

Carthage College NCAA Women's Volleyball Regional Notes

This Week at the NCAA Midwest Regional: The Carthage College women's volleyball team (30-4, 7-0 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin), ranked 10th in the Nov. 4 Bison/American Volleyball Coaches Association NCAA Division III poll, opens play in the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship on Thursday, Nov. 13 versus seventh-seeded St. Norbert College (30-3) in a quarterfinal match of the Midwest Regional Championship at Wisconsin-Oshkosh's Kolf Sports Center in Oshkosh, Wis., beginning at 3:30 p.m. Carthage is the number-two seed in the regional. In the other quarterfinal matches on Thursday, third-seeded Calvin College (26-4) takes on sixth-seeded Wisconsin-Whitewater (29-9) at 1 p.m., fourth-seeded Heidelberg College (30-7) plays fifth-seeded Hope College (26-6) at 6 p.m., and top-seeded Wisconsin-Oshkosh (37-2) meets eighth-seeded Lakeland College (25-10) at 8:30 p.m. The Friday, Nov. 9 semifinals will be played at 4:30 and 7 p.m., with the Saturday, Nov. 10 regional championship match getting underway at 7 p.m. The Lady Reds, with this year's CCIW automatic qualifier, will be making their fourth-straight NCAA appearance.

2008 CCIW Tournament: Carthage won the CCIW Women's Volleyball Tournament on Friday-Saturday, Nov. 7-8 at the Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center in Kenosha, Wis. The top-seeded and conference-champion Lady Reds defeated Augustana College (Ill., 23-12), 3-1, on Saturday, Nov. 8 in the tournament-championship match. The Lady Reds' winning set scores over the Vikings were 18-25, 25-15, 25-10 and 25-23. Carthage swept fifth-seeded Elmhurst College (22-14, 3-4 CCIW), 3-0, in a Friday, Nov. 7 semifinal match. The Lady Reds' winning set scores over the Bluejays were 25-19, 25-14 and 25-22. Sixth-seeded Augustana College (Ill., 23-11) defeated second-seeded North Central College (24-13), 3-1, in Friday's first semifinal. The Vikings' winning set scores over the Cardinals were 27-25, 22-25, 25-14 and 25-20. In the tournament play-in round on Tuesday, Nov. 4, Carthage outlasted eighth-seeded North Park University (19-12, 0-7 CCIW), 3-2, also at the Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center. The Lady Reds' winning set scores over the Vikings were 21-25, 25-15, 20-25, 25-19 and 15-7. In the other three play-in matches, second-seeded North Central College (24-12, 5-2) defeated seventh-seeded Wheaton College (Ill., 17-16, 2-5), 3-1; sixth-seeded Augustana College (Ill., 22-11, 2-5 CCIW), swept third-seeded Illinois Wesleyan University (18-17, 5-2), 3-0; and fifth-seeded Elmhurst College (22-13, 3-4) defeated fourth-seeded Millikin University (24-13, 4-3) by a 3-2 margin.

Four Lady Reds Named All-CCIW: Four members of the Carthage squad were named to the 2008 All-CCIW team. Libero Katie Lundgren (Jr., Long Grove, Ill./Lincolnshire-Stevenson) was named first-team All-CCIW and CCIW "Women's Volleyball Player of the Year." Lundgren is Carthage's third-straight "player of the year," after Jori Simmons won the award in 2006 and Kelly Bauer in 2007. Right-side player Rachel Swoboda (So., De Pere, Wis./Wrightstown) was named first-team All-CCIW after being named second-team all-conference in 2007. Outside hitter Lauren Dembkowski (Fr., Mount Prospect, Ill./Arlington Heights-Hersey) earned second-team all-conference honors. Setter Drewann Pancratz (Fr., Schaumburg, Ill.) was named second-team all-conference, as well as "freshman of the year." Pancratz is the fifth Carthage player in the last six years to earn "freshman of the year" accolades. Head coach Leann Ulmer was named CCIW "Women's Volleyball Coach of Year" for the fourth time and the third year in a row.

The CCIW Streak: With its win over Illinois Wesleyan University on Oct. 28, Carthage extended its CCIW record to 37-straight regular-season conference victories. The Lady Reds' last conference defeat came at the hands of Augustana College (Ill.) on Oct. 3, 2003 in Rock Island, Ill.

2007 NCAA Midwest Regional: Carthage (33-5, 7-0 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin), ranked seventh in the final [American Volleyball Coaches Association/CSTV NCAA Division III poll](#), lost to No. 1 and eventual-national champion Washington University (Mo., 30-5), 3-1, on Saturday, Nov. 10 in the championship match of the NCAA Division III Regional Championship at the Carthage Physical Education in Kenosha, Wis. The Bears' winning game scores over the Lady Reds were 28-30, 30-27, 30-16 and 30-20. Carthage swept Calvin College (30-5), 3-0, on Friday, Nov. 9 semifinals. The Lady Reds' winning games scores over the Knights were 30-26, 30-23 and 30-7. Washington (Mo., 29-5) outlasted No. 13 Wisconsin-Oshkosh (32-6), 3-2, in the other semifinal, with the Bears winning, 27-30, 30-26, 28-

30, 30-24 and 15-9. In the Nov. 8 quarterfinals, Carthage swept Carroll College (Wis., 20-14), 3-0, with the Lady Reds winning 30-21, 30-11 and 30-17. Three other quarterfinal matches were played on Nov. 8. Washington University (Mo., 28-5) swept Hanover College (23-11), 3-0, with Wisconsin-Oshkosh (32-5) outlasting Wisconsin-Platteville (24-13), 3-2, and No. 15 Calvin College (30-4) defeating No. 20 Wisconsin-La Crosse (24-1), 3-1. Washington's winning game scores over Hanover were 30-19, 30-22 and 30-23; Wisconsin-Oshkosh's game-winning scores over Wisconsin-Platteville were 26-30, 30-22, 30-32, 30-26 and 15-13; and Calvin's winning game scores over Wisconsin-La Crosse were 26-30, 30-26, 30-20 and 30-15.

