

#### SEVEN-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

34 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES | 16 BIG TEN TITLES

#### **2015 SCHEDULE & RECORD**

**Overall:** 5-0 (Home: 5-0, Away: 0-0, Neutral: 0-0) **Big Ten:** 0-0 (Home: 0-0, Away: 0-0)

#### **AUGUST**

Penn State Classic		
28	vs. BUFFALO	W, 3-0
29	vs. STONY BROOK	W, 3-0
29	vs. VILLANOVA	W, 3-0

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Rig Ten/Pac-12 Challenge

DIG I	big fell/ i dc-12 challenge			
4	vs. No. 21 COLORADO#	W, 3-0		
5	vs. No. 2 STANFORD	W, 3-0		
Gold	len Dome Invitational			
11	vs. Eastern Kentucky	4:30 p.m.		
12	vs. Mississippi State	10 a.m.		
12	at Notre Dame	7 p.m.		
Sout	th Florida Invitational			
18	vs. Auburn	6 p.m.		
19	vs. St. John's	1 p.m.		
19	at South Florida	7:30 p.m.		
23	vs. WISCONSIN*#	7 p.m.		
26	vs. MINNESOTA*	7 p.m.		

#### **OCTOBER**

001	PER	
2	vs. NEBRASKA*#	7 p.m.
2 3 9	vs. IOWA*	7 p.m.
	at Northwestern*	8 p.m.
10	at Illinois*#	8 p.m.
16	vs. INDIANA*	7 p.m.
17	vs. PURDUE*	7 p.m.
21	at Michigan*#	7 p.m.
24	at Michigan State*	7 p.m.
28	at Ohio State*#	5 p.m.
30	vs. OHIO STATE*	7 p.m.

#### **NOVEMBER**

5	at Maryland*	7 p.m.
5 6	at Rutgers*	7 p.m.
11	at lowa*	8 p.m.
14	at Minnesota*	8 p.m.
18	vs. MICHIGAN*	7 p.m.
21	vs. MARYLAND*	7 p.m.
21 25 28	vs. NORTHWESTERN*	7 p.m.
28	at Nebraska*	8 p.m.

#### **DECEMBER**

4-0	NOAA FIISI/ Second R	ounus	IDA
11-12	NCAA Regionals		
	(Austin, Des Moines,	Lexington,	San Diego)
17-19	NCAA Championship		Omaha, Neb.

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

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#### **WEEK 3: GOLDEN DOME INVITATIONAL**

Friday, Sept. 11 - Saturday, Sept. 12 | South Bend, Ind. (Golden Dome)



#### #1 PENN STATE **VS.** GOLDEN DOME INVITATIONAL OPPONENTS

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

Record: 5-0 Big Ten: 0-0 National Rank: #1 Head coach: Russ Rose **Overall Record: 1,166 - 180**  **E. KENTUCKY** Record: 1-7 Ohio Valley: 0-0 National Rank: NR Last Outing: 9/21/2013 Head coach: Lori Duncan

**BULLDOGS** Record: 6-1 SFC: 0-0 **National Rank: NR** Last Outing: First Meeting Head coach: David McFatrich

FIGHTING IRISH Record: 2-4 ACC: 0-0 National Rank: NR Last Outing: 9/13/1996

Head coach: Jim McLaughlin

#### **FIRST SERVE**

- » Penn State hits the road this weekend, traveling to South Bend for the Golden Dome Invitational. The Nittany Lions open the weekend with a mid-afternoon matchup against Eastern Kentucky, Friday, Sept. 11 at 4:30 p.m. PSU returns to the court the next day to take on Mississippi State Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. before squaring off against tournament host Notre Dame at 7 p.m.
- » The Nittany Lions went 2-0 last weekend, claiming a pair of wins against two nationally ranked teams in the Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge. With the consecutive victories, Penn State has now won its last 25 straight matches, dating back to its first win in the streak on Oct. 17, 2014.
- » Penn State has earned all five of its victories this year by way of a 3-0 sweep. The Nittany Lions have not dropped a set since surrendering the second set of the 2014 NCAA national semifinal match against Stanford, Dec. 18, 2014. PSU has won its last 20 consecutive sets.
- » After guiding Penn State to a 2-0 week at home, sophomore Haleigh Washington earned Co-Big Ten Player of the Week honors. She shares this week's award with Ohio State's Taylor Sandbothe. The nod is Washington's second career Big Ten Player of the Week laurel.
- » Senior Kendall Pierce has been selected as a candidate for the 2015 Senior CLASS Award. Pierce is one of 30 women's volleyball student-athletes to be named a candidate, along with one other from the Big Ten conference. The Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.
- » Sophomore Haleigh Washington earned Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge Most Outstanding Player honors, while redshirt senior Aiyana Whitney and senior Megan Courtney joined her on the all-tournament team.
- » Averaging 3.63 blocks per set on the year, Penn State has commanded a 54.5 19.0 advantage in the blocking margin against its opponents in 2015. The average ranks second nationally. Individually, sophomore Heidi Thelen is leading the team with 29 total blocks. Her 1.93 average ranks second nationally. Sophomore Haleigh Washington is close behind with 22 total blocks, her 1.47 blocks per set ranks 27th in the national standings.
- » Penn State's .296 hitting clip ranks 11th in the NCAA national standings, bolstered by Haleigh Washington's team-high .486 hitting clip, which is slotted seventh nationally. The Nittany Lions have limited their opponents to just a .118 hitting efficiency, which ranks 13th among NCAA women's volleyball programs in the country.
- » PSU was voted No. 1 overall for the third consecutive week in the latest AVCA Top 25 Coaches' Poll. Penn State received 63 of a possible 64 first place votes.
- » Including Penn State, more than half of the Big Ten teams in the conference are featured in this week's AVCA Top 25 poll, including seven in the top 25 and two receiving votes.
- » Penn State's most recent opponent this week is the Eastern Kentucky Colonels. The Nittany Lions swept EKU at home in 2013, when Penn State welcomed the Colonels to the court for the Penn State Classic. PSU has captured wins in the last four consecutive meetings, but has not met Eastern Kentucky at a neutral site since 1988.
- » Penn State's matchup against Mississippi State marks the first meeting between the two programs. Mississippi State is PSU's second "first meeting" this season as Penn State played Stony Brook for the first time in the Penn State Classic.
- » The Nittany Lions may have not played Notre Dame since 1996, but they gave squared off against the Fighting Irish head coach recently. In his first year at the helm of the Notre Dame program, Jim McLaughlin was the head coach at Washington in 2013, when PSU defeated the Huskies in the 2013 NCAA national semifinals. Overall, Penn State has won it's last six consecutive matches against Notre Dame, but have not visited South Bend since 1990.
- » Penn State was voted No. 1 overall in the 2015 AVCA Preseason Coaches Poll, earning 54 of a possible 64 first-place votes.
- » The Nittany Lions were voted No. 1 in the Big Ten Preseason Coaches' Poll for the 10th time in the last 11 years. Four Nittany Lions earned preseason All-Big Ten honors.





#### **PENN STATE AT A GLANCE 2015 ROSTER** No. Name Pos. Ht. Yr. SP K/S % A/S SA/S D/S B/S THE UNIVERSITY 2 2 Lara Caraway DS 5-4 Sr. 0.00 .000 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 Location: ..... University Park, Pa. 16802 5-5 3 **Kendall Pierce** DS Sr. 13 0.00 -1.00 0.23 0.08 0.85 0.00 Founded:......1855 4 Wilma Rivera S 5-8 Fr. 7 0.00 .000 2.43 0.00 1.14 0.00 5 Ali Frantti ОН 6-2 So. 15 2.80 .187 0.20 0.00 2.00 0.40 Colors: ...... Blue & White 6 Nia Reed OH 6-2 RS-Fr. 2 0.00 -.250 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 Nickname:......Nittany Lions 8 Lainy Pierce DS 5-6 So. 0 0.00 .000 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 Conference: ......Big Ten 2 0.00 0.00 10 Carley Muller DS 5-8 So. 0.00 .000 0.00 0.00 President: ......Dr. Eric Barron 6-2 0.00 .000 11 Tori Gorrell MB Fr. 0 0.00 0.00 000 0.00 Director of Athletics:.....Sandy Barbour DS 5-6 14 0.00 .000 0.50 12 Keeton Holcomb Fr. 0.14 2.71 0.00 Assoc. AD/SWA:.....Charmelle Green 13 **Taylor Krause** DS 5-5 Jr. 13 0.00 .000 0.15 0.38 1.46 0.00 Facility (capacity):.....Rec Hall (5,812) 14 Aiyana Whitney OH 6-3 RS-Sr. 15 3.13 .337 0.07 0.00 0.27 1.13 15 Haleigh Washington 15 2.67 .486 0.07 0.13 0.67 MR 6-3 So. 1.47 **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STAFF** RS 6-2 Fr. 0 0.00 .000 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 Jelena Novaković Head Coach: ...... Russ Rose (37th season) 17 Megan Courtney ОН 6-1 Sr. 15 3.27 .320 0.33 0.40 3.40 1.07 Alma Mater: ......George Williams, 1975 6-2 So. 15 0.60 19 Heidi Thelen MB .316 0.07 0.00 0.27 1.93 Overall Record (Yrs/Pct): .......... 1,161-180 (36/.866) 6-0 RS-Fr. 15 0.53 .208 1.67 0.53 Bryanna Weiskircher S 9.60 0.33 School Record: .....same ОН 6-0 6 0.67 .154 0.00 0.00 0.00 Simone Lee So. 0.17 Associate Head Coach: ......Salima Rockwell Laura Broerman DS 5-3 So. 0 0.00 .000 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 Assistant Coach:.....Stevie Mussie Director of Operations:.....Jesse Tupac **PENN STATE** 15 13.27 .296 12.27 1.40 13.33 3.63 **OPPONENTS** 15 11.73 .118 11.00 0.87 13.67 1.27 Volunteer Assistant ...... Shawn Sangrey Office Phone: .....(814) 863-7474 **Head Coach:** Russ Rose (George Williams, 1975), 37th year Office Fax: ..... (814) 865-1746 Salima Rockwell (Penn State, 1994) **Associate Head Coach: Assistant Coach:** Stevie Mussie (Washington, 2008) Office Address: ......235 Rec Hall **Director of Operations:** Jesse Tupac (UCLA) **Volunteer Assistant:** Shawn Sangrey (Ohio State) **2014 IN REVIEW** 2014 Record:......36-3 **ALPHABETICAL** No. Name Yr. Pos. Ht. Hometown/High School (College) 24 Laura Broerman Jr. DS 5-3 Colorado Springs, Colo./St. Mary's Neutral: 8-0 2 Lara Caraway Sr. DS 5-4 Evans City, Pa./Home Schooled Big Ten record (finish): ......18-2 (2nd) 17 Megan Courtney Sr. OH 6-1 Dayton, Ohio/Archbishop Alter 5 Ali Frantti So. ОН 6-2 Spring Grove, III./Richmond Burton Postseason: ......NCAA national champions Fr. 6-2 11 Tori Gorrell MB Oakville, Ontario/Abbey Park First round: .....defeated Siena, 3-0 Keeton Holcomb Fr. DS 5-6 Belville, Texas/Belville Second round: ......defeated Dayton, 3-0 DS Allentown, Pa./Parkland High 13 **Taylor Krause** Jr. 5-5 Regional semifinal:..... defeated UCLA, 3-0 22 ОН 6-0 Simone Lee So Menomonee Falls, Wis./Menomonee Regional final:..... defeated Wisconsin, 3-1 10 DS 5-8 Carley Muller Ir Manhattan Beach, Calif./Mira Costa National semifinal: ..... defeated Stanford, 3-1 16 Jelena Novaković Fr. RS 6-2 Belgrade, Serbia/Tourism High School National final: .....defeated BYU, 3-0 5-5 3 **Kendall Pierce** Sr. DS Eden, N.Y./Eden 8 Lainy Pierce So. DS 5-6 Eden. N.Y./Eden **NITTANY LION HISTORY** 6 Nia Reed RS-Fr. ОН 6-2 Fort Lee, N.J./Immaculate Heart Academy 4 Wilma Rivera Fr. S 5-8 Carolina, Puerto Rico/Saint Francis School All-Time Record (Years): ...... 1,212-223-4 (39) 19 Heidi Thelen So. MB 6-2 Edgewood, Ky./Notre Dame Academy All-Time Big Ten Record: ...... 425-55 So. 6-3 Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty High School 15 Haleigh Washington MB Years/Win Pct.:....24/.885 Bryanna Weiskircher RS-Fr. S 6-0 Loves Park, III./Boylan Catholic Big Ten Titles: ...... 16 Aiyana Whitney RS-Sr. ОН 6-3 Norwood, N.J./Northern Valley Regional ('92, '93, '96, '97, '98, '99, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '12, '13) **PRONUNCIATIONS** NCAA Tournament Appearances: ...... 34 Aiyana .....I-YAH-nuh Broerman ..... Bro-er-man Jelena.....Yell-AYE-nuh Muller .....MULL-ler NCAA Tournament Record: .....90-27 Thelen...... Th-EE-len Novaković......Nova-CO-vick NCAA National Championships: ......7 Keeton.....KEY-ton Frantti ..... Fran-TEE (1999, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014)

