team ... Served up a season-high three aces at Texas (9/7) ... Recorded back-to-back double-digit kill matches at Illinois (10) and Northwestern (11) ... Logged a team-high six blocks against No. 24 Ohio State (10/23) ... Matched a career-high mark with 11 kills against Northwestern (11/22) ... Had six kills, one ace, two digs and four blocks in the NCAA national semifinal match against No. 3 Washington (12/19) ... Posted four kills and four blocks in the national title match against No. 12 Wisconsin (12/21).

2013 HONORS » AVCA All-America Honorable Mention ... AVCA All-Northeast Region team honoree.

PERSONAL » Born Nia Nicole Grant on May 8, 1993 in Warren, Ohio ... parents are African and Stacey Grant ... Has one brother, A.J. Grant (18), and one sister, Faith (15) ... Father played football for the Miami Dolphins ... majoring in communications.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	7	0	13	.538	1	2	2	2
Iona	4	1	7	.429	0	0	1	0
William & Mary	4	2	6	.333	4	0	0	3
Stanford	9	3	19	.316	0	0	5	2
UCLA	9	2	15	.467	1	2	2	7
American	10	2	14	.571	0	1	5	5
Villanova	8	0	13	.615	0	0	1	2
Yale	11	0	13	.846	0	0	2	2
Kansas	10	3	15	.467	0	0	2	3
Eastern Illinois	10	0	16	.625	0	0	3	5
DePaul	4	0	4	1.00	0	0	0	2
UIC	7	2	13	.385	0	0	2	1
East Carolina	7	2	10	.500	1	0	1	2
Wisconsin	7	4	16	.188	1	0	2	3
Minnesota	14	2	28	.429	0	1	2	8
Nebraska	9	2	18	.389	0	1	0	5
Iowa	11	1	16	.625	1	0	4	0
Northwestern	7	1	12	.500	0	0	5	3
Illinois	13	5	25	.320	0	0	3	3
Purdue	12	3	21	.429	0	2	2	3
Indiana	8	1	9	.778	0	1	1	5
Michigan	2	0	3	.667	1	1	0	4
Michigan State	5	4	15	.067	0	0	3	1
Ohio State	3	1	7	.286	0	2	0	5
Ohio State	7	1	12	.462	2	0	1	1
Rutgers	4	1	6	.500	0	0	1	5
Maryland	6	0	9	.667	0	1	0	5
Iowa	11	0	13	.846	0	0	3	6
Minnesota	8	2	13	.462	0	0	1	2
Michigan	9	1	11	.727	1	0	1	10
Maryland	3	3	11	.000	0	0	1	8
Northwestern	7	3	16	.250	2	0	0	7
Nebraska	5	1	14	.286	0	0	0	0
Siena	6	0	11	.545	0	0	2	3
Dayton	6	3	12	.250	0	2	1	3

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
14 at Minnesota (9/27)	Kills	14 at Minnesota (9/27/14)
25 vs. Illinois (10/11)	Attacks	25 vs. Illinois (10/11/14)
.846 (11-0-13), 2x - last vs. Iowa (11/12)	Hitting Percentage	.846 (11-0-13), 2x - last vs. Iowa (11/12/14)
4 vs. William & Mary (8/30)	Assists	4 vs. William & Mary (8/30/14)
2, 3x last vs. Dayton (12/6)	Aces	3 vs. Texas (9/7/13)
5, 2x last vs. Northwestern (10/8)	Digs	7 vs. Illinois (11/23/13)
10 at Michigan (11/19)	Blocks	10 at Michigan (11/19/14)

GRANT'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2011	32-108	151	44	309	.346	7	13	45	11	91	102	1.29	0.06	0.11	0.37	0.91
2012	36-139	205	52	407	.376	5	0	15	9	124	133	1.65	0.04	0.00	0.10	0.97
2013	35-121	208	64	411	.350	10	23	69	12	85	97	1.76	0.08	0.19	0.58	0.82
2014	35-111	263	56	457	.453	9	16	59	14	110	124	2.37	0.08	0.14	0.53	1.12
CAREER	138-470	827	216	1,587	.386	31	52	183	48	400	448	1.76	0.07	0.11	0.39	0.95

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



MICHA HANCOCK

SENIOR | S
EDMOND, OKLA.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Ranked first nationally in aces per set (1.05), with at least one ace in all but three matches this season ... Averaging 11.49 assists per set, she's paced the team to a .355 hitting clip, which leads the nation ... Recorded her first double-double of the season at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) with (57A, 13D) ... Totaled 21 aces in the Villanova Classic, highlighting the event with a season-high eight against American (9/12) ... Totaled 22 aces in the Penn State Alumni Classic with eight against DePaul (9/19) and ECU (9/20) ... Posted a double-double (38A, 10D) at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24), matching a career-high mark with nine kills on .750 hitting ... Registered three aces at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) ... Paced the team to a .443 hitting clip against Michigan (10/24) ... Notched a season-high seven blocks against No. 17 Ohio State (10/28) ... Matched a season-high mark with eight aces at Maryland (11/22) ... Posted five aces at Northwestern (11/26).

2014 HONORS » All-Big Ten (unanimous) ... Preseason All-Big Ten ... AVCA DI National Player of the Week (9/30) ... PSU Classic All-Tournament ... Big Ten Setter of the Week (9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/27, 11/17) ... Villanova Classic MVP.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Ranked second nationally and first in the Big Ten in aces per set, averaging 0.65 per frame ... With 254 career aces she is currently the all-time career leader in the category ... Paced the team to a .305 hitting percentage, ranked fifth in the nation and first in the conference ... Recorded seven double-doubles, while also tallying eight matches with more than 10 digs ... Set a season-high mark with eight aces against Louisville (8/31) and Iowa (10/26) ... Posted five kills on .625 hitting in the NCAA national semifinal match against No. 3 Washington (12/19) ... Set the Lions to a national championship title with 16 digs, 48 assists & three aces in the national finals against No. 12 Wisconsin (12/21).

2013 HONORS » 2013 NCAA Tournament MVP ... Two-time AVCA First Team All-America (2012-13) ... 2013 AVCA All-Northeast Region ... 2013 Volleyball Magazine Second Team All-America ... Lexington Regional All-Tournament ... Two-time Big Ten Setter of the Year ... 2013 All-Big Ten ... Five-time Big Ten Setter of the Week (10/7, 10/14, 11/4, 11/25, 12/2).

PERSONAL » Born Micha Danielle Hancock on Nov. 10, 1992 in McAlester, Okla. ... Parents are Michael and Kelly ... Has one sister, Kelsey ... Sister, Kelsey, played volleyball at Tulsa ... Mother, Kelly, played basketball at Oklahoma State ... Father, Michael, was a professional boxer.

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
9 at Minnesota (9/27)	Kills	9, 2x last at Minnesota (9/27/14)
17 vs. Illinois (10/11)	Attacks	17 vs. Illinois (10/11/14)
.750 (9-0-12) vs. Wisconsin (9/24)	Hitting Percentage	.875 (7-0-8) vs. USC (8/27/11)
58 vs. Purdue (10/17)	Assists	67 vs. Minnesota (10/9/13)
8, 4x last at Maryland (11/22)	Aces	10 vs. Binghamton (11/30/12)
13 vs. Stanford (9/5)	Digs	23 vs. Stanford (8/31/12)
7, vs. Maryland (11/8)	Blocks	8 at Nebraska (10/28/12)

HANCOCK'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2011	33-121	110	28	226	.309	1,275	91	279	5	54	59	0.91	10.54	0.75	2.31	0.49
2012	36-125	125	34	293	.358	1,403	81	298	8	68	76	1.00	11.22	0.65	2.38	0.61
2013	36-127	129	36	283	.331	1,425	82	289	5	69	74	0.99	11.15	0.63	2.23	0.60
2014	35-113	129	28	257	.393	1,298	119	212	4	76	80	1.14	11.49	1.05	1.88	0.71
CAREER	140-486	493	130	1044	.348	5,401	373	1078	22	267	289	1.01	11.11	0.77	2.22	0.59

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	2	0	5	.400	37	0	7	2
Iona	2	1	5	.200	30	1	8	1
William & Mary	5	0	7	.714	35	2	5	0
Stanford	4	3	13	.077	57	1	13	0
UCLA	4	1	9	.333	37	2	5	4
American	5	1	9	.444	35	8	4	2
Villanova	3	1	6	.333	47	6	6	1
Yale	3	0	5	.600	35	1	5	2
Kansas	4	2	9	.222	34	6	1	2
Eastern Illinois	6	0	10	.625	30	4	10	2
DePaul	2	1	3	.333	27	8	5	1
UIC	5	1	8	.500	38	2	3	1
East Carolina	3	0	3	1.00	33	8	4	2
Wisconsin	9	0	12	.750	38	2	10	2
Minnesota	4	0	12	.333	50	3	5	4
Nebraska	2	3	10	-.100	40	1	9	2
Iowa	5	0	8	.625	33	4	5	0
Northwestern	2	0	4	.500	30	4	7	3
Illinois	8	0	17	.471	53	3	8	4
Purdue	2	2	8	.000	58	6	10	3
Indiana	5	1	6	.667	32	4	5	1
Michigan	4	0	5	.800	34	2	7	3
Michigan State	4	1	8	.375	33	4	5	1
Ohio State	5	0	7	.714	31	0	4	7
Ohio State	0	1	8	-.125	32	1	4	3
Rutgers	3	0	4	.750	36	2	4	1
Maryland	3	0	4	.750	38	2	6	7
Iowa	3	1	7	.286	41	0	2	3
Minnesota	4	0	7	.571	31	4	7	3
Michigan	2	4	7	-.286	43	1	5	2
Maryland	4	1	6	.500	32	8	4	2
Northwestern	3	2	8	.125	36	5	7	3
Nebraska	2	0	5	.400	33	4	8	3
Siena	3	1	5	.400	33	7	5	2
Dayton	4	0	7	.571	36	3	8	1



AIYANA WHITNEY

REDSHIRT JUNIOR | OH
NORWOOD, N.J.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Has played in every match this season ... Her .365 hitting percentage ranks fourth in the Big Ten ... Put down eight kills and three blocks in the season-opener against TCU (8/29) ... Tallied nine kills on nine perfect swings against the Tribe (8/30) ... Had seven kills on .583 hitting without any attack errors against UCLA (9/6) ... Put down double-digit kills in two matches at the Villanova Classic, highlighting the event with a season-high 13 kills and a career-high six blocks against Kansas (9/13) ... Served up a career-high two aces against DePaul (9/19) ... Led the team with 13 kills on 18 errorless swings against UIC (9/20) ... Tallied eight kills at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24), while also matching a career-high mark with a team-high six blocks ... Notched double-digit kills (12) and six blocks at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) ... Set a career-high mark with seven blocks against No. 24 Northwestern (10/8), adding a team-high 12 kills on .500 hitting ... Led the team for the second consecutive outing with 15 a season-high 15 kills against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) ... Led the team with 12 kills on .362 hitting against Michigan State (10/25) ... Posted a match-high 16 kills on .714 hitting against Iowa (11/12).

2014 HONORS » All-Big Ten honorable mention .. Big Ten Player of the Week (11/17) ... Villanova Classic All-Tournament Team ... Penn State Alumni Classic MVP.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in 21 matches during the season ... Tied for second on the team with six kills against Syracuse (8/31), on .455 hitting, recording three digs and two blocks ... Put down a season-high seven kills on .667 hitting against Albany (9/20), while also matching a career-high mark with four blocks ... Posted five kills on .444 efficiency against Iowa (10/26) ... Tallied two kills and one block in the NCAA tournament first round match against LIU Brooklyn (12/6) ... Notched two kills in the NCAA regional finals against Stanford (12/14).

PERSONAL » Born Aiyana Tremayne Abukusumo-Whitney on April 6, 1993 in New York, N.Y. ... Parents are Alvin and Vanessa Whitney ... has one brother, Khalil and one sister Anissa ... Uncle Ubusuku Abukusumo played soccer for the Columbus Crew from 1997-2000, competed on the USA U-20 Youth National Team/Olympic Pool Team in 1998-99 and the CONCACAF World Cup Qualifying Team in 1996 ... Majoring in broadcast journalism.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	8	2	14	.429	0	0	1	3
Iona	8	6	20	.100	0	0	2	1
William & Mary	9	0	9	1.00	0	0	1	2
Stanford	7	4	23	.130	0	0	1	4
UCLA	7	0	12	.583	0	0	1	2
American	8	3	20	.250	0	0	0	5
Villanova	10	2	14	.571	0	0	1	1
Yale	5	2	15	.200	0	0	0	1
Kansas	13	1	21	.571	0	0	0	6
Eastern Illinois	7	1	9	.667	0	0	0	1
DePaul	6	0	9	.667	0	2	1	3
UIC	13	0	18	.722	0	1	4	0
East Carolina	7	2	14	.357	0	0	2	1
Wisconsin	8	2	17	.353	1	0	0	6
Minnesota	12	4	32	.250	2	0	1	6
Nebraska	4	4	15	.000	0	0	0	4
Iowa	5	4	15	.067	0	0	1	0
Northwestern	12	2	20	.500	0	0	1	7
Illinois	15	7	30	.267	0	0	0	0
Purdue	18	9	44	.205	0	0	2	3
Indiana	7	1	15	.400	0	0	0	2
Michigan	9	1	16	.500	0	0	1	1
Michigan State	12	4	22	.364	0	0	1	2
Ohio State	8	1	19	.368	0	0	0	0
Ohio State	7	2	15	.333	0	0	0	1
Rutgers	8	2	14	.429	0	0	1	3
Maryland	10	2	16	.500	0	0	1	4
Iowa	16	1	21	.714	0	0	1	2
Minnesota	17	2	22	.682	0	0	1	1
Michigan	12	5	22	.318	1	0	2	4
Maryland	8	6	21	.095	0	0	1	7
Northwestern	6	2	15	.267	0	0	0	3
Nebraska	4	6	18	-.111	0	0	2	1
Siena	8	3	16	.312	0	0	2	2
Dayton	8	1	13	.538	0	0	2	1

