



Closeness carries team beyond defeats to IMPRESSIVE

19-9 winning season

Against Appalachian State, freshman middle blocker Anne Dorff spikes the ball for the point. The three-to-one victory led the team to win the Tribe Invitational and began their season with its first three and zero start since 1992.

In the game versus University of Maryland-Baltimore County, junior outside hitter Lindsey Pflugner digs the ball to keep it alive. The Tribe team worked together to outplay their Maryland opponents, culminating in their first victory of the season.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

Women's volleyball hoped for CAA and NCAA tournament success despite a season marked by major change after the replacement of 30-year head coach Debbie Hill by alumna Melissa Shelton ('91). With only two freshman players and a majority senior squad, the team was one of the most experienced in the conference.

The Tribe started out strong in their first Invitational held in Kaplan Arena against Maryland-Baltimore County, Appalachian State, and Eastern Michigan; the women came out on top and began their season 3-0. But their hopes for CAA and NCAA championship tournament play did not come into fruition.

However, the women used their losses as motivation for the next season. "I think we had a great start," middle blocker Katie McCarney said. "We let a few key matches that we were capable of winning slip by, but I would definitely call it a successful season. We did not achieve our goals, but as a junior, it's something to be made that much more intent on accomplishing next year," McCarney said.

Following tough losses in the beginning of the season to Stanford, St. Louis and Illinois, at the Billiken Invitational in St. Louis, Missouri, the women rallied with numerous consecutive wins later in the season. The women's volleyball team began an 11-game winning streak by defeating UNC Asheville in September, and continued

to upset teams into mid-October.

However, the Tribe women's greatest victory of the season came in late September when they managed to overtake their VCU rivals on the road. The 3-2 win was the result of great team effort throughout the tight match. "Our biggest win was beating VCU at their home gym. It was a really intense five-game match," freshman Anne Dorff said. The Tribe women came out on top as the fifth set went into extra points. VCU was one of the top teams in the conference, and the win against these strong rivals brought the Tribe volleyball women up to the number one spot in the CAA conference, a key accomplishment for the team.

The team finished the season within the top six in their conference, thus securing them a visit at the CAA tournament. Although the women could not capitalize on the opportunity and fell to Hofstra, they ended their season with 19 wins and only nine losses.

The team contributed the many wins achieved throughout the season to their closeness. "We have a great team chemistry on and off the court. My team really is my second family, not only because we spend so much time together, but because we love spending that time together," McCarney said.

>Rachel Jablonski

Against their University of Maryland-Baltimore County opponents, senior Kim Mount and sophomore Ginny Bray jump for a key block. Both girls contributed to the team's win with Bray totaling 11 kills and Mount garnering 46 assists.



team

Front Row: Cassie Crumal, Erin Skipper, Ginny Bray, Anne Dorff, Lauren Powell. Second Row: Kim Mount, Jill Nowadly, Molly Bohman, Abbi Owens, Jo Sotto. Back Row: Assistant Coach Monica Marlowe, Assistant Coach Rachel Wagener, Lindsey Pflugner, Bryana Carey, Jil-liam Brown, Katie McCarney, Lauren Powell, Head Coach Melissa Shelton.

<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 3 > 1 MARYLAND-BALTIMORE COUNTY W&M 3 > 0 EASTERN MICHIGAN W&M 3 > 1 APPALACHIAN STATE W&M 0 < 3 STANFORD
 W&M 3 > 0 WESTERN CAROLINA W&M 3 > 1 MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE W&M 3 > 0 RADFORD W&M 3 > 1 ELON W&M 3 > 2 VCU
 W&M 3 > 0 GMU W&M 3 > 1 TOWSON W&M 1 < 3 DELAWARE W&M 3 > 1 GEORGIA STATE W&M 3 > 1 UNC WILMINGTON

W&M 1 < 3 ST. LOUIS W&M 0 < 3 ILLINOIS W&M 3 > 2 UNC ASHEVILLE W&M 3 > 0 NC STATE W&M 3 > 0 NORFOLK STATE
 W&M 3 > 2 DELAWARE W&M 3 > 2 TOWSON W&M 3 > 0 HOFSTRA W&M 1 < 3 NORTHEASTERN W&M 2 < 3 VCU W&M 3 > 0 JMU
 W&M 0 < 3 NORTHEASTERN W&M 2 < 3 HOFSTRA W&M 1 < 3 CAA QUARTERFINAL VS. HOFSTRA