Holcomb...... HOLE-comb

Lara.....Lar-uh

Bryanna.....Bree-yah-nuh

Weiskircher ...... Weis-KIR-Ch-er

#### **AROUND THE BIG TEN**

#### **2015 PRESEASON BIG TEN POLL**

#### 1. PENN STATE

- 2. Nebraska
- 3. Illinois
- 4. Wisconsin
- 5. Minnesota
- 6. Michigan State
- 7. Purdue
- 8. Ohio State
- 9. Michigan
- 10. Northwestern
- 11. lowa
- 12. Indiana
- 13. Maryland
- 14. Rutgers

#### **2015 BIG TEN STANDINGS**

	Overall		Big Ten	
Team	Record	Pct.	Record	Pct.
Maryland	8-0	1.000	0-0	.000
Michigan	6-0	1.000	0-0	.000
PENN STATE	5-0	1.000	0-0	.000
Ohio State	5-1	.833	0-0	.000
Purdue	5-1	.833	0-0	.000
Illinois	4-1	.800	0-0	.000
Nebraska	4-1	.800	0-0	.000
Wisconsin	4-1	.800	0-0	.000
Indiana	4-2	.667	0-0	.000
Northwestern	4-2	.667	0-0	.000
Minnesota	2-2	.500	0-0	.000
Michigan State	3-3	.500	0-0	.000
Iowa	2-3	.400	0-0	.000
Rutgers	1-5	.167	0-0	.000

#### **ALL-TIME RECORDS vs. 2015 OPPONENTS**

#### **NON-CONFERENCE**

<u>Team</u>	W-L	<u>Last</u>
Buffalo	4-0	PSU, 3-0 (8/28/15)
Stony Brook	1-0	PSU, 3-0 (8/29/15)
Villanova	15-0	PSU, 3-0 (8/29/15)
Colorado	6-1	PSU, 3-0 (9/4/15)
Stanford	10-8	PSU, 3-0 (9/5/15)
Eastern Kentucky	6-1	PSU, 3-0 (9/21/12)
Mississippi State	0-0	First Meeting
Notre Dame	8-1	PSU, 3-1 (9/13/96)
Auburn	0-0	First Meeting
St. John's	2-0	PSU, 3-0 (9/7/96)
South Florida	2-0	PSU, 2-0 (9/8/88)

#### **BIG TEN**

<u>Team</u>	W-L	Last
Wisconsin	45-7	PSU, 3-1 (12/31/14)
Minnesota	44-8	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 St.	40-7	PSU, 3-0 (10/25/14)
Ohio St.	44-14	PSU, 3-0 (11/27/14)
Rutgers	26-9	PSU, 3-0 (11/7/14)
Maryland	20-5	PSU, 3-0 (11/22/14)

#### **WEEK 3: AVCA TOP 25 COACHES' POLL UPDATE**

Penn State remained atop the AVCA Top 25 Coaches' Poll for the third consecutive week, earning 63 of a possible 64 first place votes. Including PSU, this week's poll features more than half of the Big Ten conference teams with seven in the top 25 and two receiving votes.

#### **KENDALL'S GOT CLASS**

Senior Kendall Pierce has been selected as a candidate for the 2015 Senior CLASS Award. Pierce is one of 30 women's volleyball student-athletes to be named a candidate, along with one other from the Big Ten conference. The Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. A health policy and administration major, she was honored as a 2014-15 Big Ten Distinguished scholar. Pierce also earned back-to-back Academic All-Big Ten selections from 2013-14. [Academic and community service info on pg. 12]

#### **WASHINGTON NAMED CO-BIG TEN PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

After helping top-ranked Penn State women's volleyball to a pair of wins against nationally ranked opponents, sophomore Haleigh Washington earned Big Ten Co-Player of the Week honors. Washington shares the honor with Ohio State's Taylor Sandbothe.

The award marks the second career Big Ten Player of the Week nod for Washington, as well as her fourth career total Big Ten Weekly honor. She earned a pair of Big Ten Freshman of the Week accolades in 2014. Washington led the team with 3.33 kills per set on .515 hitting in a 2-0 week that featured straight set wins against No. 21 Colorado and No. 2 Stanford. Defensively, Washington finished second on the team with 1.17 blocks per set this week, including back-to-back multi-block performances.

#### **BIG TEN/PAC-12 CHALLENGE ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

With a pair of multi-block performances and a team-high hitting clip against No. 2 Stanford, sophomore Haleigh Washington earned Big Ten/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament team honors. Washington led the team eight kills on .500 hitting against No. 21 Colorado before logging 12 kills on .526 efficiency against the Cardinal. Redshirt senior Aiyana Whitney and senior Megan Courtney joined her on the All-Tournament team.

Whitney had four blocks against the Buffaloes before finishing tied for first on the team with 13 kills on .440 hitting against Stanford. Courtney had a team-high 12 digs against No. 21 Colorado before registering a double-double against Stanford with 11 kills and 13 digs.

#### WHITNEY JOINS BIG TEN FOREIGN TOUR

Redshirt senior Aiyana Whitney joined the inaugural Big Ten Women's Volleyball Foreign Tour this summer. For the first time in conference history, Big Ten volleyball student-athletes from all 14 schools traveled overseas to both compete, and participate in community services initiatives. Whitney and the Big Ten Volleyball Foreign Tour Team traveled to Slovenia, Croatia and Italy this summer, opening the trip in Maribor, Slovenia. Northwestern's Keylor Chan served as the team's head coach.

#### **NITTANY LIONS NAMED BIG TEN PRESEASON FAVORITE**

Penn State earned the No. 1 ranking in the 2015 Big Ten Preseason Coaches' Poll, marking the 10th time in the last 11 years the Nittany Lions have been picked to win the league. The Big Ten Preseason poll is selected by votes from all 14 conference head coaches.

#### PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN NITTANY LIONS

Penn State is well represented on the Big Ten Preseason All-Big Ten team, with more selections than any other conference program this year. 2015 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Haleigh Washington highlights Penn State's four preseason All-Big Ten honorees as a unanimous selection. Redshirt senior Aiyana Whitney, senior Megan Courtney and sophomore Ali Frantti round out the group of honorees.

#### YEAR 37 ATOP THE NCAA ALL-TIME WINS LIST

With an all-time record of 1,166-180, few have come close to matching head coach Russ Rose's impressive win total. Following a 4-0 weekend in the 2014 Penn State Alumni Classic, Penn State head coach Russ Rose moved into first place on the active DI NCAA career wins list with 1,136 victories, ahead of Hawaii head coach Dave Shoji. The two went back and forth throughout the season, but Penn State's run to its seventh NCAA national championship in 2014 vaulted Rose 11 wins ahead of Shoji, placing him firmly atop the active division I career standings at the conclusion of the season with 1,161 wins.

Prior to topping the list of DI winningest active coaches by victories, his .866 career winning clip has ranked first on the percentage chart for the last several years. Now at the top of both lists, he's one of just two active NCAA DI coaches to amass more than 1,100 career wins and one of four active coaches across all three divisions to join the 1,000 victories club. On the list of winningest coaches of all time, Rose's 1,166-180 tally is unmatched at first place. Along with Shoji and former UCLA head coach Andy Banachowski, the three are the only DI coaches in NCAA women's volleyball coaching history to total 1,100 or more victories.