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
18 vs. Purdue (10/17)	Kills	18 vs. Purdue 10/17/14
44 at Purdue (10/17)	Attacks	44 at Purdue (10/17/14)
1.000 (9-0-9) vs. William & Mary (8/30)	Hitting Percentage	1.000 (9-0-9) vs. William & Mary (8/30/14)
2 at Minnesota (9/27)	Assists	2 at Minnesota (9/27/14)
2 vs. DePaul (9/19)	Aces	2 vs. DePaul (9/19/14)
4 vs. UIC (9/20)	Digs	4 vs. UIC (9/20/14)
7 vs. Northwestern (10/8)	Blocks	7 vs. Northwestern (10/8/14)

WHITNEY'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2011	24-65	113	44	257	.194	0	0	11	3	22	24	1.74	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.38
2012	Redshirt season.															
2013	21-32	42	12	95	.316	1	0	8	0	12	12	1.29	0.03	0.00	0.26	0.39
2014	35-112	322	93	627	.365	3	3	34	4	86	90	2.88	0.03	0.03	0.30	0.80
CAREER	80-209	477	156	1042	.308	4	3	56	7	120	102	2.28	0.02	0.01	0.27	0.61

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



MEGAN COURTNEY

JUNIOR | OH
DAYTON, OHIO

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Opened the season with double-digit (12) kills on .556 hitting against TCU (8/29), adding five digs ... Notched at least eight kills against Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30) on .400 or better hitting ... Set a season-high mark with 18 kills at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) ... Led the team with 14 kills at Villanova (9/12) ... Highlighted the Penn State Alumni Classic with her fourth double-digit kill performance, tallying 10 kills against East Carolina (9/20) ... Finished second on the team with 14 digs at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24), adding eight kills ... Registered double-digit kills at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) and at No. 8 Nebraska (10/3) ... Tallied a team-high 11 kills on 18 perfect swings at Iowa (10/4), adding a season-high two aces ... Led the team with 13 digs against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) ... Led the team with nine digs against Michigan (10/24) ... Put down 10 kills on 25 errorless swings at Michigan (11/19), while also adding 10 digs and five blocks for a double-double.

2014 HONORS » Penn State Classic All Tournament Team.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in 35 matches, starting 34 contests ... Posted seven double-doubles, while also tallying double-digit kills in 13 matches ... Led the team in kills in eight contests ... Notched double figure digs in 12 matches ... Registered four consecutive double-digit kill performances against Yale (11), Michigan State (15), Michigan (11) and Indiana (15) from 9/21-10/3 ... Led the team with a double-double at No. 14 Wisconsin (11/15), posting 14 kills and 11 digs ... Led the team with a career-high 10 kills on .474 (10-1-19) hitting against Northwestern (11/22) ... Led the team with 17 kills in the NCAA tournament second round match against Utah (12/7) ... Notched a double-double (10 kills, 14 digs) in the NCAA regional semifinals against Michigan State (12/13) ... Highlighted the NCAA national title match with five kills and a team-high five blocks against No. 12 Wisconsin (12/21), while also tying for team-best with 20 digs.

2013 HONORS » Hilton Garden Inn Homewood Suites All-Tournament team ... 2013 Preseason All-Big Ten.

PERSONAL » Born Megan Eileen Courtney on Oct. 27, 1993 in Kettering, Ohio ... Parents are Rob and Sharon Courtney ... Has one brother, Robbie (24), who played volleyball at Quincy ... Majoring in kinesiology.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	12	2	18	.556	1	0	5	2
Iona	8	2	15	.400	1	0	8	1
William & Mary	8	1	13	.538	2	0	7	4
Stanford	18	6	43	.279	4	1	9	5
UCLA	1	1	11	.000	1	0	5	3
American	7	2	23	.217	4	0	11	4
Villanova	14	1	22	.591	1	0	8	0
Yale	8	2	20	.300	2	0	2	0
Kansas	4	2	13	.154	1	0	7	5
Eastern Illinois	7	1	19	.316	1	0	19	1
DePaul	6	1	9	.556	1	0	1	0
UIC	9	0	19	.474	4	0	6	1
East Carolina	10	1	17	.529	1	0	4	0
Wisconsin	8	4	25	.160	7	0	14	2
Minnesota	12	4	32	.250	2	1	4	7
Nebraska	11	4	45	.156	1	1	7	3
Iowa	11	0	18	.611	0	2	4	0
Northwestern	10	2	20	.400	1	0	1	2
Illinois	4	4	26	.000	1	0	13	4
Purdue	8	4	24	.167	0	0	14	5
Indiana	9	2	14	.500	4	0	4	3
Michigan	7	2	17	.294	3	0	9	1
Michigan State	5	4	19	.053	4	0	8	0
Ohio State	8	3	20	.250	4	0	5	1
Ohio State	1	3	5	-.400	0	0	5	1
Rutgers	7	3	11	.364	1	0	4	1
Maryland	3	0	9	.333	2	0	8	1
Iowa	1	1	10	.000	0	0	8	1
Minnesota	1	5	11	-.364	0	0	3	3
Michigan	10	0	25	.400	0	0	10	5
Maryland	6	0	8	.750	1	1	6	1
Northwestern	9	2	17	.412	0	0	11	2
Nebraska	8	2	23	.261	3	0	9	2
Siena	3	0	11	.273	1	0	6	4
Dayton	11	0	25	.440	0	0	6	2

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
18 vs. Stanford (9/5)	Kills	21 vs. Northwestern (11/22/13)
45 at Nebraska (10/3)	Attacks	47 at Michigan (10/20/12)
.611 (11-0-18) at Iowa (10/4)	Hitting Percentage	.750 (15-0-20) vs. Indiana (10/3/13)
7 vs. Wisconsin (9/24)	Assists	7 vs. Wisconsin (9/24/14)
2 vs. Iowa (10/11)	Aces	2, 4x last at Iowa (10/4/14)
14, 2x last at Purdue (10/17)	Digs	22 vs. Minnesota (10/9/13)
7 at Minnesota (9/27)	Blocks	8 at Michigan (10/20/12)

COURTNEY'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2012	36-120	240	88	632	.241	34	13	237	32	69	101	2.00	0.28	0.11	1.98	0.84
2013	35-120	297	96	740	.272	32	1	301	28	59	87	2.48	0.27	0.01	2.51	0.73
2014	35-113	265	71	657	.295	58	8	246	12	66	78	2.35	0.51	0.07	2.18	0.69
Career	106-353	802	255	2029	.270	123	22	784	72	194	266	2.27	0.35	0.06	2.22	0.75



LARA CARAWAY

JUNIOR | DS
EVANS CITY, Pa.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in all three matches during a 3-0 opening week, matching a career high mark with two digs against Iona (8/30) ... Tallied one ace against American (9/12) ... Matched a season-high mark with two digs against Yale (9/13) ... Had one dig against Michigan (10/24).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in 21 matches during the 2013 season ... Totaled seven digs during the season, including two at Florida Gulf Coast University (9/14) and against Yale (9/21) ... Played in both of the NCAA tournament first and second round matches against LIU Brooklyn (12/5) and Utah (12/7) ... Also saw action in the NCAA regional semifinal match against Michigan State (12/13), as well as the NCAA national final match against No. 3 Washington (12/19).

PERSONAL » Born Lara Elizabeth Caraway on Feb. 22, 1994 in Lincoln, Neb. ... Parents are Jimmy and Tami Caraway ... Has one brother, John ... Majoring in kinesiology ... Plans to pursue a career as a coach or athletic performance trainer.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Iona	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
William & Mary	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
American	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
DePaul	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
N/A	Kills	N/A
N/A	Attacks	1 vs. Marquette (9/13)
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
N/A	Assists	2, 2x last at FGCU (9/14/13)
1, vs. American (9/12)	Aces	1, 5x, last vs. American (9/12/14)
2 vs. Iona (8/30)	Digs	2, 3x last vs. Albany (9/20/13)
N/A	Blocks	N/A

CARAWAY'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2012	16-24	0	0	0	.000	1	3	5	0	0	0	0.00	0.04	0.13	0.21	0.00
2013	21-24	0	0	1	.000	1	1	6	0	0	0	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.32	0.00
2014	13-16	0	0	0	.000	1	1	7	0	0	0	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.44	0.00
CAREER	50-64	0	0	1	.000	3	5	18	0	0	0	0.00	0.05	0.08	0.28	0.00

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



KENDALL PIERCE

JUNIOR | DS
EDEN, N.Y.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in all three matches in a 3-0 opening weekend, highlighting the weekend with two digs against William & Mary (8/30) ... Matched a season-high mark with two digs against UCLA (9/6) ... Set a new season-high mark with three digs against Yale (9/13) ... Notched one kill and one ace at No. 16 Minnesota (9/27) ... Had two digs at No. 14 Purdue (10/17) at Indiana (10/18) and at Northwestern (11/26) ... Posted two aces and three digs in the NCAA second round match against Dayton (12/6).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in 35 matches during the 2013 season, recording seven aces and 21 digs ... Registered seven aces and 21 digs on the year ... Posted a season-high three digs against Yale (9/21) ... Matched the mark again during the regular season with three digs against Ohio State (11/27) ... Totaled three digs in the NCAA tournament first round match against LIU Brooklyn (12/6) ... Saw action in four more NCAA tournament matches including the NCAA regional final match against Stanford (12/14) and the national title match against Wisconsin (12/21).

PERSONAL » Born Kendall Adair Pierce on March 21, 1994 in Glarus, Switzerland ... Parents are Robert and Kiernan Pierce ... Has one sister, Lainy and one brother, Declan ... Father, Robert, played volleyball at Penn State from 1985-89 ... Mother, Kiernan, was a member of the PSU track & field team from 1984-89 ... Sister, Lainy is a freshman for the Nittany Lions ... Majoring in health policy and administration with a minor in communication and sciences.

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Iona	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
William & Mary	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
UCLA	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
American	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Yale	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0
Kansas	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
DePaul	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
UIC	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
East Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Minnesota	1	0	1	1.00	0	1	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Purdue	0	0	0	.000	1	0	2	0
Indiana	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0
Siena	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Dayton	0	0	0	.000	0	2	3	0

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
1 at Minnesota (9/27)	Kills	1 at Minnesota (9/27/14)
1 at Minnesota (9/27)	Attacks	1 at Minnesota (9/27/14)
1.000 (1-0-1) at Minnesota (9/27)	Hitting Percentage	1.000 (1-0-1) at Minnesota (9/27/14)
1 at Purdue (10/17)	Assists	1, 3x, last at Purdue (10/17/14)
1 at Minnesota (9/27)	Aces	1, 7x last vs. Minnesota (9/27/14)
3, 2x last vs. Nebraska (11/29)	Digs	3, 3x last vs. Nebraska (11/29/14)
N/A	Blocks	N/A

PIERCE'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2012	18-29	0	0	0	.000	2	9	7	0	0	0	0.00	0.07	0.31	0.24	0.00
2013	34-83	0	0	0	.000	1	7	21	0	0	0	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.24	0.00
2014	33-65	1	0	1	1.00	1	3	37	0	0	0	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.57	0.00
CAREER	85-177	1	0	1	1.00	4	19	65	0	0	0	0.01	0.02	0.11	0.37	0.00



LAURA BROERMAN

SOPHOMORE | DS
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Saw action on the court against TCU (8/29), Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30), posting one dig against the Horned Frogs ... Played in three matches at the Villanova Classic, recording one dig against Yale (9/13) ... Had one ace against DePaul (9/19) ... Played at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) ...

Posted an ace at No. 8 Nebraska (10/3) ... Saw action against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) and at No. 14 Purdue (10/17) ... Had one ace against Michigan (10/24) ... Played against Ohio State (10/28).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Saw action in five matches during the 2013 season ... Made her collegiate debut for the Nittany Lions against Syracuse (8/31), tallying one dig ... Saw action at FGCU (9/14) ... Totaled one dig against Albany (9/20) ... Played against Iowa (10/26) ... Recorded her first collegiate ace against Indiana (11/9).

PERSONAL » Born Laura Lynn Broerman on January 18, 1995 ... Parents are Chuck and Vickie Broerman ... Has two sisters ... Sister, Sarah, played volleyball at UCCS from 2005-09 and Rachel was a member of volleyball team at University of Dayton from 2007-11 ... Plans to major in Biology and become a physician's assistant.

2013 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
N/A	Kills	N/A
N/A	Attacks	N/A
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
N/A	Assists	N/A
1 vs. DePaul (9/19)	Aces	1, 2x last vs. DePaul (9/19/14)
1, 3x last vs. Michigan (10/24)	Digs	1, 3x last vs. Michigan (10/24/14)
N/A	Blocks	N/A

BROERMAN'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2013	5-5	0	0	0	.000	0	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.40	0.00
2014	15-17	0	0	0	.000	0	2	3	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.18	0.00
CAREER	20-22	0	0	0	.000	0	3	5	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.23	0.00



TAYLOR KRAUSE

SOPHOMORE | DS
ALLENTOWN, Pa.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Saw action against Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30), recording one dig against the Gaels ... Had one dig against UCLA (9/6) ... Played in all four matches at the Villanova Classic, highlighting the weekend with two digs against Villanova (9/12) ... Matched a season-high mark with two digs at No. 17 Minnesota (9/27) ...

Recorded her first collegiate ace at No. 8 Nebraska (10/3) ... Played at Iowa (10/4), against No. 15 Illinois (10/11), at No. 14 Purdue (10/17) and at Maryland (11.22).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in 10 matches during her rookie season ... Made her collegiate debut for Penn State against Syracuse (8/31), notching one dig ... Made her NCAA Tournament debut against LIU Brooklyn (12/6).

