Local Names and News

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

UMD opens with win in home debut

Callie Zwettler had 19 kills and eight digs as Minnesota Duluth defeated Michigan Tech 30-23, 30-16, 30-18 in a college volleyball match Tuesday before a crowd of about 700 at Romano Gym.

UMD improved to 7-1 in its first home match of the season. Michigan Tech is 4-6.

"It was nice to be back home and we had a nice crowd supporting us," UMD coach Jim Boos said. "The team wanted to be back on their home turf and play well in front of the home crowd."

Crystal Nucech had 15 kills and 12 digs and Allison Boddy added 15 digs for UMD, ranked No. 9 in the nation. Greta Lisakka had 46 set assists for the Bulldogs.

"We're finding different ways to win matches than we did last year," Boos said. "We're still working out some roles for some of our players, but we're getting some of those kinks worked out."

Molly Ray had 16 kills and Katie O'Hara added 15 as Wisconsin-Superior topped Finlandia University 25-30, 29-31, 30-13, 30-24, 15-8 at Hancock, Mich.

Abby Glawe added 55 set assists for the Yellowjackets, while Amanda Avikainen had 22 digs.

NEWS TRIBUNE
MIKE SZOSTAK

Here's a scary thought for the junior-college soccer world. CCRI, the reigning women's national champion, could be even better this season.

"I think our team this year is just as solid or a little better," coach Dennis Grassini said after his Knights scored 29 goals and held two opponents scoreless last weekend.

CCRI shredded regional rival Massasoit, 15-0, in the season opener Saturday in Lincoln, and buried NCAA Division III Rivier, 14-0, Sunday in Nashua, N.H. The Knights are on a 24-game winning streak. They were 22-0 last season and have 13 players and four All-Americans back from that team.

Grassini used 22 of his 23 players and limited his two offensive stars, All-Americans Katie Leahy of Warwick and Erica Rico of Cranston, to a half in each game. Fourteen CCRI players scored or assisted.

"We had no intention of running up the score, but you can't tell your players not to play," Grassini said. "We're not the kind of coaches or team that wants to rub somebody's face in it. We know what goes around comes around."

The outcomes decided by the second half, Grassini had his team focus on defense, on passing, on re-starts. "It was like a good practice. The second half we passed the ball. We played keep-away," he said.

Leahy, the forward who led the nation in scoring last year, shattered the CCRI career scoring record with her eight goals and four assists in the two games. The sophomore has 62 goals and 12 assists for 136 points. The previous record-holder, Stephanie Esdale of Warwick, had 47 goals and 27 assists for 121 points in 1996-97. Leahy has scored at least one goal in each of the 23 games she has played.

Rico, a midfielder, notched five goals and two assists. She was 15th in the nation in scoring in 2002. Freshman Kara Hurston of West Warwick scored a goal in her collegiate debut Saturday, and finished with three goals and an assist Sunday. CCRI's other All-Americans are goalkeeper Alex Rothemich of North Scituate and defender Jennifer McCormack of Ireland.

The Knights will get a better idea how good they are during three road games this week. They will play at Mitchell College in New London today and at the Community College of Baltimore County-Essex and Anne Arundel CC in Maryland this weekend. Later this season they will face CCBC-Catonsville, an elite eight team last year, and Young Harris, a Final Four squad in 2002. They will fly to St. George, Utah, to play Dixie State, another Final Four team, and Long Beach City College, which tied CCRI for No. 1 in the final 2002 National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll.

"That will probably be the toughest weekend ever in our program. Those are two quality opponents back-to-back. We'll see what we're made of," Grassini said.

They will also play Monroe CC of Rochester, N.Y., six-time national champion and 2002 runner-up.

Preaching the old coaching maxim of one game at a time, Grassini knows the odds are against another undefeated season, that "the law of averages catches up with you eventually." He just hopes to win the region and the district because "that's how you get in the nationals."

But he and his players are excited by the challenge of putting their unbeaten streak on the line against such fine opponents.

Grassini plans to work his talented freshmen into his rotation and to spell Rothemich, who tied a CCRI record with 14 shutouts in 2002, with Alana Bouley of Attleboro, who transferred from Merrimack College.