#### **AVCA TOP 25 COACHES' POLL**

Poll #3 • Sept. 7, 2015

NO.	SCHOOL	PTS.	REC.	LW
1	PENN STATE (63)	1599	5-0	1
2	Florida	1509	4-0	T-4
3	Stanford (1)	1487	3-1	2
4	Texas	1395	4-1	3
5	Nebraska	1310	4-1	T-4
6	USC	1245	6-0	8
7	Illinois	1226	4-1	6
8	Washington	1165	5-0	7
9	BYU	1011	5-1	12
10	Arizona State	998	6-0	15
11	Wisconsin	929	4-1	13
12	Oregon	854	5-2	11
13	Arizona	829	6-0	16
14	Colorado State	765	4-1	9
15	Ohio State	646	6-1	22
16	Hawai'i	522	5-1	17
17	UCLA	497	4-1	25
18	San Diego	460	5-1	23
19	Florida State	444	3-4	14
20	Purdue	345	5-1	24
21	Kentucky	323	4-3	10
22	Kansas	262	6-0	NR
23	Colorado	232	2-3	21
24	Michigan	197	6-0	NR
25	Texas A&M	161	4-1	NR

**RECEIVING VOTES:** Western Kentucky 102; North Carolina 87; *Minnesota* 46; *Michigan State* 21; Ohio 20; Wyoming 19; Virginia Tech 17; Marquette 14; Duke 9; Long Beach State 9; Pacific 6; Creighton 5; Lipscomb 5; Kansas State 4; Loyola Marymount 3

#### PENN STATE PRESENCE IN THE COACHES' POLL

Aug. 12: #1 Aug. 31: #1

Sept. 7: #1

#### **2015 HONORS & ACCOLADES**

#### **ALI FRANTTI**

- · Preseason All-Big Ten
- Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team

#### **MEGAN COURTNEY**

- Preseason All-Big Ten
- Penn State Classic Most Outstanding Player
- B1G/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team

#### **HALEIGH WASHINGTON**

- Unanimous Preseason All-Big Ten
- Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team
- B1G/Pac-12 Challenge Most Outstanding Player
- Big Ten Co-Player of the Week (9/7)

#### **AIYANA WHITNEY**

- Preseason All-Big Ten
- Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team
- B1G/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team

#### **NITTANY LIONS ON TV**

There's no need to worry this year if you can't follow Penn State on the road or make it to every home match. As one of the nation's top volleyball programs, Penn State has earned regional and national exposure. This year, the Nittany Lions will be on television at least six times between the Big Ten Network and ESPNU. All other matches will be streamed live on GoPSUsports.com or on BTN Plus.

#### PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL REMAINING TV MATCHES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Network</u>
Sept. 23	vs. Wisconsin	BTN - live
Oct. 2	vs. Nebraska	BTN - live
Oct. 9	at Illinois	BTN - live
Oct. 21	at Michigan	BTN - live
Oct. 30	at Ohio State	FSPNU - live

Penn State will also live stream every home match on BTN Plus. Each participating Big Ten school will also air the PSU remaining conference road matches available via BTN Plus.

#### **PENN STATE ANNOUNCES LIVE AUDIO IN 2015**

Beginning in 2015, Penn State fans worldwide will be able to tune into a live audio broadcast. The audio broadcast will be available exclusively on GoPSUSports.com and offered to all fans free of charge. This weekend's matches will feature current Penn State's Jack Milewski on playby-play, joined by PSU junior defensive specialist Laura Broerman.

#### THREE EARN PENN STATE CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT HONORS

Following back-to-back double-digit kill performances in the same day, senior Megan Courtney earned Penn State Classic Most Outstanding Player honors. Redshirt senior Aiyana Whitney and sophomore Ali Frantti each earned spots on the All-Tournament team.

Courtney led the team with 11 kills on .647 hitting against Stony Brook before returning later in the evening to lead the team with a dobule-double (16 kills, 13 digs) against Villanova. Whitney finished the week ranked second on the team with 3.44 kills per set, having posted 11 kills on .400 hitting vs. Buffalo and 14 kills on 429 hitting against Villanova. Frantti was third on the team with 2.44 kills per set last week and third with 2.33 digs per set. She had 10 kills against Stony Brook and a career-high 12 digs against Villanova.

#### PENN STATE TOPS AVCA PRESEASON POLL RANKINGS

Penn State women's volleyball earned the No. 1 overall ranking in the 2015 AVCA Preseason Coaches' Poll for the second consecutive season. Penn State is among six Big Ten schools to be ranked within the AVCA Top 25 and one of four conference programs to be voted within the top 10. Penn State received 54 of a possible 64 votes in the preseason poll.

Tied at No. 5, Nebraska and Wisconsin join the Nittany Lions in the top five, while Illinois rounds out the top 10 at No. 8. Ohio State is slated No. 14 and Michigan State is slotted No. 19. Purdue, Minnesota and Michigan also represent the league in the poll, as all three are receiving votes. Since 2007, Penn State has been ranked within the top three of every AVCA preseason poll, having also been voted No. 1 a total of six times (2008-11, 2014-15).

#### **PENN STATE IN SEASON-OPENERS**

Penn State improved to 32-7-1 all-time in season-openers after sweeping Buffalo in the first match of the 2015 season. The win against the Bulls marks the Nittany Lions' fourth consecutive season-opening victory.

#### **ROOKIE SUCCESS**

Four Nittany Lions made their collegiate debuts for Penn State in the opening weekend including, Bryanna Weiskircher, Keeton Holcomb, Wilma Rivera and Nia Reed. Weiskircher and Rivera each made their debuts at the setting position, while Holcomb earned a pair of starting libero spots against Stony Brook and Villanova. Reed made an appearance against Stony Brook.

#### **NITTANY LION ALUM AT THE 2015 ESPY AWARDS**

Penn State alum Micha Hancock was nominated for an ESPN ESPY for the second consecutive season. Nominated for Best Female Collegiate Athlete, her nomination marked the fourth time a PSU women's volleyball student-athlete was 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. Hancock is the first in program history to receive back-to-back nominations.

#### 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. Presently, The Lions are on a 25-match winning streak, which dates back to Oct. 17, 2015 when PSU started the streak with a 3-2 win at Purdue.

<sup>\*2015</sup> opponents in italics



#### **RUSS ROSE AT A GLANCE...**

It's been nearly four decades since Russ Rose arrived on campus. Entering his 37th season, the AVCA Hall of Fame head coaches' record-setting seven NCCA national titles and 16 Big Ten championships speak directly to the confidence and character he's passed along throughout his career.

As each year passes, his list of accomplishments continue to swell, but a quick snapshot of his legendary tenure might read something like this: The leader of a women's volleyball powerhouse who's kept his program among the nation's elite for nearly 40 years, guiding his teams to a record-setting seven NCAA national titles, including an unprecedented four consecutive championships from 2007-10. Along with 16 Big Ten titles, his program is one of only two women's volleyball schools to compete in all 34 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball National Championship events. He's produced four AVCA National Players of the Year, 13 Big Ten conference Players of the Year and at least one AVCA All-American in 35 of 36 seasons. His student-athletes excel in the classroom as well, with an outstanding 156 Academic All-Big Ten selections and five Academic All-Americans.

#### **CAREER COUNTDOWN!**

#### **KILLS**

MILESTONE	<u>NAME</u>	# TO GO
200 kills	Simone Lee	61
300 kills	Haleigh Washington	52
600 kills	Aiyana Whitney	42
	Ali Frantti	167
900 kills	Megan Courtney	4
BLOCKS		
MILESTONE	<u>NAME</u>	<u># TO GO</u>
200 blocks	Aiyana Whitney	80
	Haleigh Washington	82
300 blocks	Megan Courtney	2

#### **CAREER RECORD BOOK WATCH**

#### **KILLS PER SET**

<u>#</u>	RECORD	NAME.
10.	3.37	Laura Cook, 1991-94
11.	3.33	Ashley Pederson, 2001-04
12.	3.31	Leanne Kling, 1989-92
13.	3.30	Deja McClendon, 2010-13
<b>14</b> .	3.16	Ali Frantti, 2014-Pres.
15.	3.08	JoAnn Elwell, 1987-90
16.	2.97	Marcia Leap, 1982-85
17.	2.96	Noelle Zientara, 1987-90

#### **HITTING PERCENTAGE**

#	RECORD	NAME
<b>10</b> .	.351	Aiyana Whitney, 2011-Pres.
11.	.350	Blair Brown, 2007-10
12.	.340	Cassy Salyer, 2003-06
13.	.336	Alisha Glass, 2006-09
14.	.326	Nicole Fawcett, 2005-08
15.	.325	Noelle Zientara, 1987-90
16.	.324	Elizabeth Ramirez, 1986-89
17.	.321	Leanne Kling, 1989-92
18.	.319	Megan Hodge, 2006-09

#### **WHO'S BACK**

The Nittany Lions return plenty of potential when it comes to finding new ways to win. This year's senior group features experienced hitters in Megan Courtney and Aiyana Whitney as well as defensive specialists Kendall Pierce and Lara Caraway. From last year's top-ranked freshman recruiting class, All-American and DI National Freshman of the Year Ali Frantti and Big Ten Freshman of the Year Haleigh Washington highlight the large class that has already gained the taste of a national title.

Returning second team AVCA All-Americans Aiyana Whitney and Frantti are among an experienced group of top attackers. Courtney started all 39 matches for the Nittany Lions during the 2014 season, finishing third on the team with 2.44 kills per set and second on the squad with 2.34 digs per set. She highlighted the year with a clutch career-high performance in the NCAA national semifinals before going on to earn 2014 NCAA Championship MVP honors.

The Nittany Lions also return options at the middle position as well. Sophomore Haleigh Washington has emerged as one of the top returners in group. Washington burst on to the scene in September after an injury sidelined her for the opening portion of the season. In 25 appearances on the court, she finished first on the team with a .463 hitting percentage, while also tallying 96 blocks. With the ability to play multiple positions in the front row, redshirt senior All-American Aiyana Whitney could also be an option at the middle position this year, along with sophomore Heidi Thelen.

#### **EXPERIENCED SENIOR CORE**

Comprised of four, this year's senior class features Lara Caraway, Megan Courtney, Kendall Pierce and Aiyana Whitney. Playing all together at the same time, the four have a combined record of 103-8 in three years, as well as a 56-4 mark in Big Ten matches. Along with back-to-back Big Ten titles in 2012 and 2013, the veteran class also boasts back-to-back NCAA national titles from 2013-14. Having made it to the final four in the last three consecutive seasons, the four have an NCAA tournament record of 16-1.

#### **SPOTS TO FILL**

This year, the Nittany Lions enter the season with some sizable question marks, tasked with replacing a core group of senior leadership. First there's three-time All-American and 2014 AVCA DI National Player of the Year Micha Hancock, who set the Nittany Lions to both championship crowns in 2013-14, while also impressing from the end line with her clutch serve. Then there's three-year starting libero Dominique Gonzalez, and defensive specialist Lacey Fuller who commanded the backrow. Lastly, there's two-time All-American Nia Grant, who frequently led the nation in hitting efficiency in 2014.