PERSONAL » Born Taylor Krause on Aug. 21, 1995 in Allentown, Pa. ... Parents are Michael and Jill Krause ... Has one sister, Kristin (14) ... Mother, Jill, attended Penn State ... Plans to major in elementary education and become a kindergarten teacher.

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
1, vs. American (9/12)	Kills	1, vs. American (9/12/14)
1, vs. American (9/12)	Attacks	1, vs. American (9/12/14)
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
N/A	Assists	N/A
1 at Nebraska (10/3)	Aces	1 at Nebraska (10/3/14)
2x last at Minnesota (9/27)	Digs	2, 3x last at Minnesota (9/27/14)

KRAUSE'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2013	10-10	0	0	0	.000	0	0	5	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00
2014	19-28	1	0	1	1.000	0	1	8	0	0	0	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.29	0.00
CAREER	29-38	1	0	1	1.000	0	1	13	0	0	0	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.34	0.00

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



CARLEY MULLER

SOPHOMORE | DS
MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Saw action against Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30) ... Played against American (9/12) and Yale (9/13) ... Tallied one dig against DePaul (9/19) ... Posted her first collegiate ace against East Carolina (9/20) ... Played at Iowa (10/4), vs. Northwestern (10/8), against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) and at Indiana (10/18) ... Played against Michigan (10/24) ... Made her NCAA tournament debut against Siena (12/5).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Played in seven matches during her rookie campaign ... Made her collegiate debut on the court against Syracuse (8/31) ... Also saw action in three Big Ten conference matches against No. 11 Minnesota (10/9), Iowa (10/26) and Indiana (11/9).

PERSONAL » Born Carley Muller on April 7, 1995 ... Parents are Mike and Kristin Muller ... Has one sister, Ashley and one brother, Jay ... Plans to major in communications and work in television production after graduation.

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
N/A	Kills	N/A
N/A	Attacks	N/A
N/A	Hitting Percentage	N/A
N/A	Assists	N/A
1 vs. East Carolina (9/0)	Aces	1 vs. East Carolina (9/20/14)
1, 2x last vs. Rutgers (11/7)	Digs	1, 2x last vs. Rutgers (11/7/14)

MULLER'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2013	7-7	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2014	14-14	0	0	0	.000	0	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.14	0.00
CAREER	21-21	0	0	0	.000	0	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.00



KELLY ROBERTSON

SOPHOMORE | MH
ALLENTOWN, Pa.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Saw action on the court against Iona (8/29) and William & Mary (8/30), registering one kill and two blocks against the Gaels ... Played against Villanova (9/12) and Yale (9/13) ... Had one kill against DePaul (9/19).

2013 HIGHLIGHTS » Made three appearances on the court during her rookie season ... Made her collegiate debut for Penn State against Albany (9/20) notching three kills and two blocks ... Matched a career-high mark with three kills against Iowa (10/26) ... Equaled her personal best mark with two blocks against Indiana (11/9).

PERSONAL » Born Kelly Marie Robertson on Jan. 8, 1995 in Allentown, Pa. ... Parents are William and Robin Robertson ... Has one sister, Brooke (17) ... Plans to major in elementary education.

2014 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
1, 3x last vs. Rutgers (11/7)	Kills	3 2x, last vs. Iowa (10/26/13)
3 vs. DePaul (9/19)	Attacks	5 vs. Albany (9/20/13)
1.00 (1-0-1) vs. Iona (8/30)	Hitting Percentage	1.00 (3-0-3) vs. Iowa (10/26/13)
1 vs. DePaul (9/19)	Assists	1 vs. DePaul (9/19)
N/A	Aces	N/A
1 vs. Rutgers (11/7)	Digs	1 vs. Rutgers (11/7/14)
2 vs. Iona (8/30)	Blocks	2, 3x last vs. Iona (8/30/14)

ROBERTSON'S CAREER STATS

SEASON	MP-SP	K	E	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
2013	3-3	6	1	9	.556	0	0	0	0	4	4	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33
2014	6-6	3	1	6	.333	1	0	1	0	2	2	0.50	0.17	0.00	0.17	0.33
CAREER	9-9	9	2	15	.467	1	0	1	0	6	6	1.00	0.11	0.00	0.11	0.67



SKYLAR DYKSTRA

FRESHMAN | DS
REDONDO BEACH, CALIF. (UCLA)

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Tallied on ace against Eastern Illinois (9/19) ... Saw action on the court against DePaul (9/19) and against No. 15 Illinois (10/11).

HIGH SCHOOL » A four-year starter at Redondo Union High School ... Earned First Team All-CIF honors during her senior season ... Named Player of the Year by the Daily Breeze and Volleyball Now ... Honored as the California Gatorade Player of the Year ... Helped the Sea Hawks to a 1-AA CIF Runner-Up finish and a third-place showing at State in 2012 ... A two-time team captain for RUHS ... Also named All-CIF her other three seasons ... A Prep Volleyball Senior Ace.

PERSONAL » Born Skylar Jade Dykstra on Nov. 27, 1994 in Santa Monica, Calif. ... Parents are Lisa and Jerry Joe ... Father played basketball at Western Illinois and holds the NCAA consecutive free throws record, also drafted by the Phoenix Suns ... Has three older sisters, Jenna, who volleyball at Davidson, Devon, who played one season at both Colorado and UCLA, and Lara, who has played at Nebraska and is currently at Pepperdine ... Older brother, Joey, played at USC and is a professional beach player ... Plans to major in communications.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "What I like about Skylar was that when I followed her in club she was a well skilled, strong player who played hard all the time. I thought she was loud in her court presence and she was involved in the welfare of her team, not just playing the game."



ALI FRANTTI

FRESHMAN | OH
SPRING GROVE, ILL.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Her .321 hitting percentage ranks 13th in the Big Ten ... Earned Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors three times (9/1, 9/8, 10/27) ... Made her collegiate debut against TCU (8/29) with a team-high 13 kills on .500 hitting, while also leading the team in blocks (4) ... Posted her second consecutive double-digit kill performance against Iona (8/30) ... Recorded her first collegiate double-double at No. 2 Stanford with a match-high 22 kills and 11 digs ... Led the team for the fourth time with 14 kills on .619 hitting against UCLA (9/6) ... Highlighted the Villanova Classic with 12 kills against American (9/12) ... Recorded 11 kills on a season-high .647 hitting clip vs. Yale (9/13) ... Led the team with 10 kills against ECU (9/19) ... Ranked first on the team with a match-high 19 kills at No. 8 Nebraska (10/3) ... Posted 10 kills, six digs and a matched a season-high mark with two aces at Iowa (10/4) ... Ranked second on the team with 13 kills against No. 15 Illinois (10/11), adding a season-high three aces ... Posted double-digit kills at No. 14 Purdue (10/17), adding seven digs ... Led the team with 15 kills against Michigan (10/24) on .429 hitting.

2014 HONORS » All-Big Ten honorable mention ... All-Big Ten Freshman team (unanimous) ... Big Ten Freshman of the Week (9/1, 9/8, 10/27) ... Penn State Classic Most Outstanding Player ... Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team

HIGH SCHOOL » Led her high school team, Richmond Burton, to a state title in 2013 ... Garnered First Team All-State honors and Chicago Sun-Times All Area honors in 2012 ... A three-time team MVP and two-year captain ... With her club team, Club Fusion, she helped guide the squad to back-to-back AAU titles, collecting MVP honors in 2012 and all-tournament honors in 2013 ... Also earned 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-America honors.

PERSONAL » Born Alexandra Annelise Frantti on March 3, 1996 in Highland Park, Ill. ... Parents are Kelly and Dan Frantti ... Has three brothers, Connor (19), Peyton (16) and Chase (13).

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "I think Ali has the potential to be an All-America college volleyball player. She has a good arm, great range, and she hits from a high contact point. She is also refreshingly focused on being a good volleyball player. She also sent me a letter in seventh grade saying she wanted to be a Penn State volleyball player."

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	13	1	24	.500	0	0	7	3
Iona	11	2	20	.450	1	2	2	2
William & Mary	7	1	12	.500	1	1	4	4
Stanford	22	5	42	.405	2	0	11	2
UCLA	14	1	21	.619	0	0	5	0
American	12	8	39	.103	0	0	3	2
Villanova	10	6	26	.154	0	1	4	1
Yale	11	0	17	.647	1	1	5	0
Kansas	7	3	18	.222	0	0	3	1
Eastern Illinois	5	3	15	.125	3	1	4	1
DePaul	9	1	14	.571	0	1	1	0
UIC	3	3	10	.000	0	0	3	0
East Carolina	10	2	15	.533	2	1	3	1
Wisconsin	9	4	21	.238	0	0	5	3
Minnesota	7	4	24	.125	0	1	8	2
Nebraska	19	2	35	.486	0	0	9	2
Iowa	10	6	22	.182	0	2	6	0
Northwestern	6	5	26	.038	0	0	4	1
Illinois	13	2	34	.324	0	3	7	4
Purdue	16	8	48	.167	0	1	7	1
Indiana	5	1	16	.250	0	0	2	2
Michigan	15	3	28	.429	1	0	2	1
Michigan State	11	2	22	.409	1	0	2	1
Ohio State	8	1	19	.368	1	2	3	0
Ohio State	14	1	29	.448	0	2	3	5
Rutgers	9	2	14	.500	1	2	7	3
Maryland	13	6	27	.259	1	1	3	1
Iowa	9	4	25	.2000	0	1	2	2
Minnesota	6	4	20	.100	1	0	2	2
Michigan	8	2	22	.273	1	0	7	2
Maryland	9	0	18	.500	1	0	1	0
Northwestern	8	4	19	.211	2	0	0	3
Nebraska	17	2	28	.536	0	0	5	1
Siena	5	0	17	.294	0	2	5	0
Dayton	9	1	23	.348	1	1	4	1

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL



SIMONE LEE

FRESHMAN | OH
MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Made her collegiate debut against TCU (8/29) with six kills ... Led the team with double digit kills (10) on .412 hitting against William & Mary (8/30), adding four digs and a solo stuff ... Finished third on the team with double digit kills (11) at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) ... Highlighted the Villanova Classic with nine kills against the Wildcats (9/12) ... Led the team with double digit kills (10) against Eastern Illinois (9/19) ... Ranked first on the team with 12 kills in the Big Ten opener at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24) ... Came off the bench with four kills in the final set at Northwestern (11/26) ... Made her NCAA debut with six kills vs. Siena (12/6).

HIGH SCHOOL » Four-year letter winner and two-year captain at Menomonee ... Helped guide the Indians to a WIAA State Championship title in 2013 ... Picked up All-State honors following her sophomore and junior year ... With her club team, Club Fusion, she earned four AAU all-tournament team honors ... A member of the 2012 and 2013 USA Girls' Youth National Team ... Helped the U18 squad to a first place finish in the NORCECA Continental Championships in 2012 and a second place finish at the FIVB U18 World Championships in 2013 ... A 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-American.

PERSONAL » Born Simone Alexandra Lee on Oct. 7, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wis. ... Parents are Karen and Arthur Lee ... Mother and father were both student-athletes at Drake ... Has one sister, who plays volleyball at Eastern Illinois ... Plans to major in psychology.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "Simone is physically strong and she's a terrific natural blocker. I think that both her and Ali have loads of experience as primary passers and attackers, and I know it takes a special talent and skill set to have the potential to be able to do that."

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	6	4	17	.118	0	0	0	0
William & Mary	10	3	17	.412	0	0	4	1
Stanford	11	8	33	.091	0	0	3	1
UCLA	8	0	18	.444	0	0	1	3
American	5	1	10	.400	0	0	0	2
Villanova	9	2	20	.350	0	0	1	1
Yale	1	2	11	.091	0	0	1	0
Kansas	5	2	18	.167	0	0	3	1
Eastern Illinois	10	1	15	.562	0	0	1	3
DePaul	5	0	8	.625	0	0	0	2
UIC	7	0	12	.583	0	0	0	11
East Carolina	1	1	2	.000	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	12	3	34	.265	0	0	0	1
Minnesota	9	6	33	.091	0	0	3	1
Nebraska	7	8	29	-.034	0	0	1	1
Northwestern	5	0	11	.455	1	0	1	2
Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Purdue	0	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	1	.000	0	0	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Rutgers	1	1	8	.000	0	0	3	2
Iowa	1	1	3	.000	0	0	1	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Northwestern	4	1	6	.500	0	0	1	1
Siena	6	2	11	.364	0	0	1	0



LAINY PIERCE

FRESHMAN | DS
EDEN, N.Y.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Has seen action in all five matches this season .. Payer against TCU (8/29),Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30), recording one ace against the Gaels and two digs against the Tribe ... Posted her first collegiate ace at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) ... Made her Big Ten debut against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) ... Had three digs against Iowa (11/12) ... Posted on ace against Minnesota (11/15) ... Made her NCAA debut vs. Siena (12/5).

HIGH SCHOOL » Four-year letterwinner at Eden Junior-Senior ... Helped her high school squad to its fifth state championship as the team captain, picking up MVP honors in 2013 ... 2012 New York Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year finalist ... Earned First-Team All ECIC and WYN honors in 2012 and 2013 ... Also helped guide her club team, Niagara Frontier, to WEVA Regional Championships from 2008- 2013.

PERSONAL » Born Lainy Teal Pierce on Oct. 30, 1995 in Buffalo, N.Y. ... Parents are Robert and Kiernan Pierce ... Has one sister, Kendall, and one brother, Declan ... Father, Robert, played volleyball at Penn State from 1985-89 ... Mother, Kiernan, was a member of the PSU track & field team from 1984-89 ... Sister, Kendall is a junior on the team ... Plans to major in human development and family studies.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "What I like about Lainy is that she led her high school

to a state championship from the setting position, but I've also seen her play at the libero position and I know that she's also previously played at outside hitter. She has a full array of various skills and an understanding of the different positions so hopefully we can find the spot where she can give us the best chance for success."