Leahy and defender Monica Santos of Cumberland are the co-captains.
Stanford's in town

One of the best men's teams will be in town this weekend for the sixth annual adidas-Brown Soccer Classic at Stevenson Field.

Fourth-ranked Stanford will play Brown Friday night at 7:30. Wisconsin and Yale will open the tournament at 5 p.m. Yale and Stanford will play Sunday at 11 a.m. and Brown and Wisconsin at 1:30. The Brown-Wisconsin game will be televised on Cox-3.

Stanford lost to UCLA, 1-0, in the NCAA championship game last fall. The Cardinal finished 18-5-2 with 13 shutouts. Brown is coming off a 5-8-4 season, but the return of top scorer Adom Crew, who missed the last nine games of 2002 with an injury, should bolster the Bears. Wisconsin has nine lettermen back from a 9-10 team, and Yale has 10 starters back from a 9-6-1 squad.

Any youngster wearing a RI-YSA game jersey will be admitted free.

Brown will be on TV

Five Brown games will be televised this season on three networks.

Cox-3 will carry the Brown-Wisconsin soccer game Sunday at 1:30. Adrian Healey, voice of the New England Revolution, will do the play-by-play, and Mike Rubin, radio voice of Brown soccer, the commentary.

Cox-3 will also televise Brown football games against URI Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. and Penn Nov. 1 at 12:30.

The Football Network will carry the Brown-Harvard game Sept. 27 at noon from Harvard Stadium, and the YES Network will televise the Brown-Princeton contest Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. from Brown Stadium.

Amaral, Dana star

Wheaton junior Caitlin Amaral of Glocester and doubles partner Emily Dana won their match Saturday and contributed a valuable point to the Lyons' 5-4 upset of NEWMAC power M.I.T. in Cambridge. M.I.T. won or shared the last four NEWMAC championships and lost only one regular-season match during that time. Wheaton won two of the three doubles matches and three of the six singles matches.

Amaral, a co-captain, and Dana, who also won a three-setter at No. 6 singles, prevailed at No. 3 doubles. Wheaton, 2-0, was back on the court yesterday against UMass-Dartmouth.

URI visits PC today

URI and Providence, a pair of 1-2 men's soccer teams, will meet today at 4 p.m. at PC's Glay Field. The Rams are coming off a 3-0 victory over No. 16 Northeastern Saturday, a game in which they outshot the Huskies, 14-3. The Friars dropped their Big East opener, 4-1, to Rutgers Saturday.

Players of the week

BIG EAST FIELD HOCKEY: PC's Katharine Lary scored the first two goals of her collegiate career in a 5-4 overtime victory over Rider Aug. 31.

ATLANTIC 10 WOMEN'S SOCCER: Melanie Kasparek led URI to a pair of wins in the URI Invitational. She had two goals and an assist in a 4-0 win over Northeastern.

NORTHEAST-10 VOLLEYBALL: Bryant setter Britta Beckman averaged 12.21 assists and 2.71 digs in four matches. She had a career-high 69 assists in a 3-2 win over Michigan Tech.

ATLANTIC 10 CROSS COUNTRY: URI's Kristen Coon finished fourth in the PC Invitational in 17:26.

NORTHEAST-10 MEN'S SOCCER: Bryant's Michael Anania of Fall River scored two goals vs. St. Rose.

LITTLE EAST MEN'S SOCCER: RIC's Kyle Teixeira of Warren had three goals and one assist in a 1-1 weekend.

LITTLE EAST WOMEN'S SOCCER ROOKIE: RIC freshman Erika Haaland of North Dartmouth scored two goals and assisted on one in a 1-1 weekend.

Roundup

Georgetown sophomore Jessica Quinn of Cumberland has scored seven goals, but her field hockey team is only 1-3 ... Sophomore keeper Christopher Wordell of Little Compton made 10 saves in CCR's 2-1 season-opening win over Navy Prep ... URI's volleyball team limped home from a trip West with a 1-7 record. The Rams played four Top 30 teams in the Wildcat Invitational at the University of Arizona. They will host the Lighthouse Inn URI Invitational Friday in Keaney Gym ... Colby-Sawyer freshman Jen Plouffe of North Smithfield backstopped a 2-0 victory over Lyndon State in her col-
legiate debut. The Mount St. Charles grad made four saves ... Bree Bessette of Charlestown is captain of the Wheaton volleyball team, which went 2-2 at the University of Dallas Festival ... Johnson & Wales sophomore Emily Gedney of Middletown won her 30th consecutive singles match without a loss in a 7-2 triumph over Curry. She plays No. 4.