Perhaps one of Penn State's top priorities this season will be at the setting position, replacing Hancock, who ended her career atop both the NCAA and Big Ten career aces lists. Departures from Dominque Gonzalez and Lacey Fuller present another top priority for the Nittany Lions heading into the 2015 season. Gonzalez closed out her collegiate career ranked fourth all-time in the Penn State record book with 1,474 digs.

#### **WHO'S NEW**

Penn State's 2015 freshman class features a little bit of everything, including setter Wilma Rivera (Carolina, Puerto Rico), defensive specialist Keeton Holcomb (Belville, Texas), middle blocker Tori Gorrell (Ontario, Canada) and right side Jelena Novaković (Belgrade, Serbia).

**Tori Gorrell** » Gorrell attended Abbey Park High School in Oakville, Ontario, helping Abbey Park to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association AAA volleyball championship. In addition to helping the team to an undefeated season, she also led the squad to Halton Tier I and Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference AA titles.

**Keeton Holcomb** » A four-year letterwinner and team MVP at Belville, she earned AAA First Team All-State honors in 2013-14, as well as Texas Sports Writers Association All-State honors in 2013. Holcomb is a MaxPreps Second Team All-American, having also been named to the 2014 Under Armour All-American watch list. Played club with Houston Juniors.

**Jelena Novaković** » Novaković helped Red Star to a National Cup title in 2014 and a silver medal at the 2014 Championship, while also earning MVP honors at the U17 Belgrade Tournament. She earned gold at the European Championship with the U19 Serbian Junior National Team in 2014, as well as another gold medal at the Balkan Championship in Subotica, Serbia.

**Wilma Rivera** » Rivera was a four-year team captain and senior MVP at Saint Francis School. She helped her high school squad to the 2014 Puerto Rico Lopa El Nuevo Dia Championships, while also earning LACC All-State Best Setter and MVP honors in the same year. Rivera also competed on the Puerto Rican Junior National Team.

#### **SCOUTING THE OPPONENTS**

#### **PENN STATE VS. EASTERN KENTUCKY**

Series: Penn State leads, 6-1

Las			

Date	Site	Result
9/21/2013	Н	PSU, 3-0
9/1/2006	Н	PSU, 3-0
9/16/2000	Н	PSU, 3-0

#### By the Numbers

at PSU	PSU leads, 3-0
at Eastern Kentucky	PSU leads 1-0
at neutral sites	PSU leads, 2-1
Current streak	PSU. W4

#### Tale of the Tape

PSU	Stat	Eastern Kentucky
5-0	2015 Record	1-7
13.27	K/S	10.97
.296	Hitting %	155
13.33	D/S	14.33
3.63	B/S	1.80

#### **PENN STATE VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE**

Series: First Meeting

#### **Last Five**

Date	Site	Result
First Meeting		

#### By the Numbers

at PSU	N/A
at Mississippi State	N/A
at neutral sites	N/A
Current streak	N/A

#### Tale of the Tape

E 0	G 1
5-02015 Record	O-T
13.27 K/S 13	.05
.296 Hitting %	253
13.33 D/S 13	.45
3.63B/S2	.36

#### **PENN STATE VS. NOTRE DAME**

Series: Penn State leads, 8-1

#### Last Three

<u>Date</u>	Site	Result
9/13/1996	N	PSU, 3-1
12/9/1994	N	PSU, 3-0
12/10/1993	N	PSU, 3-0

#### By the Numbers

at PSU	Penn State leads, 2-0
at Notre Dame	Series tied, 1-1
at neutral sites	Penn State leads, 5-0
Current streak	PSU, W6

#### Tale of the Tape

<u>PSU</u>	<u>Stat</u>	<u>Notre Dame</u>
5-0	2015 Record	2-4
	K/S	
	Hitting %	
	D/S	
	B/S	

#### **NITTANY LIONS MONTH - BY- MONTH**

Penn State is 43-5 (.896) all-time during the month of August, after notching a trio of victories against Buffalo, Stony Brook and Villanova in the first week of 2015.

Penn State is 371-57-4 (.866) all-time during the month of September. The Lions are 196-18 (.915) during September dating back to the 1995 season and 54-9 (.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.

#### **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 808 total matches, winning 747. Across the last seven years, Penn State has earned 184 of its 233 victories in three sets (78%), 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 three times. The Lions have compiled a 293-61 mark in the last 15 years versus these teams.

vs. Michigan	29-2	vs. Stanford	7-6
vs. Northwestern	30-2	vs. MSU	27-3
vs. Wisconsin	26-6	vs. Ohio State	27-5
vs. Florida	4-3	vs. UCLA	5-3
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	4-1	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

#### **PENN STATE BY THE NUMBERS**

- 6 Number of NCAA national championships PSU has won in the last eight years
- 7 Number of NCAA national championships (1999, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014)
  - » Penn State's seven titles are the most of any women's volleyball program in history
- Number of Big Ten titles in 23 seasons in the league
  - » Penn State has captured Big Ten championships in nine of the last 11 years
- 21 Number of all-time conference player of the year selections
- 34 Number of NCAA Tournaments PSU has participated in, one of two to play in all 34
- 38 Number of consecutive 20-win seasons
- 39 Seasons of Penn State women's volleyball, which started in 1976 under Tom Tait
- 65 Longest Big Ten winning streak recorded by Penn State from 11/11/06 to 9/24/10
- Number of polls in which Penn State was ranked No. 1
- Number of consecutive home match wins from 9/1/06 to 12/11/10
- Number of consecutive matches wins between 9/21/07 to 9/11/10
- Number of Academic All-Big Ten honorees in 24 years
- 1,161 Number of wins by head coach Russ Rose prior to entering his 37th season
  - » Rose ranks first on the NCAA DI all-time list
- 1,212 Number of wins in Penn State 39 years of Penn State women's volleyball history

#### **NCAA RPI TOP 30**

Updated: Dec. 22, 2014 (Final)

		· ·				
	SCHOOL	CONF.	REC.	RD.		HOME
1	Stanford	Pac-12	33-2	12-1	4-1	17-0
2	Texas	Big 12	27-3	11-0	4-1	12-2
3	Florida St.	ACC	30-3	12-2	1-1	17-0
4	Washington	Pac-12	31-3	10-2	4-0	17-1
5	Wisconsin	Big Ten	31-3	12-1	5-1	14-1
6	PENN ST.	<b>BIG TEN</b>	36-3	10-2	8-0	18-1
7	UNC	ACC	29-3	10-2	3-1	16-0
8	Florida	SEC	28-4	11-1	2-1	15-2
9	BYU	W. Coast	30-5	12-2	6-2	12-1
10	Illinois	Big Ten	26-8	9-4	3-3	14-1
11	Nebraska	Big Ten	23-10	8-4	2-1	13-5
12	Oregon	Pac-12	23-10	6-6	2-1	15-3
13	Colorado St.	M. West	31-3	12-1	3-1	16-1
14	UCLA	Pac-12	22-12	6-6	7-2	9-4
15	Kansas	Big 12	22-9	6-4	4-1	12-4
16	Kentucky	SEC	27-6	9-2	2-0	16-4
17	Iowa St.	Big 12	19-10	5-7	3-0	11-3
18	Arizona	Pac-12	24-10	7-5	4-0	13-5
19	USC	Pac-12	16-16	6-8	6-1	4-7
20	Ohio St.	Big Ten	23-12	7-7	5-3	11-2
21	Duke	ACC	22-8	8-5	1-1	13-2
22	Texas A&M	SEC	21-9	8-3	3-1	10-5
23	Oregon St.	Pac-12	21-13	6-7	8-1	7-5
24	Colorado	Pac-12	20-14	6-7	2-3	12-4
25	Illinois St.	Miz Valle	y 27-6	11-3	6-3	10-0
26	Oklahoma	Big 12	20-11	5-8	4-1	11-2
27	Miami (FL)	ACC	22-9	6-6	3-2	13-1
28	LBSU	Big West	27-5	9-2	3-2	15-1
29	UALR	Sun Belt	30-5	12-2	7-3	11-0
30	Kansas St.	Big 12	22-9	8-3	5-2	9-4

#### PENN STATE'S RECORD WHEN ...

Playing at home	5-0
Playing on the road	0-0
Playing at a neutral site	0-0
Current winning streak	W25
Big Ten matches	0-0
Non-conference matches	5-0
In three-set matches	5-0
In four-set matches	0-0
In five-set matches	0-0
When winning the first set	5-0
When losing the first set	0-0
Hitting .300 +	
Hitting .200299	2-0
When winning the second set	5-0
When losing the second set	0-0
Out-hitting a team	5-0
Out-hit by a team	0-0
Playing a ranked team	2-0
Playing an unranked team	3-0
On TV	1-0
In August	3-0
In September	2-0
In October	0-0
In November	0-0

#### THE LAST TIME A NITTANY LION ...

Had 30 or more kills	31 - Nicole Fawcett vs. Cal Poly (8/31/07)
Had 10 or more blocks	
Had eight or more aces	
Had 30 or more digs	
Had 80 or more assists	82 - 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 match	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost a match	at Stanford, 9/5/14 (25-18, 23-25, 22-25, 25-16, 10-15)
Won at home	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost at home	vs. Oregon, 8/26/11 (25-16, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22)
Won 3-0 at home	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost 3-0 at home	vs. UC-Santa Barbara, 9/18/86 (1-15, 7-15, 13-15)
Won 3-0 on the road	vs. Kansas, 9/13/13 (25-10, 27-25, 25-23)
Lost 3-0 on the road	vs. Stanford, 9/11/10 (26-28, 12-25, 18-25)

#### **VS. BIG TEN OPPONENTS (REGULAR-SEASON MATCHES)**

Won a match	vs. 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 home	vs. Nebraska, 11/29/14 (25-21, 25-15, 25-16)
Lost at home	vs. 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 road	at Northwestern, 11/26/14 (25-20, 25-23, 25-23)
Lost 3-0 on the road	at Illinois, 11/11/11 (21-25, 23-25, 26-28)

#### **ALL MATCHES**

Won a match	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost a match	vs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won at home	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost at home	vs. Illinois, 10/11/14 (24-26, 25-16, 23-25, 22-25)
Won 3-0 at home	vs. Stanford, 9/5/15 (25-21, 25-22, 25-18)
Lost 3-0 at home	vs. Minnesota, 10/18/03 (26-30, 18-30, 21-30)
Won 3-0 on the road	vs. UCLA, 12/12/14 (28-26, 25-16, 25-19)
Lost 3-0 on the road	at Illinois, 11/11/11 (21-25, 23-25, 26-28)

#### **PACKING REC HALL ONCE AGAIN**

Penn State was among the national leaders in attendance in 2014, ranking top 10 in the country with an average of 2,999 fans per match on the year along with other Big Ten schools, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. (Figures provided by the NCAA.) Penn State boasted four matches with crowds larger than 4,500 in 2014, including two standing-room only matches with more than 5,300 fans in attendance.