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
TCU	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Iona	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	0
William & Mary	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	0
UCLA	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
American	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Yale	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Eastern Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
DePaul	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
East Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Illinois	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	0
Michigan State	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	0	.000	1	1	1	0
Rutgers	0	0	0	.000	1	1	2	0
Maryland	0	0	0	.000	0	2	1	0
Iowa	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	1	1	1	0
Michigan	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0	.000	0	2	1	0
Siena	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Dayton	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0



NIA REED

FRESHMAN | OH
FORT LEE, N.J.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Has not played in any matches this season.

HIGH SCHOOL » A four-year starter at Immaculate Heart Academy ... Led her team to four consecutive non-public state championship titles, picking up Bergen Record Player of the Year honors in 2012 and 2013 and Star Ledger Player of the Year honors in 2011, 2012 and 2013 ... Also picked up Big North Conference All-State honors from 2010-2013 ... In addition to playing with her club team, "Digs," she also played on the USAV Girls' Youth A2 Team in 2012, serving as an alternate on the national team in 2013 ... Selected as a 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-American ... Earned New Jersey Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year honors in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

PERSONAL » Born Nia Kai Reed on June 27, 1996 in Cleveland, Ohio ... Parents are JoMoree and William ... Has one older brother and five younger sisters ... Undecided on a major.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "Nia is athletically off the charts in some areas. She touches close to 11 feet and she is naturally strong and so much of her ability to perform at this level will be based on how she transitions to playing with better players, the speed of the college game and higher expectations."



HEIDI THELEN

FRESHMAN | MB
EDGEWOOD, KY.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Made her collegiate debut against Iona (8/30), tallying six kills on .364 hitting, adding three blocks ... Notched two kills and two blocks against William & Mary (8/30) ... Highlighted the Villanova Classic with one kill against American (9/12) ... Made her NCAA tournament debut with a solo stuff against Siena to clinch the match (12/5).

HIGH SCHOOL » A four-year letter winner at Notre Dame Academy ... A two-time Best Offensive Player selection ... Earned Class AAA All-State accolades in 2013, while also picking up All-State honors by the Kentucky Volleyball Coaches Association in 2013 ... Earned all-tournament team honors at AAU Nationals in 2012 and 2013 with her club team, Tri-State Elite, garnering AAU All-America honors in 2011 ... Selected as a 2013-14 Under Armour Honorable Mention All-American.

PERSONAL » Born Heidi Ellen Thelen on Sept. 5, 1996 ... Parents are Ashley and Jon ... Has two brothers, Jake (21) and Nick (13) and two sisters, Hannah (18) and Grace (15) ... Undecided on a major.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "Heidi is a player who we have had in camp for a number of years. She's played most of her game as a middle. I think her strength is her blocking and I know she plays hard and has a very even keel emotionally on the floor."

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
Iona	6	2	11	.364	0	0	5	2
William & Mary	2	0	2	1.00	0	0	0	2
American	1	0	3	.333	0	0	0	0
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Eastern Illinois	1	0	5	.200	0	0	0	1
Siena	0	0	1	.000	0	0	0	1



HALEIGH WASHINGTON

FRESHMAN | MB
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Her .492 hitting percentage leads the Big Ten while her 1.22 blocks per set ranks seventh ... Made her collegiate debut against Yale (9/12), posting six kills on .545 hitting with zero attack errors ... Had five kills on eight errorless swings against DePaul (9/19) ... Hit .700 with seven kills on 10 swings against UIC (9/20) ... Finished second on the team with a season-high 14 kills on a squad-best .538 hitting clip against No. 15 Illinois (10/11), while also leading the team with seven blocks ... Recorded nine kills and a career-high eight blocks at No. 14 Purdue (10/17) ... Tallied 10 kills on .421 hitting against Michigan (10/24) ... Led the team with seven blocks, including three solo stuffs against No. 17 Ohio State (10/28) ... Set a career-high mark with nine total blocks at No. 17 Ohio State (10/31) ... Earned Big Ten Player of the Week honors for her performances against the Buckeyes ... Had back-to-back double-digit kill performances against Rutgers (11/7) and Maryland (11/8) to earn Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors ... Notched double digit kills against Iowa (11/12) ... Led the team with nine kills and six blocks in her NCAA tournament debut v. Siena (12/5).

2014 HONORS » Big Ten Player of the Week (11/3) ... Big Ten Freshman of the Week (11/10, 11/17) ... All-Big Ten ... Big Ten Freshman of the Year ... All-Big Ten Freshman team (unanimous).

HIGH SCHOOL » Holds a Colorado state record after putting down 48 kills in a match with her high school team, Doherty ... Earned 2012 Colorado Volleyball Player of the Year honors as well as team MVP accolades in 2012 and 2013 as the Rockets' team captain for two consecutive seasons ... Also guided Doherty to a state championship title in 2012 ... Two-time Colorado Gatorade Player of the

Year from 2012-13 ... Earned Class 5A First Team All-Conference and First Team All-State honors from 2010-13 ... Also earned Class 5A MVP honors ... A 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-American ... 2013 Mizuno First Team All-American ... 2013 Volleyball Magazine Player of the Year.

PERSONAL » Born Haleigh Meridian Washington on Sept. 22, 1995 in Denver, Colo. ... Parents are Danielle and Alecs ... Has one brother, Kaden (15) and one sister, Leilani (13) ... Plans to major in communications.

QUOTING COACH ROSE » "Haleigh has a great vibrant personality and she will be able to hit some great balls as a freshman and also learn how good college blocking is. She will be able to help us in a number of ways and laughing will be one of them."

2014 MATCH-BY-MATCH

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	A	SA	D	TB
Yale	6	0	11	.545	0	0	0	1
DePaul	5	0	8	.625	0	0	1	1
UIC	7	0	10	.700	0	0	0	0
East Carolina	7	3	12	.333	0	0	1	2
Iowa	2	1	6	.167	0	0	1	1
Illinois	14	0	26	.538	0	0	1	7
Purdue	9	2	25	.280	0	0	0	8
Indiana	8	1	10	.700	0	0	1	3
Michigan	10	2	19	.421	0	0	2	4
Michigan State	5	2	11	.273	0	0	1	3
Ohio State	7	1	13	.462	0	0	1	7
Ohio State	8	2	14	.429	0	0	0	9
Rutgers	13	2	16	.688	1	0	1	2
Maryland	10	0	13	.769	0	0	1	5
Iowa	12	2	15	.667	1	0	1	1
Minnesota	9	3	17	.353	0	0	0	6
Maryland	8	0	11	.727	0	0	0	1
Northwestern	5	2	13	.231	0	0	2	6
Nebraska	6	4	17	.118	0	0	2	4
Siena	9	0	10	.900	0	0	1	6
Dayton	9	1	15	.571	2	0	1	0



BRYANNA WEISKIRCHER

FRESHMAN | S
LOVES PARK, ILL.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Has not played in any matches this season.

HIGH SCHOOL » Three-year captain and three-time team MVP at Boylan Catholic ... Earned All-State honorable mention honors in both her sophomore and junior seasons, achieving NIC 10 All-Conference MVP honors in her sophomore, junior and senior seasons ... Helped guide her club team, Club Fusion, to two AAU championships as the squad's setter ... 2013-14 Under Armour First Team All-American ... 2013 Mizuno Honorable Mention All-American.

PERSONAL » Born Bryanna Mailao'kalani Weiskircher on May 25, 1996 in Rockford, Ill. ... Parents are Renita and Philip ... Has two brothers, Torey (24) and Trevor (19) and one sister, Natalie (27) ... Plans to major in forensic science.

QUOTING ROSE ROSE » "Bryanna is a confident, trained setter who does some things really well. I know she will have a bright career at Penn State, she has great hands good control of the ball and she's been setting for a long time."

2014 PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

MATCH 1: #1 PENN STATE 3, TCU 0
AUG. 29, 2014 | UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.

Statistical table for Match 1 showing player performance for TCU with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for TCU, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

SET SCORES

Table showing set scores for TCU (0) and Penn State (3).

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 4.0

Statistical table for Match 2 showing player performance for Penn State with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Penn State, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

Site: University Park, Pa. (Recreation Building)
Date: Aug 29, 2014 Attend: 2809 Time: 1:22
Referees: Charles Ezigbo, Kurt Fulmer

Table showing tie scores and lead changes for Match 2.

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 8.0

MATCH 2: #1 PENN STATE 3, IONA 0
AUG. 30 2014 | UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.

Statistical table for Match 2 showing player performance for Iona with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Iona, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

SET SCORES

Table showing set scores for Iona (0) and Penn State (3).

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 3.0

Statistical table for Match 3 showing player performance for Penn State with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Penn State, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

Site: University Park, Pa. (Recreation Building)
Date: Aug 30, 2014 Attend: Time: 1:02
Referees: Kurt Fulmer, Charles Fleet

Table showing tie scores and lead changes for Match 3.

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 5.5

MATCH 3: #1 PENN STATE 3, WILLIAM & MARY 0
AUG. 30 2014 | UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.

Statistical table for Match 3 showing player performance for William & Mary with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for William & Mary, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

SET SCORES

Table showing set scores for William & Mary (0) and Penn State (3).

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 3.0

Statistical table for Match 4 showing player performance for Penn State with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Penn State, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

Site: University Park, Pa. (Recreation Building)
Date: Aug 30, 2014 Attend: 3354 Time: 1:10
Referees: Charles Fleet, Kurt Fulmer

Table showing tie scores and lead changes for Match 4.

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 8.5

MATCH 4: #2 STANFORD 3, #1 PENN STATE 2
SEPT. 5, 2014 | PALO ALTO, CALIF.

Statistical table for Match 4 showing player performance for Penn State with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Penn State, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

SET SCORES

Table showing set scores for Penn State (2) and Stanford (3).

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 8.0

Statistical table for Match 5 showing player performance for Stanford with columns for S, K, E, TA, Pct, Ast, Serve, RE, Dig, Block, BH, Pts.

Team Attack By Set

Table showing team attack statistics by set for Stanford, including K, E, TA, Pct, and Set Scores.

Site: Stanford, Calif. (Maples Pavilion)
Date: Sep 05, 2014 Attend: 3685 Time: 2:32
Referees: Eric Asami, Michael Yoshikawa

TOTAL TEAM BLOCKS: 10.0



Nittany Lions sweep Dayton to advance in NCAA Tournament

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State women's volleyball team will be one of the final 16 teams left in the nation next weekend.

The Nittany Lions swept away Dayton 25-20, 25-18, 25-16 Saturday night in Rec Hall in the NCAA Tournament second round.

But coach Russ Rose was more concerned about what wasn't working for his team, with eyes on chasing a seventh national title.

"I didn't think we played very well tonight," Rose said. "We just made a lot of not-typical plays for the veteran players involved that were making those mistakes. Whenever you get in the tournament you feel fortunate when you advance, and I'm not going to sit up here and sing the praises of many of the people."

Megan Courtney pounded down 11 kills while Micha Hancock served up three aces to get her name in the NCAA record book as the Nittany Lions (32-3) head to the regional semifinals for a 12th straight season and for the 28th time in program history. The run of a dozen straight appearances is the longest active streak in the nation.

Penn State will next face UCLA (22-110, a 3-0 winner over Long Beach State late Saturday night. The regional semifinals are Friday in Louisville, Ky., and the finals are Saturday to earn a spot in the national semifinals. The Lions swept the Bruins 3-0 in early September. Wisconsin and Ohio State will meet in the other regional semifinal.

The Nittany Lions also got nine kills each from Ali Frantti and Haleigh Washington, eight digs each from Hancock and Dominique Gonzalez, three blocks from Nia Grant and 36 assists from Hancock.

The senior setter also moved her single-season ace total to 119, breaking the NCAA Division I record of 118 set by Christine Edwards of Jackson State in 2012. The record is just for matches played for rally scoring to 25-point games. The records when matches were played to 30, or during side-out scoring before the turn of the century, are much higher.

Hancock also has 373 aces for her career, by far the program record.

Statistically, the Nittany Lions were sound. They hit .436, making just six hitting errors, winning the kills battle 47-32, the blocking 5-2, the ace count 9-3 and the digs tally 39-37.

But there were 12 service errors, the team's serve-receive game was off the mark and a number of plays on which Rose felt his team did not play hard enough.

"I thought we had a lot more energy (Friday against Siena in the first round)," Rose said. "I thought our commitment to each other and to Penn State was far better than it was this evening. I've been here for 36 years and every day that I've been here I've coached about Penn State. I have pretty good antennas when it looks like somebody is straying from it. I was pretty disappointed in some people's efforts tonight."

With just a few days of practice before the Nittany Lions fly to Louisville, they know there is a lot of work to do in South Gym as they try to defend their national title.

"You just need to remember what you're playing for," Courtney said. "It's a chance to advance. It was a chance to show who we are and inflict fear on the teams we're playing next if we were to advance. I don't think we did that very well."

The Flyers (30-6) got nine kills and 10 digs from Alaina Turner, eight kills from Jill Loiares and 25 assists from Jane Emmenecker.

They knew before the match toppling Penn State on its home floor would be a tall order, but they were not intimidated.

"We've played big teams before, like earlier this season we played Nebraska and we hung with them," senior outside hitter Rachel Jones said. "I think we had the mindset that, if we play our game, we can hang with them."



Nittany Lions cruise past Siena in first round

UNIVERSITY PARK — It took a little while, but once the Penn State women's volleyball team got warmed up, it was a handful to stop.

Siena had no answers Friday night.

Dominating with its size and power, the fifth-seeded Nittany Lions swept away the Saints 25-17, 25-10, 25-5 Friday night at Rec Hall in their NCAA first-round match.