Wheaton junior Beth Caromile of Warwick, a midfielder, scored two goals and assisted on another in leading the Lyons to the title in Wheaton's adidas Kick-Off Classic at Mirkine Stadium. She was the most valuable offensive player and made the all-tournament team ... Emily Seelig of Jamestown scored a goal in Roger Williams's 5-2 soccer win over Curry Saturday, the first for new coach Emily Kiablick ... Roger Williams frosh D.J. Burns of Wakefield made four saves but couldn't stop a header in the 109th minute that gave No. 21 Montclair State a 1-0 triumph Sunday in New Jersey. RWU, 3-1, is No. 9 in New England this week ... PC sophomore Kathryn Mahoney of Narragansett scored the first goal and assisted on the second in the Friars' 2-0 soccer win over Long Island University Sunday. Those were her first career points. PC is 3-1 ... Bryant's field hockey team outshot Assumption, 27-1, but won by only 1-0. The Bulldogs have won seven straight at home and nine straight NE-10 regular-season games.

Ronald Gendron of North Smithfield is the new women's tennis coach at Providence College. A 1990 PC grad and former player, he succeeds Carl LaBranche, who was promoted in June to assistant athletics director for facilities ... Jonathan Caswell of Cumberland, PC's assistant swim coach last season, has taken over for Michelle Gacio Harrolle, who resigned in June. Caswell coached the Providence and East Bay Aquatic clubs and the Barrington YMCA ... Dave Berard has been promoted to associate head coach of the Providence College men's hockey team ... Nicole Chaszar, an assistant at Springfield the last two seasons, has joined Boe Perman's basketball staff at URI.

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AREA SPORTS IN BRIEF: Michigan volleyball wins Pepsi Challenge

The University of Michigan volleyball team suffered its first home loss on Sunday but still managed to win its Pepsi Challenge tournament.

Sixteenth-ranked Louisville defeated the Wolverines, 30-24, 27-30, 30-27, 30-22, in the final match, but Michigan claimed the tournament by virtue of best games record among the four teams at the tournament.

Michigan tied Texas A&M and Louisville with a 2-1 record in the three-day tournament but was 7-3 in games. Texas A&M beat Louisville, 3-1, to finish second.

Michigan is 3-3.

Michigan senior Erin Moore made a team-high 20 kills and was named most valuable player of the tournament.

More volleyball: Georgia Tech defeated Western Michigan, 30-15, 30-18, 30-23, in the championship match at the Buckeye Classic in Columbus, Ohio. The Broncos are 3-2... Stephanie Maciasz had 14 kills and Tracy Kirk had 13 to lead Grand Valley State past visiting North Alabama, 30-24, 30-24, 30-26. Grand Valley is 6-2. North Alabama is 5-2... Host Madonna defeated Olivet Nazarene, 30-32, 30-22, 36-34, 30-21, to win the Julie Martin tournament. The Crusaders improved to 12-0, the best start to a season in school history. The previous best was 8-0 in 1998.

Cycling: Guillaume Nelessen of Trentlertown, Pa., teamed with Christopher Hughes of Rochester Hills to win the SOU-PerrBowl, the final race of the NAS-TRACK Madison Racing League's season at the Velodrome at Bloomer Park. In the final individual overall standings, Dave Koesel of Livonia finished first.

Field hockey: Michigan defeated host Boston College, 5-3, to improve to 2-2. April Fronzoninneted four goals, giving the senior 54 in her career. . . . Michigan State scored nine times on 30 shots in defeating Providence, 9-1, in the consolation game of the Temple Invitational. Senior Alexandra Kyser scored twice and seven other Spartans scored once each.