	SCHOOL	TOTAL ATTEN.	AVG. ATTEN.	HOME DATES		SCHOOL	TOTAL ATTEN.	AVG. ATTEN.	HOME DATES
1	Nebraska	145,493	8,083	18	16	Kansas St.	30,759	2,366	13
2	Hawaii	120,776	6,357	19	17	Stanford	36,136	2,126	17
3	Wisconsin	73,999	4,933	15	18	Louisville	26,352	2,027	13
4	Washington	60,829	3,379	18	19	UNC	31,939	1,996	16
5	Minnesota	50,149	3,343	15	20	Ohio	23,783	1,982	12
6	Colorado St.	54,926	3,231	17	21	Missouri	26,505	1,893	14
7	UNI	40,537	3,118	13	22	Ohio St.	23,544	1,811	13
8	Wichita St.	27,706	3,078	9	23	Oregon	31,475	1,749	18
9	Illinois	45,410	3,027	15	24	BYU	20,649	1,588	13
10	PENN STATE	56,977	2,999	19	25	Maryland	15,387	1,539	10
11	Michigan St.	43,918	2,928	15	26	Kentucky	30,453	1,523	20
12	Texas	40,378	2,884	14	27	Arizona	27,266	1,515	18
13	Purdue	40,230	2,514	16	28	Arizona St.	22,373	1,398	16
14	lowa St.	34,172	2,441	14	29	Iowa	13,752	1,375	10
15	Florida	40,833	2,402	17	30	Duke	19,943	1,330	15

#### **2015 PENN STATE SUPERLATIVES**

	INDIVIDUAL	
	16 - Megan Courtney vs. Villanova (8/29)	
Attacks:	42 - Megan Courtney vs. Villanva (8/29)	121 - vs. Villanova (8/29)
	647 - (11-0-17) - Megan Courtney vs. Stony Brook (8/29)	
	41- Bryanna Weiskircher vs. Stanford (9/5)	
	2 - Megan Courtney, vs. Stanford (9/5)	
	13 - Megan Courtney, vs. Stanford (9/5)	
	2 - Heidi Thelen vs. Buffalo (8/28)	
	8 - Heidi Thelen vs. Stony Brook (8/29)	
Total Blocks:	9 - Heidi Thelen vs. Stony Brook (8/29)	
	INDIVIDUAL	
	23 - Megan Courtney vs. Stanford (12/18)	
	56 - Megan Courtney vs. Stanford (12/18)	
	571 (10-2-14) - Nia Grant vs. American (9/12)	
	55 - Micha Hancock vs. Stanford (12/18)	
	8 - Micha Hancock vs. American (9/12)	
	26 - Dominique Gonzalez at Minnesota (9/27)	
	2, 2x last - Megan Courtney vs. Illinois (10/11)	
	6, 3x last - Haleigh Washington vs. Stanford (12/18)	
Total Blocks:	8 - Nia Grant at Minnesota (9/27)	15.5 - at Minnesota (9/27)
	INDIVIDUAL	
	22 - Ali Frantti at Stanford (9/5)	
	48 - Ali Frantti at Purdue (10/17)	
	429 (12-3-21) - Nia Grant at Purdue (10/17)	
	58 - Micha Hancock at Purdue (10/17)	
	6 - Micha Hancock at Purdue (10/17)	
	20 - Dominique Gonzalez at Stanford (9/5)	
	1 - Simone Lee & Ali Frantti at Stanford (9/5)	
	8 - Haleigh Washington at Purdue (10/17)	
Total Blocks:	8 - Haleigh Washington at Purdue (10/17)	14 - at Stanford (9/5)
2014 OPPONENT SU	IPERLATIVES	
	INDIVIDUAL	TFAM
THREE SETS	INDIVIDUAL	
THREE SETSKills:	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	47 - Villanova (8/29)
THREE SETSKills:	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)34 - Kathy Fletcher, Stony Brook (8/29)	47 - Villanova (8/29) 121 - Villanova (8/29)
THREE SETS Kills: Attacks: Attack Percentage*:	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
THREE SETS Kills: Attacks: Attack Percentage*: Assists:	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
THREE SETS	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
THREE SETS	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
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THREE SETS	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
THREE SETS Kills: Attacks: Attack Percentage*: Assists: Aces: Digs: Solo Blocks: Block Assists: Total Blocks:	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
THREE SETS	16 - Hayley Hodson, Stanford (9/5)	
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# AIYANA WHITNEY

REDSHIRT SENIOR | OH NORWOOD, N.J.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Opened the year with 11 kills on .400 hitting against Buffalo (8/28) ... Had 14 kills on .429 hitting vs. Villanova (8/29) ... Tied for team-high with 13 kills on .440 hitting against No. 2 Stanford (9/5).

**2015 HONORS** » Preseason All-Big Ten ... Penn State Classic All-Tournament ... B1G/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament Team.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » 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 with 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 lowa (11/12).. Recorded 17 kills on .682 hitting against Minnesota (11/15) ... Had seven blocks at Maryland (11/22) ... Tallied 13 kills on .571 hitting in the NCAA regional semifinals against UCLA (12/13) ... Notched 16 kills against Wisconsin in the NCAA regional finals (12/13) ... Put down 10 kills in the NCAA national semifinals against Stanford (12/18)  $\,$  ... Tied for first on the team with 11 kills in the NCAA national finals against BYU (12/20).

**2014 HONORS** » AVCA Second Team All-America … AVCA All-Northeast Region … Louisville Regional All-Tournament … All-Big Ten honorable mention … Big Ten Player of the Week (11/17) … Villanova Classic All-Tournament Team … Penn State Alumni Classic MVP.

**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 … Majoring in broadcast journalism.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Aiyana had a great trip to Europe with the Big Ten Foreign Tour team this summer. As a player who can fill a couple of positions at both middle and outside, she has the potential to take over a match and our success will be linked to her performance."

2015 MAT	2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH													
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB						
Buffalo	11	3	20	.400	0	0	1	3						
Stony Brook	6	2	16	.250	0	0	1	5						
Villanova	14	2	28	.429	0	0	1	2						
Colorado	3	3	15	.000	0	0	0	4						
Stanford	13	2	25	.440	0	0	1	3						

2015 SEASON	HIGHS					CATEGORY							CAREER HIGH					
14 vs. Villanova (8	8/29)		Kills						18 vs. Purdue 10/17/14)									
28 vs. Villanova (		Atta	acks						44 at P	urdue (10,	/17/14)							
.440 (13-2-25) vs	s. Stanford (9/					Hitting P	ercentage				1.00	00 (9-0-9)	vs. William	& Mary (8/	/30/14)			
N/A						Ass	sists						2 at Mir	inesota (9,	/27/14)			
N/A						Ad	ces						2 vs.	DePaul (9/	/19/14)			
1, 3x last vs. Villa	nova (8/29)						D	igs						4	vs. UIC (9/	/20/14)		
5 vs. Stony Brook	(8/29)						Blo	ocks						7 vs. Northy	vestern (10	0/8/14)		
WHITNEY'S CA	REER STATS	6																
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S		
2012	REDSHIRT Y	'EAR																
2013	32-21	42	1.31	12	95	.316	1	0.03	0	0.00	8	0.25	0	12	12	0.38		
2014	126-39	372	2.95	109	745	.353	5	0.04	3	0.02	42	0.33	1	94	98	0.78		
2015	15-5	47	3.13	12	104	.337	1	0.07	0	0.00	4	0.27	0	17	17	1.13		
CAREER	173-65	461	2.66	133	944	.347	7	0.04	3	0.02	54	0.31	1	123	127	0.73		



# MEGAN COURTNEY

SENIOR | OH DAYTON, OHIO

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Posted a team-high 11 kills on .647 hitting with nine digs and four blocks against Stony Brook (8/29) ... Recorded a double-double with a match-high 16 kills and 13 digs against Villanova (8/29) ... Tallied her second double-double with 11 kills on .400 hitting and 13 digs against No. 2 Stanford (9/5)

**2015 HONORS** » Preseason All-Big Ten ... Penn State Classic MVP ... B1G/Pac-12 Challenge All-Tournament team.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Finished third on the team with 2.44 kills per set ... Ranked second on the team in digs per set (2.34), having led the team in the category seven times ... Earned NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors ... Opened the season with double-digit (12) kills against TCU (8/29) ... Notched at least eight kills against Iona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30) on .400 or better hitting ... Had 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 10 kills against East Carolina (9/20) ... Finished second on the team with 14 digs at No. 5 Wisconsin (9/24) ... 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 lowa (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 ... Had 11 kills in the NCAA second round match against Dayton (12/6) ... Picked up 13 digs in the NCAA regional final match against Wisconsin (12/13) ... Recorded a double-double with a career-high 23 kills and 16 digs in the NCAA national semifinals against Stanford (12/18), adding five blocks ... Totaled 11 kills, 14 digs and five blocks, including two solo stuffs in the NCAA national title match against BYU (12/20).

**2014 HONORS** » 2014 NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player ... Penn State Classic All Tournament Team ... 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.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** "Megan is coming off a season where she didn't receive recognition from the conference, yet she was the most outstanding player at the final four. She's been a terrific player for us since she came as a freshman. We haven't had that many players who have started all four years and she'll be starting her senior year as a person who can be added to that list. Her leadership will be critical to our success this season."