"We had a nice day controlling the ball," coach Russ Rose said. "It wasn't a match where we had to play our best, but I thought we kept the ball in play and picked up our offense certainly in the second and third games."

Haleigh Washington led the Nittany Lions (31-3) and all players at and above the net with nine kills and six blocks.

Dayton took the first match in four sets over American, with the Nittany Lions and Flyers (30-5) meeting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday for the second round and the final match of the season in Rec Hall.

Aiyana Whitney added eight kills, Nia Grant had six kills and three blocks. Simone Lee also had six kills, and Megan Courtney recorded four blocks. Dominique Gonzalez posted 11 digs.

Also, Micha Hancock gave out 33 assists to go with her seven service aces, giving the nation's leading server 116 for the year to break the Big Ten single-season record and leaves her two short of the NCAA record.

"It's cool," Hancock said of the record. "I want to go back on the end line and serve as hard as I can for the team and see what kind of cushion we can get so people are more relaxed."

Penn State ruled the net with an 11-2 blocking advantage, hitting .415 and holding the Saints (19-15) to .011 hitting. Leading the domination was Washington, who was error-free on her 10 swings to hit .900 for the night.

"I thought me and Nia both did a pretty good job of closing the block," Washington said. "I thought Aiyana and Megan really worked hard to press (over the net). It's all about being low and over, especially with a team like this. I thought as a whole we controlled it pretty well."

Meghann Wright's seven kills and Bobbi Lin Kalama's 14 digs led Siena. The Saints' toughest stretch came during the third set, when they put down just one kill against 12 errors to hit minus-.458.

Jacqueline Skeen, a 5-foot-7 middle hitter, is almost always outsized at the net in every match she plays, and she knew Friday would be tough.

"I'm just used to it," said Skeen, who had five kills. "I just had in mind, our coach is telling us, 'Go out there, have fun, play your best and do what you can.'"

The Saints also got to see the serving of Hancock up close as they watched the lefty surpass five aces in a match for the ninth time this season. She passed the Big Ten single-season mark of 113 aces by Minnesota's Sharon Oesterliog set in 1989.

Hancock is two more winners away from the Division I record for the 25-point rally-scoring era, set by Christine Edwards of Jackson State in 2012.

"That's a very good server," coach Garvey Pierre said. "She's been acing almost everybody. I've been watching a lot of games of her. It's not just us.

We've been prepared, but even as prepared as we could be, it's hard to pass a fast ball that's really low above the net."



Nittany Lions' Fuller, Gonzalez are fire and ice heading into NAAs

UNIVERSITY PARK — The personalities are different, the styles of play are different, but there is no denying their importance.

Lacey Fuller is fiery and excitable, silly and outgoing, and possessing an engine that doesn't stop.

Dominique Gonzalez is calm and steady, she talks plenty but it's not as noticeable, and is one of the best back row players in the Big Ten, even if it isn't acknowledged by the conference.

The women on the front row of the Penn State women's volleyball team get the bulk of the glory. Rec Hall erupts when a Nittany Lion hammers down a huge kill or stuffs an opposing player with a block, and Micha Hancock gets almost the entire building to go silent before a collective "boom!" with each of her serves.

But the defending national champions would not be 30-3 and a No. 5 seed for the NCAA Tournament without top-level play from its passers.

The Nittany Lions head to the first round to meet Siena (19-14) at 7:30 p.m. at Rec Hall, following American and Dayton at 5 p.m. in the first match. The winners meet in the second round at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The passing from the back row will play a big role if Penn State hopes to win the program's seventh national title.

Both Fuller and Gonzalez, two of Penn State's four seniors this season heading into their final weekend of home matches, are the team's top passers and help in the transition from defense to offense. They just happen to have different approaches to the same goal.

"They're wired totally different, for sure," coach Russ Rose said. "Lacey loves volleyball, loves competing, hates to lose. Dom is a great passer, a good leader, but not wired the same way. What makes them valuable is you pack the two of them together, and we really don't have great replacements for those two individuals as we head into next year, but we will focus on this year first." Both women acknowledge their differences.

"We're a lot different from each other, but we complement each other in different ways," Gonzalez said.

"Coach talks about it, (Fuller is) a little edgy sometimes because she does play hard. She has a lot of energy all the time."

"Dom's super steady with her emotions and her game," Fuller said. "She's really consistent as a passer and defender. She's also really good at managing our underclassmen, so if they're kind of nervous or anything, she's really good at just talking to them and telling them specific information about what's going on."

Talking is certainly an under appreciated part of the game, especially for a back row player. In addition to the physical role of passing, receiving serves and trying to dig up an opponent's swings, they also have to call out blocks and make other calls during points.

As a libero who is in the back row for all but one-half of a rotation in every match, Gonzalez has learned to talk more in her job.

Their job is also a lot more intricate than one might think by just watching from the Rec Hall bleachers, with pages and pages of scouting reports and charts. Over the years past liberos have admitted it has taken the better part of a year to get up to speed with all that is expected of that position.

"It was a pretty steep learning curve," Gonzalez said. "There was a lot to learn about the game, and the speed of the game and the facets you have as a backrow player, not just a libero but a back row player in general, the steadiness you have to have and the technique behind it that goes into it that people don't see, the talking, all of that, you have to learn quickly."

Both women know and understand their roles beyond passing and serving as well.

Gonzalez has the steady hand on the rudder, whether the Nittany Lions are rolling off eight straight points, like they did last Saturday to start a win against Nebraska, or losing three or four in a row.

"I like to be that person you look at on the court when things aren't going our way," Gonzalez said, "'Hey, it's going to be OK. We're going to be OK and we're going to win.'"

"She's not flashy but she's tough and a great passer," Rose said. "She's a good defensive player and she's really been a very stable human being in our program."

Fuller, meanwhile, loves to pump energy into her teammates, whether it's at game point in front of a packed Rec Hall crowd or late in a South Gym practice.

"Whenever a drill or a game starts, I'm just really focused," Fuller said. "I do definitely try to bring energy because I don't have as much responsibility, so I definitely need to make an impact any way I can."

"She has played every practice as if it's going to be her last practice," Rose said. "It's a cliché in a lot of ways, but in her case it's really accurate. There aren't a lot of kids that I've said, 'I would coach you forever.' She's a kid I would coach forever."

Despite their steady and dependable play, the pair rarely gets acknowledged outside State College. Gonzalez had been Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week just once in her career. Penn State is 12th out of the 14 Big Ten teams in digs, and Gonzalez ranks 11th at 3.62 digs per set.

The problem is the Nittany Lions are usually a solid blocking team, and have the nation's best hitting attack.

"Part of our strength is our weakness," Rose said. "There are just fewer balls to be dug. We're terminating at a high level. ... If you want to lead the conference in digging, you want to keep the ball in play. We're not trying to keep it in play. We want somebody to take a quality swing."

Taking a quality swing starts with a good pass from Fuller and Gonzalez. They will be showing off those skills in Rec Hall for the last time Friday and Saturday.

"Being able to play one last match in Rec Hall will be nice," Gonzalez said. "The goal is still to get as far as you can, win a national championship, but we realize it's going to be tough. It's a hard road. Every team wants the same thing."



Penn State women's volleyball: Nittany Lions sweep Nebraska

UNIVERSITY PARK — On a night the Penn State women's volleyball team honored its seniors, it was a pair of Nittany Lion fourth-year standouts who put exclamation points on the end of the regular season.

Micha Hancock ripped off two straight aces to start the match, while Nia Grant hammered the ball into the floor for the final point.

In between, the No. 4 Nittany Lions played well enough to sweep away rival No. 10 Nebraska in front of a packed Rec Hall.

Ali Frantti pounded down a match-high 17 kills in Penn State's 25-21, 25-15, 25-16 victory Saturday night for the team's 14th win in a row, with 13 straight in a sweep.

"It was a tough match," coach Russ Rose said after career win No. 1,155. "Micha especially came out really strong out of the gate."

Hancock finished with four aces to go with 33 assists and three blocks. She extended her single-season team record to 109 aces, leaving her nine shy of the Division I record.

"We're happy this was in three and this was a great team," Hancock said. "We get in the gym and we take our first round seriously."

Penn State (29-3, 17-2 Big Ten) had already wrapped up second place in the Big Ten, with Wisconsin securing its first conference title since 2001 on Friday night.

The Nittany Lions and Cornhuskers will be looking for at-large bids to the NCAA Tournament and figure to be earning high seeds. The bracket will be announced on ESPNU at 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Megan Courtney added eight kills, Haleigh Washington had six kills and four blocks and Dominique Gonzalez posted 10 digs. Penn State hit .257 with a 42-33 kills advantage and a 7-5.5 blocking margin.

Before the match the program honored four women ready to graduate in Hancock, Grant, Gonzalez and Lacey Fuller.

Hancock had to harness her emotions quickly before stepping back to the service line to start the match.

"I knew I was going to cry, and I was trying to tell myself it's about the game, it's not about Senior Night," Hancock said. "... I know we were all kind of tearing up and stuff ... and I was like, 'Well, I look weak. Everybody on the opposing team saw me cry, but whatever.' I tried to make that like I wasn't emotionally wrecked."

The Nittany Lions could not have asked for a better way to open the match, as Hancock wowed the packed house of 5,327 with her serving prowess. She nailed back-to-back aces to start the match and had a total of four, plus two more points earned on Frantti kills after Nebraska overpasses on the serves, to race to an 8-0 lead.

"I just wanted to hit the ball deep and at the passer-hitter," said Hancock, who was part of a collection of eight Lion aces for the match. "It kept working for me."

The Huskers crawled back into the set to add drama, but a solo block for Frantti locked up the first frame 25-21.

While the serving was on fire, the Penn State front row struggled, hitting just .105 with eight errors — five unforced — in the frame.

The hitting was much improved in the second with a .419 game. Washington began to find her range and Frantti continued to be on fire. She finished by hitting .536 on the night with just two errors on 28 swings.

"She was the only one that played really well against them when we played at Nebraska," Rose said of a 3-1 Husker win in early October. "It's great to have her step up like that."

Penn State then feasted on Husker errors early in the third to build a five-point lead, and that margin never dipped below three the rest of the way. A 7-1 run closed the match, capped by an overpass that sailed above the net to Grant, who pounced on the chance for her fifth kill of the match.

"I was actually hoping they wouldn't call me over," Grant said. "That's what I thought they were going to do, but I was happy we won."

Kelsey Fien's 10 kills, Justine Wong-Orantes' 13 digs and Mary Pollmiller's 25 assists paced the Cornhuskers (20-8, 14-5)



Nia Grant looks to round out career with return to national championship match

UNIVERSITY PARK — Nia Grant admitted to being a little star-struck last week.

"It was surreal," Grant, the senior middle hitter for the Penn State women's volleyball team said.

Despite being filled with confidence from four successful seasons and a 2013 national championship, what had Grant fumbling her words?

Former Nittany Lion All-American and 2012 Olympic silver medalist Christa Harmotto paid a visit to the team.

Harmotto played a major role in two national championships before she graduated and turned professional, one of a number of standouts in the deep and rich history of the Penn State program. When Harmotto graduated she set the NCAA record for single-season hitting percentage and was second in career hitting, although those marks have since been surpassed.

While she may not be breaking any NCAA records, Grant has been doing her part to make her career memorable. Her career will be celebrated, along with teammates Micha Hancock, Dominique Gonzalez and Lacey Fuller, at the team's Senior Night and regular-season finale against Nebraska at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Division I NCAA Volleyball Tournament selection show will be the following day.

With an opportunity to run off six more wins in the NCAA Tournament and graduate in December with a second national title to her credit is something Grant is looking forward to doing, to join the likes of Harmotto.

The two of them got to talk, middle hitter to middle hitter, last week to thrill the Grant, a senior from Warren, Ohio. They had met before, when Grant was still in high school making a recruiting visit and there was a brief "hello," but nothing like last week's encounter.

"Christa walked in the other day and I was like, 'Oh my God!'" Grant said. "I couldn't believe it. It was somebody I've been looking up to as far as volleyball for so long, and she's standing right there giving me feedback."

The list of standout Penn State middle hitters is not limited to Harmotto, who was gone for a season before Grant enrolled in her first class. Arielle Wilson, who broke those single-season and career hitting percentage records the next season, was Grant's immediate predecessor in the middle, and Katie Slay was a teammate for three seasons, just to name a few All-Americans.

"It was a lot of pressure just to fill in the shoes," said Grant, an honorable mention All-American as a junior. "That's a big deal. Those are your idols and you're just supposed to come in and fill their shoes. It was scary."

Even today, as one who is leaving her own mark, she still considers those shoes pretty sizable.

Getting the 6-foot-2 Grant to reach her full potential wasn't always the easiest, according to coach Russ Rose, who said there were "some battles to get Nia to do some things.

"She has worked it out," Rose said, "and it will have a great deal to do with our chances for success."

After quietly working her way through the previous three seasons, with the outgoing personalities of Slay and Deja McClendon at the forefront of the team, Grant has appeared comfortable being a leader this season.

She is more aggressive in her swings, and her blocking has improved.

She leads the nation hitting .462, and is third on the team averaging 2.41 kills per set, while her 118 total blocks paces the team and her average of 1.16 blocks per set is second on the Lions behind freshman Haleigh Washington.

As a junior, Grant was averaging just 1.76 kills and 0.82 blocks per set while hitting .350.

"Potential to performance is so much the player," said Rose, pointing out Grant needed time to mature into her role. "The coaches have to identify it, but the players have to embrace it and really make it a part of what they want to accomplish."

While another NCAA title would be the perfect way to end her career, Grant also admitted to hoping she gets a conversation with someone else soon. She would love getting an invitation from women's basketball coach Coquese Washington to join the Lady Lions.

"If she wants me," Grant said. "I don't know if I can say no."