Football: Quarterback Dywayne Neeley threw for two touchdowns and the Motor City Cougars defeated the Glass City (Ohio) Grizzlies, 14-9, on Saturday.

Golf: Western Michigan junior Stephanie Donkin carded a second-round, one-under-par 71 at the Players Club in Yorktown, Ind., to earn medalist honors, and the Broncos fired a school-record round of 295 to catapult from third to first and capture the 17-team, two-day Ball State Cardinal Classic. The Broncos' previous best round was 305. Donkin finished with a 144, two shots better than Grand Valley's Melissa Sneller, to earn her first career medalist honor. Western finished with a 606 total, followed by Ball State with 613 and Grand Valley with 617.

Men's soccer: Oakland University scored three times in the first half en route to dropping Marquette, 4-1. Ryan Rzepka, Chris Edwards and Brandon Felker each scored in the first half, and goaltender Jeff Wiese made eight saves for the host Grizzlies (2-0-1) . . . . Western Michigan sophomore Michael John-Williams scored three goals as the Broncos (4-0) defeated Western Kentucky, 3-0, to win the Western Kentucky Invitational. . . . Senior Kevin Taylor scored on a penalty kick goal as host Michigan (3-1) defeated Evansville, 1-0. The Purple Aces are 2-1-1. . . . St. Joseph's (3-1) scored two second-half goals to upend Detroit Mercy, 2-1, in the second round of the Hawk Classic. George Kithas scored for the Titans (0-2). . . . Senior Thomas Trivelloni scored two goals to help Michigan State (2-1) to a 3-0 victory over host Indiana-Purdue-Ft. Wayne (2-2).

Women's soccer: Marquette (2-1-1) defeated Oakland University, 2-0, at the Nike Challenge in Ann Arbor. Oakland is 2-1-1. . . . Four different players scored for Michigan State as the host Spartans
defeated Detroit Mercy, 4-0. Goalkeepers Stacy Heller and Erin Carlson combined for the shutout as the Spartans improved to 3-1. . . . Caroline Bonyage stopped two shots to help visiting Northwood (2-2) shut out host Lewis University (2-3), 3-0. . . . Drake’s Melissa Nelson scored in the 69th minute to lift the Bulldogs to a 1-0 win over Western Michigan (1-2-1) at Creighton’s Bluejay Classic. Drake is 3-1.

Tennis: Sue Rossano defeated Aijana Otunchieva, 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, at No. 1 singles as visiting Northwood defeated Michigan Tech, 9-0. . . . Wayne State’s Dee Mays defeated Tori Trombetta, 6-2, 6-3, at No. 4 singles, but that was the Warriors’ only match victory as they fell to host Mercyhurst, 8-1. . . . Oakland sophomore Lisa Pellafone scored a 7-6 (7-2), 6-3 victory over Lesley Wenger at St. Francis (Pa.) at No. 2 singles to help the Grizzlies defeat Western Michigan, 9-0. . . .
FLORIDA VOLLEYBALL SWEEPS STANFORD

The No. 3-ranked Florida volleyball team swept No. 4 Stanford 3-0 (30-17, 30-25, 30-18) on its home court Saturday in Palo Alto, Calif. For the second consecutive night, Benavia Jenkins led Florida in kills with 13, followed by Jacque Robinson with 10. Aury Cruz added 14 digs in the winning effort. The last time Stanford lost at home to a non-Pac 10 opponent was Oct. 9, 1993, when the Cardinal fell to Pacific 3-1.

ROLLINS VOLLEYBALL FALLS AT HOME

The Rollins volleyball team (1-7) lost its two matches in the second day of the Rollins Volleyball Invitational. The Tars lost to 3-4 Montevallo (30-20, 30-21, 30-17) in the first match and lost to 4-6 Michigan Tech (22-30, 30-23, 25-30, 30-26, 15-9).

STETSON FALLS IN XAVIER INVITATIONAL

The Stetson volleyball team (0-7) dropped its final two matches at the Xavier Invitational in Cincinnati, falling 3-0 to host Xavier and 3-1 to Appalachian State. The Musketeers (5-0) won by scores of 30-22, 30-22, and 30-24, while the Mountaineers (2-4) won by scores of 30-28, 30-24, 26-30, and 33-31.