2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH													
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB					
Buffalo	8	2	25	.240	0	1	4	4					
Stony Brook	11	0	17	.647	0	1	9	4					
Villanova	16	3	43	.302	2	1	13	4					
Colorado	3	2	18	.056	2	1	12	3					
Stanford	11	1	25	.400	1	2	13	1					

2015 SEAS	015 SEASON HIGHSCATEGORYCATEGORY											CAREER HIGH						
16 vs. Villanov	16 vs. Villanova (8/29)											23 vs. Stanford (12/18/14)						
43 vs. Villanova (8/29)Attacks														56 vs. Sta	anford (12,	/18/14)		
.647 (11-0-17)	vs. Villanova (8/			Hitting Pe	ercentage					750 (1	5-0-20) vs.	Indiana (1	0/3/13)					
2 vs. Villanova	(8/29)			Ass	ists						7 vs. Wi	sconsin (9,	/24/14)					
1, 3x last vs. V	'illanova (8/29)						Ac	es						2, 4x last	at Iowa (1	0/4/14)		
13, 2x last vs.	Stanford (9/5)						Di	gs						22 vs. Mir	nnesota (1	0/9/13)		
4, 3x last vs. V	'illanova (8/29)						Blo	cks						8 at Mic	chigan (10,	/20/12)		
COURTNEY'S	S CAREER STA	TS																
SEASON	MP-SP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S		
2012	120-36	240	2.00	88	632	.241	33	0.28	13	0.11	237	1.98	32	69	101	0.84		
2013	120-35	297	2.47	96	740	.272	32	0.27	1	0.01	301	2.51	28	59	87	0.73		
2014	127-39	310	2.44	85	794	.283	66	0.52	11	0.09	297	2.34	16	78	94	0.74		
2015	15-5	49	3.27	8	128	.320	5	0.33	6	0.40	51	3.40	2	14	16	1.07		
CAREER	382-115	896	2.35	277	2294	.270	136	0.36	31	0.08	886	2.32	78	220	298	0.78		



# LARA CARAWAY

SENIOR | DS EVANS CITY, Pa.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Made appearances on the court against Buffalo and Stony Brook in the Penn State Classic.

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** » Saw action in 11 matches this season, making five appearances in Big Ten conference matches ... 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) at the Villanova Classic ... Matched a season-high mark with two digs against Yale (9/13) ... Had one dig against Michigan (10/24) and one at Minnesota (11/15).

**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.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Lara has not played a lot, but she has always played hard and she's been a good student-athlete. She has always placed Penn State volleyball as one of her priorities and her behavior exemplifies that."

#### **2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH**

OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	
Stony Brook	0	0	0	000	0	0	0	0	

2015 SEAS	DN HIGHS						CATE	CAREER HIGH										
N/A							K	ills								N/A		
N/A							Atta	acks						1 vs	s. Marquet	te (9/13)		
N/A							Hitting P	ercentage								N/A		
 N/A							Ass	sists				, 2x last at FGCU (9/14/13)						
 N/A							Ac	ces					1, 5	x, last vs. A	merican (9	3/12/14)		
 N/A							D				2, 3x last vs	s. Albany (9	3/20/13)					
								_										
′																<i>'</i>		
CARAWAY'S	CAREER STA	ATS																
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S		
2012	24-16	0	0.00	0	0	.000	1	0.04	3	0.12	5	0.21	0	0	0	0.00		
2013	24-21	0	0.00	0	1	.000	1	0.04	1	0.04	6	0.25	0	0	0	0.00		
2014	16-13	0	0.00	0	0	.000	1	0.06	1	0.06	7	0.44	0	0	0	0.00		
2015	2-2	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00		
CAREER	66-52	0	0.00	0	1	.000	3	0.05	5	0.08	18	0.27	0	0	0	0.00		



# **PIERCE**

SENIOR | DS EDEN, N.Y.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Had two digs in her first collegiate start at libero against Buffalo (8/28) ... Had one ace and five digs against Villanova (8/29) ... Recorded two digs against No. 21 Colorado (9/4)

**2015 HONORS** » Co-president of Athletes Take Action, an anti-bullying program for middle school students ... Senior CLASS Award Candidate.

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** » Saw action in 37 of the team's 39 matches, totaling 47 digs and four aces ... Played in all three matches in a 3-0 opening weekend, highlighting the weekend with two digs against William & Mary (8/30) ... Had 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) ... Logged three digs in the NCAA regional final match against Wisconsin (12/13) ... Had a career-high five digs in the NCAA national semifinal match against Stanford (12/18) ... Recorded two digs in the NCAA national title match against BYU (12/20).

**2014 HONORS** » 2014-15 Big Ten Distinguished Scholar ... Academic All-Big Ten. ... Student Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) Treasurer.

**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 sophomore on the team ... Majoring in health policy and administration with a minor in communication and sciences.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Kendall does a variety of things for us. She's one of our captains this year and I know she cares a lot about the program. She's improved each year, as far as what role she's capable of playing and contributed and she'll certainly be in the mix at the libero spot.

2015 MAT	СН-В	Y-M <i>A</i>	АТСН						
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	2	0	2	0	
Stony Brook	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	1	1	5	0	
Colorado	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0	
Stanford	0	1	0	1000	0	0	1	0	

2015 SEASO	ON HIGHS						CATE	GORY		CAREER HIGH								
N/A							K	ills						1 at Mi	nnesota (9	/27/14)		
N/A							Att	acks					1	., 2x last vs	. UCLA (12	/12/14)		
N/A							Hitting P	ercentage			1.000 (1-0-1) at Minnesota (9/27/14)							
2 vs. Buffalo (8	3/28)						Ass	sists					1,	3x, last at F	Purdue (10	/17/14)		
1 vs. Villanova	(8/29)						A	ces					1, 8	3x last vs. V	illanova (8	/29/15)		
5 vs. Villanova	(8/29)						D	igs						5 vs. V	illanova (8	/29/15)		
PIERCE'S CA	AREER STATS																	
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S		
2012	29-18	0	0.00	0	0	.000	2	0.07	9	0.31	7	0.24	0	0	0	0.00		
2013	83-34	0	0.00	0	0	.000	1	0.01	7	0.08	21	0.25	0	0	0	0.00		
2014	79-37	1	0.01	0	2	.500	2	0.03	4	0.05	47	0.59	0	0	0	0.00		
2015	13-5	0	0.00	1	1	-1.000	3	0.23	1	0.08	11	0.85	0	0	0	0.00		
CAREER	204-94	1	0.00	1	3	.000	8	0.04	21	0.10	86	0.42	0	0	0	0.00		



# BROERMAN

**ASSISTS** 

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**ACES** 

1

2

3

DIGS

2

3

5

PCT.

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JUNIOR | DS COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS » Will miss the 2015 season due to an injury.

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**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

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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 lowa (10/26) ... Recorded her first collegiate ace against Indiana (11/9).

 ${\bf QUOTING\ COACH\ ROSE\ }$  "Laura plays hard and fast and gives great energy to the team."

**PERSONAL** » Born Laura Lynn Broerman on January 18, 1995 ... Parents are Chuck and Vickie Broerman ... Has three 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.

**APS** 

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DPS

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**BROERMAN'S CAREER STATS** 

MP-SP

15-17

5-5

**SEASON** 

2013

2014

# TAYLOR KRAUSE

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JUNIOR | DS ALLENTOWN, Pa.

#### 2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH

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**RS** 

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OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1	0	
Stony Brook	0	0	0	.000	1	1	5	0	
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	0	1	7	0	
Colorado	0	0	0	.000	0	1	2	0	
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	1	1	4	0	

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Had five digs and one ace against Stony Brook (8/29) .... Posted a career-hihg seven digs against Villanova (8/29) ... Posted four digs and one ace against No. 2 Stanford (9/5).

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** » Had one dig against UCLA (9/6) ... Posted two digs at 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 in the NCAA title match vs. BYU (2/20).

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** "Taylor has a terrific volleyball IQ and has been making good plays in a limited role for a couple of years. She's tough and needs to make plays."

**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.

2015 SEASON HIGHS	CATEGORY	CAREER HIGH
	Kills	
	Attacks	
	Hitting Percentage	
	Assists	·
	Aces	
	Digs	

<b>KRAUSE'S C</b>	AREER STATS	5														
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Е	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
2013	10-10	0	0.00	0	0	.000	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	0.50	0	0	0	0.00
2014	29-20	1	0.03	0	1	1.000	0	0.00	1	0.03	8	0.28	0	0	0	0.00
2015	13-5	0	0.00	0	0	.000	2	0.15	5	0.38	19	1.46	0	0	0	0.00
CAREER	52-35	1	0.02	0	1	1.000	2	0.04	6	0.12	32	0.62	0	0	0	0.00



# CARLEY MULLER

JUNIOR | DS MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Made her 2015 debut against Stony Brook (8/29) ... Played against No. 21 Colorado (9/4).

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** » A 2014-15 Big Ten Distinguished Scholar ... 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), lowa (10/26) and Indiana (11/9) ... Made her NCAA Tournament debut against Siena (12/5).

**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.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Carley has really improved and plays hard. She has not played as much to date, but I felt she had a really good spring."

#### **2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH**

OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	ТВ	
Stony Brook	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	
Colorado	0	0	0	000	Λ	0	0	0	

	ON HIGHS	CATEGORY											CAREER HIGH					
N/A							K	ills								N/A		
N/A							Atta	acks				N/A						
N/A							Hitting P	ercentage								N/A		
							_	_										
N/A								.1 vs. East	Carolina (9	9/20/14)								
N/A		Digs												2x last vs.	Rutgers (2	11/7/14)		
<b>'</b>	Digs												<i>'</i>		0 (	, , ,		
	CAREER STAT	_																
	CAREER STATS	S K	K/S	Е	TA	PCT	A	A/S	SA/S	SE	DIG	D/S	BS	ВА	ТВ	B/S		
SEASON		_	K/S 0.00	E 0	TA O	PCT .000	A 0	A/S 0.00	SA/S 0	SE 0.00	DIG 0	D/S 0.00	BS 0	BA O	TB 0	B/S 0.00		
SEASON	SP-MP	K	, -	_				, -	- / -			, -		BA 0 0		′		
SEASON 2013	SP-MP 7-7	К 0	0.00	0	0	.000		0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	BA 0 0 0	0	0.00		



# HEIDI THELEN

SOPHOMORE | MB EDGEWOOD, KY.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** " Made her 2015 debut against Buffalo (8/28) with seven blocks … Posted three kills and a career-high nine total blocks against Stony Brook (8/29) … Recorded two digs and four blocks against Villanova (8/29) … Had four kills on .800 hitting against No. 21 Colorado (9/4), adding seven blocks.

**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).

**PERSONAL** "Born Heidi Ellen Thelen on Sept. 5, 1996 ... Parents are Ashley and Jon ... Has two brothers, Jake and Nick and two sisters, Hannah and Grace ... Names "Grey's Anatomy" as favorite TV show, pizza as her favorite food, Angelina Jolie and Ryan Gosling as favorite actress and actor ... Majoring in behavioral health...

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** "Heidi has made positive strides in her game. Hopefully this year she'll come out and be a little stronger at the middle blocking position."