She plays the game occasionally, but the lithe Grant admits she has never tried to work in the low post against someone the size of, say, 6-foot-5 junior Candace Agee and her sturdy frame. She talks with Agee frequently, is friends with a number of team members and has threatened to Agee she was going to stop by practice.

"Athletically I think I could handle it," Grant said. "But it's a lot different from volleyball."

But Grant also knows she belongs on the volleyball court, loves the game, is not burned out and hopes to play the sport professionally as long as possible.

Saying good-bye on Saturday night will be tough, and seeing the season end in December will be even tougher.

"I'm going to miss my friends," Grant said. "They're all in the locker room. Once I leave I'm going to have to start over, but I'm excited to see what's next, to just grow up I guess."



Nittany Lions hoping they have done enough to earn strong NCAA seed

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State women's volleyball team is headed into its final week of the regular season, with a big match looming to close the schedule.

But coach Russ Rose also has his eyes on what happens Sunday, and what kind of road his Nittany Lions will have to travel to capture another national championship.

Penn State has been having another incredibly successful season, with a 28-3 record, not to mention some high statistical rankings both for the team and individuals.

Penn State is also holding onto second place in the Big Ten, and barring an upset it will not catch the conference leader, Wisconsin, as the Nittany Lions visit Northwestern on Wednesday before closing the regular season at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Rec Hall against Nebraska.

The Badgers lost to the Nittany Lions way back on Sept. 24 — and haven't lost since to move close to the conference title.

Penn State's only losses in the conference were at Nebraska and home against Illinois, to go with an early-season five-set loss to No. 1 Stanford (28-0), and have since run off a dozen straight wins.

Even with all that success, and a No. 4 ranking in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, the Nittany Lions are still wondering how much respect they will get when the NCAA bracket is announced.

Penn State is No. 10 in the Ratings Percentage Index, a ranking based on a formula involving strength of schedule, a team's record and the record of its opponents.

"My position on this is different from everybody else's," Rose said. "I look at it as the most important thing is to win. I'd rather win than have a high RPI and not win. I've never heard of anybody go to their administration asking for a raise because their RPI was on fire."

The RPI is taken heavily into account by the NCAA tournament committees in most sports, including volleyball, and Rose is concerned his team may run into a stronger opponent earlier in the tournament than it should because of that RPI number.

The Nittany Lions are buoyed by the conference schedule — five other Big Ten teams are ranked in the AVCA top 20 — and matches against UCLA and the No. 1 Cardinal.

But the strength of schedule also is dragged down by teams like Iona, William and Mary, Eastern Illinois, DePaul, Illinois-Chicago and East Carolina.

Only East Carolina in that list has a record above .500, but the last four programs mentioned all are coached by former Nittany Lions, and they were in Rec Hall in September as part of a celebration of the school's 50th anniversary of women's athletics.

"If my RPI is down because we played the Alumni Classic," Rose said, "... and that's what causes us a problem, I would do it again. What's important to me might not be what's important to the volleyball committee."

It is because of those matches that leave a 28-3 Nittany Lion team ranked behind seven-loss teams Oregon and Illinois.

But it's not like Penn State has not shown it has the makings of another strong team when the calendar turns to December.

The Nittany Lions are the nation's top hitting team — by far. Penn State is hitting .356, while Florida is second at .317. They also have the nation's leader in hitting (Nia Grant, .470) and aces (Micha Hancock, 100).

The meetings with the Wildcats and Cornhuskers will be good appetizers for Thanksgiving week — the matches with Nebraska are always among the best in the nation each season — but the main course is always the NCAA Tournament. Penn State will be seeking to capture its seventh national title.

Even with eight freshmen on the roster and two of them key starters, they all know the tradition and the end goal.

"A lot of our success will be based on how they handle the pressures and expectations of the program," Rose said. "That's kind of tough."



Penn State women's volleyball welcoming old, new faces to Rec Hall this weekend

UNIVERSITY PARK — The No. 6 Nittany Lions (22-3, 10-2 Big Ten) welcome a mixture of new and old faces to Rec Hall this weekend in their matchups with Big Ten newcomers Rutgers (7-18, 0-12) and Maryland (9-14, 2-10).

Tonight's 7 p.m. match with the Scarlet Knights will be the first between the two in three years, while Saturday's contest at the same time against the Terrapins is the first meeting in just shy of 10 years.

Maryland is coached by former Penn State assistant Steve Aird and director of operations Adam Hughes.

Aird played volleyball for the men's team at Penn State from 1997-01 and coached at Auburn and Cincinnati before returning to State College in 2007 as an assistant coach and director of operations for the women's program.

After leaving the coaching field for several years, Aird reclaimed an assistant position with the Lions in 2012 and was a part of the 2013 national championship team.

Lions coach Russ Rose believes that this weekend's outing with Maryland presents an interesting dynamic because Aird knows so much about Penn State, while Rose and staff know relatively little about the Terrapins.

"I want them to have success because I care for them, but I don't want them to have success against us," Rose said. "I want them to have success in building a program on their own two legs."

The Penn State players reiterated Rose's sentiments regarding playing against a former coach.

"Maryland has two of our former coaches there, and they're great," senior Dominique Gonzalez said.

"They've been around us for a little while so they know what we have to offer. So I think we're going in with same mindset that we've always had — go out there, play our best volleyball, play hard and hopefully come out with a win."

Gonzalez acknowledged that despite a poor record on paper, the opponents this weekend have offered other Big Ten teams an array of challenges.

Junior Megan Courtney, who played two years under Aird and Hughes, believes Maryland has a unique advantage over other Big Ten even though it is newer to the conference.

"It's kind of intimidating coming into Rec Hall [as an opposing team]," Courtney said. "But they [Aird and Hughes] aren't going to be intimidated and they can tell their team what it's like because they both have experience playing and coaching in here."

Courtney still wants to perpetuate the notion that the Big Ten is a tough conference to play in, especially among the elite teams like the Lions.

"I think the team's mindset is to show them what the Big Ten is about," Courtney said. "I don't mean that in a bad way. It's just Penn State volleyball prides itself in being hard working and really taking care of business."



Nittany Lions sweep Minnesota before packed crowd

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State women's volleyball team showed a little bit of everything in its match against Minnesota on Saturday night at Rec Hall.

Most importantly, it sent a lot of people home happy.

Behind a 17-kill performance from Aiyana Whitney, and in front of a season-high standing-room-only crowd of 5,569, the No. 6 Nittany Lions swept away Minnesota 25-20, 25-12, 25-23.

The win extended the Lions' wins streak to 10 straight, with the last nine all by 3-0 sweeps.

"A lot of things were terrific," coach Russ Rose said. "I thought the crowd was fantastic. It was a great day in Penn State athletics."

Whitney put down her total on .682 hitting as the nation's top-hitting team posted a .315 hitting night, and held the Golden Gophers to .080 hitting. Penn State (26-3, 14-2 Big Ten) also got nine kills and six blocks from Haleigh Washington and eight kills from Nia Grant.

"The three-headed monster of Haleigh, Nia and Aiyana were very good," Rose said. "... It's good when the setter can recognize who's playing well and get them the ball. We feel really good."

Dominique Gonzalez posted 14 digs while Micha Hancock had 31 assists and four aces. The ace total gives the senior setter 91 for the season, matching her career high when she was a freshman, which is also the program's single-season record.

Led by Washington, the Nittany Lions took the blocking battle 9.5-7, including 7.5-3 over the final two frames.

"(I was) just more focused," the freshman said. "I tend to be sporadic sometimes, so I have to remind myself to just stay focused, stay calm, trust what I know, trust my reads and just go with it."

Daly Santana's eight kills, Paige Tapp's seven kills and five blocks, Erica Handley's 25 assists and Alyssa Goehner's eight digs led Minnesota (16-11, 6-10), which has dropped seven of its last 10 matches.

"There's a lot of variance when you're dealing with youth," Gophers coach Hugh McCutcheon said. "There was great crowd, great environment, great for volleyball, but I think our kids felt a little pressure in the second set and once we started to bleed we struggled to stop."

The second and third sets could hardly contrast any more.

Penn State dominated in the second set in shocking fashion, with nearly every hitter on fire as the Lions hit .387 in the set, the Gophers hit .000 and Penn State had a 4-1 blocking margin in the frame. The Nittany Lions shot out to a fast 9-4 lead, then closed on a 10-4 run capped by Hancock and Grant teaming up to block Goehner.

"Not surprised," McCutcheon said.

"Penn State's done that to other teams. We've seen it before. It's just disappointing we couldn't get into a better frame of mind."

The tables were turned quickly in the third, with Minnesota racing to a 7-1 lead assisted by a pair of Santana aces and Penn State hitting and service errors.

"Just because you win one game easy doesn't mean it's going to happen (again)," Rose said. "When we're down 8-2 in the third game, I'm not thinking

about how easy the second game is. I'm wondering what I didn't do in the intermission to get them ready to play."

But the Nittany Lions rallied to knot it at 13-13, and the teams traded points and the lead until a four-point Gopher run had them two points from forcing a fourth set at 23-21. But Whitney rocked in the last of her kills on a cross-court swing, back-to-back Gopher hitting errors put it at match point and a Gonzalez ace, shanked by Minnesota libero Dalianliz Rosado, wrapped up the set and match.

"It was a little worrisome," Hancock said. "I know we're better when we control the ball, but it's hard to have that confidence when you come off the second game like that and then you're kind of low. It's all mental readiness."

Penn State hits the road for three straight matches, starting at Michigan on Wednesday, and is not home again until the regular-season finale against No. 11 Nebraska on Nov. 29.



Women's Volleyball's Micha Hancock a Relentless Competitor

UNIVERSITY PARK — The recipe for success can be modeled after Penn State women's volleyball senior Micha Hancock. The ingredients are simple - be competitive, be tough, work hard, be a leader and be humble.

Hancock is adorned with many awards during her decorated Penn State career. She was the 2013 NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player, was named AVCA First Team All-America for two consecutive years, was named a finalist for an ESPY, among many other accolades. All of the recognitions begin with Hancock's drive to be the best.

Be Competitive: Hancock started playing volleyball when she was very young. Her mom, a volleyball player herself, brought Hancock into the gym with her before she could even walk. When she was nine, she began playing competitive volleyball with her older sister.

The Oklahoma native grew up trying to keep up with her sister, who is three years older, whether it was on the court or off. This is where Hancock's competitive spirit originated.

"Even when we're running to the car, I want to get there first. I've always been pretty competitive," Hancock said. "I feel like it's in my blood."

Hancock's competitive nature grew with her and eventually became a part of her. And it helped her land a spot on Penn State's roster. In high school, Hancock was committed to play volleyball at another college. During spring break of her senior year of high school, she visited Penn State, talked to head coach Russ Rose, changed her commitment... and the rest was history.

"I liked the staff, I loved the campus, I loved the school, and I had heard great things about it, so I made the decision

to come here," Hancock said.

Her teammates and coaches have appreciated her competitive nature as well. In fact, Rose's favorite part about Micha is how competitive she is.

"She's really competitive, she's got a great arm and she's physically competitive," Rose said.

Hancock and associate head coach Salima Rockwell have a close relationship and it shows during matches. Against No. 17 Ohio State on Tuesday night, Rockwell took Hancock aside and had a one-on-one conversation with her during a time out. As Rockwell spoke, Hancock nodded her head, seeming to be on the exact same page as Rockwell.

"Micha's awesome. She's so much fun to coach. She's someone that's confident. And she's a severe competitor," Rockwell said.

Playing on the court with a player like Hancock benefits the entire team. Teammate and friend Megan Courtney said she has formed a great relationship with Hancock over the past three years.

"She's like no other person I've ever played with. She's competitive, she's a great role model, she does what she does really well and she expects the best out of you," Courtney said. "She's a great person to play with because she's never too high or too low. She's always consistent."

Be Tough: "Sssss... Boom!"

That's the sound of the crowd in Rec Hall while Hancock serves. The cheer, replicating the sound of a bomb, is because of her aggressive, explosive serve.

Her serve came from playing as both a hitter and a setter in her early years of volleyball. She uses the skills she learned from being an attacker in her serving. Hancock has 322 career aces, a program record.

Being an attacker gave Hancock the skills to become a successful hitter on the team, as well. Against Ohio State, Hancock had five kills on seven swings.

Hancock is both mentally and physically tough. She rallies the team after losing a point, dives for every ball and serves tough.

Freshman Haleigh Washington admires Hancock for how tough she is. Washington said she hopes to play like Hancock one day.

"[It] doesn't matter if we're down, [it] doesn't matter if we're up, [it] doesn't matter what's happening, she's a really tough kid. She's a hard worker, she'll hit the ground, she'll dive, she'll roll around, she'll keep going, she'll get criticism," Washington said. "She's a tough kid that can handle a lot. It's really admirable and it's something that I want to develop as a player myself."

Work Hard: Hancock's efforts against Ohio State did not go unnoticed. In addition to her five kills, the senior setter had four digs and a season-high seven blocks. She is working hard both physically and emotionally as a leader of the team, trying to rally the team and increase the level of play during the remainder of her senior season.

"The biggest thing we're trying to focus on is coming out of the gate strong. It's nice to have three 3-0 wins in a row, you feel like you're getting tighter with the group," Hancock said. "We needed to have more energy [earlier in the season] and I think we've been showing that with our 3-0 wins."

Hancock has been a hard worker since



Women's Volleyball's Micha Hancock a Relentless Competitor

she stepped on the court. She holds the Penn State record for career aces, she has been named Big Ten Setter of the Year, AVCA First-Team All America, Big Ten Player of the Week, Big Ten Freshman of the Year and much more.

Her hard work paid off in 2013 when the team won the NCAA National Championship. But surprisingly, that isn't her favorite memory as a Penn State women's volleyball player.

"[My favorite memory] was the two years leading up to the national championship because it created the fight we had that third year, my junior year, to win the championship," Hancock said. "And that's the most important thing, just being a team."