UCF VOLLEYBALL TOPS ILLINOIS STATE, LOSES TO MIAMI (OHIO)

The UCF Golden Knights (1-3) earned their first victory of the season, beating Illinois State (24-30, 27-30, 30-28, 30-19, 15-9), but they fell to Miami (Ohio) (21-30, 30-27, 18-30, 22-30) in their second game in Denver.

PEPPERDINE POUNDS FSU VOLLEYBALL

Florida State (4-2) fell to No. 8 Pepperdine (4-2) in three games (20-30, 23-30, 24-30) in the Seminoles' final match at the Texas State Tournament.

FLORIDA RUNNERS WIN CROSS COUNTRY MEET

The University of Florida men's and women's cross country teams opened their seasons with first-place finishes in the Florida Gator Invitational at the UF Golf Course. The Florida men's team won its 8-kilometer race with 22 points to beat runner-up South Florida by 57 points. The Gators women took first in the 5K event with 37 points to edge out South Florida by three points.

COLUMN: FOR THE RECORD: LOCAL BEAT
Eagles ready for home opener

By Larry Phillips
News Journal
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ASHLAND – In primetime and under the lights, the Ashland University football team hopes to reverse its fortune in the home opener against Edinboro at Community Stadium on Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Eagles (0-1) opened last week with a tough, 27-14 loss at Michigan Tech. Worse, the Eagles led 14-0 early in the third period before allowing 27 consecutive points, largely on the strength of three second-half turnovers.

Still, coach Gary Keller was optimistic about his team's defensive performance. AU outgained the Huskies 303-255.

"That's something I'm real excited about. That gives us an opportunity to win if we play good defense. We were very aggressive," Keller said. "We didn't have a missed tackle until late in the third quarter. That's encouraging. We were swarming to the ball.

"We played sound football defensively."

Sophomore linebacker Devin Conwell had nine tackles and senior safety Aaron O'Reilly added three.

Offensively, quarterback John Szabo threw for a career-best 308 yards and three touchdowns. He completed 26-of-39 passes. Redshirt freshman Brandon Gilmore, a Madison graduate, caught two passes to lead the team with 73 yards. Junior tailback Antwan Hart had 64 yards and a TD, and Jason Schwalm added 38 yards and a score.

But four turnovers sunk the Eagles at Michigan Tech.

"We need to improve our turnover ratio, that's been a common thread," offensive coordinator Matt Hohman said. "You can't score if the ball is not in your hands."

Edinboro also is coming off a loss, a 35-11 drubbing last week at Division I-AA powerhouse Youngstown State.

Still, Keller said he made a few mental notes from that showing.

Mansfield Senior's Matt Wade (long snapper) and Bret Gordon (offensive lineman), Madison's Gilmore (receiver), Ontario's Chris Baker (defensive lineman), South Central's Justin Dorr (offensive lineman), Lucas' Joe Sauder (defensive back), Willard's Nick Strance (quarterback), and Shelby's Jake Grove (linebacker).

"This should be a very physical game. They're a very good football team. They banged around Youngstown State up front," Keller said. "Their offensive line, I was very impressed with them and they're big in backfield. They're big up front and they're very strong.

"Their score at Youngstown State is a bit deceiving. In the third quarter, they're right in the ballgame."
SCSU back on ice
Huskies begin captain's practice on Wednesday

Kevin Allenspach, Staff
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When the St. Cloud State men's hockey team took the ice for captain's practice Wednesday at the National Hockey Center, the Huskies' future confronted its immediate past.

Co-captains Matt Hendricks and Ryan LaMere ran the first informal workout of 2003-04. LaMere, hampered by an injured foot, blew a whistle from the bench as Hendricks led more than two dozen players through their drills.

Then there were four guys from last year's team they'd love to have back. As one current underclassman tried a rush on goal, Jeff Finger shoved him flat. And as a new defenseman worked on a 1-on-1 drill, Joe Motzko made him look silly. Also skating with the team were goalie Jake Moreland and two-time captain Jon Cullen.

Finger, a defenseman who decided not to pursue a fourth year of college eligibility, said he has agreed to a two-year contract with the Colorado Avalanche. He leaves today for the team's rookie camp, and will be among 53 invitees when the Avs' training camp opens Sept. 13 in Centennial, Colo.