2015 MAT	СН-В	Y-M/	ATCH						
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	1	2	4	.250	0	0	1	7	
Stony Brook	3	0	5	.600	0	0	0	9	
Villanova	0	0	2	.000	1	0	2	4	
Colorado	4	0	5	.800	0	0	0	7	
Stanford	1	1	3	.000	0	0	1	3	

2015 SEAS	ON HIGHS						CATE	GORY							CAREE	R HIGH
3, vs. Stony Bi	rook (8/29)						K	ills						3, vs. Sto	ny Brook (8	3/29/15)
	rook (8/29)															
.800 (4-0-5) -	vs. Colorado (9/	4)					.Hitting P	ercentage					800	(4-0-5) - vs.	. Colorado	(9/4/15)
1, vs. Villanova	a (8/29)						Ass	sists						1, vs. \	Villanova (8	3/29/15)
2, vs. Villanova	a (8/29)						D	igs						2, vs. \	Villanova (8	3/29/15)
9, vs. Stony Bi	rook (8/29)						Blo	ocks						9, vs. Sto	ny Brook (8	8/29/15)
THELEN'S C	AREER STATS															
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Е	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA/S	SE	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
2014	9-6	10	1.11	2	22	.364	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.11	0	6	7	0.78
2015	15-5	9	0.60	3	19	.316	1	0.07	0	0.00	4	0.27	0	25	29	1.93
CAREER	24-11	19	0.79	5	41	.341	1	0.04	0	0.00	5	0.21	0	31	36	1.50



# ALI **FRANTTI**

SOPHOMORE | OH SPRING GROVE, ILL.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Led the team with 10 kills against Stony Brook (8/29) ... Posted 12 digs against Villanova (8/29) ... Tied for first on the team with a season-high 13 kills against No. 2 Stanford (9/5).

2015 HONORS » Preseason All-Big Ten ... Penn State Classic All-Tournament Team

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Led the team with 3.20 kills per set on .310 hitting during her rookie season in the Blue and White ... Her 391 kills closed out the year ranked ninth in the Big Ten final standings ... 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 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 lowa (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 ... Put down 17 kills on .536 hitting in the regular season finale against Nebraska (12/29) ... Made her NCAA Tournament debut with nine kills and four digs against Siena (12/5) ... Finished second on the team with 16 kills and two aces in the NCAA national semifinals against top-ranked Stanford (12/18) ... Posted six kills and six digs in the NCAA title match against BYU (12/20).

**2014 HONORS** » AVCA DI National Freshman of the Year ... Second Team AVCA All-America ... AVCA All-Northeast Region & Freshman of the Year ... 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.

**PERSONAL** "Born Alexandra Annelise Frantti on March 3, 1996 in Highland Park, III. ... Parents are Kelly and Dan Frantti ... Has three brothers, Connor, Peyton and Chase ... Names "Cake Boss" as favorite TV show, "Miracle" as favorite movie, Emma Stone and Ryan Reynolds as favorite actress and actor.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** "Ali is coming off being recognized as the nation's Freshman of the Year. It's a great award, but so much of that is team generated and she'll need to elevate her game and ability to carry a heavier load to justify last year's selection. She is a terrific attacker and has a hitters mentality."

2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH														
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB						
Buffalo	3	3	13	.000	1	0	6	2						
Stony Brook	10	1	24	.375	1	0	3	2						
Villanova	9	2	24	.292	0	0	12	0						
Colorado	7	7	27	.000	0	0	4	1						
Stanford	13	6	35	.200	1	0	5	1						

2015 SEASO	N HIGHS	•••••				CATEGORY							CAREER HIGH						
13, vs. Stanford	I (9/5)						Ki	lls				22, at Stanford (9/5/14)							
35, vs. Stanford	I (9/5)						Atta	cks				48, at Purdue (10/17/14							
.375 (10-1-24) \	vs. Stony Brook	(8/29)					.Hitting Pe	rcentage					647	(11-0-17) -	vs. Yale (9	/13/14)			
1, (2x) - last vs.	Stony Brook (8,	/29)					Ass	ists					3,	vs. Easterr	n Illinois (9	/19/14)			
N/A							Ac	es											
12 - vs. Villanov							Digs												
2, (2x) last - vs.	, (2x) last - vs. Stony Brook (8/29)						Blocks							5, at Ohio	State (10	/31/14)			
FRANTTI'S CA	ADEED STATE	•																	
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Е	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA/S	SE	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S			
2014 122-39 391 3.20 113 89						.310	21	0.17	28	0.23	159	1.30	10	48	58	0.48			
2015	15-5	42	2.80	19	123	.187	3	0.20	0	0.00	30	2.00	0	6	6	0.40			
CAREER	137-44	433	3.16	132	1021	.295	24	0.18	28	0.20	189	1.38	10	54	64	0.47			



# SIMONE LEE SOPHOMORE | OH MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS.

2015 MAT	СН-В	Y-M/	ATCH						
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	1	0	1	1.00	0	0	0	0	
Stony Brook	0	1	4	.250	0	0	0	0	
Villanova	0	1	2	.500	0	0	0	0	
Colorado	3	0	6	.500	0	0	0	1	

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** " Made appearances on the court in all three Penn State Classic matches, posting one kill against Buffalo (8/28) … Put down three kills on .500 hitting against No. 21 Colorado (9/4).

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** " Totaled 135 kills in her first season in the Blue and White ... Made 26 appearances on the court, including two starts ... Recorded double figure kills a total of five times during the year, while also leading the team in the category in three matches ... Tallied 25 total blocks on the year, including five solo stuffs ... 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) ... Came off the bench with 12 kills in the NCAA regional finals vs. Wisconsin (12/13).

**PERSONAL** » Born Simone Alexandra Lee on Oct. 7, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wis. ... Parents are Karen and Arthur Lee ... Mother was a student-athletes at Drake ... Has one sister, who plays volleyball at Eastern Illinois .... Names "Modern Family" as her favorite TV show, pizza as her favorite food, Meryl Streep as favorite actress and reading and listening to music as hobbies ... Marjoring in broadcast journalism.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** " "This spring, I thought Simone was our most improved player. She really picked up her confidence and was at times one of our best attackers. Her blocking is exceptional and she plays physical at the net."

2015 SEASO	N HIGHS		•••••			CATEGORY						CAREER HIGH						
3, vs. Colorado	(9/4)						K	ills					12, (2x) la	st - vs. Wis	consin (12	(13/14)		
6, vs. Colorado	(9/4)						Atta	acks						34 - at Wi	isconsin (9	/24/14)		
.500 (3-0-6) - v	s. Colorado (9/	4)					.Hitting P	ercentage					58	33, (7-0-12)	) vs. UIC (9	/20/14)		
N/A							Ass	sists						1 - vs. No	orthwester	n (10/8)		
N/A							Ac	ces		N/								
N/A						Digs						4 - vs. William & Mary (8/30/14)						
1, vs. Colorado	(9/4)		Blocks							3, (2x) -	last vs. Eas	stern Illinoi	is (9/19)					
LEE'S CAREE	ER STATS																	
SEASON	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S		
2014	64-26	135	2.11	53	350	.234	1	0.02	0	0.00	28	0.44	5	20	25	0.39		
2015	6-4	4	0.67	2	13	.154	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	1	1	0.17		
CAREER	70-30	139	1.99	55	363	.231	1	0.01	0	0.00	28	0.40	5	21	26	0.37		



2015 HIGHLIGHTS » Has not played in any matches this season.

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** "Played in 30 of the team's 39 total matches during her first season in the Blue and White ... Totaled 11 service aces and 19 digs ... Made her collegiate debut in the season-opener against TCU (8/29) ... Played against both lona (8/30) and William & Mary (8/30), recording her first collegiate ace against the Gaels and two digs against the Tribe ... Recorded one ace at No. 2 Stanford (9/5) ... Made her Big Ten debut against No. 15 Illinois (10/11) ... Had three digs against lowa (11/12) ... Posted one ace against Minnesota (11/15) ... Set a career-high mark with two aces and one dig against Maryland (11/8) ... Matched acareer-high with two aces against Nebraska (11/29) ... Saw action on the court in all six matches during the NCAA Tournament ... Made her NCAA Tournament debut vs. Siena (12/5) ... Recorded two digs in the NCAA second round match against Dayton (12/6) ... Totaled a career-high three digs in the NCAA national title match against BYU (12/20).

**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 Penn State track & field team from 1984-89 … Sister, Kendall is a senior on the Nittany Lion women's volleyball team … Names "Modern Family" as favorite TV show, Sarah Hyland and Jonah Hill as favorite actors and pizza as favorite food … Plans to major in public relations and minor in human development and family studies.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Lainy continues to do what I thought she was good at last year. She has a very good serve and she's not afraid to come into the game and take a good swing a the ball. Her defense continues to improve and we need her to play well."

PIERCE'S CARI	EER STATS															
2014	MP-SP	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	ASSISTS	ACES	DIGS	BS	BA	TB	KPS	APS	SAPS	DPS	BPS
	30-61	0	0	1	.000	4	11	19	0	0	0	0.00	0.07	0.18	0.31	0.00



# HALEIGH WASHINGTON

SOPHOMORE | MB COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Posted seven kills on .700 hitting with five blocks against Buffalo (8/29) ... Recorded seven kills and four blocks against Stony Brook (8/29) ... Logged six kills and six blocks against Villanova (8/29) ... Finished second on the team with 12 kills on .526 hitting against No. 2 Stanford (9/5).

**2015 HONORS** » Preseason All-Big Ten ... B1G/Pac-12 Challenge MVP ... Big Ten Player of the Week (9/7).

**2014 HIGHLIGHTS** » Made 25 appearances on the court in her rookie season ... Her .463 hitting clip finished first on the team, while her 2.63 kills per set ranked third ... Totaled 96 blocks ... 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 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) ... Had 12 kills on .526 hitting with five blocks in the NCAA regional semifinals against UCLA (12/12) ... Put down 10 kills and five blocks in the NCAA regional finals against Wisconsin (12/13) ... Posted four blocks in the NCAA national finals against BYU (12/20).

**2014 HONORS** » Big Ten Freshman of the Year … Louisville Regional All-Tournament … 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).

**PERSONAL** » Born Haleigh Meridian Washington on Sept. 22, 1995 in Denver, Colo. ... Parents are Danielle and Alecs ... Has one brother, Kayden and one sister, Leilani ... Names "Orange is the New Black" as favorite TV show, the "Frashington Omelet" as favorite food, Robin Williams as favorite actor, "Eat Pray Love" as her favorite book and reading, drawing and writing as hobbies ... Plans to major in Philosophy.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "Haleigh is an exceptional offensive talent. She has picked up her game both offensively and blocking-wise and I think both she and Ali [Frantti], benefited from their experience with the national team when they trained there last spring. Haleigh is very smart and has a natural personality that makes others willing to follow her."