Be a Leader: As a freshman playing in every match, Hancock was guided by seniors, who showed her the ropes of Penn State women's volleyball. Now, as a senior, it's her time to be a leader.

Her goal for her senior season is to continue as a successful leader of the team.

"[My goal is to] lead the best I can, get as much out of this team as we can," Hancock said. "I'm trying to work with the staff, work with the girls individually, watch film, know what I can be better at and ease the path to hopefully compete for a championship."

Hancock's leadership during matches is what sets her apart from other players. In every huddle, she is the one telling her teammate, 'good job', telling the team what to do next and encouraging the team after a lost point.

During timeouts, after Rose talks to the team, it's Hancock's turn, getting the players ready for the next series of points.

She's the first to high-five the player who got the kill, ace or block, and she's the first to lift a teammate's spirit after an error or lost point.

Washington said Hancock's leadership has been efficient and it has helped her adjust to playing college volleyball.

"She keeps us very focused, which is a good trait to have, especially as a leader. She focuses on the next point, focuses on staying calm, focuses on staying excited," Washington said. "She makes sure that we're paying attention, that we're ready for the next play and that we know what's going on. Especially as freshman, we haven't played the game very much, she keeps us locked in."

From a coaching standpoint, Rockwell also sees her success as a leader.

"She's a senior now, she's got that sense of urgency. She wants to win, she wants to be great," Rockwell said. "The girls feel that, they follow along with that. She's doing an excellent job leading this team."

Be Humble: The match against Ohio State on Tuesday was an important match between two Big Ten teams. The Big Ten Network had a camera set up on the court during warm ups and most of the time, the camera was on Hancock.

As she stretched, jogged and talked to teammates, the camera was right there with her. But not once did she act differently, or even acknowledge that that camera was on her.

Courtney said that despite the attention that Hancock gets for her level of play, she always remains humble.

"She gets a lot of hype for how good she is, but if you actually have a chance to talk to her, and sit down with

her and actually have a meaningful conversation with her, she is so down to earth," Courtney said.

What's Next: As a senior, this season is Hancock's last time in a Penn State uniform. She said being a senior feels very different.

"I definitely feel the urgency of senior year and trying to lead these girls, the young ones especially, who have so much talent," Hancock said. "It's great to see them working hard, but also getting them mentally prepared for the years to come. It's really fun."

After graduating, Hancock hopes to play professionally.

"I love the game so much, and that's what I want to do," Hancock said.

The team and the Penn State volleyball community will miss Hancock when she graduates, but her legacy will live on.

"I'm really going to miss her, but I wish her the best of luck in what she does. And I know even then, if she plays professionally or for the national team, she's still going to be humble and great," Courtney said. "She's just an all-around great person, not just a great player."



Penn State women's volleyball: Nittany Lions hold off Michigan State

UNIVERSITY PARK — (10/25/2014)

The Penn State women's volleyball team wasn't playing the best of matches, and faced a pair of set points for Michigan State in the first frame.

The Nittany Lions didn't blink.

No. 7 Penn State rattled off four straight points to take that set, and went on to win the match 26-24, 25-17, 25-21 over the Spartans at Rec Hall.

"It was kind of like a click of a switch," said Dominique Gonzalez, who had an ace during that late first-set run. "'We need to go. This is our house. We've got to play well.' After we got a few-point run, we kind of kicked into gear and realized we could take that set."

Aiyana Whitney put down 12 kills and Ali Frantti added 11 to pace the offense.

Micha Hancock racked up another four aces to go with 33 assists. The nation's top server now has 82 service winners on the season, matching her total for all of 2013 and nine short of her single-season career high from her freshman season. She has 336 for her career.

Penn State (20-3, 8-2) also got 14 digs from Gonzalez and three blocks from Haleigh Washington.

Allyssah Fitterer, Chloe Reinig and Jazmine White each registered seven kills to pace the Spartans (12-9, 5-5). White also had six blocks, with Michigan State winning the battle of the block 9-5.

That contributed to Penn State hitting .258 as a team.

"Michigan State's a tough opponent because they're so physical and they're really big at the net," coach Russ Rose said. "They outblock everybody they play and when they control the ball they can cause a lot of problems. We could have lost that first game for sure."

The first set was tight, with 15 ties, but Michigan State took a late lead with a quick three-point spurt, capped by a backrow kill from Reinig and

a Washington spike sailing wide.

The teams traded points to put the Spartans up 24-22.

Frantti took a quick set from Hancock in the middle and ripped it off a blocker, sending Gonzalez back to the service line. The senior libero delivered a soft floating serve that just barely cleared the net and fell inside the 10-foot line for an ace to tie up the frame.

"That was pretty much Coach called it," Gonzalez said. "I had served there the past couple times as well and we thought it would help get them out of system and set up our defense for what we wanted. The fact that it pulled out an ace was great, but we were doing it more to set up our own defense."

A Spartan error and a Hancock kill then wrapped up the game, and gave the Nittany Lions the momentum it needed the rest of the match.

The final two sets were rather choppy, with a number of point runs for both teams. Aside from an 8-1 run to close the second set, which included a pair of Hancock aces, and a 4-1 run in the third capped by a Frantti kill, neither team had a lead larger than three points all night.

"They're a great team," Gonzalez said. "They have a lot of big hitters and (libero) Kori Moster's great on defense. She gets a lot of balls. We knew it was going to be a tough game just because they are so physical at the net and she digs a crazy amount of balls. We knew that we have to stay focused throughout the match."

Frantti led the offense with .409 hitting in her 14th match of the season with double digits in kills, including six of her last eight contests.

"Everybody's been hot and cold at times," Rose said. "For us to play at our highest level, everybody has to play well. I'm not sure I can tell you it's going to happen. If it doesn't happen on Tuesday, we'll be real disappointed."



Penn State women's volleyball's "three-headed monster"

UNIVERSITY PARK — Coach Russ Rose referred to Haleigh Washington, Nia Grant and Aiyana Whitney as "the three-headed monster" after Penn State's Saturday night sweep of Minnesota.

With four regular season matches to go, Washington, Grant and Whitney hold the top three spots in the Big Ten rankings for hitting percentage.

The 2008 Nittany Lions were the last team to have three teammates lead the Big Ten in hitting percentage. That season, Rose's team went on to win the National Championship.

It is still far too early to say that Penn State (26-3, 14-2 Big Ten) could win its second consecutive NCAA title, but the Lions have a similarly potent trio leading the way. Back in 2008, it was a senior, Christa Harmotto, and two sophomores, Arielle Wilson and Blair Brown, atop the conference. This time, a freshman ranks first, followed by two upperclassmen.

Since returning from an injury that hindered her playing time early in the season, freshman Haleigh Washington has become the Big Ten's most efficient offensive player. She leads the conference with a .491 hitting percentage.

Washington also is tied for fifth in the Big Ten with an average of 1.25 blocks per set. She had five block assists and one solo block in the victory over Minnesota.

"I tend to be sporadic sometimes, so I have to remind myself to stay focused, to stay calm," Washington said.

Grant, a senior, ranks right behind Washington in Big Ten with a .476 hitting percentage. She is the only player in the Big Ten with at least 200 kills and a hitting percentage over .400.

And Whitney, a redshirt junior, has become one of the most dominant players in the Big Ten. Her .395 hitting average ranks third in the conference, but it is the number of efficient attacks that have made her stand out. She has both the most kills, 276, and the most attacks, 522, of the three leading players.

"My ultimate goal is just to take the pressure off [her teammates]," Whitney said of her recent success.

In the past two matches Whitney has led the team in kills, with 16 against Iowa, and 17 against Minnesota.

Rose stressed the importance of feeding the trio member with the hottest hand.

"It's good when the setter can recognize who's playing well and get them the ball," Rose said.



espnW Volleyball Player Of The Week: Penn State's Dominique Gonzalez

Kills are the flashy things that get noticed. Great digs get crowds roaring too. But if you were to ask a volleyball statistics wonk like Penn State coach Russ Rose, he would probably tell you serve receiving was as important as anything.

Penn State has won six NCAA titles not just because of its big hitters but also because the Nittany Lions' back row traditionally does technical stuff so well. Defensive specialist Dominique Gonzalez is a great example of that.

She is espnW's national player of the week after contributing all the so-called little things that helped Penn State win two tough road matches to start Big Ten play.

At then-No. 5 Wisconsin last week, Gonzalez had 21 digs and four service aces in the Nittany Lions' 3-0 sweep. In a 3-1 victory at then-No. 17 Minnesota, Gonzalez had 26 digs. In neither match did she have a reception error.

Gonzalez led the national champions in digs last year with 416. The senior from San Antonio is a big fan of the NBA champion Spurs, who are the epitome of teamwork at the professional level. Understanding how each piece of the puzzle fits has been huge for the Spurs, and you could say the same thing about Penn State volleyball.

The Nittany Lions -- ranked No. 3 nationally -- face Big Ten rival Nebraska on Friday, and you can be sure Gonzalez will be covering a lot of ground against the Huskers. Just as she always does.

Also considered this week:

- Penn State setter Micha Hancock, Gonzalez's teammate, had nine kills, 10 digs and 38 assists against Wisconsin and four kills, five digs and 50 assists against Minnesota.

- UCLA's Karsta Lowe had a combined 49 kills and 16 digs as the Bruins went 1-1 last week.

- Arizona State's Macey Gardner had a combined 57 kills and 26 digs as the Sun Devils went 1-1 last week, including their first win at USC since 1995.



Nittany Lions suffer rare home loss against Illinois

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State women's volleyball team was off to a blazing start Saturday afternoon, but the fire burned out quickly.

No. 15 Illinois fought back from big deficits for a 26-24, 16-25, 25-23, 25-22 victory.

The loss at Rec Hall was a rare one for the No. 5 Nittany Lions. It was Penn State's first home loss since Sept. 27, 2013, and just the fourth home loss since the start of the 2006 season. It ended a run of 19 straight home victories.

"I thought we had a great opportunity today, especially when we came out as strong as we did in the first game," coach Russ Rose said. "We had a great crowd and the band did a terrific job. We had everything going for us, but we didn't play as a team. That rests with me. I have to find a way to get them to play a little bit better together."

The Nittany Lions raced to a 14-4 lead to open the match, and were close to wrapping up the first set at 19-9 before the wheels began to fall off.

Penn State again built a huge lead in the second set at 18-6, saw Illinois again slice into the margin to as close as 21-15 but this time held the lead to even the match 1-1 heading into the 10-minute break.

After that, the Illini controlled the early portions of the final two sets and never lost the lead. Penn State did cut a fourth-set margin from as large as nine down to 24-22 but could not complete the comeback.

"The worst part is we had fire at the end of the game," said freshman Haleigh Washington, who had a match-high seven blocks. "It's the worst feeling when you're so close and you're thinking that it's good, but then it's too

little, too late."

Penn State (16-3, 4-2 Big Ten) saw balance on offense with 15 kills for Aiyanna Whitney, 14 for Washington and 13 each for Ali Frantti and Nia Grant. Megan Courtney posted 13 digs, Dominique Gonzalez added 12 and Lacey Fuller had 10 digs. Micha Hancock gave out 53 assists to go with four blocks and three aces, Frantti also had four blocks and three aces, and Courtney put up four blocks as well.

The Illini (12-5, 4-2) got 19 kills and 1 dig from Jocelynn Birks, 17 kills from Liz McMahan, 11 kills from Katie Roustio, 18 digs from Julia Conard, 14 digs and three aces from Brandi Donnelly, 47 assists from Alexis Viliunas and four blocks each from Anna Dorn and Katie Stadick.

Illinois hit .315 to Penn State's .310, and the Nittany Lions led in kills 67-61, in blocks 13-8, in aces 6-4 and trailed in digs 63-54.

Penn State is back on the road next weekend, giving the team six road matches in eight Big Ten contests so far this season, by visiting Purdue and Indiana.



Brother and sister each playing in big games in Lincoln on Friday

LINCOLN, Neb. — Everything aligned almost perfectly this weekend in Lincoln for the Frantti family of Spring Grove, Illinois, for a one-stop, two-kid, two- (and maybe three-) game weekend.

And as any family trying to juggle the schedules of four kids playing travel sports knows, that is awesome.

Oldest son Connor, 20, is one of the top defensemen for the Lincoln Stars hockey team playing in the United States Hockey League, a feeder league to NCAA Division I hockey. Daughter Ali, 18, is already making a mark nationally in her freshman season as the leader in kills for the third-ranked Penn State volleyball team.

Both teams will play Friday in Lincoln, with the arenas only about one city block from each other. Penn State plays Nebraska at the Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m. The Stars take on Sioux City across the street at the Ice Box at 7:05 p.m.

Their father, Dan, will be in Lincoln. He'll start at the volleyball game. If the volleyball match lasts only three or four sets, he'll have time to get across the street to watch the end of the hockey game.

And even if he can't make it to hockey Friday, he'll still get to watch Connor and the Stars play Sunday in Lincoln against Waterloo. Again, this all worked out perfectly, because the Stars rarely have Sunday home games.

Dan's wife, Kelly, will be in Indiana this weekend for parent's weekend at Culver Military Academy, where 17-year-old son Peyton plays hockey. Youngest son Chase, 13, plays hockey and football.

Dan has attended a few of Penn State's matches this season.

"As soon as the schedules came out a few months ago, I told Kelly, 'You're not going to believe this, but Ali and Connor are playing on the same night in Lincoln,'" Dan Frantti said. "I know Lincoln is a great sports town. I was there last year and watched a couple of games. I've been to hundreds of hockey venues over my lifetime, and that's right up there at the top. I like the old barns that have character, and the fans are into it.

"And I've heard it's quite an atmosphere there for volleyball. They get 8,000 fans, and I'm pretty excited to experience that."

This is a one-chance deal for the family. Next season, Connor will play at Northern Michigan.