"They've been telling me I've got as good a chance as anybody, but there are a lot of people in the same boat," said Finger, whose contract brought him a $50,000 signing bonus and would pay $350,000 this season if he makes the Avs.

Moreland and Cullen each recently agreed to terms with Atlantic City of the ECHL. And Motzko signed earlier this summer with the Columbus Blue Jackets. With Ryan Malone property of the Pittsburgh Penguins, five prominent players off last year's team will be in pro training camps soon. How the remaining Huskies make up for their departure will play a major role in the team's fortunes.

"We lost a lot in those guys, so you know people are going to look at that and say we don't have a lot of talent coming back," said LaMere, who suffered second-degree burns on his left foot when a small gas tank exploded while he was burning weeds at his family's lake cabin. He should be back on the ice soon.

"If anybody wants to trash-talk about us, that's fine. I love it when they do that. Hopefully we can put it right back in their faces. I've been around a lot this summer and I can say we have a lot of guys - more than in the past four years I've been here - training hard with a good attitude. If we get some peak years out of the guys who've been mid-level in the past, there's no reason we can't be a lot better than people think."

Hendricks, who led the Huskies with 18 goals last season, could've joined the pro exodus. He attended a Nashville Predators rookie camp in June, but decided it would be best to return for his senior season.

He knows he will wear St. Cloud State's biggest target for opponents.

"I'm going to do everything I can, but I've got to have 27 guys behind me, too," Hendricks said. "It's hard to tell, because it's still early, but I feel a little different this year. It seems the younger guys are coming in wanting to achieve more right away. That's something that I can portray to them, that they can win a job right away, but it's up to them to do it."

For now, it's just captain's practice and dry-land training. The team has not yet set an official date for practice to begin, but it will probably be Oct. 3. The Huskies play an exhibition Oct. 11 before opening the season Oct. 17 against Wisconsin.

"Everyone came in in excellent physical shape," said
coach Craig Dahl, who begins his 17th season - and first of a new four-year contract. "There were always a couple of guys before who didn't do what you asked of them. I can't say that now. Across the board, everyone's bigger and stronger. We'll still be a young team, but I'm pleased with where we're at to start the school year."

Here's a brief glimpse at this year's team, position-by-position:

**Goalies**
Sophomore Jason Montgomery returns, but junior Adam Coole is eligible after his transfer from Minnesota-Duluth. And players say freshman Tim Boron looks quick in practice.

**Defensemen**
LaMere is a senior, as is Colin Peters, who lost about 15 pounds from last year's playing weight. Juniors include Nate Wright and Matt Gens, who came back to school among the most conditioned players on the team. Tim Conboy and T.J. McElroy are sophomores, as is Greg Tam unless he gets a medical redshirt for last season. He's still recovering from a season-ending separated shoulder suffered in the fourth game last fall. The freshmen include Grant Clafton, Justin Fletcher and Casey Borer.

**Forwards**
Other than Hendricks, Andy Lundbohm is the only senior. After years of returning to Rosseau to work as a fishing guide in the summer, he remained in St. Cloud and appeared one of the strongest

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Wednesday and is scheduled to begin testing and captain's practice today at the National Hockey Center.

Here's a brief glimpse at this year's team, position-by-position:

**Goalies** - Ellen Brinkman is a senior, but played just five games last season. Sophomore Brie Anderson won four games. Incoming recruit Lauri St. Jacques will battle for time.

**Defenders** - Captain Kobi Kawamoto and alternate captain Leanne Perrin are seniors. Alternate captain Tina Ciraulo is a junior. Sophomores include Randie Jelinski, who played in every game last season, and Kelly Stewart, who tied for sixth in team scoring with 12 points. Tricia Fast is the only incoming recruit on the blue line.

**Forwards** - Roxy Stang hopes to rebound as a senior after a disappointing junior year. Juniors Carrie Holldorf and Melanie Pudsey were the team's top two leading scorers. Sophomore Ashley Stewart was third. Other sophomores include Katie Hauge, Krista Simonson, Calise Johnson and Lindsay Ball, a transfer from Northeastern. Three incoming recruits include Marie-Michelle Lemieux, Bobbie Anderson, Jackie Jensen and Ashley Andrews.