Leanne Ulmer Named 2007 Regional Coach of the Year: Carthage College women's volleyball coach Leanne Ulmer was named American Volleyball Coaches Association NCAA Division III "Midwest Regional Coach of the Year" in 2007 for the second-straight season. Ulmer led Carthage to a 33-5 record in 2007, as the Lady Reds won their fourth-consecutive College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championship. Carthage has won 30-consecutive regular-season CCIW matches dating back to 2003. The team was ranked as high as No. 5 in the AVCA/CSTV NCAA Division III poll this season, the highest ranking in the school's history.

The Coach: Leanne Ulmer is in her eighth year as head coach in 2008 (225-66, .773 winning percentage, 8 years, 12th in NCAA Division III thru 2007), and she was named CCIW Volleyball Coach of the Year in 2002, 2006, 2007 and 2008, as well as American Volleyball Coaches Association Midwest Region Coach of the Year in both 2006 and 2007. Her .759 winning percentage over seven seasons ranks 12th among active NCAA Division III coaches entering the 2008-09 season. Ulmer is ranked first all-time at Carthage in career wins (225) and first in winning percentage (.773). She passed coach Diane Mizerka (190 wins, 1975-82) with a victory over North Park University on Oct. 30, 2007 in the play-in match for the CCIW Women's Volleyball Tournament. Prior to joining the Lady Reds, Ulmer had a successful career at Lincolnshire (Ill.) Stevenson High School, compiling a 227-75-2 record in eight seasons (1993-2000), along with a 99-13 mark in four seasons (1997-2000) as boy's volleyball coach. She had eight-consecutive 20-win seasons in girls' volleyball and four 30-win campaigns, with three conference championships, five regional titles and two sectional championships. Sarah Busalacchi and Chris Nelson serve as part-time assistant coaches.

The Conference: The College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, in its 63rd season in 2008-09, first sponsored volleyball as a championship sport in 1986. Elmhurst College has won a league-leading nine championships (1986-88, 1998 and 2000-04). Carthage has won seven times (1990, 1993, a co-championship with Elmhurst in 2004 and outright titles in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008). Millikin University has won three times (1994, 1995 and 1999). Illinois Wesleyan University has won twice (1991 and 1997), with Augustana College (Ill., 1996), North Central College (1992) and Wheaton College (Ill., 1989) winning one title each. Prior to 2005, the CCIW determined its volleyball championship on the basis of both regular-season and post-season victories. Beginning in 2005, the regular-season champion wins the conference title. The CCIW women's volleyball coaches picked Carthage (5 first-place votes) to repeat in 2008, followed by Augustana (Ill., 3 first-place votes) second, Wheaton (Ill.) third, Illinois Wesleyan fourth, North Central fifth, Elmhurst sixth, Millikin seventh and North Park University eighth.

Carthage Women's Volleyball Notes: Carthage right-side player Rachel Swoboda (So., De Pere, Wis./Wrightstown) leads the Lady Reds regulars with a .295 attack percentage, 2.95 kills per game and 1.08 blocks per game (thru Nov. 9)...outside hitter Michelle Madeja (Fr., Naperville, Ill./Neuqua Valley) is second on the team in attack percentage at .243, while averaging 2.58 kills per game...setter Drewann Pancratz (Fr., Schaumburg, Ill.) is averaging 7.02 assists per game, while setter Kate Flanagan (So., Wheeling, Ill.) has a 4.05 per-game mark.

CCIW Tournament Notes: In the tournament-championship match win over Augustana College (Ill.), Carthage fell behind by seven points in the first set, 22-15, as the Vikings went on to win by seven, 25-18. The Lady Reds jumped out to six-point lead in the second set, 14-8, and went up by seven, 21-14, en route to a 10-point decision, 25-15. Carthage stormed out to a 10-point lead in the third set, 17-7, and opened up a 13-point margin, 22-9, en route to a 15-point win, 25-10. The final set was a tussle. Augustana (Ill.) went up by five points, 10-5, before Carthage tied things up at 11-11. The Vikings took a

20-17 lead before the Lady Reds tied the set, 22-22. Following a tie at 23-23, Carthage won the last two points to take the set, 25-23...Emily Stein (Madison, Wis./East) had 10 kills and hit .381 for the Lady Reds, while Rachel Swoboda (So., De Pere, Wis./Wrightstown) collected 10 kills...in Carthage's 3-0 sweep of Elmhurst College in the tournament semifinals, Michelle Madeja (Fr., Naperville, Ill./Neuqua Valley) had 12 kills and hit .455, while Lauren Dembkowski (Fr., Mount Prospect, Ill./Arlington Heights-Hersey) had 11 kills and hit .304...The Lady Reds placed three team members on the all-tournament squad. Those three were Rachel Swoboda (So., De Pere, Wis./Wrightstown), Michelle Madeja (Fr., Naperville, Ill./Neuqua Valley) and Katie Lundgren (Jr., Long Grove, Ill./Lincolnshire-Stevenson), with Lundgren being named the tournament MVP. Angela Baumgartner (Jr., Princeton, Ill.) and Jackie Rust (So., Addison, Ill./Addison Trail) from Augustana (Ill.), Caitlin O'Hara (Jr., Lemont, Ill.) from Elmhurst and Stephanie Ryding (Jr., Naperville, Ill./Central) from North Central rounded out the all-tournament team.