Nittany Lions still loaded after winning title

LINCOLN, Neb. — Even with the wealth of volleyball riches returning from a national championship team and the nation's most touted incoming freshman class, Penn State coach Russ Rose couldn't help but be concerned by what his team had to replace.

A decorated trio of seniors — outside hitters Ariel Scott and Deja McClendon and middle blocker Katie Slay — capped their careers in Happy Valley with the program's sixth NCAA title and formed what Rose believed may have been the best front row in college volleyball history.

[Click Here!](#)

"I don't know if anybody graduated what we graduated," Rose said. "We graduated 10 years of All-America (honors) in the front row."

But if the rest of the country was prepared for a respite from Penn State's dominance, the No. 3-ranked Nittany Lions (14-1, 2-0 Big Ten) have made notice they're not ready to give up the crown.

Penn State will try to continue its strong start in Friday's 7 p.m. match at No. 8 Nebraska (8-3, 2-0).

Penn State reloaded with a crop of freshmen who may be the most decorated ever in college volleyball. Five of the seven newcomers were ranked in the top 15 by PrepVolleyball.com, and several already are making an impact.

Freshman outside hitters Ali Frantti and Simone Lee — both of whom Nebraska recruited heavily — enrolled early in January.

Frantti leads a balanced attack with 3.26 kills per set, and had 22 in Penn State's lone loss at No. 1 Stanford. Lee put down a team-high 12 kills when the Nittany Lions swept No. 6 Wisconsin

in Madison in a rematch of the 2013 national title match.

"The ability to play at a same level every day is something you usually attribute to veterans or the real outlier athlete that can hit the ground running," Rose said.

The returning cast has been equally impressive. Junior opposite hitter Megan Courtney is a six-rotation threat, and starting middles Nia Grant, a senior, and Aiyana Whitney, a junior, are each hitting at least .420.

"Penn State, they're hard to gang up on because they have so many weapons, so you've got to be really good in your system," NU coach John Cook said. "You've got to be really disciplined, and we have to be able to block more than just one hitter."

Tying it all together is senior All-America setter Micha Hancock. Originally recruited as an all-around player who excelled at attacking, Hancock was a late addition to the Nittany Lions' 2011 class, but has blossomed into one of the country's top setters. Hancock has set Penn State to a nation-leading .372 attack percentage while beguiling opponents with a wicked, left-handed jump serve.

"When she came in as a freshman, she was a really talented hitter and server, and really eager-to-learn setter," Rose said. "She's gotten better as a setter these three years. But one thing she's always been is a competitor and been tough."

Preparing for Penn State isn't the only challenge Cook faces this weekend. Nebraska will host Ohio State (9-5, 0-2) at 5 p.m. Saturday, less than 24 hours after the start of the Penn State match.

The NU coach said the Huskers are now better suited to handle the mental

challenges of the back-to-back tests. After Friday, Nebraska will have played four of the top five teams in the country.

"I feel like we're getting better every week," Cook said. "Not only getting volleyball better, but we're getting mentally better. We're understanding better what we have to do, how valuable each point is."



NCAA Volleyball: Five Things To Know

There is a new top-ranked team in Division I volleyball, and it's not a surprise. Here are five things to take note of this week in the world of kills and digs:

1. Stanford takes top spot

In a rematch of the one of last season's best battles, Stanford defeated Penn State 3-2 on Friday at Maples Pavilion. The Cardinal followed that with a 3-2 victory over Illinois, and those two wins propelled Stanford to No. 1 in this week's American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, replacing the Nittany Lions, who dropped to No. 3. Stanford senior Morgan Boukather -- hitting against Penn State's Ali Frantti (5) and Aiyana Whitney (14) -- had 15 kills and 12 digs in the Cardinal's 3-2 victory Friday.

Stanford senior Morgan Boukather -- hitting against Penn State's Ali Frantti (5) and Aiyana Whitney (14) -- had 15 kills and 12 digs in the Cardinal's 3-2 victory Friday.

Stanford junior Inky Ajanaku won her second consecutive Pac-12 defensive player of the week award. The Cardinal lost 3-2 to the eventual national champion Nittany Lions last year in a regional final. This was an early litmus test for both teams, and each could walk away with positives.

This weekend, No. 20 Duke, Penn and Santa Clara visit Stanford.

2. Pac-12 off to powerful start

Stanford is one of eight schools in the Pac-12 that are undefeated through the first two weekends of the season, along with Arizona, Arizona State, Oregon, Oregon State, USC, Washington and Utah. Of course, some of them have tested themselves more than others.

This week, the unbeaten team that may have the most difficult time staying that way is No. 21 Arizona, which faces No.

2 Texas in Austin on Friday (8 p.m. ET, Longhorn Network).

3. New Lion already roaring

It didn't take long for 6-foot-1 freshman outside hitter Ali Frantti to establish herself as Penn State's newest young star. When your first college double-double comes against Stanford, it's clear you're the real deal.

Frantti had 22 kills and 11 digs against the Cardinal then added 14 kills and five digs in a sweep of UCLA. She has been the Big Ten's freshman of the week both weeks of the season.

The Nittany Lions play in the Villanova tournament this weekend, facing the host Wildcats, American, Yale and No. 24 Kansas.

4. Making the most of logistics

New Mexico State and UTEP are co-hosting an invitational this weekend, which is a neat idea. Las Cruces, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, are about 45 miles apart on Interstate 10.

The teams involved are New Mexico State (WAC), UTEP (Conference USA), BYU (West Coast Conference) and Colorado State (Mountain West).

The matchup of ranked teams is No. 9 BYU vs. No. 14 Colorado State, which will be Friday morning in Las Cruces. Then the Cougars will travel to El Paso to face UTEP on Friday night and return to play the Aggies in Las Cruces on Saturday. That final match between BYU and New Mexico State is on ESPN3 at 2 p.m. ET Saturday and features Cougars star Jennifer Hamson.

Meanwhile, the Rams will stay put Friday and play the Aggies in the evening then go to UTEP to face the Miners on Saturday.

By the way, the "neighbor" schools of New Mexico State and UTEP will play

each other this season. But that won't be until late November.

5. Keep an eye on ... North Carolina

The 4-1 Tar Heels are ranked No. 17, with their only loss thus far at Illinois, which is ranked No. 12. North Carolina rebounded from that defeat with impressive wins on the road last weekend against other Big Ten teams -- Michigan State and Michigan -- and both were sweeps.

UNC senior Lauren McAdoo was named ACC player of the week after a combined 28 kills against the Spartans and Wolverines. To win two matches in Big Ten territory is a big deal for the Tar Heels, who were picked to finish third in the ACC behind Florida State and Duke.

In this weekend's Carolina Classic, the Tar Heels host No. 16 Kentucky, Georgia Southern and VCU.



Nittany Lions beat Kansas, wrap up Villanova tournament title

VILLANOVA — The Penn State women's volleyball team earned its fourth win in two days to wrap up the team title at the Villanova Classic on Saturday.

The weekend for the No. 3 Nittany Lions closed with a 25-10, 27-25, 25-23 victory over No. 24 Kansas, with another big service game for Micha Hancock. The senior setter, who also gave out 34 assists, delivered six aces. She finished the weekend with 21 aces and tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Aiyana Whitney pounded down 13 kills and .571 hitting to pace the offense, adding six blocks, while Nia Grant had 10 kills. Megan Courtney posted five blocks, and Dominique Gonzalez picked up a dozen digs.

Penn State (8-1) hit .319 with a 9-6 blocking advantage, a 43-32 kills margin and held the Jayhawks to .134 hitting.

Earlier Saturday, Penn State swept Yale 25-14, 25-15, 25-15 behind 11 kills each for Ali Frantti and Grant. The pair also hit .647 and .846, respectively, with both error-free on their swings, and the Nittany Lions hit .419 as a team.

Freshman Haleigh Washington, in her first appearance of the season, had six kills on 11 error-free swings to hit .545, and Courtney had eight kills. Hancock gave out 35 assists and Gonzalez posted 19 digs.

The Bulldogs were held to .108 hitting, losing the blocking battle 4-1 and the kills battle 45-26.

Penn State returns to Rec Hall next weekend to host the Penn State Alumni Classic for matches against Eastern Illinois, DePaul, Illinois-Chicago and East Carolina. All four programs have Nittany Lion alumni as coaches.



Ali Frantti has helped women's volleyball with her offense and her laughter

UNIVERSITY PARK — If you've heard anything about Penn State women's volleyball in the past couple of weeks, you've probably heard the name Ali Frantti at least once or twice — and rightfully so.

The freshman phenom has burst onto the college volleyball scene. She's led the team in kills in all but one match so far this campaign. She's amassed 67 kills over the course of five matches, good for tops on the squad .

She takes big, quick swings at the top of the net. Standing at 6-foot-1 , she patrols the airspace in search of kills and blocks. And more often than not, she gets them.

But even when she doesn't, it doesn't change her demeanor. Whether she's just slammed a ball in the middle of the opponent's defense or she's squeaked one just wide outside the line, there's one common denominator: she's always smiling.

That's just who she is. It's what she does. No matter what Frantti's doing, she seems to always be smiling. And, you better believe it's real.

"I think she's a pretty genuine individual," coach Russ Rose said. "And I think people respond well to people when they're like that."

Alexandra, Ali for short, comes from a big family. Six people occupy the Frantti home: Ali and her three brothers, and parents, Dan and Kelly.

Now, at Penn State, Frantti is adjusting to life with sisters — 19 to be exact.

Many of her new "siblings" are older than the 18-year-old Frantti, and if you ask her, that's a good thing.

The upperclassmen have played a vital role in helping Frantti and the rest of her classmates acclimate to life in Happy Valley.

One such sister helped Frantti tackle her first road trip this past weekend when the team travelled to California to take on two Pac-12 powerhouses.

Junior outside hitter Megan Courtney filled the big sister role as her roommate on the West Coast. In between back-to-back primetime performances, Courtney said the freshman had a little bit of a tough time.

"She forgot her key every single time we went back to the room and she forgot her jersey one time," Courtney said through laughter. "And everyone is looking at me because I'm like the junior and I was just saying it's not my fault ... You know, she's Ali so you've got to keep an eye on her."

Laughter is no stranger to Frantti. She's not afraid to laugh at herself and she's always making her teammates laugh, whether it's telling a joke during practice, continually forgetting her hotel key, or livening up workouts.

"She's a little crazy in the weight room," senior setter Micha Hancock said. "She hit herself with the bar one time and it was funny, so we give her a hard time with that."

Hancock added that there isn't really a time when Frantti is not cracking a joke or providing humor in some fashion.

The freshman and the senior have had similar stories so far.

Hancock showcased her incredible talent in her first match during her freshman season against USC, and she's been starting ever since. That year, Hancock was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year — an accolade Frantti could very well be in line to take.

The senior sees a little bit of herself in young Frantti.

"She's not afraid to play, and I think I was the same way," Hancock said. "I think we were both a little naïve in that

we didn't really know what we were doing. We were just playing hard and doing what we could."

That's Frantti's mantra. Her desire is to do whatever is asked of her in order to contribute to the team. Whether that's leading the team in kills or simply boosting her team's spirit, she's willing to do whatever it takes to win.

"She's awesome," Courtney said. "Just looking over at her and seeing that she has a smile on her face whether we're losing by 20 points or winning by 50. That's the kind of person she is."

Frantti's classmate Simone Lee knows what it's like to play alongside Frantti. More often than not, Frantti and Lee are on the court at the same time for Penn State, plus she played a year of club ball with her prior to arriving in Happy Valley.

But Lee also knows what it's like to play against her. She did it quite a few times during her high school years. Through the years, Lee has become very fond of her counterpart.

"I love Ali," Lee said. "Everything about her. She's just super full of energy all the time. What you see on the court is what is going to happen off the court. I just love being around her. She always brings a smile to people's faces, which isn't a normal thing for a lot of people to do."

Frantti had the advantage of enrolling early last year. She was able to get her feet on the ground before diving into her first season as an NCAA athlete. But even with the extra semester, these first few weeks have been a bit of a challenge.

"It's a whole different ball game when you come and you have the season and everything," Frantti said. "But it's been great so far. I think I've been adjusting well."



Ali Frantti has helped women's volleyball with her offense and her laughter Cont.

She said she still has things to work on like organization and seeking help from professors. But that's expected. She is just a freshman, after all.

Coming into a program with three starting spots to fill, the second-ranked recruit in the nation had an opportunity to jump right in and make a splash. And it was a cannonball.

Rose said Frantti was essentially a starter ever since her first action in preseason practices.

All of the hype is not going to her head, though. She's quick to thank the five other players on the court for her individual success. She is appreciative of her teammates and knows she wouldn't be where she is without them.

But the freshman misses home, too. She recognizes that without it, she wouldn't be where she is now.

"Honestly, I just miss being home in my little hometown," Frantti said. "You know, it's that community that's supported you for so long. They've seen you grow up. It's just great and I just love the people."

A native of Spring Grove, Illinois — a small town of about 5,000 — she misses the close-knit community. State College is a far cry from it.

At University Park, it can be easy to feel like one of one million in the crowd on an average day. And, Frantti has some of those. She goes to class like everyone else. She studies, stresses about assignments and walks the streets.

For five of the seven days of the week, Frantti is one of thousands of Penn State students with a busy schedule. But for two days of the week, when Frantti takes the court alongside five of her sisters, she forgets about all that. Often, she helps her teammates do the same.

"She's very comfortable," Hancock said. "It's just her persona — it's how

she is. It's been nice to have a little life in the freshman class and I think she's really helped the whole team kind of relax a little bit."

Frantti is relaxed when she's on the court. She doesn't look nervous or frightened by bright lights. She's at ease — at home. For two nights, for two matches, Frantti is focused on one thing: playing volleyball.

Always with a smile on her face.