Kristy Oonincx, a transfer from Minnesota, can practice but has to sit out a year. And Nikki DelCastillo has left the team to become an assistant coach for the College of St. Benedict.
Postcards

Kupec off to strong start at Virginia Tech
Volleyball player honored
R. Johnson scores 1st TD

Where does Allie Kupec go from here?

The freshman Virginia Tech middle hitter has played only one collegiate volleyball tournament (three matches) in her life and already she is being celebrated as the Big East Co-Rookie of the Week and as a member of the Hokie Classic All-tournament team.

The 6-foot-1 Kupec (River Hill) barely had time to unpack her bags in Blacksburg, Va., before she put up some big numbers in three straight victories over Miami (Ohio), Campbell and East Tennessee State that carried Virginia Tech to the Hokie Classic title Sunday.

Kupec had 26 kills while leading the team in hitting percentage (.537). She also had 13 blocks, 11 digs and seven service aces.

"I was talking to my parents (C.J. and Vicki) after the match about how I had set such high standards for myself," Kupec said Monday night from Blacksburg.

"I never expected all this so soon. When I first talked to the coach (Greg Smith) last year, it was even mentioned that I might redshirt this season. Then when that talk ended, I wondered if I would make the team."

Kupec said she "gets the biggest rush" out of blocks in a sport she didn't start playing until she was in ninth grade.

Being the daughter of former NBA player C.J. Kupec, Allie devoted all her early life to basketball and continued to play throughout high school.

"I only played basketball because my dad wanted me to," she said. "I like volleyball much better. It involves more thinking, and there isn't all that pushing like basketball. It's a girls' sport."

Johnson TD for Hokies

Virginia Tech junior flanker Richard Johnson (Milford Mill) made Sunday's season opener a game he will never forget, catching the first touchdown pass of his career in a 49-28 romp over Central Florida before a crowd of 65,115 at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg.

They saw Johnson give the ninth-ranked Hokies a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, and watched him catch four passes for 48 yards in the game.

Senior roverback Michael Crawford (Patterson) contributed seven tackles and intercepted a pass in the victory, and junior cornerback Vince Fuller (Woodlawn) also had an interception and three tackles.

Crawford continued to play top-notch football after being found to be cancer-free in January. He had been found to have symptoms of lymphoma following the eighth game of last season.

A fourth Baltimore-area player on the Hokies, sophomore offensive guard Jason Murphy (Edmondson), missed the opener with an ankle injury.

Conwell can play

Sophomore linebacker Devin Conwell (Long Reach) proved he could be an impact player in his first game for Division II Ashland (Ohio) Saturday, making nine tackles and breaking up a pass in a 27-14 loss to Michigan Tech in Houghton, Mich.

Conwell, 6-2, 215 pounds, played one season at Montgomery-Rockville before transferring to Ashland, which competes in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
A tough opener

Bucknell and junior soccer defender Mike Lookingland (Loyola) looked to open their season Saturday with an impressive non-league victory over perennial power Hartwick, but the Bison were shut out. Lookingland finished with one shot.

He was a second team All-Patriot League selection last season when the Bison finished 13-5-1 and tied Holy Cross for fewest goals allowed (12).

York out

Florida State junior goalkeeper, Kerry York (Severna Park) underwent an operation on her right foot in the spring and missed the first two games of the season last weekend.

York has been the Seminoles’ starter since early in her freshman year and led the team to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament last fall.

York’s goals-against-average dropped from 1.67 her freshman season to 1.46 as a sophomore.

Have a Postcard? Contact Bill Free by e-mail at bfree7066@hotmail.com or by phone at 410-833-5349.
Giesen joins SCSU staff

Kevin Allenspach, Staff
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The St. Cloud State women's hockey team hired St. John's associate coach Jeff Giesen to join the staff of head coach Jason Lesteberg.

Giesen, with the Johnnies since John Harlington became head coach 10 years ago, replaces former assistant Jean Vaillancourt, who returned to work in his native Ottawa, Ontario. Giesen joins the Huskies today at their first meeting of the season.