<b>2015 MAT</b>	CH-B	Y-M/	ATCH											
OPP. K E TA PCT. A SA D TB														
Buffalo	7	0	10	.700	0	1	0	5						
Stony Brook	7	1	9	.667	0	0	1	4						
Villanova	6	3	16	.188	0	0	4	6						
Colorado	8	0	16	.500	0	1	1	4						
Stanford	12	2	19	.526	1	0	4	3						

<b>2015 SEASON HIGHS</b> 12 - vs. Stanford (9/5)								
12 vs Stanford (9/5) Kills 1/4 at	Illinois (10)							
16 - vs. Villanova (8/29)	Illinois (10,	/11/14)						
.700 (7-0-10) - vs. Villanova (8/29)								
N/A	n Illinois (9/	/19/14)						
N/A	N/A							
4 - vs. Stony Brook (8/29)								
6 - vs. Villanova (8/29)	) State (10/	/31/14)						
WASHINGTON'S CAREER STATS								
SEASON SP-MP K K/S E TA PCT A A/S SA SA/S DIG D/S BS BA	TB	B/S						
2014 80-27 208 2.60 37 369 .463 5 0.06 0 0.00 23 0.29 17 79	96	1.20						
2015 15-5 40 2.67 6 70 .486 1 0.07 2 0.13 10 0.67 3 19	22	1.47						
CAREER 95-32 248 2.61 43 439 .467 6 0.06 2 0.02 33 0.35 20 98	118	1.24						



# NIA **REED**

REDSHIRT FRESHMAN | OH FORT LEE, N.J.

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** » Made her collegiate debut against Stony Brook (8/29).

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Redshirt 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 ... Names "Scandal" and "Game of Thrones" as favorite TV shows, Mexican as favorite food, Kerry Washington as favorite actress, and sleeping and interior decorating as favorite hobbies ... Majoring in Communications.

**QUOTING COACH ROSE** » "I think it will take some time for Nia to get her game ready to play again. But I would expect, as I thought when we elected to redshirt her, that there are going to be times when she makes a real contribution to the team with her front row play. She hits the ball high and she is an exceptional blocker. Always smiling and caring for the team are two of Nia's greatest contributions."

001		AAT		DV		TALL
<b>Z</b> UJ	LĐI	VIAI	CH-	BT-	IVIA	TCH

OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB
Stony Brook	0	1	4	250	0	0	0	0

REED'S CA	AREER STATS															
2015	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
	2-1	0	0.00	1	4	250	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00



# BRYANNA WEISKIRCHER

REDSHIRT FRESHMAN | S ROCKFORD, ILL.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS » Made her collegiate debut against Buffalo (8/28), dishing out 18 assists to go along with three digs ... Had 30 assists and three digs against Stony Brook (8/29) ... Logged her third match with at least one ace agianst Villanova (8/29), adding 37 assists ... Had four digs and three blocks against No. 21 Colorado ... Paced four of her top attackers to douuble figure kills in the win against No. 2 Stanford (9/5) with a career-high 41 assists and eight digs.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS » Redshirt 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 season 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 Malia'okalani Weiskircher on May 25, 1996 in Rockford, Ill. ... Parents are Renita and Philip ... Has two brothers, Torey and Trevor and one sister, Natalie ... Names "Criminal Minds" as favorite TV show, steak as favorite food and hanging out with friends and family or watching the Blackhawks as hobbies ... Plans to major in Criminology.

**QUOTING ROSE ROSE** » "Bryanna made some good progress during the spring season. There's always a learning curve for new players and I would expect her to have some challenges, but she has been setting for a long time and isn't afraid to compete."

<b>2015 MAT</b>	СН-В	Y-M/	ATCH											
OPP. K E TA PCT. A SA D TB														
Buffalo	2	0	3	.667	18	1	3	0						
Stony Brook	2	0	4	.500	30	1	3	2						
Villanova	2	1	6	.167	37	1	7	2						
Colorado	1	1	6	.000	18	2	4	3						
Stanford	1	1	5	.000	41	1	8	1						

WEISKIRCHER	R'S CAREEI	R STATS	5													
2015	SP-MP	K	K/S	Е	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
	15-5	8	0.53	3	24	.208	144	9.60	5	0.33	25	1.67	1	7	8	0.53



# TORI GORRELL

FRESHMAN | MB OAKVILLE, ONTARIO

#### Persona

Born Victoria Leigh McGregor Gorrell on March 11, 1997 in Hamilton, Ontario (Canada) ... Parents are Suzanne and Miles Gorrell ... Has one older sister ... Majoring in parks, tourism and recreation management ... Names "Scooby Doo" as favorite TV show, "The Notebook" as favorite book ... "Titanic" as favorite movie ... Blake Lively as favorite actress ... Calgary styled beef as favorite food and paddle boarding as favorite hobby.

#### **High School**

Attended Abbey Park High School ... Helped Abbey Park win the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association AAA volleyball championship ... Led the team to an undefeated season as well as the Halton Tier I and Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference AAA titles ... Played club volleyball with Toronto's Leaside, where she earned Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) U17 All-Star honors in 2013-14 and Preseason Humber Tournament All-Star honors in 2014.

#### Why Penn State?

"I chose Penn state because of it's amazing atmosphere. The people in the stands and the people you pass by on campus make this university unique. The coaching staff and supporting staff are the best a program could have. Not to mention the respected academic side of things that will give me an amazing education. Every time I step foot on campus a smile never leaves my face."



# JELENA **NOVAKOVIĆ**

FRESHMAN | RS BELGRADE, SERBIA

#### Personal

Born Jelena Novakovic on August 2, 1996 in Belgrade, Serbia ... Parents are Vesna and Vladimir Novakovic ... Father, Vladimir was a member of the Yugoslavian national handball team, earning silver at the World Cup in Stockholm and gold at the Mediterranean games in Greece in 1991 ... Has two brothers, Nikola and Marko ... Names "Friends" as favorite TV show, "Twilight" as favorite book, four cheese chicken as favorite food and watching movies and hanging out with friends as hobbies.

#### **High School**

Played club with Red Star Belgrade, helping the team to the National Cup in 2014 and a silver medal at the 2014 championship ... Named MVP of U17 International Belgrade Tournament ... Made back-to-back appearances in the European Champions League in 2013-14 with Red Star ... Earned gold medals at the European Championship with the U19 Serbian National team in 2014, as well as gold at the Balkan Championship in Subotica, Serbia.

#### Why Penn State?

"The decision to leave Europe and come to the United States was one of the biggest and most important decisions in my life. The main reason why I chose Penn State was because of the possibility to play volleyball at the highest level and get the best education. It is a program that will help me in my development as a person and player, making me better every day."



# WILMA RIVERA

FRESHMAN | S CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** Made her collegiate debut against Buffalo ... Had four assists and one dig against No. 21 Colorado (9/4).

#### **Personal**

Born Wilmarie Rivera Roldan on February 14, 1997 in San Juan, Puerto Rico ... Parents are Esmeralda and Wilmar Rivera ... Has two brothers, Wilmar and William ... Plans to major in biology or business.

#### **High School**

A four-year team captain and MVP at Saint Francis School ... Helped her team to the 2014 Puerto Rico Lopa El Nuevo Dia Championship ... Earned LACC All-State Best Setter and MVP honors in 2014 ... Also lettered in track and field and softball, helping her softball team to an LACC championship in 2014 ... Member of the Puerto Rican National Team ... Named Best Setter at Copa Pan Americana U18 in 2013, while also earning silver with her team ... Earned the bronze medal at the NORCECA U18 games in 2013.

#### Why Penn State?

"I chose Penn State because it is the best school and the best volleyball program. Penn State has an excellent academic program. It is a program that will help me in my development as a person and player, making me better every day."

#### **2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH**

OPP.	K	E	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB	
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	8	0	4	0	
Stony Brook	0	0	0	.000	5	0	3	0	
Colorado	0	0	0	.000	3	0	1	0	

#### **RIVERA'S CAREER STATS**

2015	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
	7-3	0	0.00	0	0	.000	17	2.43	0	0.00	8	1.14	0	0	0	0.00



# HOLCOMB

FRESHMAN | DS BELVILLE, TEXAS

**2015 HIGHLIGHTS** " Made her collegiate debut against Buffalo (8/29), posting a career-high 10 digs ... Earned two starts at the libero position against Stony Brook (8/29) and Villanova (8/29), recording nine digs against the Seawolves ... Logged seven digs against No. 21 Colorado (9/4) and eight digs against No. 2 Stanford (9/5).

#### Personal

Born Keeton Laurence Holcomb on March 4, 1997 in Bryan, Texas ... Parents are Stacy and Tom Holcomb ... Has two younger siblings, brother Harrison and sister, Jolie ... Names "The Office" as favorite TV show, "Looking for Alaska" as favorite book ... Reading and hiking as hobbies and her grandma's chicken and dumplings as her favorit food ... Undecided on a major.

#### High School

A four-year letterwinner and team MVP at Bellville High School in Bellville, Texas ... Team captain in 2014 ... Earned AAA First Team All-State honors in 2013-14, in addition to Texas Sports Writers Association and Texas Girls Coaching Association first team All-State awards in 2013 ... Named District Defensive MVP in 2011-12, while also earning first team All-District honors in 2014 ... A MaxPreps Second Team Volleyball All-American ... Named to 2014 Under Armour All-American Watch List ... Played club with Houston Juniors, earning 2012 All-Texas Team honorable mention honors ... Four-time Academic All-District and member of the National Honor Society.

#### Why Penn State?

"On top of the fact that Penn State's volleyball program is one of the best in the country, it has been a childhood dream of mine to attend and represent this University's jersey through volleyball. Also, I was drawn to the high academic reputation."

2015 MATCH-BY-MATCH													
OPP.	K	Ε	TA	PCT.	Α	SA	D	TB					
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	3	0	10	0					
Stony Brook	0	0	0	.000	0	1	9	0					
Villanova	0	0	0	.000	2	1	4	0					
Colorado	0	0	0	.000	1	0	7	0					
Stanford	0	0	0	.000	1	0	8	0					

<b>HOLCOMB'S</b>	CAREER ST	ATS														
2015	SP-MP	K	K/S	Ε	TA	PCT	Α	A/S	SA	SA/S	DIG	D/S	BS	BA	TB	B/S
	14-5	0	0.00	0	0	.000	7	0.50	2	0.14	38	2.71	4	0	0	0.00