



# Rally Club Newsletter

## The Season Begins...

Issue 1, September 2009

Well as you all know we have lots of new faces this year! Not only on the coaching side but with nine freshman! We have been working hard since day one to mesh everyone into one unit. We have certainly have had our growing pains with the majority of our players inexperienced in terms of collegiate matches but our main goal every day is to get better. We know that the talent is there and ultimately once we gain consistency we will be great!

We are currently 12-6 overall, 3-3 in the MIAA, and ranked 20th in the nation. We began our season at the University of Nebraska-Omaha tournament where we posted a good 3-1 showing. Our only loss came to Minnesota State-Mankato and we our 3 wins came against region opponents. The following weekend we went on a very long road trip to North Alabama. We finished the tournament with a 2-2 record, losing a very tough match to the host school in 5 sets. We followed that with another long road trip to Central Oklahoma where we had a very strong showing, beating four regional opponents and going 4-0.

After those 3 weekends we finally had a home match and opened up conference play. We lost to Emporia State in 4 after coming out smoking in set 1. Set 2 they got the best of us and we never did recover. We then went on another trip the weekend of 9/18-9/19 to Washburn and Fort Hays. We lost Friday night to Washburn and then got our first conference win against Ft. Hays. The following week we beat Southwest Baptist in 5 sets before returning home last weekend to face Missouri Southern Friday night (lost in 5) and Pittsburg State. We beat Pitt State in 4 set and had a very strong showing as a team. Thanks for all of your support and look forward to seeing you at some upcoming matches!



*The Seniors...*

## Upcoming Event...

### Dig Pink Match

vs. Central Missouri  
Wed. Oct. 7th at 7pm

Help us raise money to help raise money for the war against breast cancer. Come on out, wear pink, and support a good cause! There will be a silent auction at the match.



## CASEY'S CORNER... our blogger for the month Casey Bruno



*Casey hails from Pearland, TX The junior libero currently leads the Bulldogs with 282 digs, averaging 4.48 digs per game.*

After three tournaments and three games amounting to four weekends on the road, it feels great to be playing back in Kirksville this past weekend. Home again, home again. Jiggity jig!

With almost as many freshmen on the team as upperclassmen, I think we've done a great job at staying focused and working hard. We've gotten into our groove of playing after competing against some great teams over the past month and a half. But better yet, we had the experience to just **watch** a great team play. During our tournament in Oklahoma we were given the opportunity to see the USA National Paralympic Sitting Volleyball team practice! I was in awe of their ability and definitely believe it is one experience I'll always carry with me.

Incentives are always nice to have. One we really keep track of is the Ice Cream Count. We have a deal with Coach Briney to receive ice cream each time one our hitters hits an opponent in the face or head. We've accumulated about ten trips so far. [Ok, ok. One of those ten is because one of **us** took it to the face.....anyway.] Funny thing is, we've only gotten ice cream... oh, I'd say about...not once yet. [cough Ben cough!]

## Overall Individual Statistics

Updated 10/28/09

**Overall Individual Statistics**

Leaders as of 9/28/09

**Kills**

Megan Sharpe.....206

Lauren Graybeal ....175

Allison Barker.....139

**Hitting Percentage**

Megan Sharpe..... .362

Emily Briseno..... .304

Johanna Ruff..... .284

**Digs**

Casey Bruno.....282

Allison Barker.....185

Ashley Petak.....167

**OCTOBER HOME MATCHES**

10/7 Central Missouri 7pm

10/16 Northwest Missouri 7pm

10/17 Missouri Western 7pm

10/23 Washburn 7pm

10/24 Fort Hays 6pm

10/28 Southwest Baptist 7pm

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Twenty girls together all of the time; it's bound to be an eventful experience. We really use our time wisely off the court and on the road to get to know each other pretty well. If you haven't seen the movie Dirty Dancing, no worries; we can provide the perfect reenactment of the last dancing scene! And if you fail to recall and Disney song, our on-staff choir team can chant out loudly, proudly and always on key any classic tune. We have even discovered that it is possible to fit someone in the overhead luggage compartment on a charter bus. Not something to try at home, kids. Getting in was the easy part, and with the help from our friends at Truman ROTC we have been properly shown how to repel down anything as high as three stories!

We've sang. We've danced. We've repelled. We've even produced a stellar kick line team. Since performing for audiences around America, compliments and requests for upcoming shows have been pouring in like crazy. Watch out Showgirls; you can only imagine our excitement when we found out tryouts were being held this weekend!! But sorry folks, show times have been put on a short hold due to conference getting underway. Go 'Dogs! ~Casey