"He'll work with our defense and he brings a great number of years experience with him," said Lesteberg, who begins his second season. "He's a talented coach. He's familiar with the community. He's an alum and he obviously knows his way around the (National) Hockey Center."

Giesen helped coach the Johnnies to their first MIAC title in 50 years in 1995-96. The next year, they finished third in the NCAA Division III tournament. He had been teaching elementary physical education in addition to coaching at St. John's.

"It was attractive to me because it's a full-time Division I job," said Giesen, who coached against Lesteberg when the latter played at Gustavus.

In addition to Lesteberg and Giesen, assistant coach David Prokop begins his sixth season with the team. The Huskies were 5-19 in the WCHA, 11-23 overall, last season.

Hendricks, LaMere named co-captains

The St. Cloud State men's hockey team held its first meeting of the season on Tuesday and voted seniors Matt Hendricks and Ryan LaMere co-captains. It is the first time since Doc DelCastillo and Tim Hanus both wore the 'C' in 1991-92 that the Huskies will have co-captains. The team will undergo weight testing today and begin captain's practice at the National Hockey Center.

Meanwhile, Josh Singer has joined the team as a walk-on transfer from Michigan Tech. He had two goals and three assists in 42 career games over two seasons as a defenseman at MTU.
No. 1-Ranked Spartans Raise Their Standards

DAVID NORRIE
Tribune correspondent

TAMPA - Seven feet, 4 inches. In Chris Catanach's 19 years as the University of Tampa volleyball team's coach, the net always has been that height.

What has been raised year in and year out are the standards to which each new team is expected to perform. This year's team is no different.

With a nucleus of players returning from a team that advanced to the Elite 8 last season - and twice in the past three years - the question is who wants that elusive national championship the most, the players or the coach of the top-ranked Spartans.

"Well, I think we both want it, but we especially want it for coach," said senior setter Gretchen Naruta, a returning All-American. "All the time it crosses our minds. As much as you want it for yourself, you want it for him even more. He's done so much for all of us, we want to give him something in return."

A rotating carousel of All-Americans (eight first-teamers and 17 second-team choices) has helped the school make 17 NCAA Tournament appearances in 19 years, including two title games in 1996 and 1999, yet the brass ring has remained just out of reach.

"The difference between the start of last year and this year is night and day," Catanach said. "Last year we had a lot of freshmen and we were trying different combinations of players up until the 10th week. This year we have eight or nine potential starters who are all engrained to what they're doing, making practices a lot easier. If the young girls can work through a sophomore slump and avoid unrealistic expectations we'll be OK."

Ranked No. 1 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association preseason poll released Tuesday, Tampa returns five starters and nine letter winners from last year's 28-7 NCAA Final Four team. The Spartans (4-0) beat Michigan Tech on Tuesday, winning 30-15, 30-20, 30-23.

Three-time All-American outside hitter Ania Ruiz sets the tone for the Spartans.

At 5-foot-11, Ruiz, who had 13 kills Tuesday, led Tampa in that category (548) and was second in digs (349) a year ago. An individual force on the court, Catanach believes this is her time to "lead us as a team."

"When I got here, they told me, 'we don't lose.' " said Ruiz, who led Tampa past defending national champion and conference rival Barry in last year's South Regional championship. "Whenever we go there [Barry] we are forced to see their pictures on the walls or their rings. It's frustrating knowing we're just as good as they are each year but they have a national championship ring and we don't."

GRAPHIC: Three-time All-American outside hitter Ania Ruiz sets the tone. She led UT in kills (548) and was second in digs (349) a year ago. NOTES: VOLLEYBALL
Huskies take their home season opener

Press-Gazette

HOUGHTON, Mich. -- The Michigan Tech football team intercepted three passes and returned two of them for touchdowns as they rallied from a 14-0 first-half deficit to win 27-14 over Ashland at Sherman Field on Saturday.

Matt Reed and Dustin Daniels scored on interception returns for the Huskies (1-0).

Chris Lomasney and Dan Mettlach scored on short runs for the Huskies.

Kicker Grant Botz was 3-for-4 on PATs.